Dear California Citizens Redistricting Commission,

My name is JAYE OGLEY and I am a resident of Lodi - SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY. I am writing this letter to you to request that when you draw the Congressional and Legislative boundaries, you split San Joaquin County in an east/west direction, in which Eastern San Joaquin County (to include the communities of Ripon, Escalon, Farmington, Linden, Peters, Collierville, Lockeford, Lodi, Woodbridge, and Acampo) is kept whole as a clear and cohesive community of interest with Stanislaus County. I also ask the Western San Joaquin County communities of Tracy, Mountain House, Lathrop, and Stockton are represented by shared representation in separate districts from Stanislaus and Eastern San Joaquin County.

Although Eastern San Joaquin County remains largely agricultural, new communities in western San Joaquin County like Tracy Hills and Ellis (Tracy), River Islands (Lathrop), Weston Ranch (Stockton), and all of Mountain House have given western San Joaquin County a completely different character. These developments have focused their advertising on Bay Area residents, pricing out many long-time Valley residents. These communities have very different cultures and interests than in communities in Eastern San Joaquin County and Stanislaus County.

Below is a list of some of the interests that bind Eastern San Joaquin County with Stanislaus County as a community of interest and separate this community of interest from Western San Joaquin County.

Transportation

- Tracy, Lathrop, and Stockton, along with the Tri-Valley – San Joaquin Valley Regional Rail Authority, are pursuing a billion-dollar train between Stockton and the Dublin/Pleasanton BART Station called Valley Link. These communities should be in the same district as the East Bay so that they have a better chance of receiving federal aid for that project to strengthen ties between these communities and decrease Western San Joaquin County’s increasingly infamous traffic.
- Tracy, Lathrop, and Stockton also use their transportation systems such as I-5, SR-205, the Deep-Water Channel, and the UP and BNSF railroads to move raw goods and finished products to and from the Bay Area. The leaders in these communities are constantly working across county lines with providers and suppliers to move more goods through the Altamont Pass, through the Deep-Water Channel and Suisun Bay, and along the railroads paralleling SR-4 in Contra Costa County. In contrast, Eastern San Joaquin and Stanislaus Counties forge connections with each other and the commercial center of Modesto, not the Bay Area.
- The cities of Escalon and Ripon each have one bus route in their communities. Both of those bus routes travel into Stanislaus County and throughout North Modesto.