

From: **Melanie Brambila**

Date: Wed, Sep 1, 2021 at 1:37 PM

Subject: Redistricting Public Comment

To: ray.kennedy@crc.ca.gov <ray.kennedy@crc.ca.gov>, votersfirstact@crc.ca.gov <votersfirstact@crc.ca.gov>

Dear CRC,

My name is Melanie Brambila, and I am a Geography and Global Health student at UCLA. My research focuses on the health and environmental concerns in different types of communities, particularly rural communities like the Imperial County. In regards to the Salton Sea and how it significantly impacts surrounded communities, medically and environmentally, it is strongly recommended to keep Imperial County associated with Eastern Coachella Valley (up to city of Indio) for the health and well-being of both communities.

With the uprising cases of asthma and critical medical cases, such as cancers and skin conditions, significantly impacts the majority of our population, specifically people of color (Hispanic/Latino). With our community being predominantly Hispanic/Latino, puts us at an automatic disadvantage in numerous opportunities, beginning with our health. Based on my time and experience with Comite Civico Del Valle, lack of COVID-19 vaccinations were heavily found in Hispanic/Latino dominated neighborhoods. After countless door to door conversations, most of these individuals had underlying health conditions that have worsened overtime due to the air quality of our community. I, myself, have struggled medically with the negative effects of the Salton Sea as I struggle with asthma and developed severe allergies throughout my life here. With

the lack of physician availability in the Imperial County, individuals like me are forced to deal with the intoxicating effects of the Salton Sea, which is why we need your help in advocating the need for environmental justice.

To conclude, I thank you for your time and consideration in keeping our community affiliated with Eastern Coachella Valley. We both share similar environmental issues, demographics, and climate that would help make this decision apparent.

Sincerely,

Melanie A. Brambila
University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)