

From: **Samuel Bosshardt**

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Subject: Redistricting Considerations for Stanislaus County and Other Areas

To: votersfirstact@crc.ca.gov <votersfirstact@crc.ca.gov>

Dear California Citizens Redistricting Commission,

Tracy has common interest and is close geographically with Livermore. Unlike Stanislaus County which has distant population centers and is not a bay area commuter bedroom community. It makes sense for Tracy to not be a part of our CA-10 district (or whatever the district number might become).

As a resident of the Modesto/Ceres area, I don't have anything close to a feeling of community with Tracy. I don't even seriously consider dating there - I swipe left on everyone from Tracy, Livermore, and Stockton.

There are reasons for Merced to not be merged with Stanislaus County's district (CA-10) either. One redistricting consideration is that Merced has a significant Hmong population, and so does Madera and Fresno counties. With the boundaries of CA-16 (which borders south of CA-10), there is a significant Hmong presence within CA-16. There is a risk that the commission could dilute the Hmong community's representation if Merced is split away to be merged with Stanislaus County's district. While Fresno is slightly further than Modesto in terms of driving distance for Merced, Merced is closer to Madera and Fresno economically and culturally. Fresno's local population center and economy is significantly bigger than Modesto's.

A similar but separate consideration: If Stanislaus County were to end up divided in multiple congressional districts, it would dilute the representation for the local Assyrian community, which has a significant presence throughout our county (unlike San Joaquin and Merced counties). There are many community and civic organizations and clubs (e.g. the Assyrian Democratic Club). The Assyrian community has a unique perspective and history that includes many occurrences of marginalization. A few obvious examples: persecution before, during and after the Iranian revolution, Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein, and life in troubled countries such as Syria. I've also heard first-hand accounts of discrimination occurring in the United States especially during times of high tensions with the USA and the Middle East. Keeping Stanislaus within the same congressional district is a good thing for so many reasons, and maintaining the level of representation of this ethnic community is just one reason. I've previously given many other reasons to keep our county in one congressional district. If the commission does otherwise, it risks marginalizing our county's many communities.

Regards,

Samuel Bosshardt