

From:

Sent: Thursday, September 30, 2021 1:29 PM

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

Subject: Wrightwood, Phelan, Pinon Hills belongs together in Mojave River Valley, their history underscores this

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I address the California Redistricting Commission with a plea to consider the historic and common sense reasons for Wrightwood, Phelan, Pinon Hills, commonly called the Tri-Community Area, be included with the region of the high desert known as the Mojave River Valley, nee the Victor Valley. From the mountain region that includes Wrightwood and the Big Pines recreation area, spreading north and east to include Pinon Hills, Phelan and then across to Hesperia, Victorville, Adelanto/El Mirage, Apple Valley and to the far east Lucerne Valley and then north to Helendale and Barstow, the now growing area of over 400,000 Californians is bound together by social, educational and business and manufacturing/jobs should be included in the same legislative districts.

Having lived in the area since the 1950's, with the exception of military and job placement, I have known our residents from across the region (I named the Tri-Community Area in the 1970's to better focus the commonality of the three smaller communities in the western part of the region, and a few years ago, joined my lady friend in coming up with the Mojave River Valley to better describe what has been called the Victor Valley but it did not take in the entire region with

that limited name), living, laughing, crying, and growing with them and making our region better and better.

Our water from the mountains of the Tri-Community flow into the greater Mojave River Valley, our children historically attended the only high school 50 years ago in the region, comingling with kids from throughout the region. Our utilities are based out of Victorville and our law enforcement and judicial districts are of one. Medical and shopping are of one, our peoples are of one.

As a former high school trustee when there was but one district (I did see the value of sub-regionalizing our school districts and setting up unified elementary and high school districts, Snowline in 1981, other followed thereafter) in the 1970's, a college district trustee in the 1980's (the huge college district still covers the entire Mojave River Valley area), I know how valuable it is for all our citizens to be of like mind, focusing on local/regional problems and concerns, working together for a better California.

Owning and publishing community newspapers both in San Bernardino County, the Tri-Community Area, and the South Antelope Valley area, Pearblossom and Little Rock, for a generation what seems to be ages ago, I worked to bring the concerns and well being of the entire area to the attention of all our populations. As I used to say, "we are in this together." It was my pleasure and honor to serve on the "Mountain-High Desert University Siting Committee (it started out as the Antelope Valley University Siting Committee but the initial group reached out to me, then others to expand

its scope).” We worked diligently to propose sites for the University of California as they looked to expand campuses in the late 1980’s. The serious Recession of the early 1990’s killed our efforts.

It is doubly important into the 2020 decade and beyond for our two regions, the Antelope Valley and the Mojave River Valley, work together and have State Elected Representatives from our area representing us.

I strongly urge the Commission to place the entire region, as I have defined it in this letter, together in one State Assembly District, one State Senate District and, of course, one US Congressional District. Nothing else would work for the good of her people’s.

Thomas Pinard

Wrightwood, California

Publisher Emeritus, Mountaineer-Progress newspaper