

Dear Redistricting Commission,

Stanislaus County has unique community that should be acknowledged. This community is the Assyrian community. Assyrians or sometimes referred to in the news as Iraqi Christians, and not to be confused with Syrian nationals from the country of Syria, call Stanislaus County home.

Additionally, the Assyrian community doesn't just live in Stanislaus, but they play a big role in the community at large. For example, in Ceres (between Modesto and Turlock), the Assyrian community hold the Mesopotamian Food Festival annually. This festival is open to the public and bring cultural awareness to one of the ethnic groups that make Stanislaus County great.

With that being said, I think its important not to divide Stanislaus County or this unique community when it comes to creating congressional districts.

Thank you for your time and for considering my comment.

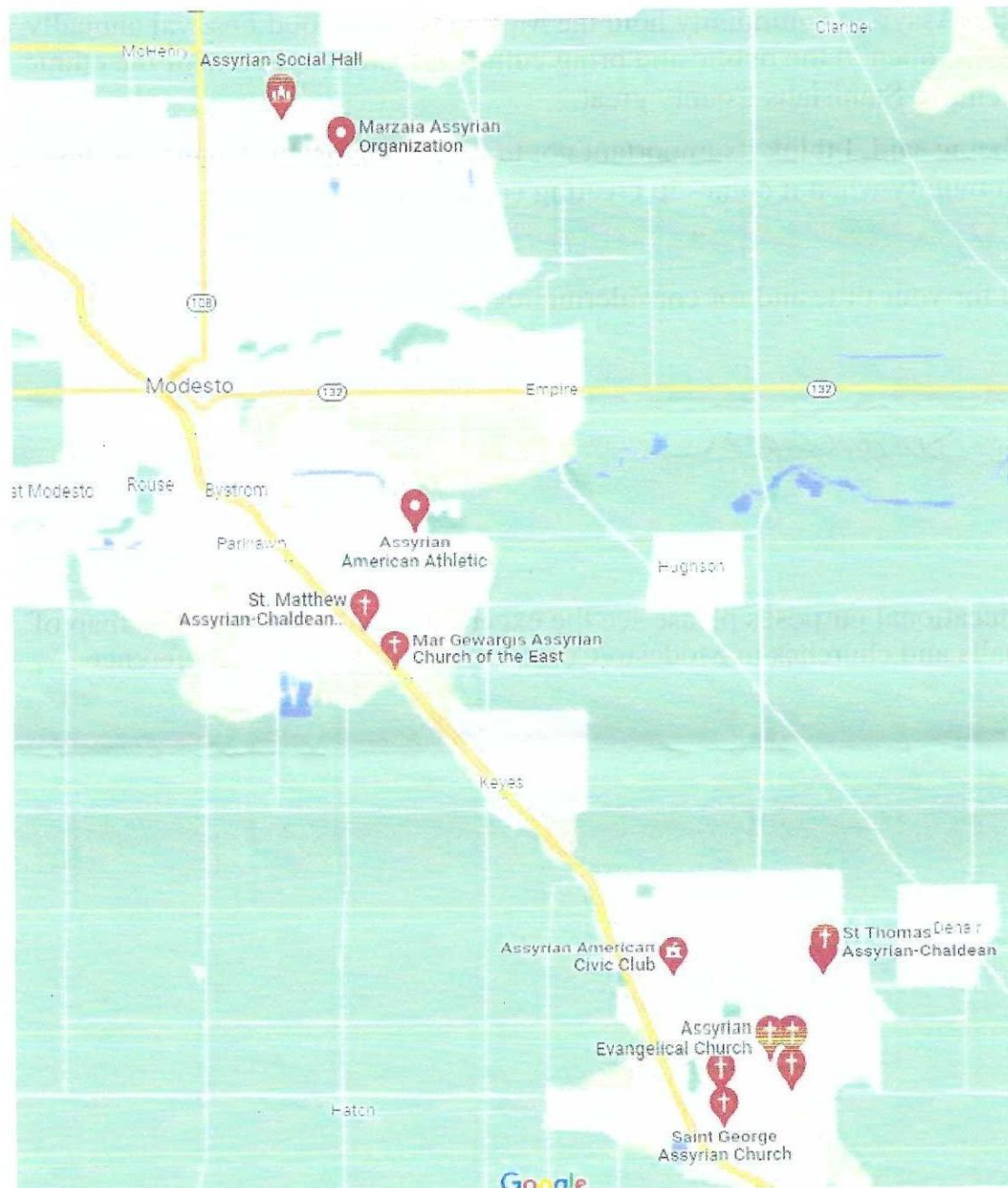
Sincerely,

*Sue Swanson*

P.S. For educational purposes please see the excerpt from Wikipedia and a map of Assyrian halls and churches in Modesto/Ceres/Turlock area for your reference.

**Assyrian Americans** (Syriac: ܐܘܪܝܝܢܐܝܩܐ) refers to people born in or residing in the United States of Assyrian origin.

The largest Assyrian/Chaldean/Syriac diaspora is located in Metropolitan Detroit, with a figure of 150,000.<sup>[6]</sup> High concentrations are also located in Phoenix, San Jose, **Modesto (Stanislaus)**, San Diego, Los Angeles, Turlock (Stanislaus), and Chicago among others.<sup>[6]</sup>



Dear California Redistricting Commission,

Please do NOT put Stanislaus County with San Benito or Monterey County when drawing the State Senate Districts. Right now, a state senator from Salinas represents a large portion of my hometown, Modesto. Salinas is very far away, and requires driving on multiple freeways and mountain passes just to get there. Please do not put the Central Coast with the Central Valley. Please consider access, distance, and geography when drawing the state senate districts.

Sincerely,

*Sue Swanson*