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California Citizens Redistricting Commission
721 Capitol Mall, Suite 260
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Keep San Joaquin County Together!

Dear Commissioners:

I am an attorney living and working in San Joaquin County. I represent the numerous members of the Business Council of San Joaquin in its efforts to present San Joaquin County as a unique community of interest. We are strongly urging the 2020 California Citizens Redistricting Commission to keep San Joaquin County together. Our proposal for the four San Joaquin County Districts is set forth on the maps attached and was also submitted in greater detail on the site drawmycadistricts.org.¹

Numerous members of the Business Council of San Joaquin County and its community partners retained the services of a professional mapping company to help prepare the attached maps. In addition, we have worked with a diverse coalition of community partners to provide input and feedback. Together we crafted maps for one Congressional District, one Senate District and two Assembly Districts. These districts reflect the San Joaquin region's shared interests, community cohesion, and its dependence on agriculture and transportation of goods through the State and the nation.

Our proposal includes one Congressional District with a total population of 758,483, one State Senate District with a population of 935,079 and two nested Assembly Districts with populations of 471,718 and 481,340 respectively. As can be seen from the maps, the Senate and "nested" Assembly Districts encompass all of San Joaquin County and a small part of northern Stanislaus County, the most similar of the surrounding counties. The proposed maps reflect careful consideration and compliance with the goals of the Commission. The four proposed Districts include equal populations; are drawn in compliance with the Voting Rights Act; are contiguous; and include minimal division of cities, neighborhoods, and communities of interest within the County of San Joaquin. The proposed Districts are also geographically compact, and the Assembly Districts nest within the Senate District.

¹ The following are the Submission IDs for the Congressional District-10062021112, and Senate District -10062021123. We submitted our Assembly District maps, but did not receive a Submission ID; however, our Plan Profile does show all maps successfully submitted.

The four Districts proposed for San Joaquin County are structured as follows:

Congressional District

The proposed Congressional District includes the following demographics:

Hispanic: 322,574 (42.5%)
White: 210,872 (27.8%)
Asian: 124,987 (16.5%)
Black: 54,937 (7.2%)
Total Population: 758,483

State Senate District

The proposed Senate District includes the following demographics:

Hispanic: 397,914 (41.8%)
White: 300,146 (31.5%)
Asia: 135,991 (14.3%)
Black: 60,606 (6.4%)
Total Population: 953,079

State Assembly District A

The proposed Assembly District A includes the following demographics:

White: 202,398 (42.9%)
Hispanic: 190,359 (40.4%)
Asian: 37,721 (8.0%)
Black: 12,347 (2.6%)
Total Population: 471,718

State Assembly District B

The proposed Assembly District B includes the following demographics:

Hispanic: 207,551 (43.1%)
Asian: 98,270 (20.4%)
White: 97,737 (20.3%)
Black: 48,259 (10.0%)
Total Population: 481,340

Numerous members of the Business Council of San Joaquin County and its community partners believe these proposed maps are in the best interests of the citizens of San Joaquin County and allow them to speak with a unified voice. Prior to the 2010 redistricting process, San Joaquin County's citizens were scattered across four different Assembly Districts. Congressional District 18 stretched from San Joaquin County, through sparsely populated areas of Stanislaus County, bypassing more proximate populations within Stanislaus County, engulfing all of Merced County, taking in sparsely populated areas of western Madera County, again bypassing more proximate populations, and ending up in Fresno County not far from Hanford. At the time, San

Joaquin had a population of over 500,000, but had no elected officials who resided within the County. This was not effective representation and it showed.

In 2011, through the efforts of a broad coalition of citizens and organizations within San Joaquin County, the 2010 Redistricting Commission drew new districts that kept San Joaquin County together and as a result San Joaquin County was no longer forgotten; it truly had a voice on the state and federal level. As a direct result of the compact and contiguous Districts created by the Redistricting Commission in 2011, the last ten years have seen representatives who are integral members of the community, they live in San Joaquin County and care deeply about its residents. We are asking the Commission to again, keep San Joaquin County whole and united.

San Joaquin County's Shared Interests

While San Joaquin County is culturally diverse, we share a community of interest that has and will continue to benefit from a unified voice at all levels of government. The maps presented reflect the cultural diversity of the region. San Joaquin County has many unique characteristics that bring its citizens together. For example, the agricultural industry provides \$5.732 billion in total economic contribution to the County and directly supports about one out of every 11 jobs in the County. Transportation, logistics and warehousing industries dominate the County's employment growth due to our strategic location and multi-modal transportation network, which includes the Port of Stockton, Stockton Terminal Railroad connecting to the BNSF and Union Pacific Railroad, Stockton Metropolitan Airport, and Interstates 5, 205, 580 and State Route Highway 99. We have unique challenges with health equity, education, air pollution and workforce development. These uniquely San Joaquin characteristics and challenges are what make us a cohesive unit, different and distinct from the surrounding communities.

Our County is very different than most of the surrounding communities as it relates to economic and socio-economic issues with data showing almost 41% of our citizens speak a language other than English at home. By keeping San Joaquin County together, the region's diversity is celebrated, and its ethnic communities are given a voice and a seat at the table.

Community Cohesion

The maps proposed also reflect the natural physical barriers that define San Joaquin County. We have the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta and the Altamont to the west, open agricultural lands to the north, the foothills to the east, and the Stanislaus River and open agricultural land to the south. San Joaquin County's geography and common land-use issues lend themselves to a single representative unit. And because population centers outside the County are rather distant and accessible only by congested highways, County residents tend to look within San Joaquin County's borders for jobs, transportation, services, entertainment, and culture.

More than just the geography, San Joaquin County's residents differ from the Bay-Area communities to the west and Sacramento to the north in important and fundamental ways. The residents of San Joaquin County have a lower median income and a higher poverty rate than their Bay-Area neighbors. While at the same time over the last few years, the County has experienced a 24% increase in the median home price, Stockton rent increases have soared to the 2nd highest in the nation. In addition, San Joaquin County has lower rates of higher education, with 18.8% of the population having a bachelor's degree or higher. While Alameda and Contra Costa to the west, each have over 42% of their population attaining a bachelor's degrees or higher. This disparity in education informs the type of jobs we need today and the educational programs we need for the future. Our proficiency attainment gap is narrowing, graduation rates are now at their highest levels with the 2019 graduation rate in San Joaquin County at 83.7%, only slightly below 84.5% for the state. Also, the community has just launched a 1,000 internships initiative with Delta College, the business community, and the County of San Joaquin.

These demographic challenges highlight the need for a regional focus on development of education, high paying jobs, affordable housing, and livable communities for our residents. Because these issues are uniquely local, they need to be addressed at the state and federal level by local representatives who understand the needs of the community.

San Joaquin County Agriculture and transportation/distribution hub

When residents of San Joaquin County were asked "When you think of your community what are the shared interests or issues that unite you and bring the community together?" 58% responded that "preserving and enhancing agriculture" was extremely important – a 10 out of 10. Agriculture sets San Joaquin County apart from its neighbors to the west and north. With 3,430 farms on 84% of the County's land the County is economically dependent on the success of agriculture; it provides \$5.732 billion in total economic contribution to the area.

Our community's connection to agriculture can be seen in the local commodity focused celebrations, including Stockton's asparagus festival, Lodi's grape festival, Linden's cherry festival, Manteca's pumpkin festival, and Ripon's almond blossom festival. These celebrations reflect the region's deep roots in agriculture.

Directly connected to the region's agricultural economy are the State's contentious water issues. San Joaquin County is ground zero for many of California's most difficult and thorny water issues. The effects these water issues have on San Joaquin County in particular, highlight the importance of local representation at both the state and federal level and are vital to our future and the future of our communities. Fair resolution of these complex water issues necessitates the inclusion of local voices, who will speak for the residents of San Joaquin County.

In conjunction with the Agricultural industry, San Joaquin County's greatest expansion has been in the transportation and warehousing sectors, which dominate the County's employment growth due to our strategic location and multi-modal transportation network. For example, the 4th Amazon facility has recently opened in the Stockton Area with a new 638,000 square foot center, hiring 2,200 positions.

To facilitate this growth, from 2011 to June 2021, we have brought in \$526 million in Measure K dollars for infrastructure improvement; 33% of funds were used on street and road repairs, 35% on state highways and 30% on transit and rail. Additionally, since 2000, San Joaquin One Voice® has secured over \$142 million in federal appropriations for transportation priorities such as roadway improvements, railroad crossings, transit capital, and airport improvement projects. In addition to federal dollars, we have advocated for policy and regulatory reform that today streamlines the way federal and state agencies work together to eliminate unnecessary procedures so that government agencies and the business community can work seamlessly toward job creation for our communities.

This focus on local infrastructure spending has supported the significant growth of numerous transportation related industries. For example, the Port of Stockton, which since 2010, has been one of the fastest growing ports in the Country-133% growth in cargo. In 2020 alone, the Port of Stockton handled 4 million metric tons of cargo; acquired 36 zero emissions forklift units to move that cargo in a more environmentally friendly manner and in the process provided 10,077 jobs. This type of growth is made possible because of San Joaquin County's unique location in the State and its ability, over the last 10 years, to work as a cohesive unit through its elected officials.

For San Joaquin County's economic growth to continue, the community urges the Commission to keep San Joaquin County together. Its unity, over the last 10 years, has allowed for significant progress; continued local representation at the state and federal level will allow that progress to continue at a direct benefit to the lives of the citizens of San Joaquin County.

Sincerely,

KROLOFF, BELCHER, SMART
PERRY & CHRISTOPHERSON,
A Professional Law Corporation


ALLISON CHERRY LAFFERTY