Central Coast Alliance United for a Sustainable Economy
CAUSE
2011: Celebrating 10 years of working for social, economic and environmental justice
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May 20, 2011

California Citizens Redistricting Commission
1130 K Street, Ste, 101
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Congressional districts for Ventura, Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo counties

Dear Commissioners,

The Central Coast Alliance United for a Sustainable Economy (CAUSE) is based in Ventura County and serves the six-county central coast region including Ventura, Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, Monterey, Santa Cruz and San Benito counties. CAUSE's mission is to build grassroots power for social, economic and environmental justice through policy research, leadership development, community organizing and advocacy.

Based on the legal criteria for redistricting, including (a) equal population, (b) US Voting Rights Act (VRA) Sections 5 & 2, (c) contiguous, (d) political boundaries including communities of interest, (e) compact, and (f) where possible, nest two assembly districts within one senate district, CAUSE and community residents from the Ventura and Santa Barbara counties testified in support of senate and assembly districts at the April 13, 2011 CRC hearing in San Luis Obispo. At this time we are recommending the following congressional districts for Ventura, Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo counties based on the redistricting prioritized legal criteria.

The two congressional districts, numbered CD 701 and CD 801, adhere to the legal redistricting criteria as follows:

(a) Based on 2010 census population, each congressional district must include an equal population of 702,905
CD 701 represents a population of 702,905
CD 801 represents a population of 702,905

(b) Ventura, Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo counties are not VRA Section 5 counties and do not include possible majority minority citizen voting age population districts that would fall under VRA Sec. 2.

(c) The proposed congressional districts for Ventura, Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo counties are contiguous.

(d) The proposed congressional districts respect political boundaries to the extent possible:

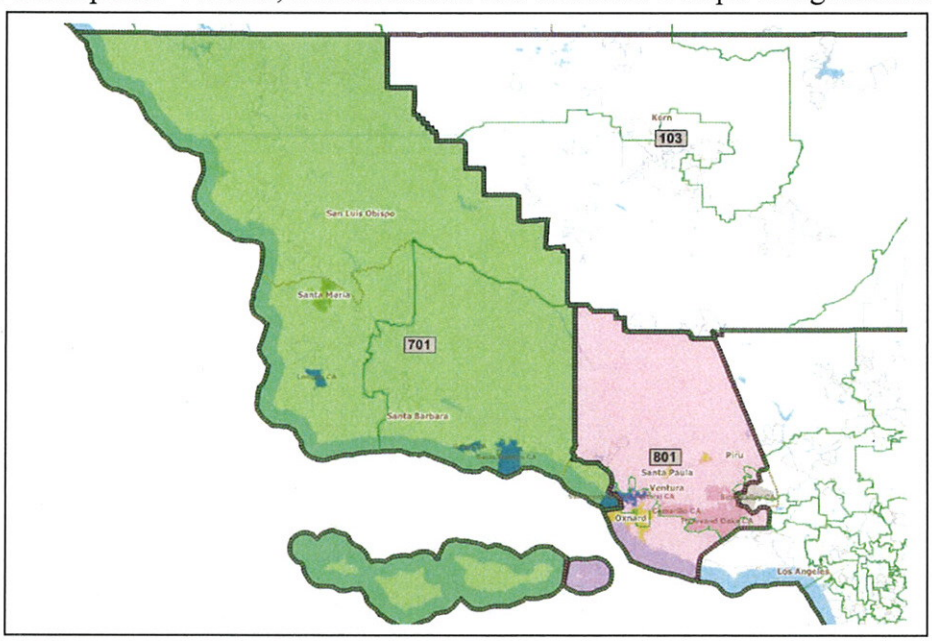
1. All of San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara counties are kept whole and within one congressional district representing their combined two-county population of 693,532. The remaining 9,373 population is from Ventura County, specifically a coastal portion of the City of Ventura that shares coastal communities of interest with Santa Barbara County immediately to the north and still maintains 91% of the City of Ventura intact and within the adjacent Ventura County based CD 701.

2. Ventura County is kept whole within one congressional district, CD 801, to the extent possible, given that the county population of 823,318, exceeds the equal population requirement of one congressional district by a population of 120,413. The Ventura County seat of government is maintained within the City of Ventura, which is kept within the Ventura County based district. Given that 9,373 of the Ventura County population must be included with CD 701, the remaining majority population of Ventura County is 813,945, which still exceeds the equal population requirement by 111,040.

4. To keep all cities whole to the extent possible, the one city that is nearest to the 111,040 population that cannot be included within CD 801 is the City of Simi Valley with a population of 124, 237. The City of Simi Valley is also on one of Ventura County's borders, which allows for the City to be included in an adjacent district and comply with the requirement of contiguity. As an East Ventura County city that borders western Los Angeles County, the City of Simi Valley has significant community of interest links (e.g. weekday work commuters, weekend shopping) with western Los Angeles County.

(e) Finally, the proposed congressional districts are as compact as possible given the population distribution in the region.

Map of Proposed Ventura, Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo Congressional Districts



In compliance with legal redistricting prioritized criteria, we recommend the above congressional districts for Ventura, Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo counties. Should you have questions, please contact me at 805-658-0810 x 203 or maricela@coastalalliance.com.

Sincerely,

Maricela Morales

Maricela Morales MA
Deputy Executive Director