

One San Joaquin

Stay informed - Email onesanjoaquin@gmail.com or join our Google Group for more info <http://groups.google.com/group/onesanjoaquin>

Dear Neighbor:

San Joaquin County now has almost 700,000 residents after the 2010 census. That's enough population for one full State Senate seat, a Congressional representative, and two Assembly districts. These districts **must** be in San Joaquin County so that we have elected officials who focus on representing our needs.

San Joaquin County is currently split between four Assembly districts, two State Senate seats, and two Congressional districts. This shattered map dilutes our power at the State and Federal level. In fact, we have **no** elected officials in either legislature that live in the county. Whether you're a Republican or a Democrat, we can all agree that San Joaquin County deserves representation in Sacramento and Washington.

We now have the chance to change our situation with the creation of the non-partisan Citizens Redistricting Commission – a new citizen's panel that will draw lines for our elected officials. We can fight for **OUR** shared community by emailing the commission and attending an upcoming public meeting. Fourteen non-partisan members of the commission will be listening and making decisions about redistricting based on San Joaquin County's community input.

I urge you to join **One San Joaquin**, a local, **non-partisan**, group of San Joaquin supporters who are dedicated to fighting for our best interests. Please join us by taking the following actions:

- Send an email before April 16th urging the commission to keep San Joaquin County together as one community. Be sure to send in your map of San Joaquin County and the outlying area.
- **Attend a public meeting on Saturday, April 16th from 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. at the Merced County Administration Building, 2222 M Street, Merced, CA with the One San Joaquin group.**
- Join the **One San Joaquin** Google Group at <http://groups.google.com/group/onesanjoaquin> so that you get the latest updates on our efforts.
- Tell your friends and neighbors and ask them to get involved in **One San Joaquin**.

Included below is all the information you need to make a difference by sharing your recommendations with the new Citizens Redistricting Commission.

Thank you for taking the time to join in this critically important process that will affect our county for the next decade.

We are all **One San Joaquin**.

Take Action: Email the Commission

Deadline: April 15, 2011

- 1) Write a note to the Redistricting Commission about why you think San Joaquin County should be kept together as one community. Your testimony will be sent directly to the members of the Commission.
 - Save your note as a Microsoft Word or PDF document.
 - Attach your note to an email **along with** the PDF of the maps provided by **One San Joaquin**. Be sure to include **all** of the attached maps. We need to make the legal case that San Joaquin should be kept whole at all levels, and the maps help us make our case.
- 2) Send via email to: votersfirstact@crc.ca.gov and copy onesanjoaquin@gmail.com with the following information in the subject and body of the email:

- Subject Line: Community of Interest Testimony
- Body (Example): I am a resident of San Joaquin County from _____ (name of your city of residence), and I am a part of One San Joaquin County, a group of concerned citizens who believe San Joaquin County is a community of interest. I would like to submit my testimony along with data and maps concerning redistricting in the Central Valley and my recommendation that you keep San Joaquin County whole. I appreciate your time and commitment in reading my testimony and hope that you will take it into consideration.

Sincerely,

John/Jane Doe, Include your full address

Take Action: Attend a Public Meeting

Saturday, April 16th, 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Merced County Administration Building, 2222 M Street, Merced, CA

The best way for you to make your voice heard is to attend a public meeting of the Redistricting Commission. If you are able to attend and would be willing to submit letters from other people who cannot be there in person, send an email to Onesanjoaquin@gmail.com. A few important things to know about attending the Commission hearing:

- Even if you plan to attend meetings, make sure to submit your testimony by email first.
- Bring any letters from your friends or other members of the group who are unable to attend and present the letters to the commission on their behalf.
- Print out your letter, read it to the commission staff, and then hand the information to the commission along with a printed version of the attached maps.

How to Write Your Letter to the Commission

April XX, 2011

Citizens Redistricting Commission
1130 K Street, Suite 101
Sacramento, CA 95814
votersfirstact@crc.ca.gov

Dear Commissioners,

Paragraph 1 - Introduction:

- Include your name and where you live in San Joaquin County
- Explain that you want the Citizens Redistricting Commission to keep San Joaquin County whole

Paragraph 2 - Describe and explain why San Joaquin County is one community. Examples may include:

- San Joaquin is a “community of interest” – This phrase is an official term known by the commission
- The Commission is charged with keeping counties whole, so San Joaquin should not be split
- The attached map shows what a San Joaquin County based seat should look like
- San Joaquin County is surrounded by the East Bay, Sacramento and the Southern portions of the Central Valley. It is unique and different from all of the surrounding communities.
- With almost 700,000 residents, the county should be the basis for 1 State Senate seat, 1 Congressional district and 2 Assembly districts

Paragraph 3 (or more as necessary) - Explain why San Joaquin County is a community:

NOTE: Use personal stories as well as facts that show why San Joaquin County is one community

- Are you a member of a community group or organization that serves our county? Examples include businesses, farms, school groups, kids recreational sports groups, cultural and ethnic groups, community event participants (parades, festivals, etc.), community service groups (Rotary, Boys and Girls Club, Boy Scouts), other interest groups.
- Tell the Commission why is it important that our elected officials care about our interests
- Write about county-wide interests and how they affect you personally, for example:
 - Transportation issues – Highways 205, 5 and 99 need improvement
 - The Port of Stockton and the need to create jobs for all the cities in San Joaquin County

Last Paragraph - Recommendations for the Commission:

- **Keep San Joaquin County whole**, with 700,000 residents we should have 1 State Senate seat, 1 Congressional district and 2 Assembly districts - with the majority based in our county
- It is time for San Joaquin County to have representatives with our County's interests at heart
- Please see the attached maps for more detailed information about our County

Sincerely,

John/Jane Doe

Resident of San Joaquin County

Include your full address

Example Letter

April XX, 2011

Citizens Redistricting Commission
1130 K Street, Suite 101
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Commissioners,

My name is John/Jane Doe and I have been a resident of San Joaquin County for 12 years, most recently living in the city of Manteca for the last 6 years and in the town of Tracy the 6 years before that. I am a local businessman and have been deeply involved with business issues that affect San Joaquin County, and I would like to submit my testimony and urge you to protect my community in redistricting.

One of the top objectives of the Citizens Redistricting Commission is to preserve the integrity of county lines, and with a population of nearly 700,000 residents, San Joaquin should have 2 Assembly and 1 State Senate and Congressional members based in our community. Also, our community is unique in the area, and it does not resemble communities to the west which is part of the East Bay, or to the north, which has the city of Sacramento, or to the south, in Southern California, which has many different interests than our county.

As a businessman in San Joaquin County, in the city of Manteca, I cannot stress how important improving the San Joaquin economy is to our community. For instance, our local agricultural products provide more than \$2 billion annually for the county, and are one of the largest contributors to the economy. Our crops in the county are specialty crops, such as wine, almonds, and asparagus and have different needs from other staple crops. Farmers come from all the towns in San Joaquin County; Tracy, Stockton, Manteca, Ripon, Linden and Lodi and we support our local industry. We need elected representatives that are based in our county to make sure our economy stays strong by looking out for us instead of Sacramento, the rest of the Central Valley, or the East Bay. Our livelihood depends on it.

I recommend that you keep San Joaquin County and its 700,000 residents whole and have 2 Assembly and 1 State Senate and Congressional member based in our community. Our economy depends on having representatives based here that will fight for us. Thank you for your consideration and please see the attached maps for more information about our community.

Sincerely,

John/Jane Doe
Resident of San Joaquin County, City of Manteca
Include your full address