

**TOWN OF
APPLE VALLEY, CALIFORNIA**

AGENDA MATTER

Subject Item:

ADOPT A RESOLUTION URGING THE CITIZENS REDISTRICTING COMMISSION TO KEEP THE HIGH DESERT REGION UNIFIED

SUMMARY STATEMENT

The High Desert is geographically separated into one area by the Tehachapi Mountains to the north and the San Gabriel and San Bernardino Mountains to the south.

Environmentally, our region is distinct from the Los Angeles Basin and Inland Empire. We are in a completely separate air basin. The Antelope Valley AQMD and the Mojave Desert AQMD share the exact same staff due to the shared issues facing their territories as part of the High Desert.

In terms of water policy, desert communities face vastly different issues than that Inland Empire and Los Angeles Basin. Water issues facing our community include storage and conservation questions totally unique to this area of California and often at odds with the population centers of our respective counties.

Economically, the High Desert has traditionally been the center of aerospace in California and vital to our nation's defense interests. We continue to be a center for military and aerospace development throughout all three county regions of the High Desert.

Additionally, a major economic engine uniting the High Desert is mining. In every county we have major mining operations that search for the minerals and rock needed to build our highways, homes and other infrastructure. To protect this industry and the families reliant on it, we must be unified.

The entire High Desert is in many ways isolated from access to a public four year university. That's why a multi-county effort throughout the region was started several years ago, the High Desert University Foundation. HDUF works with our community colleges, cities and education advocates throughout the region in the Victor Valley and Antelope Valley to bring awareness and build towards attracting a new public university.

(Continued)

Recommended Action:

That the Town Council Adopt Resolution No. 2011-12.

Proposed by: Linda Mayfield

Item Number _____

T. M. Approval: _____

Budgeted Item Yes No N/A

Like the rest of the state and nation, our housing market has suffered, but we face different challenges than our surrounding areas. Residents of East Kern, northern Los Angeles and northern San Bernardino county commute many more miles to work on average than those in the population centers of the counties. Our unemployment numbers and foreclosure rates surpass state and county averages. This is certainly a negative, but still unique factor that requires representation that takes that into account. These are just a sampling of the factors uniting the High Desert, but give a good overview of why a unified front is needed to ensure our ability to elect high desert legislators.

Currently, the High Desert is split among:

- 5 State Assembly Districts, population warrants two that should be all or majority High Desert.
- 2 State Senate Districts, population warrants one that should be all or majority High Desert.
- 3 Congressional Districts, population warrants two that should be all or majority High Desert.

RESOLUTION NO. 2011-12

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF APPLE VALLEY ADOPTING A RESOLUTION URGING THE CITIZENS REDISTRICTING COMMISSION TO KEEP THE HIGH DESERT REGION UNIFIED

WHEREAS, the Town of Apple Valley is located in the High Desert region of the County of San Bernardino, and

WHEREAS, the High Desert region encompasses portions of the Counties of Kern, Los Angeles and San Bernardino, and

WHEREAS, the population centers of the Counties of Kern, Los Angeles and San Bernardino in the Central Valley, Los Angeles Basin and Inland Empire, respectively, have different policy interests and legislative needs than the High Desert portions of those counties, and

WHEREAS, the High Desert is geographically and geologically distinct from the other areas in Kern, Los Angeles and San Bernardino Counties, separated physically by the vast Tehachapi, San Gabriel and San Bernardino Mountain ranges, and

WHEREAS, the communities making up the High Desert share similar needs in terms of water policy, aerospace and defense retention, clean energy development, air resources, transportation, mining and health care availability that are unique among us and transcend county lines, and

WHEREAS, the High Desert is currently split among five Assembly Districts when the population justifies two, two Senate Districts when the population justifies one, and three congressional districts when the population justifies portions of two, and

WHEREAS, the Citizens Redistricting Commission is tasked with redrawing lines is instructed under statute that “the geographic integrity of every city, county, city and county, neighborhood or community of interest shall be respected.”

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Council of the Town of Apple Valley hereby:

1. Urges the members of the Citizens Redistricting Commission to recognize the powerful bonds that make the High Desert a community of interest that transcends county lines and should be respected in the redistricting process, and

2. Urges the members of the Citizens Redistricting Commission to undo the damage done in past politically motivated redistricting procedures by keeping the High Desert unified to all extents possible.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 26th day of April, 2011.

MAYOR

ATTEST:

TOWN CLERK