

AGPA01

From: John Uebersax [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, December 14, 2010 9:00 PM
To: Voters First Act
Subject: Further Comments on Selection of Remaining Members



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Dear We Draw the Lines,

Attached please find written comments concerning the selection of remaining members of the Citizens Redistricting Commission. I request your kind assistance in bringing these to the attention to the current eight members before they vote to accept the final six nominees, if the schedule permits.

Thank you for posting my earlier comments online, but please let me point out that my name on the website is spelled incorrectly as "Ubersax", instead of the correct spelling, "Uebersax."

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

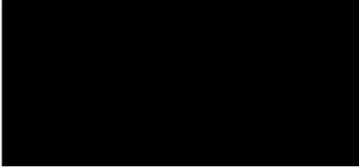
John Uebersax
Paso Robles

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John Uebersax PhD

[REDACTED]

John S. Uebersax, PhD



December 14, 2010

Citizens Redistricting Commission
555 Capitol Mall, Suite 300
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Selection of remaining Commission members

Dear Citizens Redistricting Commission:

I here supply comments pertinent to the selection of the remaining six Commission members, and, in particular, to the two independent/decline-to-state positions to be filled.

First, I am especially impressed with the credentials, statement, and supporting material of Mr. M. Andre Parvenu. His selection as a finalist appears an excellent choice. Based on this material, I hope he is appointed a member of the Commission.

That said, I would like to offer one minor remark. It is certainly good that Mr. Parvenu (and this comment also applies to the other independent finalist, Ms. DiGuilio-Matz) has extensive professional experience in urban planning, government, and related fields. But the possible danger of having too many "experts" on the Commission should also be noted. It may prove advantageous to approach the problem of redistricting by simplifying it; in that case, the opinion of urban planning experts, who may be unintentionally prejudiced by status quo theories and concepts, should be balanced by those of educated laymen. For example, some suggest that we should simply draw U.S. Congressional district boundaries to follow county lines. Sometimes it is difficult for an expert to toss aside established theories or the "groupthink" that one finds in any discipline in favor of some simpler and better approach.

Similarly, it is certainly true that we should be cognizant of the implications of district boundaries on fair representation of demographic and political minorities. However, it is also true that in seeking to achieve parity across groups, we may unintentionally make things worse. In short, there is a danger of over-engineering things or making a technical "Tower of Babel."

Of course, Mr. Parvenu is scarcely to be criticized because of his impressive credentials, education, and experience. Far from it. I wish only to express the hope that, if selected,

Mr. Parvenu will not only take the best of existing paradigms of urban planning, but also have the confidence to question them and seek new alternatives.

Second, among the pool of independent applicants I note with interest those of Mr. Patrick D. Jefferson and Mr. Sherman Gee. Both of these applicants seem eminently qualified for the Commission both as citizens and as skilled professionals in their respective fields of education (Mr. Jefferson) and engineering (Mr. Gee), and would offer the advantage of an "outsider's" perspective.

Sincerely yours,

John Uebersax

Paso Robles, California