



April 15, 2011

Citizens Redistricting Commission  
1130 K Street, Suite 101  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
Fax: (916) 322-0904

Re: CCRP's response to the Community of Interest issue in the Redwood Coast

Dear Members of the Redistricting Commission,

I am writing on behalf of the California Center for Rural Policy (CCRP) to comment on the questions the Citizens Redistricting Commission is posing at its public input hearings concerning community location, bonds and reasons why our community should remain together. We regret that we are unable to provide comments in person.

CCRP is located at Humboldt State University and conducts research to inform policy, build community and promote the health and well-being of rural people and environments. As part of our mission we have since 2005 conducted in-depth studies of the area of the state that has branded itself as either the Redwood Coast or the North Coast—Del Norte, Humboldt, Trinity and Mendocino Counties. Currently the Assembly District (AD1) contains all four counties, the Congressional District (CD1) contains three of the counties and the Senate District (SD2) contains only two of the counties.

For a variety of reasons, including mountainous geography and roadless forested areas, it is far easier to travel North – South, than East-West in our region. Commerce--especially fisheries, pasture-based agricultural and health care delivery service--have developed networks, partnerships and coalitions along the North-South transportation corridor (Hwy 101).

Why not East-West? East-West transportation is challenging due to geographic and public land ownership patterns. For example, on a map Del Norte County and Siskiyou County are adjacent, however to get from one County seat of government to the other (Crescent City to Yreka) is roughly a three-hour drive—half of which includes more than 80 miles driving through the state of Oregon! Whereas travel between the Del Norte and Humboldt County's government seats (Crescent City – Eureka) is only 1 hour and 37 minutes and 84 miles.

We realize with new census data some current legislative borders will need adjusting, however we urge you to take into consideration natural transportation and industry patterns and leave the four North Coast counties in the Assembly District.



**CCRP**

California Center  
for Rural Policy



**HUMBOLDT**  
STATE UNIVERSITY

We also believe the pasture-based agriculture on the North Coast and the wine industries in the Lake, Mendocino, Napa, Sonoma and Yolo are a good cultural match and should remain in the same Congressional District.

Respectfully,

Connie Stewart  
Executive Director

