

REGION 8 : SONOMA**RECEIVED**

JUN 09 2011

City of Cotati
Sonoma County, CaliforniaPer _____
June 9, 2011

California Citizens Redistricting Commission
1130 K St., Suite 101
Sacramento, CA 95814
Via email: _____ and
Via fax attn.: _____

Dear Commissioners:

On behalf of the City Council of the City of Cotati, I am writing to offer our input as you formulate the new State Assembly, State Senate and Congressional District Boundaries. Thank you for your willingness to tackle this monumental task. We ask that you consider our comments in this letter and in the enclosed City of Cotati Resolution No. 2011-25 in your deliberations.

The City of Cotati has "communities of interest" with communities found within the "North Coast" of the Northern Bay Area. We have a shared history and culture with these communities, developed over thousands of years.

Cotati is located at the southern end of the Laguna de Santa Rosa. This water resource connects Cotati to the communities to the west. Ever since Cotati's local indigenous population developed a system of bartering with its coastal neighbors for salt, shells and fish, Cotati has had a unique and collaborative relationship with the local coastal populations.

This unique shared geography has also contributed to Cotati's ongoing connection to Penngrove and Petaluma through a common agricultural history especially related to the early 20th Century development of the poultry industry. As an historic agricultural center, Cotati has shared the rise and fall (and rise again) of many agricultural products with Penngrove and Petaluma. These rural agricultural communities remain remarkably connected today in areas such as dairy, beef, sheep, and hay production. Cotati has historically been a commercial and social center for dairy farmers to the west. In addition, we share a watershed with Penngrove and rural Petaluma.

Like the rest of the "North Coast", Cotati is geographically separated from inland northern California by a mountain chain. The geography of the region creates some critically important distinctions. Pacific coastal weather conditions influence Cotati's climate and are very different from those in the eastern valley and mountain regions. Typical of our region are dense coastal fog and floods. The local climate will affect local community climate change-related decisions for years to come.

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Our local agriculture is shaped by the coastal influences. A climatically cooling fog and winds are drawn into Cotati through what's locally called the "Petaluma Gap" due to the configuration of the hills. This permits, for example, wine-grape production of coastal varieties such as Pinot Noir and Pinot Gris.

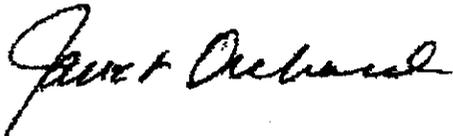
Cotati shares in the natural features of the North Coast which generate significant tourism. Cotati is located directly on the "man-made" footprint of Highway 101 which connects the communities of the North Coast to its environmental assets, including national and state parks, among other amenities. We do not share Interstate Highways 5 or 80 which connect the communities of the eastern & northern valleys and mountains. In addition, Cotati is linked with other North Coast communities by the transportation systems of the North Coast Railroad Authority, Golden Gate Transit District, Sonoma County Transit Authority and the Sonoma-Marín Area Rail Transit District.

In terms of historical and on-going shared services, Cotati shares a Fire District with Penngrove and rural Petaluma and City staff with the City of Sebastopol.

We believe strongly that Cotati should be included in a district which includes our neighboring communities of Penngrove, Petaluma and Sebastopol. Due to proximity, geography and a shared history, many longstanding valuable relationships exist with deep connections related to shared economic issues and concerns. We ask that you consider our intertwined histories and our commonality of interests when finalizing the district lines.

Thank you again for all your hard and important work.

Sincerely,



Janet Orchard, Mayor

Enc.

RESOLUTION NO. 2011-25**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COTATI STATING THE CITY'S POSITION REGARDING THE POTENTIAL RE-DRAWING OF STATE ASSEMBLY, STATE SENATE AND US CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS**

WHEREAS, Proposition 20 was passed by the voters of California in 2010 and the California Citizens Redistricting Commission was formed; and

WHEREAS, The California Redistricting Commission has the vitally important task of establishing new district boundaries based on data from the US Census of 2010; and

WHEREAS, The City of Cotati, is linked economically, socially and geographically creating "communities of interest" specifically with the communities of Petaluma, Penngrove and Sebastopol; and

WHEREAS, these "communities of interest" have developed over many, many years due to a shared common agricultural history, particularly in the production of chickens, eggs, milk, beef, hay and, today, wine; and

WHEREAS, Cotati, Penngrove and Petaluma have a common geography, including a shared watershed; and

WHEREAS, The Native American Tribes residing in Southern Sonoma County were closely connected, sharing common ancestry, history and social customs; and

WHEREAS, Cotati and Sebastopol have been historically connected by their locations adjacent to the Laguna de Santa Rosa, a valuable food, water and environmental resource; and

WHEREAS, many solutions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions are local in nature, related to local geography and climate, which we share with Penngrove, Petaluma and Sebastopol; and

WHEREAS, Cotati, Penngrove and Petaluma and the North Coast, in general, are linked by transportation in the form of US Highway 101, Golden Gate Transit and Sonoma County Transit; and

WHEREAS, Cotati, Penngrove and Petaluma and the North Coast are further linked by transportation in the form of the North Coast Railroad Authority established in 1989 to provide a unified & revitalized rail infrastructure meeting the freight and passenger needs to build and sustain the economy of the region; and

WHEREAS, Cotati, as a small historic community, respectfully requests to be represented within districts that include other "communities of interest", where long-standing valuable relationships exist with deep connections to shared economic issues and concerns; and

WHEREAS, Cotati, as a small historic community, respectfully requests to be represented within districts that include other "communities of interest", where long-standing valuable relationships exist with deep connections to shared economic issues and concerns; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Cotati strongly believes that Cotati, Penngrove, Petaluma and Sebastopol will be better served if linked by the same State Assembly, State Senate and US Congressional Districts and strongly urges the California Redistricting Commission to redraw the district lines reflecting the natural connections shared by these communities so that they may receive the most effective representation possible.

IT IS HEREBY CERTIFIED that the foregoing resolution was duly adopted at a special meeting of the City Council of the City of Cotati held on the 8th day of June, 2011 by the following vote, to wit:

ORCHARD	<u>Yes</u>
HARVEY	<u>Yes</u>
DELL'OSSO	<u>Yes</u>
GILARDI	<u>Yes</u>
LANDMAN	<u>Yes</u>

Approved: Janet Orchard
Janet Orchard, Mayor

Attest: Tamara Taylor
Tamara Taylor, Deputy City Clerk

Approved as to form:

Rich Rudnansky
Rich Rudnansky, City Attorney