

----- Original Message -----

Subject:Public Comment: 9 - Yolo

Date:Sat, 4 Jun 2011 03:47:50 +0000

From:Gary Sandy <[REDACTED]>

To: [REDACTED]

From: Gary Sandy <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Retention of shared communities

Message Body:
Dear Commissioners:

As a former mayor of the City of Woodland and lifelong resident of Solano and Yolo counties I strongly object to any lines that divide our county and separate our communities of interest. I support a configuration that keeps Yolo County whole and that does not divide us up into disparate parts.

For example, the cities of Woodland and Davis share a great deal of culture, a local economy and a number of geographic, cultural, educational, economic and environmental features that knit them together. A great many UC Davis employees, for example, reside in Woodland. Huge numbers of Davis residents utilize Woodland stores as their marketplace. Yolo County communities enjoy a common watershed, air quality, common agrarian and farming practices and transportation systems. The same can be said for the communities of West Sacramento, Winters, Esparto, Madison, Dunnigan, Knights Landing, Capay, Guinda, Brooks and Clarksburg.

The cities of Davis and Woodland have agreed to jointly pursue surface water from the Sacramento River, have explored and continue to explore the viability of a centralized bike route to link the cities, and are presently researching the viability of perhaps consolidating public safety services such as police and fire.

Indeed we delight in one another's progress and evolution, take part in one another's festivals, support our separate transportation and economic development proposals, jointly participate in studies of our demographics and spend a great deal of time exploring the value and feasibility of collaboration and cooperation.

Our Yolo County communities have more in common than do other regions where cities and towns often seem to have little relation or interaction with one another. This is a sub-region united by common interests and shared history. I encourage and implore you to keep this mind when you draw lines. Lines should unite and strengthen not separate and divide. Why parse decades of shared outcomes and a unified spirit dedicated to improving our local cultures, environment and economy? To separate these communities, one from another, would weaken our shared vision, our affinity for preserving farmland, for safeguarding our water quality, our emphasis on the importance and primacy of education and our practice of respecting our inherent diversity.

In the past our communities have too often been divided into different districts which necessitated travel and placed a burden on our residents. We were unable to collaborate with our neighboring communities on infrastructure projects or on which impacted us directly. In every instance, the fragmentation of our district proved unsettling and under-mined our individual and collective interests.

With all due respect, I appreciate the hard work and investment of time and effort the Commission is bringing to this vitally important task. I hope you will reflect on my counsel and on the counsel of others who are my friends and neighbors and keep our Yolo County and Solano County communities intact. Yours is a solemn duty and your work should reflect a common purpose and unified vision. Please stand with us in keeping our county unified and whole.

With great appreciation,

Gary Sandy
former mayor, City of Woodland

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