

REGION 7 : SANTA CLARA

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JUL 01 2011

Per _____

To: Citizens Redistricting Commission
901 P Street Suite 154-A
Sac. Calif. 95814
June 25, 2011

Consuelo J. Rodriguez, Ed.D.

San Jose Calif. 95125

My name is Dr. Consuelo Rodriguez. I was born and raised in San Jose. I worked for many years as a K-12 educator and most recently retired from San Jose State University. I have been very active in the San Jose community serving on several non-profit boards.

As a child and as a professional, I have seen S.J go from a small town known for its beautiful orchard and fields of fruit to what we know today as Silicon Valley Today. I have seen east San Jose and "Sal Si Puedes" go from torn down shacks of poor people striving to survive to a Vigorous hard Working Class Community" THAT while working class and poor exhibits Pride in upgrading it's Schools, Businesses, Transportation and other Community Needs (e.g. health) and yet struggles with issues of poverty at the "same time".

I wish to express my dissatisfaction with the San Jose Assembly and Senate redistricting maps that were released by the Commission on June 7th, 2011.

These maps represent a dismantling of the critical political leadership of East San Jose. Our community has historically been disenfranchised.

And only recently have we experienced success in electing representatives that we believe truly care and represent our community.

Your actions to divide our community into three Assembly and Senate districts will completely dilute our voice at the state level and divide our "community of interest". The San Jose Mercury News in a recent editorial states that "the commission needs to correct the East San Jose split in its next round of maps due July 12". They go on to say that "East San Jose is heavily Latino; its fragmentation clearly splits a "community of interest as defined by law".

(3) Recommendations:

1st. I would like to recommend to the Commission that they maintain the 23rd Assembly District as is or with only minor adjustments. This district is "reasonably compact".

2nd. I would also urge that the 28th Assembly District be maintained as it is in that it too is "reasonably compact." In the last decade we have elected Assembly Members in these districts that have served our community very well and given us critically needed important leadership.

3rd. I would then recommend that the 23rd and 28th Assembly Districts should be nested together to form a Senate District that combines communities of interest in (e.g. Santa Clara, Monterey, and San Benito Counties). I recommend this because there are common similarities in these districts that form an effective “community of interest” such as: (a) income and poverty levels, (b) the educational needs are similar, (c) there are cultural similarities, (d) the employment needs are similar and (e) also very importantly there is a transportation corridor that runs through the center of these two districts.

In closing, and in all due respect, I ask and strongly urge the Commission to not divide our “community of interest” which has worked very hard and continues to work very hard for self empowerment.

We have made improvements in the quality of our lives, in part because of the leadership being provided in the schools at the local and state levels.

We want to continue to take responsibility for the betterment of our community. Please do not deprive us of this important leadership role. It breaks my heart to think that all these years of hard work by so many in this community who fought for Civil Rights and Equal Justice is about to be dismantled.

REGION 7 : SANTA CLARA

DAVE CORTESE
PRESIDENT, BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA SUPERVISOR, THIRD DISTRICT

SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA 95110

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JUL 0 1 2011

Per _____



June 28, 2011

Citizens Redistricting Commission
901 P Street, Suite 154-A
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing to register my serious concerns regarding the draft boundaries for the South Bay in Region VII because of the detrimental impact they would have on a large part of San Jose.

The new boundaries would divide a cohesive community of interest in East and Central San Jose. East San Jose self-identifies as a cohesive group of neighborhoods, and it shares common characteristics with Central San Jose. Together they constitute a community of interest defined by the broadly shared socio-economic conditions of their residents and their urban character compared to the surrounding suburbs. The constituents of Central and East San Jose, who before had a unified voice, will lose the representation their community had in the State Assembly.

Second, the proposed maps violate the spirit, if not the letter, of the Voting Rights Act by dividing East San Jose and its large Hispanic voting bloc into three Assembly Districts. Two of the Assembly Districts in the draft map have no more than a 25% Hispanic citizen voting age population. The third proposed Assembly district with a 44% Hispanic citizen voting age population essentially combines what before was two Assembly Districts. This plan creates a substantial barrier to Hispanic electoral impact in the largest Hispanic population center in Northern California.

We depend on the State Commission to fairly represent all communities of interest in California. Therefore I respectfully request that the Commission's next iteration of maps respect the integrity of East and Central San Jose. Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dave Cortese" with a small "rc." at the end.

Dave Cortese
President, Board of Supervisors

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Rose Herrera

JUL 0 1 2011

COUNCILMEMBER
DISTRICT 8

Per _____

June 28, 2011

Citizens Redistricting Commission
901 P Street, Suite 154-A
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Commissioners:

As the San José City Councilmember representing District 8, I am concerned about the impacts that the proposed electoral boundaries would have on the Evergreen community in east San José. Like other parts of Silicon Valley in the past few decades, Evergreen has changed from a rural to a suburban area while maintaining its distinct regional identity. Congressional, State Senate and Assembly district borders need to be adjusted to respect this community identity and keep Evergreen whole.

The proposed congressional map would cut the Silver Creek/South Evergreen neighborhood into two different congressional districts and split the Silver Creek Country Club and the Villages retirement communities in half. South Evergreen is a distinct neighborhood that should have unified representation.

San José's congressional district proposed southern boundary needs to be moved south to keep the entire South Evergreen area within the San José congressional district. Residents in all of these areas should not be placed in the South Santa Clara County district, which would unnecessarily divide them from their neighbors in San José.

The State Senate and Assembly representation of the Evergreen area should be aligned to match the San José City Council District 8 boundaries, which would mean the district's northern boundary should be Ocala Avenue not Tully Road. Residents south of Ocala Avenue share common concerns about schools, local environment, economy and quality of life that should be reflected in their state-level representation. These residents should not be forced into a district that extends all the way to Newark.

I urge the commission to adjust these electoral boundary lines to keep these communities of interest whole and to maintain their connection to San José.

Sincerely,

Rose Herrera
Councilmember