

9 Alameda

August 8, 2011

California Redistricting Commission (CRC)
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The proposed 15th congressional district (15th C.D.) is not fair. According to our local newspaper, "The Independent", of August 4, 2011, our trivalley cities of Livermore, Pleasanton and Dublin will be part of the new 15th C.D. The rest of the 15th C.D. will be the bay area cities of Union City, Hayward, San Lorenzo, San Leandro, Castro Valley and part of Sunol. The trivalley cities have little in common with the bay cities and definitely do not together comprise a community of interest as your objectives specify. The 15th C.D. should be changed this week prior to your planned August 15th deadline.

However, our trivalley cities have a great deal in common with the other adjoining inland valley cities of San Ramon (an official adjoining trivalley city) plus Danville, Blackhawk, Alamo, Walnut Creek, Pleasant Hill, Lafayette, Orinda and Moraga to the north.

We are interconnected by the often congested 680 freeway. Part of the long overdue solution is the connection of BART in the trivalley and BART on to Walnut Creek and either Lafayette and Orinda or Pleasant Hill and beyond. This, of course, requires federal funding and we will be better served by our having the same U.S. Representative in Washington. We've paid extra sales taxes for BART for 46 years.

What you now propose is very similar to the old 9th C.D. we had in the 1980s when the congressman didn't deliver despite 5 terms. According to "The Independent" we will get the same one, part-time Pete Stark again because you have gerrymandered a noncompetitive district with a 2 to 1 voter registration advantage for the incumbent again. Not again!

In the 1990s we had a good competitive C.D. that actually changed hands between the Republicans and Democrats, one of the very few in our entire state and one of the few in our nation. It should be noted that this allowed for the election of a woman. The United States trails way behind the other democracies in the number of women representatives. Also, to the best of my knowledge, both Mormons and Jews are discriminated against by the proposed 15th C.D. So much for the federal Voters' Rights Act. Check it out.

The bay cities you've selected have much warehousing and manufacturing while the inland valley cities are mostly residential with some administrative and research. Both are in different climate zones with of course differing unmet ecological challenges. Crime is higher in your bay area cities and there are many social differences as well.

In the 1990s a competitive C.D. only came about due to a lawsuit so that again may be our only option. For that we didn't need props 11 and 20 and the CRC! In the past decade, 2000s, our C.D. was not competitive + or - 2% due to collusion between both the Democrat and Republican incumbents and their cronies. As we all are now painfully aware, this resulted in safe seats and the lousy governments that noncompetitive districts guarantee. The recession and massive unemployment and debt could have been prevented by full time and objective representatives and legislators.

With the noncompetitive districts you've drawn, the carpetbagger incumbents are well served. I've made multiple presentations to the CRC both in person and by fax and email. Copies of this letter have been forwarded to the local media and elected officials. Reconsider your unfair district lines.

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