



Office of the Mayor

Tom Bates
Mayor

July 21, 2011

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

Re: Dividing the City of Berkeley into two State Senate Districts

Dear Members of the Citizens Redistricting Commission:

On behalf of the 112,580 residents of Berkeley, I urge you to adopt the visualization for the RCHMD State Senate District dated July 19, 2011 (**to be presented**), which keeps the entirety of the City of Berkeley in one State Senate District.

I strongly OPPOSE the visualization for the RCHMD State Senate District dated July 15, 2011 (**current working visualization**) which arbitrarily splits the City of Berkeley. The proposed division of Berkeley splits a community of interest right down the middle. If adopted, the voice of a very active community will be cut in half and drowned out by the larger constituencies in the two respective districts.

The residents of Berkeley have a strong sense of community and closely identify with the University and the surrounding community. Berkeley is inextricably tied to the University. There are a lot of commonalities between north Berkeley and the rest of the City. Residents of north Berkeley utilize services in central Berkeley as much as north Berkeley. We do not view Berkeley as having two different and distinct communities of interest. Splitting Berkeley ignores the close ties that bind the City together.

I appreciate the difficult work that the Commission is undertaking, but splitting the City of Berkeley will divide the voice of a community that has had a long history of political involvement and leadership at the federal and state levels.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that the Commission keep the City of Berkeley intact and adopt the visualization for the RCHMD State Senate District that is dated July 19, 2011 (**to be presented**).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tom Bates".

Tom Bates

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Per _____