



OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

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Letter of Recommendation

March 12, 2011

RE: Douglas Johnson

Esteemed Members of the California Citizens Redistricting Commission,

It is with great pleasure that I submit this letter of recommendation for Douglas Johnson. Mr. Johnson's knowledge and expertise were instrumental in guiding the City of Madera in its preparation of a districting measure to be presented to the voters of the City of Madera at its general election in November of 2010. In October of 2008, the City of Madera initiated the districting process prompted by the citizens of the City of Madera through the community Vision and Action Plan 2025. Through this plan, the citizens of Madera expressed a desire to have the members of the City Council elected by districts as opposed to the current at large process. It was necessary to enlist the services of someone who had specific knowledge in areas such as the California Government Code, the Elections Code, and the Voting Rights Act to ensure that all applicable areas of law and citizen rights were addressed.

Between May 2009 and December 2009, Mr. Johnson worked diligently with the offices of the City Clerk, City Attorney, City Administration and other city departments. With the assistance of city departments, Mr. Johnson obtained the pertinent information necessary to estimate the City's population since the last Census in 2000. He attended council meetings to keep the City Council abreast of timelines and actions to be followed. He made presentations at community forums to educate citizens and encourage their participation in the submittal of district boundary drawings for council's consideration. He worked closely with the citizen groups which submitted plans to ensure that their plans met the legal requirements. Of special note is that he encouraged the Civics class at Madera South High School to submit plans. In addition, he prepared a series of maps to serve as samples for the citizens and prompt discussion at community forums.

Mr. Johnson continued to work closely with the City in early 2010 as it presented the ordinance with the selected district plan to the City Planning Commission and finally to the Madera County Elections Official. I am pleased to report that Measure E, Districting Measure, passed.

Mr. Johnson's professionalism throughout the process made this complex process achievable. I highly recommend the services of Douglas Johnson and look forward to future opportunities to work with him should the need arise.

Respectfully submitted,

Sonia Alvarez
City Clerk, City of Madera