March 17, 2011

California Citizens Redistricting Commission votersfirstacto@crc.ca.gov

Dear Members:

In 2002, it was my great honor to serve as the chair of the San Francisco Elections Task Force on Redistricting, which was charged with leading the process to modify the city's voting districts in compliance with the 2000 census. Karin McDonald's group (then called Karin McDonald Consulting) served as our consultants throughout the process. I write to you today to strongly encourage the selection of Q2 Data and Research, led by Karin McDonald, to assist with your task of redesigning California's districts this year. My recommendation is based on the very positive experience of working with Ms. McDonald and her group in our redistricting efforts.

We are very proud of how our redistricting in San Francisco was conducted and successfully concluded. Ours was a fair and evenhanded process that operated with utmost openness and transparency. We took every possible step to encourage the full participation of our diverse citizenry, holding open meetings in all districts of San Francisco as well as at City Hall and going to great lengths to publicize our community hearings and maximize attendance. Nevertheless, as with many politically charged processes, there were many problems that could have undermined the entire effort. The highly proficient work of Ms. McDonald and her team were invaluable in helping us proceed forward in an ethical and diligent manner. I have every confidence that Q2 would bring the same integrity and professionalism to the California redistricting process.

Sincerely,

Gwenn Craig

Chair, 2002 Elections Task Force on Redistricting,

San Francisco