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K.T.

Post Office Box 4455
Stockton, California 95204-0455
(Telephone 209/941-0346)

March 28, 2011

Independent Citizens' Redistricting
Commission

1130 K Street, Suite #101
Sacramento, California 95814

Attention: Public Comment

Commissioners:

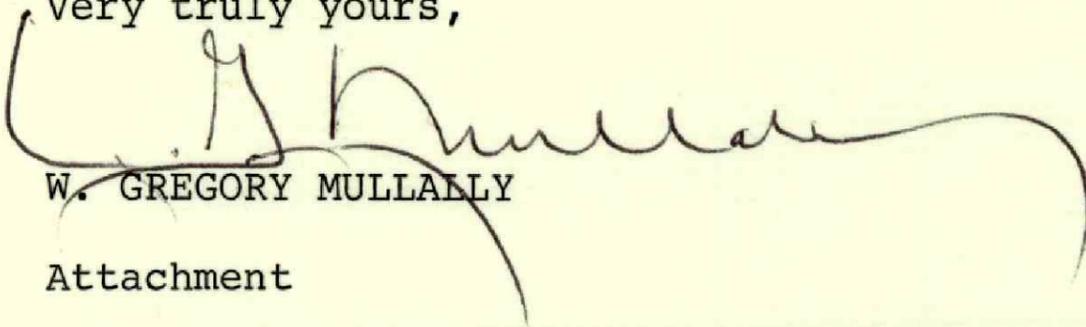
As it now stands, San Joaquin County's congressional and state legislative representation is, plain and simple, too fragmented (that the county is presently hacked apart for representation by four different state assemblypersons is absurd in the extreme) and thus deprives the county of representatives whose primary focus is on the county's needs. Further, it in no way can be said to comport to the new requirements that districts should reflect a "community of interest" and "rational geographical boundaries," to quote from the March 20 column from The Record (copy highlighted and attached hereto). (Though San Joaquin County is both urban and rural, there does exist a "community of interest" as both have historically had an interface with and effect upon the other, economically and socially. For instance, most of us city folk would never want to see the beautiful and economically productive wine country around Lodi paved over.)

To remedy the current representational fragmentation, I am in complete agreement with the possibilities for redistricting as put forth in the attached; specifically, that district boundaries be reconfigured so that San Joaquin County will have (a) one district representing it in the House of Representatives and (b) two districts representing it in the State Assembly. (Though not addressed in detail by Michael Fitzgerald in his column, certainly no harm would be done to the county - quite the contrary! - if it were also to be represented by one district in the State Senate.)

Especially given that San Joaquin County has a population (close to 700,000) approaching some states of the union, I urge you to please put an end to its present chop-job representation.

Independent Citizens' Redistricting
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Page Two

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. Gregory Mullally', with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

W. GREGORY MULLALLY

Attachment

cc w/o att: Mr. Michael Fitzgerald
The Record

FITZGERALD: Two assembly districts needed

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A3

interior, San Joaquin benefits from its booming growth.

The county bulked up by 121,708 people over the decade, to a population of about 685,000. A congressional district requires only 702,000 people.

Since San Joaquin County is almost there, the likely district will be almost entirely San Joaquin County, redistricting expert T. Anthony Quinn said.

Co-editor of California Target Book, Quinn said the county's new district will just need to add 17,000 people from out-of-county border areas, possibly Galt (or Wilton) and Salida.

Point one: San Joaquin County dominates this district.

As an example of the political fallout, it seems likely Rep. Jerry McNerney would opt to leave the county to stay with the western, more liberal, part of CD11, where his seat will be safer.

That means the Congress member representing San Joaquin County will almost certainly come from there. S/he will know the district's needs. Responding will be job No. 1.

Point two: The county now has too many people for a single assembly district. It will have two.

If the two are "nested" within the congressional district — if

both lie within the congressional district's boundaries — the county gains two dedicated assembly representatives.

If the districts stretch out of county to rake in some mountain county residents, another possibility, San Joaquin County still dominates both districts.

Point Three: Because voter registration in San Joaquin County is narrowly divided between Democrats and Republicans, the district will be competitive.

Neither party will have a designed advantage. National and state parties tend to send the bacon home with representatives in competitive districts to preserve votes.

Of course, all of this is Quinn's projection, based on population numbers and the new laws. Certain variables could change the equation.

But that's how the new district should be, Quinn said. A shift of power San Joaquin County probably deserved a decade ago.

If you think so too, you can urge the Independent Citizens' Redistricting Commission to make it so. Call (866) 356-5217 or e-mail votersfirstact@crc.ca.gov.

Contact columnist Michael Fitzgerald at (209) 546-8270 or michael@recordnet.com. Visit his blog at recordnet.com/fitzgeraldblog.

Local

Local map likely to lead to gerrymandering will benefit San Joaquin

...t time around, ...DL, redistricting ...d San Joaquin ...such a travesty Hi- ...n, California's great ...still spinning 360s ...y and the city of ...re sliced up like veg- ...lapchop. We paid for ...political clout. ...istricting — the re- ...ate political district ...ach census — is ...nd again. This time ...s prospects look very ...uld do well to get up



Michael Fitzgerald

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liticos will give their input to the process. We should, too. A glance at a map of Congressional District 11 suffices to show the chicanery of the old system. CD11 lumps parts of Stockton with San Ramon, Dublin and Pleasanton, which are more urban, affluent and liberal. And Morgan Hill? Do you even know where Morgan Hill is? Is what's good for Morgan Hill good for Stockton? Who knows? The reason politicians did this, of course, was to manipulate Democrat and Republican voter majorities to make seats safe for incumbents.

When the Chandra Levy scandal cost Rep. Gary Condit his seat, for instance, Dems worried they'd lose District 18. So they reached an absurd arm of CD18 up from Stanislaus County to grab Stockton's Democratic voters. This gerrymandering — in which politicians chose their voters, not the other way around — weakened Stockton in congressional, state senate and assembly districts. Weakened, because politicians with big constituencies on the other side of the Altamont, or some other far-flung place, but

ONLINE
For a map of the new possible congressional boundaries, visit this story at recordnet.com.

few here, have little reason to pay attention to us. But times have changed. Voters, fed up with gerrymandering, passed a couple propositions that took map-drawing away from politicians and gave it to an independent commission. Better still, the 14-person commission includes a Stockton resident, Michelle DiGuilio.

The new laws discourage drawing districts that arbitrarily cobble together rich and poor, or hi-tech and ag, for instance. New districts should encompass a "community of interest." Same with geography. Districts should comprise adjacent populations within rational geographical boundaries. No more stretching CD11 over the Coast Range. Bye, Morgan Hill. The new order benefits San Joaquin County tremendously. As California's stagnant coastal communities yield representatives to its fast-growing

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SUNDAY

KEVIN PARRISH, ASSISTANT MANAGING EDITOR | (209) 546-8264 | kparrish@recordnet.com | fax (209) 547-8186

MARCH 20,

Local

The Re
recordnet.com

A

End to gerrymandering will benefit San Joaquin

The last time around, in 2001, redistricting around San Joaquin County was such a travesty. Hiram Johnson, California's great reformer, is still spinning 360s in his grave.

The county and the city of Stockton were sliced up like vegetables in a Slapchop. We paid for it in reduced political clout.

Now, redistricting — the re-drawing of state political district maps after each census — is coming around again. This time San Joaquin's prospects look very good. But we would do well to get up



Michael Fitzgerald

to speed on this process so we don't get fooled again. Redistricting bears directly on how well government represents an area. It also may determine whether Democrats or Republicans are on top. You can bet partisan po-

liticos will give their input to the process. We should, too.

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