Dear Commission:

To the extent possible, a computer should draw the first draft based on rules set up by the commission. I would suggest drawing more than one map and then using some type of lot system (throw of die, for example) to choose amongst those maps. After a single map is chosen, it should be submitted to all local governments (county, city, town). If two or more adjacent governments feel that their communities would be better served by altering the lines to better reflect their political/topographical geography, these entities should make their wishes known to the commission, and to the extent possible granted. This would address the community of interest issue. If a local government feels that the boundary or portion of a boundary that lies entirely within its own jurisdiction should be moved to reflect geography or some other defensible reason, that local government should make its feelings known to the commission, and to the extent possible, the commission should grant the moving of the boundary.

My suggestions for the first draft to be drawn by the computer should reflect California's three broad regions as follows:

A) Separate State into Regions

State is separated into three regions. Region 1 contains all counties adjacent to the coast plus Trinity and optionally, San Benito & Lake. Region 2 contains entirety of all other counties with a common border with Mexico, Arizona, Nevada and Oregon plus Shasta County and excluding those portions of El Dorado, Placer, Nevada, Sierra and Plumas which lie to the west of the Sierra ridge line. Region 3 would consist of the remaining counties and portion of counties. For ease of identification, I would call them the Coastal Region, the Mountain & Desert Region and the Central Valley Region. (Geography might dictate some deviation from including entire counties – to the extent possible the break between the broad regions should be the crest of the coastal range and sierras – secondarily, it should be county lines).

B) Procedure for map generation

For each region, from the starting point, include the entire census tract (or block) that includes the entire starting point. Add to that the next census tract (block) that is directly attached to the the first census tract (block) in the direction indicated for that specific map. Continue, until you have added the required number of people to the representational unit.

For example: If the starting point were the southwest corner of the region and the primary direction for filling a district is east, then, for the coastal region, you'd start south of national city near the mexican border, travel along the border until you reached the boundary line between san diego and imperial, then add the next census block to the north along the san diego/imperial boundary, then travel back west to the coast.

Under this scenario, the mountain and desert region would start in the southwest corner of imperial county, travel along the mexican border to arizona, move up one census block, switch directions and go west back to the border of imperial and san diego counties, etc.

Likewise the central valley region, would start at the southwest corner of Kern County, go to the border of San Bernadino, then reverse back to the west, etc.

C) Maps, starting points and direction:

On the assumption that Trinity, Lake and San Benito Counties belong in the coastal region. If topographic geography indicates otherwise, the those counties / or portion of counties go into the appropriate region, but the general philosophy of unbiased drawing of the first draft remains the same.

Map #	Starting Point	First Direction

1	Southwest corners, starting in:
	    San Diego (coastal region)
	    Kern (central valley region)
	    Imperial (mountain and desert)
		East

2	Southeast corners
	    San Diego (coastal region)
	    Kern (central valley region)
	    Imperial (mountain and desert)
		West

3	Northwest corners
	    Del Norte (coastal region)
	    Siskiyou (mountain & desert)
	    Tehama (Central valley)
		East

4	Northeast corners
	    Del Norte (coastal region)
	    Lassen (mountain & desert)
	    Plumas – crest of Sierras (Central valley)
		West

No matter which way the maps are drawn according to the above guidelines, there will be some residual – and that will have to be added to an adjacent region to ensure that proportional representation is assured.

Should you wish to explore this issue further, please contact me at the email/telephone number below. Also please keep me abreast of any meetings in this area.

Sincerely yours,

Douglas Ryan