

Supplement to April 9, 2011 testimony by David Pratt at Redding (oral presentation #1, also submitted in writing at that meeting, together with a paper map).

In my initial presentation, I described a community of interest within Yolo County and suggested that a reasonable way to keep that community intact in redistricting would be to keep all of the county intact. Since the Redding meeting, I have watched the tapes of several other input meetings and saw/heard two things that make me want to supplement what I said at Redding.

(1) As you commissioners have begun to stress in the meetings, it's not going to be possible to keep all counties intact and, therefore the people giving testimony should suggest what would be the best way to split their county.

(2) At your Marysville input meeting, a very influential citizen of Davis did suggest a way to split Yolo County, combining "academic" Davis, and the city of West Sacramento with the city of Sacramento, separating them from the "agricultural" remainder of Yolo County that contains Woodland, Winters, and Esparto. To me, and I imagine many others in Yolo, this suggestion, which would separate the principal cities of Davis and Woodland, is absolutely the wrong way to split the county, for reasons that follow.

Woodland and Davis are very tightly joined economically.

-In 2010, the two cities formed the "Woodland/Davis Clean Water Agency", to develop a new joint municipal water system over the next few years, at a cost of a few hundred million dollars.

-Many employees of the Davis Campus of the University of California live in Woodland, as is obvious if you observe the freeway traffic between the two cities during commute hours – toward Davis in the morning, toward Woodland in the afternoon, almost a traffic jam by Yolo County standards.

-Thousands of us Davis residents shop in Woodland, because Woodland, much more than Davis, has welcomed "big box" stores.

-Davis and Woodland are surrounded by the same agricultural fields. Further, U.C. Davis is more agriculturally oriented than most academic institutions. It started as the "University Farm" and is still the principal College of Agriculture for the U.C. System.

So, if you should not draw a district line that separates Davis from Woodland, how should you split Yolo County? My suggestion would be to run a north/south boundary line through the Yolo Bypass. This is an uninhabited strip of land, a couple of miles wide, that has been set aside to handle excess flows of the Sacramento River during floods. It separates West Sacramento from the bulk of Yolo County by miles, while West Sacramento is only a stone's throw from the City of Sacramento (if your arm is strong enough to throw a stone across the Sacramento River). In any case, West Sacramento's main economic connection is to metropolitan Sacramento, not to the rest of Yolo County.

A question related to how Yolo County could be split is how it could be combined with other counties in forming a district. I believe that it would fit best with the counties to the north and south, then those to the west, lastly to the Sacramento area.