

Subject: Public Comment: North Coast

Date: Monday, May 9, 2011 2:58 PM

From: Val Muchowski [REDACTED]

To: <votersfirstact@crc.ca.gov>

Conversation: Public Comment: North Coast

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Subject: North Coast

Message Body:

California Citizens Redistricting Commission

Sacramento, California

Dear Commissioners,

Thank you for taking on the task of redrawing California's legislative and Board of Equalization districts. I have been helping women run for office for the last 30 years. The lines drawn by men were aimed at keeping the districts safe for the incumbents. I hope to see women stepping up to the plate in record numbers to run for office.

I have lived and worked on the North Coast for the past 35 years. The Coastal Range and the transportation corridors bind many of our communities. We tend to go north and south along the Coast for our transportation, shopping and communications. We listen to public and commercial radio based on this north-south divide. We read newspapers based on this north south divide. The 101 corridor is main artery for transportation and shopping. We in Mendocino County tend to go to Santa Rosa for major shopping needs.

The wine industry has prospered in Mendocino, Lake, Sonoma, and Napa Counties. This is another community of interest. Mendocino tends to look to Lake and Sonoma Counties for mixing their favorite blends and distributing their wines to a larger population.

Our education is also based on a north south reality. College of the Redwood binds Del Norte, Humboldt, and Mendocino (coastal) counties together. Many Mendocino students attend Humboldt State University for advanced degrees. Mendocino College binds Mendocino (inland) and Lake County. Many Mendocino graduates attend Santa Rosa Junior College, one of the top ranked Junior Colleges in the country, and Sonoma State University. As a teacher for 30 years, I have encouraged students to attend these colleges, as they are a short commute back to their home communities.

We on the North Coast share wildlife, bird and marine protected areas. There are 50+ state parks located along the coast, nestled in the Coastal Range and along the rivers. The headwaters for our major rivers start in the Coastal Range and travel north and south to empty into the Pacific Ocean. The Russian River starts in Mendocino County and travels south providing some of the best wine growing areas in the world. The Eel River starts in Mendocino County and travels north through some of the best timberland in the world.

I feel that it is important to keep these communities of interest together. They reflect the way the North Coast lives its daily life. Our legislative districts should reflect our transportation, occupational and commercial needs. The 101 corridor ties the North Coast together. Any legislative districts should reflect this reality.

Thank you for the time and effort that you are putting into this project. I wish you every success.

Val Muchowski, President
National Women's Political Caucus of Mendocino County

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