

---

**Subject: Redistricting for Marin and Sonoma counties**

**Date:** Wednesday, May 11, 2011 8:26 AM

**From:** Linda Graber [REDACTED]

**To:** <votersfirstact@crc.ca.gov>

**Conversation:** Redistricting for Marin and Sonoma counties

Hello,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these suggestions!

Marin County redistricting should cut the connection to San Francisco and unite us with Sonoma County, especially Southern Sonoma as far north as Healdsburg.

1. The Golden Gate Bridge has become a barrier due to high bridge tolls and high ferry / bus ticket prices. Years ago, people went to San Francisco all the time for shopping and entertainment. Now people are much more likely to stay in Marin County or go north into Sonoma.
2. The decline of San Francisco as a corporate headquarters city has decreased the number of commuters.
3. Marin and Sonoma are both flourishing as viniculture and organic agriculture continue to grow in importance. More and more people are employed in these sectors in both counties, and more and more businesses are orbiting these sectors, especially those connected with gastronomy, tourism, natural health, lifestyle, and fashion. Essentially, the two counties are uniting into one economic unit.
4. Both counties have a growing workforce of upwardly mobile, highly skilled employees of Hispanic heritage, many of whom work in the viniculture and organic agriculture sectors described above.
5. If the SMART train is built, the links between Sonoma and Marin will be strengthened even more. The current plan is for the SMART train to go from Santa Rosa to San Rafael.
6. The improvements to Highway 101 are also making travel between Marin and Sonoma better.
7. In Marin County, the view from Highway 101 is quite deceptive. The county looks urbanized, but this is an illusion. About 85% of Marin County is public open space, another sizable percentage is agricultural, and the suburban areas are squeezed along the narrow 101 corridor. This is caused by a combination of topography and the highly successful Marin County Land Use Plan, which has been in operation since the mid-1970s. Sonoma County is also mostly agricultural, with some small towns and one medium city, Santa Rosa. The towns of Marin County have much more in common with Santa Rosa than they do with San Francisco.
8. When Marin County is chained to San Francisco, essentially we lose all real representation. San Francisco's high population density means that elected officials are only concerned with urban issues, while agriculture, tourism, and suburban / small town issues are ignored. This has been doing us a lot of harm for years. People become alienated from their government when their legitimate and reasonable concerns are ignored.

Thank you,  
Linda Graber  
Novato, CA