

Remarks to the California Redistricting Commission

From: Herb Aarons [REDACTED], Carmel Valley, CA 93924

I am a resident of Monterey County. My remarks are intended for the Commission's consideration of the 15th State Senate district. The current district, created almost from scratch, is the poster child for political gerrymandering. The district wandered through wilderness areas, skirted cities directly in its path and ignored history which centered the district squarely in Monterey and Santa Cruz counties.

The 15th should not include San Luis Obispo or Santa Barbara area which by themselves should be a separate Senate District that is compact and has jurisdictional integrity. There is little historical connection between the cities of Monterey county and Santa Maria.

The new 15th should restore its roots to the Monterey Bay and ignore the current serpent. My attached map shows a compact district that respects county boundaries and does not diminish the large, Latino population centers in Salinas, Watsonville, Hollister and the cities of the Salinas valley-- all of which are historical market towns as are the cities of the Salinas valley. It would include entirely the counties of Santa Cruz, Monterey and San Benito as well as southern Santa Clara which shares a community of interest in the agricultural market towns of Gilroy, Morgan Hill and San Martin.

The cities of the Monterey Bay (Monterey, Seaside, Carmel, Aptos, Capitola, Santa Cruz) have always been jurisdictionally connected their respective counties. The district as outlined would be within 1.19% of the ideal according to the data on healthycity.org. The question becomes where to best align "communities of interest" to the central core unit and impeaching as little as possible on the San Jose urban space.

Logically, the rural and urban tracts around Gilroy, San Martin and Morgan Hill closely border the existing boundaries of the three counties. They are similar demographics to Watsonville, Salinas and Hollister and have historical roots to this district. The 27th Assembly district already includes Morgan Hill. The exact configuration of the northern Santa Clara boundary is open to debate.

The key advantages of this district are as follows:

- Jurisdictional enclosure.
- Compactness
- Non diminishment for minority voters.
- Nesting of logical Assembly districts.
- Natural edge boundaries of Pacific Ocean
- Respects current county jurisdiction for economic communities of interest.

The current Senate 15th was created specifically to disenfranchise voters who were thought to be sympathetic with a legislator who was politically "out of favor" and had nothing to do creating representative government.

Sincerely;

Herb Aarons

RE DRAW CA

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State of California

Zoom to

Go

Find your district

Show other boundaries

Next steps

- Tutorial
- Save
- Report
- Share link
- Get feedback

Map thematic data ▶

Map points of interest ▶

Edit area ▼

Start re-drawing your district by adding or removing Census Blocks. Click on "Add" or "Remove" to select a method of adjusting the boundaries/blocks.

Edit additional districts on the same map by clicking on "Add New". Transfer your work to a Maptitude-enabled computer by clicking on "Download Equivalency File".

My Senate District 15

Add New

Start Over

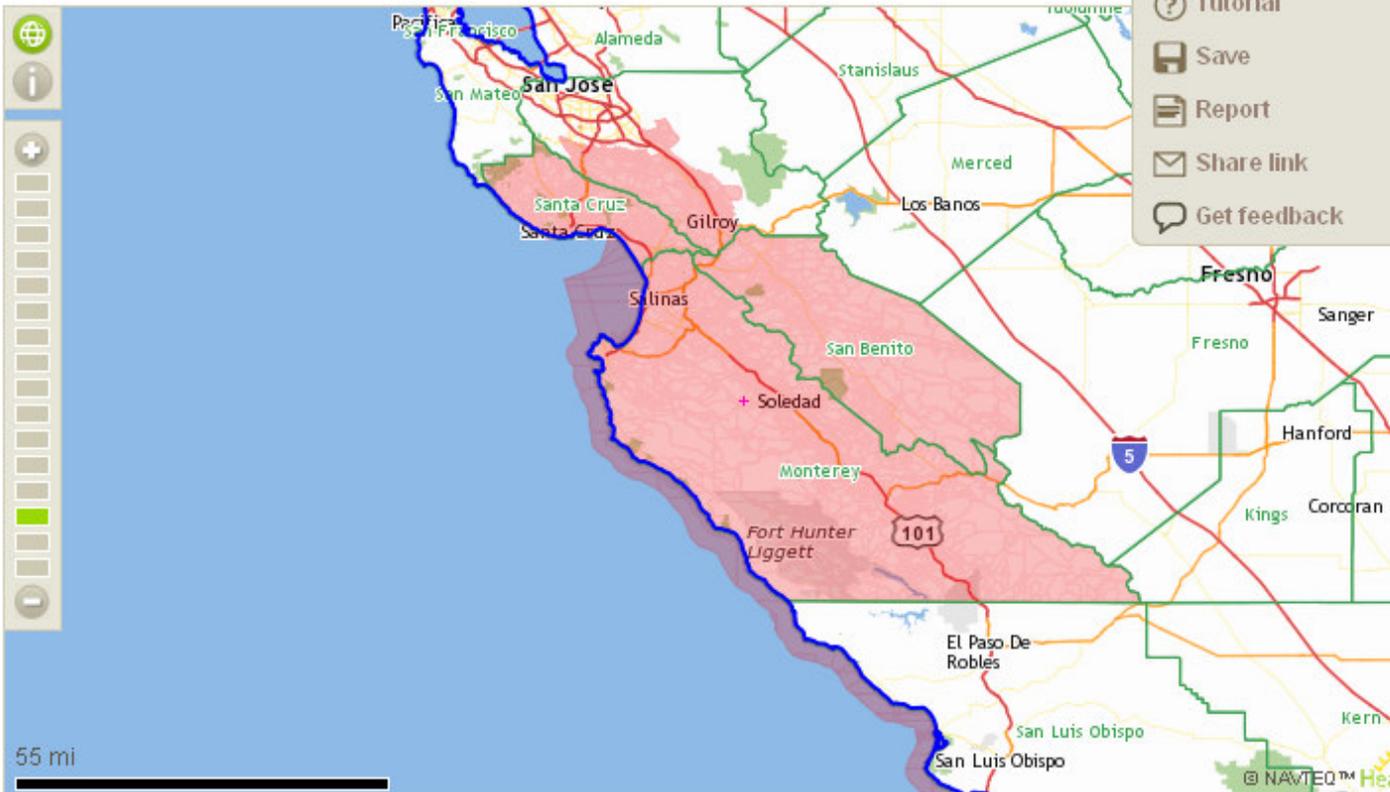
Download Equivalency File

Save Boundaries

Pan

Add

Remove



My Senate District 15

Redistricting Data

This data panel presents key redistricting data calculated for the district or area you've selected above.

Population

Does your district meet the "equal population" requirement?

Total Population: 942,448
1.19% variance from ideal population

Citizen Voting Age Population

Determine if your district falls under the protection of the federal Voting Rights Act.

Ethnicity / Race

- 42.79% Hispanic or Latino
- 44.67% White alone
- 1.74% Black or African American alone

15th Senate--Monterey, Santa Cruz, San Benito_Southern S...

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