



Arcata, CA 95521

City Manager

Environmental Services

Police

Recreation

Community Development

Finance

Public Works

Transportation

RECEIVED Region #9: Sac/N. Cali

MAY 23 2011

Per _____

May 19, 2011

Region Humboldt

via Facsimile and U.S.P.S.

California Citizens Redistricting Commission
901 P Street, Suite 154-A
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Commissioners,

The Arcata City Council respectfully requests that the Citizens Redistricting Commission immediately schedule a Public Input Hearing on the North Coast, preferably in Humboldt County. If this cannot be done within the timeframe of the current redistricting process, we encourage you to delay your decisions and take additional steps to encourage input from North Coast communities.

The Commission is most likely not aware of how remote our area is from the Public Input Hearings that have been scheduled for the very large region IX. The closest hearing was held in Redding, a hazardous three- to four-hour drive from Arcata. The next closest hearing is in Santa Rosa, a four-hour drive for our residents.

This situation itself is indicative of the need for more input from the North Coast. The mountainous terrain that made driving to Redding impractical for our residents is a natural barrier that divides coastal counties from inland counties. It is important that such factors be seriously considered in this process.

The counties of the North Coast have more in common with each other than they do with counties to the east. Our economies are dependent on our coastal resources. We share industries such as fishing, timber, tourism, and agriculture. Geographical, environmental, and economic bonds are the basis of a shared culture that is uniquely coastal in character.

North Coast counties—particularly Humboldt, Mendocino, and Del Norte—clearly represent a community of common interest and belong together. Dividing them from each other in favor of east-west districts, as some have suggested, would likely change the focus and priorities of our elected officials. We are concerned that coastal counties would suffer under such an arrangement.

California Citizens Redistricting Commission
May 19, 2011
Page Two

Underrepresentation in this process could lead to years of underrepresentation in Washington, D.C., and Sacramento. It is essential that our citizens have equal representation and fair access to the Commission. I would, therefore, like to offer a public building where the Commission could hold a Public Input Hearing for our area.

I am anxiously awaiting your reply.

Sincerely,



Susan Ornelas
Mayor

SO:bd

Region #9: sac. /
N. Cali Region

May 18, 2011

Citizens Redistricting Commission
1130 K Street, Suite 101
Sacramento, CA 95814

Post-it® Fax Note 7671		Date 5/18/11	# of pages 1
To C.R. Redistricting Comm	From P. Berg		
Dep. Santa Rosa Hearing	Co Former State Assemblywoman		
Phone #	Phone #		
Fax # 916 522-0904	Fax #		
451-574			

Humboldt MAY 23 2011

Per _____

Dear Commission Members:

We would like to start by commending the members of the Commission for the service you are providing toward this very monumental task. There is little that can be compared to the importance of ensuring the people have fair and effective representation.

As former state legislators representing the North Coast, we feel we have a unique perspective to share with regard to how the districts would best be served.

The "North Coast" has become a distinctive and unique entity unto itself sharing many common cultures, economies and interests. The Counties of Humboldt, Del Norte, Mendocino, Lake and Sonoma share more Native American Tribes than any other part of the state. These tribes have unique issues with common ancestry, history and social customs. In addition, these Counties share the Russian and Eel River Watersheds and are linked by shared industry including the geothermal, tourism, as well as the grape and wine industries. As a result, many longstanding valuable relationships exist with deep connections related to shared economic issues and concerns.

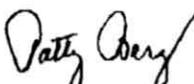
Transportation also plays a significant role in the relationship between the Counties of Humboldt, Del Norte, Mendocino and Sonoma as they share the major artery of Highway 101 as well as a rail line with future plans for freight and passenger travel extending north and south.

The fishing industry comprises a large and important part of the economy from Bodega Bay to Crescent City. This industry in particular has very unique and complicated issues that simply do not exist in Counties to the east.

Again, we are former state Assemblymembers with a combined total of 20 years of service to the North Coast. While neither of us has plans to run for future office, having served these communities for so long, we each have a deep and abiding concern for their well-being. We feel strongly these counties would be best served by remaining within the same state and federal districts as opposed to being joined with counties with whom they have little to nothing in common.

Thank you again for the job you are doing and for your consideration of our input.

Sincerely,


Patty Berg, Assemblywoman, 1st District


Dan Hauser, Assemblyman, 1st District