

Region #9: Sac/N. Cali
Region

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MAY 23 2011

Per _____

Joseph L. Mlakar
2688 Heirloom Way
Roseville, CA 95747
May 20, 2011

~~Roseville~~
Sacramento

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

Dear Commissioners:

In attending the public hearing on May 19, 2011 in Auburn, CA, and listening to all the proceedings including all speakers and their presentations, I want to convey my most practical conclusion and recommendation. Even though the commission expressed a preference to keep counties in the same district, as a resident of Roseville, CA in Placer County, my most emphatic recommendation to the Commission would be to detach the southwestern end of Placer and El Dorado Counties. This includes the cities of Lincoln, Rocklin, Roseville and Granite Bay in Placer County and El Dorado Hills, Cameron Park and Shingle Springs in El Dorado County from the largely rural Assembly, Senate and Congressional Districts that those cities are situated in presently. These cities should be considered part of Greater Sacramento Region where their community of interest is much more appropriate. The afore mentioned cities are rapidly growing suburban areas which should not be located within their present mostly rural districts. Commuting transportation and other typical urban and suburban issues are the order of the day in these districts. This is just a realistic recognition the changes that have occurred since the 2000 Census. I have a Political Science Degree and have been studying these types of issues for many years.

Sincerely,



Joseph L. Mlakar
SMS USAF Reserve Ret.

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

May 13, 2011

Dear Commissioners:

As a 20-year legislative representative for a number of counties in northwestern California, I appreciate the opportunity to share some thoughts. The area was once known as the north coast (small letters), but now, precisely because of its distinctiveness, it is typically referred to in capital letters as the *North Coast*.

I am retired and have no political ambitions; I have been far removed from politics since 1992, but I am still deeply attached emotionally to a region I have known so well for so many years. My senatorial district stretched, along the coast, from the Golden Gate Bridge to the border of Oregon – tough to represent, but at least possible.

Partly because of geographic differences – it is separated from the inland northern California by the coastal mountain chain – I respectfully ask that you consider treating the North Coast as a unit and maintaining its integrity by drawing districts where the counties connect North and South rather than East and West. Here is why:

The geography of the region gives rise to some critically important distinctions. Pacific coastal weather conditions are vastly different from those in the eastern valley and mountain region, “the area beyond the mountains.” Not found in the latter, for example, are the floods, landslides, and dense coastal fog common to the North Coast, which, in turn, generate yet further differences with the inland region.

The ocean and its coastal moisture production grow redwoods and Douglas fir, some of the tallest trees in the world, which are also fast-growing and suitable to benign *lumber production*. While less vigorous than it once was, coastal forests are of major economic interest to all of California. In fact, the price of lumber is directly related to the cost of homes across the nation.

The Pacific Ocean and the North Coast streams also support an economically important wild salmon *fishing industry*, which has been faced with challenges far different from those facing the inland area across the coastal mountains. Political action, and some helpful legislation distinctive to the North Coast, has been a major contributor to the replenishment of salmon and other stocks and to the very survival of the commercial fishing industry.

The natural features of the North Coast give rise to a growing *tourist industry*, its environmental assets, and national and state parks, attractive to all California and well beyond. Clashes between local environmentalists and those dependent on natural resource industries, especially logging and fishing have diminished, thanks, in large part, to legislative representatives able to provide forums for the competing interests, and finding ways to get them to live with one another.

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The climatically cooling fog permits *wine-grape production*, an agricultural product entirely different from that produced by the valley farms beyond the mountains. I do not need to tell you how economically important that industry is.

Historically, the *Native American communities* of the North Coast, and their traditions and means of sustenance, differ entirely from those in the valley beyond the mountains. The clashes of the past between coastal Indian fishermen and the commercial fishermen, competing for salmon, could never have been reduced by a legislator whose time and attention were significantly oriented towards inland issues, and whose driving challenges – air travel is rarely available, and rather dangerous because of the fog -- claimed a large part of his time and energy.

A man-made feature, *Highway 101*, connects the communities of the North Coast. Another, Interstate Highway 80, connects the communities of the northern valley and mountains. These are two different sets of communities, each joined by its own separate major artery that runs North and South. Are there not East and West highways? Barely. The cost of constructing highways across mountain chains has been, and is still, economically unfeasible. The situation improves as one goes south, but not above the southern portion of Sonoma County.

There are two items I want to mention in closing. First, I realize the population density and distribution have changed since my tenure. That is why I do not presume to specify which North Coast counties should be connected. I realize lines must be drawn separating districts, whether Senate or Assembly. However, I feel certain that connecting coastal with inland counties, in an East-West connection of counties, would be a grave error. Any representative, already confronted by geographic sprawl due to low density compared with urban areas, and then having to serve vastly different regional communities of interest, would have to be Superman to provide even minimally adequate representation.

Second, as a former legislator, who survived three reapportionments, once chaired the Assembly Reapportionment Committee, and optimistically carried legislation to supplant partisan reapportionment, I am probably as close as anyone to appreciate the complexities associated with your task. Accordingly, I applaud the devotion to public service expressed by your willingness to serve, especially in these unfortunately partisan times. I wish you the very best.

Sincerely,

Senator Barry Keene (ret.)


keenebd@gmail.com

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California Redistricting Commissioners,

I am a resident of Folsom who wants to tell you about my local community of interest. Folsom is uniquely situated at the junction of three counties. While we are in Sacramento County, our ties are much closer to El Dorado in the east and Placer in the north. We have similar issues relating to housing (cities that are growing and expanding), transportation (commuters) and geography (Folsom Lake).

I can give you an example from my personal life. While I live in Folsom, I run a small business in El Dorado providing hospice care. I commute daily across the county line tying my home to my job. I know many others who have a shared experience living in one of the counties and working in another.

Our needs are very different from those in other parts of Sacramento. I have no idea why Folsom is connected to places like Natomas and Elk Grove. They use different freeways to get around and have very different needs than my neighbors and I do.

Please consider putting Folsom in a district with El Dorado or Placer. There we could have a real voice and not have our needs drowned out by other parts of Sacramento we have little to do with.

Yours,

Irena Sereda 5.19.11

Irena Sereda

Business Owner

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Whispering Pines

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Subject: Redistricting Structures

February 14, 2011

To: The Citizens Redistricting Commission

Congratulations to each member of the Citizens Redistricting Commission for your success in being selected to serve the State of California in this vital function. You have a wonderful opportunity to enrich the political stature of our great State and I wish you the best of success with your challenging endeavor.

The last redistricting accomplished by the legislature for the assembly, state senate, and California's congressional delegation resulted in 71% of possible intact counties and districts and 21% of community splits in 29 counties. Enclosed for your consideration is a set of draft redistricting structures using the 2010 federal census total of 37,253,956 for the State of California allocated in accord with Department of Finance population estimates. These draft redistricting structures result in 92% of possible intact counties and districts and 8% of community splits in 19 counties. These quantitative factors relate to the quality of redistricting and may be worthy of consideration as supplemental standards to those provided in the California State Constitution.

There are two sets of documents pertaining to the draft 2010 redistricting structures for the assembly, state senate, and congressional delegation. Each district is block diagrammed with component communities color coded green for intact counties, yellow for intact districts, red for split districts, tan for split communities, and gray for communities not identified in 2000 including 44 component communities within the City of Los Angeles that better define that massive metropolis. Counties are numbered in sequence from north to south and from west to east where counties are essentially parallel to facilitate the more proper numbering of districts. Communities within each split county are numbered in the same manner. The second document is a listing California's counties with their component districts and district populations.

I plan to revise the draft 2010 structures with actual county and community census numbers when that information becomes available and will provide that revision to you if that is the desire of the Commission. However, I expect that the combined intellect and experience of the members of the Redistricting Commission, supported by staff expertise and more sophisticated mapping capabilities than that available to me will provide a result that exceeds the quality of my more limited efforts.

I again offer my congratulations to each member of the Commission on your selection and look forward with great anticipation for the product of your deliberations.

Enclosures as stated:


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