

Subject: Comments on the redistricting parameters

From: "MaryEllen Dick" <[REDACTED]>

Date: Mon, 23 May 2011 21:11:07 -0700

To: <[REDACTED]>

Dear Commissioners:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the redistricting boundaries. The jurisdiction of the League of Women Voters of the Salinas Valley includes Prunedale in the north through Salinas and down the Salinas Valley to the southern end of Monterey County, and east to include Aromas and San Benito County. Our primary concerns are that the districts be compact and nested, and that the more populated areas do not get subdivided. At the hearing in Salinas, many people spoke about the communities of interest in Assembly District 27, with some people being in favor of excluding Santa Cruz County and extending farther south in San Luis Obispo, and others being in favor of lines similar to the present, with AD27 extending along the coast. An alternative plan would be to have Monterey County be one Assembly District. However, with a population of 470,326, Monterey is about 5,326 people too large (8% is over the 5% allowable).

In terms of the Senate District, it seems logical to combine AD 27 and 28 to make a Senate District. In the current situation it does not make sense to have San Benito County in the same Assembly District as Monterey County, but in a different Senate District.

In terms of the statements concerning military installations, the bases in southern Monterey County, namely Camp Roberts and Fort Hunter-Liggett, do not have a large number of permanent residents, but are used primarily as training facilities. As Federal institutions, it may make sense to keep bases in the same district, but in terms of state government, it does not seem important.

We would also like to underscore what the Monterey Peninsula League of Women Voters said about the governments of Santa Cruz, Monterey and San Benito being joined through the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG). This organization is a federally-designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and Council of Governments (see www.ambag.org).

Sincerely,

MaryEllen Dick, President

Signed letter attached.

redistricting commission letter 5-23-11.pdf



League of Women Voters of the Salinas Valley

Salinas, CA 93902

May 23, 2011

Dear Commissioners:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the redistricting boundaries. We attended your meeting in Salinas yesterday and were very impressed with the process. We look forward to continued participation as you move forward.

The jurisdiction of the League of Women Voters of the Salinas Valley begins at the northern boundary of Monterey moving south on the west through Castroville and on the east through San Benito County and the Monterey cities of Aromas, Prunedale, and Salinas, down the Salinas Valley to the southern end of Monterey County (i.e.; all of San Benito and Monterey County except the Monterey peninsula (Marina through Carmel Valley and Big Sur)).

Our primary concerns are that the state Senate districts be compact, that Assembly districts be nested compactly within them, and that the more populated areas do not get subdivided. At the hearing in Salinas, many people spoke about the communities of interest in Senate District 15, with some people being in favor of excluding Santa Cruz County and extending farther south in San Luis Obispo, and others being in favor of lines similar to the present. Re the Assembly Districts, there were speakers favoring extending AD27 along the coast. We believe that the most compact, logical combination for the Senate District would be the Counties of Santa Cruz, Monterey, and San Benito together with the South Santa Clara County cities of Morgan Hill, San Martin and Gilroy. Those areas are already joined for planning purposes by many organizations including the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG), a federally-designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and Council of Governments (see www.ambag.org), the Pajaro Water Management Authority, the Monterey Bay Sanctuary, the school districts, the Pajaro Flood Management agencies, etc. Furthermore, we believe that the two nested Assembly Districts should also be divided compactly so as make the representation more local. That means that the dividing line should probably be an east-west line as north to south distance for the area is approximately 140 miles while the east to west distance is 26 miles.

In terms of the statements concerning military installations, the bases in southern Monterey County, namely Camp Roberts and Fort Hunter-Liggett, do not have a large number of permanent residents, but are used primarily as training facilities. As Federal institutions, it may make sense to keep bases in the same district, but in terms of state government, it does not seem important.

Sincerely,

MaryEllen Dick, President

Subject: Redistricting

From: [REDACTED]

Date: Tue, 24 May 2011 05:14:47 +0000 (UTC)

To: [REDACTED]

Richard Renard

May 23, 2011

Dear Citizens Redistricting Commission

I'm writing in reference to the Redistricting of Monterey, Santa Cruz and part of San Luis Obispo Counties. I was born and have lived in Monterey County my entire life. I understand these counties, their needs and what laws affect these two counties. It is very critical to consider the interests and dynamics of these counties being very different. San Luis Obispo and Monterey Counties are more agricultural based. They share more community interests which include agricultural water resources, military influences, the hospitality industry, the Highway 101 corridor and the Big Sur coastline. Our leaders and representatives need to have the best interest of the communities as they make bills, plan our future and directly affect our livelihoods and our future. Santa Cruz County has quite a different dynamics with more youth, students, and beach influences. Their needs are very different from Monterey and San Luis Obispo Counties. While a representative can keep all the needs of the counties in mind, often a vote will help one and adversely affect the other. I urge you to keep this in mind and please determine the districts for Monterey and San Luis Obispo Counties as one and Santa Cruz County as an entirely separate district.

Thank you. Respectfully submitted.

Richard Renard
[REDACTED]