

Subject: Must Redistrict California Senate District 15

From: Thomas Tisch [REDACTED]

Date: Wed, 25 May 2011 12:19:30 -0700

To: [REDACTED]

Dear Redistricting Commission

The areas served by California Senate District 15 cry out for redistricting. It is one of the most egregious examples of self-serving political district constructions that exist in California.

I live in Saratoga, the northern-most outpost of one of this most distorted election district. It is (by Highway 1) about 230 miles and nearly five (5) hours to the southern most point in the district. If you go by Hiway 101, it is slightly shorter, by a few miles and an hour.

The district is shaped like two balloons tied together where you inflate them. In the "Northern balloon" lies a chunk of Silicon Valley - a few tens of thousands people and a few hundred square miles. As you move south to the place where the "balloons" are tied together, you pass through Moss Landing, a narrow constriction at most a few miles wide and with very few people in it.

Moving past the constriction, you find yourself in the "southern balloon", an area of a even more tens of thousands people and twenty thousand square miles.

In the northern portion of the district, the business is technology and industry and the issues of a metropolitan area - housing, crowding, transportation. In the southern portion of the district, the business is largely agriculture and the issues of an agricultural and rural economy. There are exceptions to both generalizations - agriculture in the north and education and industry in the South, but they do not distort the general picture.

The politics are equally distorted. In the north a small minority area of generally more liberal and independent voters with urban issues have been appended to the majority of a large area of conservative voters simply to increase the population to the minimum required to make up a Senate district, but not so great as to be a risk to the office holder who represents the views of the conservative and rural portion of the district. The northern most voters in the district are in effect disenfranchised by this construction - we have no practical electoral impact as long as this district boundary situation is maintained.

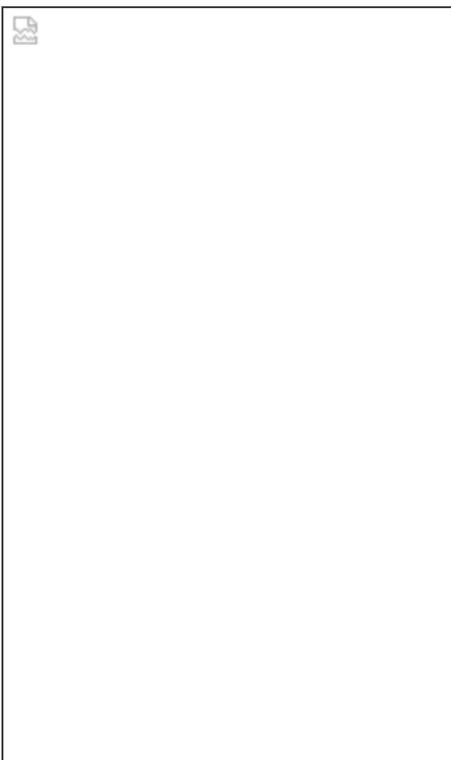
It matters not that Cupertino, across the street from Saratoga, with almost exactly similar issues - and with shared school districts, shared utility districts, shared police forces, shared stores, shared community colleges, and so forth -- is in an entirely separate Senate District. We have NO unified representation from our area.

Attached FYI is a District 15 map and one Mapquest route from one end to the other.

Please fix this.

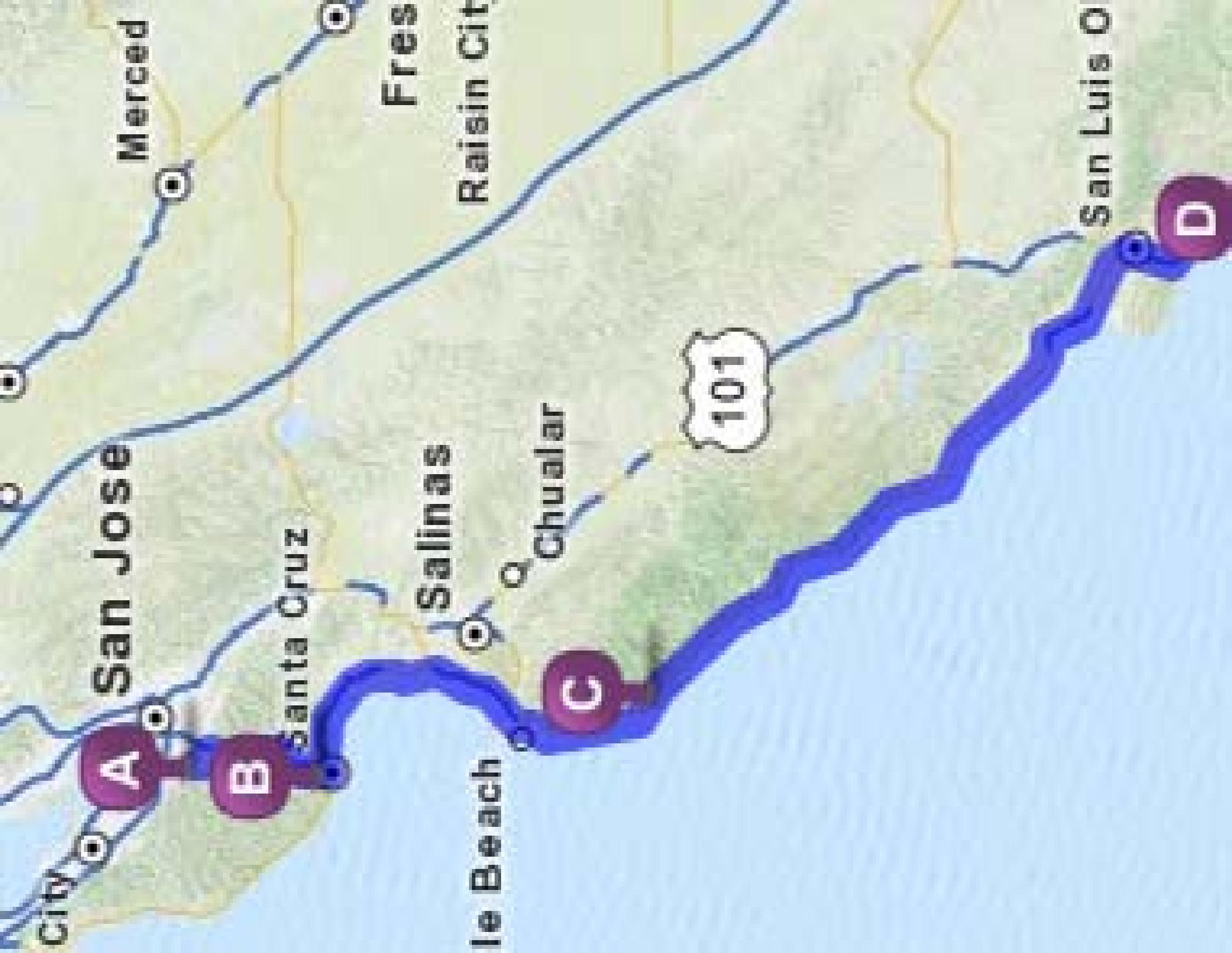
Thank you

Tom Tisch
Saratoga, CA





4 hrs 48 min 229 miles to Guadalupe from Saratoga.tiff



City

A

San Jose

Merced

B

Santa Cruz

Fresno

le Beach

Salinas

Raisin Cit

C

Chualar

101

San Luis O

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