

Subject: citzan redistricting community

From: Dyamond Keith Littlefield <[REDACTED]>

Date: Mon, 23 May 2011 12:08:00 -0700

To: [REDACTED]

May 20, 2011

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Dyamond Keith, and I was born and raised in West Oakland, California. I am expressing my concern about my community, in relation to resources, equality, and health concerns. Living in West Oakland, I am surrounded and bombarded with inequality, lack of jobs, lack of affordable housing, and a lack of healthy food access. My community is filled with industrialized business, high trafficking of cars, trucks, trains, and freights, with an addition of a port. My community lacks job opportunities, affordable housing, affordable transportation, and distribution of resources, including educational funding and healthy food access. In addition, I feel like the people of the community do not have a voice or a shared opinion in any situation or development, and those who are affected are people of color, those of low income, women and children, or those who have limited education or English. There are businesses and new development that are occurring without the awareness or consent of residents. Most developments have a huge impact on those who reside in the developing area, and are unaware of the health impacts imposed on them and their future generation. For example, the increase of freights within the neighborhood has increased and caused detrimental health impacts, such as asthma, lung cancer, and infant mortality. Freights pollute and release a large amount of diesel particulates and particle matter, which local residents are inhaling on a daily basis. Furthermore, the lack of awareness and knowledge is due to no community involvement. It should be imperative to include the community about new and developing projects, which would allow for residents to have an input or allow for compromising or a form of agreement or compensation. Development should also include main factors within the community, such as churches, schools, and local jobs. Jobs should hold fair and equal opportunity to local residents, with a certain percentage of local residents employed. Thus, development should allow for more resources to be implemented in the community, which would be used towards education, development of grocery stores, safety, transportation, affordable housing, and any equitable and reliable access to stabilize and strengthens the local community.

I would love to see my community filled with supportive businesses, which displays equality and environmental justice, where my vote and tax dollars are benefical to me and my community members. I would love to see a community that distributes equal resources to schools, and has more grocery stores with healthy foods, than liquor stores and beauty supply stores. I would love to see my community filled with businesses who are more resident-friendly, with a diverse employment, and high percentage of local residents. In addition, a community with little to zero green house gas emission forms freights and other transportation systems, more carpooling and reliable, affordable transportations. My testimony is to share that West Oakland can and will be a better and safer community for residents, with less pollution, violence, and negative stereotypes. My community has a strong foundation, a strong support team, and a variety of people who are willing to work, looking for a change, and demanding equality.

Thank you,

Dyiamond Keith

JASON A. BEZIS
California State Bar No. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Lafayette, CA 94549-3509
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

May 23, 2011

Citizens Redistricting Commission

[REDACTED]
Sacramento, CA 95814

VIA E-MAIL: [REDACTED]

To the Citizens Redistricting Commission:

I was Speaker No. 91 at your public hearing in Oakland on Saturday, May 21st. I was among the sixty Democratic finalists during the CRC application process.

I was delighted that your Commission was able to accommodate all speakers who wished to offer oral testimony at your Oakland hearing. I especially commend Professor Ancheta for the thoughtful and efficient manner in which he conducted the hearing. Herein I re-state my key points and offer a few more thoughts.

(1) Transparency in CRC decision making: Speakers in Oakland expressed concern that the CRC will be unduly influenced by special interest/pressure groups that want to influence the district line drawing process. The CRC ought to issue a statement that specifies the types of impermissible communications. For example, is it impermissible for a citizen or group to contact and/or meet with individual commissioners? Any oral communication in any medium with any commissioner outside of a public hearing ought to be deemed impermissible (so long as it concerns CRC affairs). Any written communication to any commissioner concerning CRC affairs ought to be published and made available on the internet. Ideally, the commissioners would conduct themselves like a panel of judges – “ex parte” communications should be strictly forbidden. Citizens need to be assured that no secret “deal making” transpires.

(2) The 1990s district maps drawn by a judicial panel are good models for the CRC to draw the 2010s maps. They include Assembly districts “nested” into Senate districts; the pairs of Assembly districts generally made sense (but the Assembly district numbering did not – see below). The 1990s districts were relatively compact. Although the 53rd Congressional District has since been added and population shifts have occurred within California, I believe that the 1990s maps offer a good starting point for the 2010s maps.

In stark contrast, the 2000s maps are not good models. Assembly districts are not “nested” into Senate districts. District lines do not seem to reflect “communities of interest;” incumbency protection and disdain for specific candidates (e.g., then-U.S. Rep. Gary Condit) seem to be the

predominant factors. Northern Solano County (Fairfield/Vacaville) is now divided among and appended to the East Bay-based 7th and 10th Congressional Districts, which makes no rational sense. The current 11th Congressional District, which links Lodi and Ripon in San Joaquin County to Morgan Hill in Santa Clara County long will be remembered with disdain as an absurd artifact of the pre-CRC era (a time when petty personal feuds, crass politics and backroom deals with pressure groups trumped rational thought and the general public interest).

(3) Concerning district numbering, the CRC must consider the consequences of the odd versus even numbering of state senate districts. Odd-numbered districts will have elections in 2012; even-numbered districts will not take effect until 2014. Two senators will represent many Californians from December 2012 to December 2014; no senator will represent others during those two years. The CRC must determine how much of this phenomenon is permissible and how to minimize the phenomenon without violating the constitutional provision that disallows favoring an incumbent. I discourage the CRC from “over analyzing” this phenomenon; some disruption in Senate districts is inevitable due to population shifts.

Aside from this issue, I suggest that the CRC instill rationality in California’s legislative district numbering system. The 1st and 2nd Assembly Districts should be nested within the 1st Senate District; the 3rd and 4th Assembly Districts should be nested within the 2nd Senate District; the 79th and 80th Assembly Districts should be nested within the 40th Senate District, etc. For Board of Equalization districts, Senate Districts 1 through 10 (containing Assembly Districts 1 through 20) ought to be in the 1st Board of Equalization District, etc. This simple, rational system would make it easy for citizens to determine the other Assembly districts that are within their Senate or Board of Equalization district.

The existing legislative district numbers (aside from the aforementioned Senate district issue) are essentially irrelevant to all but incumbent legislators and their staff members. Most citizens do not know or care what district “number” they now reside in; they care more that their district reflects a “community of interest,” increasing the chance that their concerns will be aggregated and “heard” by their legislator. A numbering system that ties together Assembly, Senate and Equalization districts in a straightforward manner would be far more meaningful to the common citizen.

(4) I encourage the CRC to be open-minded about cross-county legislative districts in some situations, especially where transportation corridors and other factors create “cross-county communities of interest.” The East Bay area in the San Francisco region offers examples. As many speakers at the Oakland hearing on May 21st indicated, the East Bay Ridge (the northerly-southerly hills extending behind Richmond, Oakland, Hayward and Fremont) offers a better means for demarcating “communities of interest” in the East Bay than county lines. This is perhaps best illustrated with telephone area codes. Communities west of the ridge in Alameda and Contra Costa counties (Richmond, Berkeley, Oakland, Hayward, Fremont, etc.) share the “510” area code; communities east of the ridge in the same counties (Walnut Creek, Concord, Antioch, Pleasanton, Livermore, etc.) share the “925” area code.

Dublin in Alameda County and San Ramon in Contra Costa County seem to be part of the same “community of interest.” Geologic features generally do not divide them. They share a special

district (Dublin-San Ramon Services District), an interstate highway link (I-680 corridor) and a telephone area code (925). Similarly, Berkeley in Alameda County and Kensington and El Cerrito in Contra Costa County are neighbors across county lines that seem to form the same “community of interest” (510 telephone area code, I-80 corridor).

If the CRC finds itself needing to add to an East Bay legislative district outside of Alameda County, I suggest adding Tracy to a Livermore district (next community in I-580/I-205 corridor) or Milpitas to a Fremont district (next community in I-680 and I-880 corridors). An addition to a Contra Costa County district could include Vallejo linked to a Richmond/Pinole/Hercules district (I-80 corridor) or Benicia linked to a Martinez district (I-680 corridor). Although all of these “trans-regional” districts generally would be disfavored, each of these communities could logically be linked to the others because of shared transportation corridors, among other factors.

(5) The drawing of lines through cities is especially challenging because some neighborhood inevitably ends up being divided. Some of the people who testified at the Oakland hearing seemed unaware that the “one-person, one-vote” standard generally precludes making all of San Francisco coterminous with one congressional district, for example. The CRC ought to try to follow traditional neighborhood boundaries (including longstanding city council district lines, if they make rational sense) to the greatest extent practicable.

(6) The CRC should try to anticipate city boundary changes over the next decade when it draws its lines, especially in growing suburban areas. The 10th Congressional District had zero population in the cities of Brentwood, Dublin and San Ramon in Census 2000; all residents of these cities lived in the 11th Congressional District. By 2010, those three cities had expanded into the 10th Congressional District, bringing thousands of new residents in newly-built homes into the 10th District. (In 2001, map drawers were able to claim that “100%” of these cities were in the 11th Congressional District, which turned out to be a short-lived claim.) Fallon Road in Dublin, the congressional district boundary, was itself re-aligned, adding complexity; today the district line arbitrarily divides the Positano neighborhood. Had line drawers in 2001 done their work more thoughtfully, they would have drawn lines further away from the existing boundaries of these cities in anticipation of their growth. I expect that the CRC’s adherence to the “communities of interest” concept inherently will minimize this phenomenon, but the CRC should be mindful of it.

I deeply appreciate this opportunity to share my thoughts. I wish the Commission well as it executes its vital tasks during the upcoming weeks.

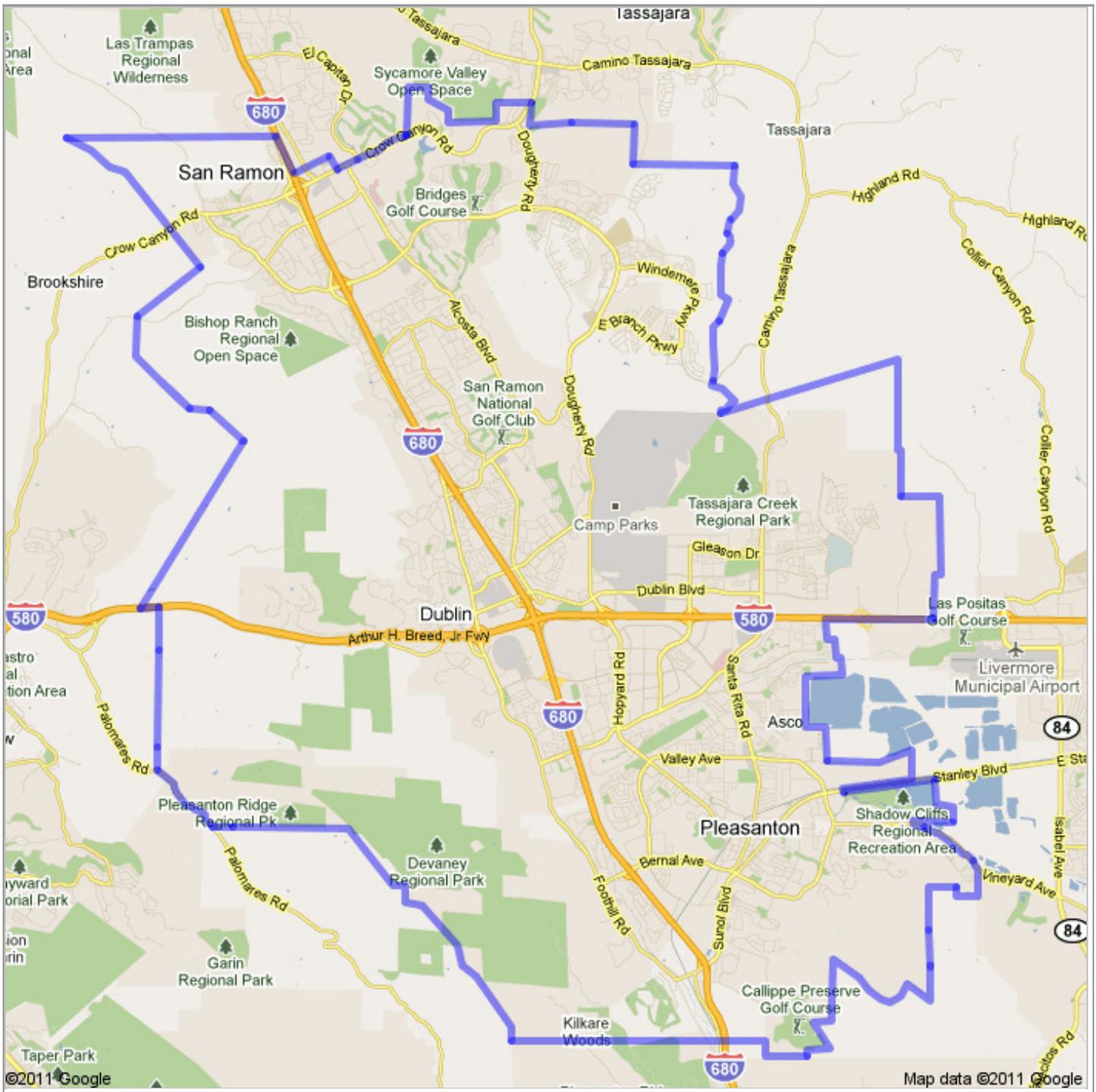
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jason A. Bezis". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

JASON A. BEZIS



Notes Pleasanton-Dublin-San Ramon Community of Interest:
Bounded by (counter-clockwise from upper left): starting on the western side of I-680 along the northern (east-west) San Ramon city boundary and extending west to the County line; then following the County line in the general southeast direction until the County line meets the western boundary of Dublin, from there generally south-southwest to Hwy I-580; then approx. 1120 ft east along I-580; then directly south to Palomares Road; then approx. 5100 ft. southeast on Palomares Rd ; then directly east to Pleasanton Ridge (to include Pleasanton Ridge Regional Park – Northern Tract); then southeast generally along Pleasanton Ridge/Sunol Ridge to a point directly west of the intersection of Pleasanton-Sunol Road and Verona Road (to include Devaney Regional Park); then directly east to said intersection; then continuing directly east until meeting the Pleasanton city boundary; from there following the city boundary to the north-south road that intersects Old Vineyard Ave.; from there directly north to Vineyard Ave.; then approx. 1165 ft. northeast on Vineyard Ave. to intersect the city boundary; then following the city boundary until it reaches I-580; then following the boundary of the LAFCO Dublin Sphere of Influence line to the County border; then southeast along the County border until it meets the San Ramon Urban Growth Boundary; then following that boundary all the way to I-680; then north on I-680 to the starting point.



Pleasanton-Dublin-San Ramon COI

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-  [Line 1](#)
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**COMPARISON OF CHARACTERISTICS OF THE
PLEASANTON-DUBLIN-SAN RAMON COMMUNITY OF INTEREST**
(see attached map showing COI boundary)

CHARACTERISTIC	SAN RAMON		PLEASANTON		DUBLIN		Standard Deviation (normalized)
	Estimate	Percent	Estimate	Percent	Estimate	Percent	
Social Characteristics							
Average household size	2.75		2.83		2.78		1.5%
Average family size	3.21		3.29		3.28		1.3%
High school graduate or higher		96.9		95.7		91	3.1%
Bachelor's degree or higher		57.2		55.7		43.1	7.7%
Civilian veterans	2,372	6.7	3,768	8.0	1,854	5.7	1.2%
Foreign born	13,032	26.6	13,665	20.6	9,220	21.7	3.2%
Male, Now married, except separated (population 15 years and over)	11,997	63	15,990	63	8,990	51.2	6.8%
Female, Now married, except separated (population 15 years and over)	11,661	62.6	15,530	60.8	8,679	51.3	6.1%
Speak a language other than English at home (population 5 years and over)	14,541	32.2	16,801	27.2	11,516	29.4	2.5%
Economic Characteristics							
	Estimate	Percent	Estimate	Percent	Estimate	Percent	St. Dev. (Normalized)
In labor force (population 16 years and over)	27,655	74.8	34,764	69.9	22,455	65.7	4.6%
Mean travel time to work in minutes (workers 16 years and over)	30.8		28.3		29.0		4.4%
Median household income (in 2009 inflation-adjusted dollars)	119,297		113,582		108,711		4.7%
Median family income (in 2009 inflation-adjusted dollars)	132,339		129,554		119,030		5.5%
Families below poverty level		2.0		1.9		2.6	0.4%
Individuals below poverty level		2.8		3.4		3.9	0.6%
Housing Characteristics							
	Estimate	Percent	Estimate	Percent	Estimate	Percent	St. Dev. (Normalized)
Occupied housing units	17,782	95.2	23,216	96.4	13,426	95.1	0.7%
Owner-occupied housing units	13,190	74.2	16,374	70.5	8,793	65.5	4.4%
Renter-occupied housing units	4,592	25.8	6,842	29.5	4,633	34.5	4.4%
Vacant housing units	905	4.8	874	3.6	698	4.9	0.7%
Median value (dollars)	779,600		799,200		682,600		8.3%
<i>Median of selected monthly owner costs:</i>							
With a mortgage (dollars)	3,533		3,144		3,142		6.9%
Not mortgaged (dollars)	696		614		538		12.8%
ACS Demographic Estimates							
	Estimate	Percent	Estimate	Percent	Estimate	Percent	St. Dev. (Normalized)
Male	24,865	50.8	33,495	50.6	21,700	51.2	0.3%
Female	24,054	49.2	32,703	49.4	20,706	48.8	0.3%
Median age (years)	37.2		38.3		33.9		6.3%
Under 5 years	3,728	7.6	4,447	6.7	3,208	7.6	0.5%
18 years and over	35,637	72.8	47,413	71.6	32,991	77.8	3.3%
65 years and over	3,498	7.2	6,449	9.7	2,306	5.4	2.2%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2005-2009 American Community Survey
http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/DatasetMainPageServlet?_program=ACS&_submenuid=&_lang=en&_ts=

A large standard deviation indicates that the data are far from the mean, and a *small* standard deviation indicates that they are *clustered closely* around the mean.

The above standard deviations of social, economic, housing, and demographic data of the Pleasanton-Dublin-San Ramon COI are quite **small**.

In addition, these three cities straddle the Interstate 680 Highway that runs through their valley. This highway corridor is the major route for transportation and commerce within this COI.

Therefore, this COI has very similar needs for elected representation and should be maintained as an undivided community.

CA

Subject: Public Comment: Redistricting

From: "James B.McMillan" <[REDACTED]>

Date: Mon, 23 May 2011 17:56:46 +0000

To: [REDACTED]

From: James B.McMillan <[REDACTED]>

Subject: Redistricting

Message Body:

As a resident of Richmond for over 50 years I have observed that for the last 20 years (approx) we have been little more than a political appendage of Alameda County Politics. The preponderance of votes are always outside our County so the natural tendency of most elected officials is to favor the majority voters. We are citizens of Contra Costa County and prefer to vote for local candidates.

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This mail is sent via contact form on Citizens Redistricting Commission

Subject: Public Comment: Redistricting COI's

From: Tracy Bagnall-Lloyd <[REDACTED]>

Date: Mon, 23 May 2011 23:28:42 +0000

To: [REDACTED]

From: Tracy Bagnall-Lloyd <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Redistricting COI's

Message Body:

Saturday, Oct 21st I was speaker # 54 in Oakland. Here is my transcript with the COI's mentioned.

Good afternoon Commissioners.

My name is Tracy Bagnall-Lloyd and I have been a resident of Orinda for the past 17 years. In keeping with geographic boundaries (and the guidelines on your website) I ask that you include transportation corridors and mostly common areas of interest with regard to lifestyle and needs of each community.

The Oakland hills separate counties as well as urban and suburban lifestyles. The hills separate Oakland, Berkeley and Emeryville from Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda (jointly referred to as Lamorinda) and should not be combined in the same district (CD, SD, or AD). Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda share much more common areas of interest with Walnut Creek, Diablo Valley (which would include Walnut Creek, Acalanes Ridge, Saranap, Castle Hill, Reliez Valley, Clayton, Pleasant Hill, Martinez and Concord) and San Ramon Valley (Alamo, San Ramon, Danville, Diablo, Blackhawk, Camino Tassajara, and Norris Canyon) and should be part of the same district to whatever extent possible. If this exceeds the target population, the northern parts of the county could be in a different district.

The communities on either side of these hills differ as much as the diversity within them. We hope the commission will consider the needs of the people within them, not the needs of lobbyists, unions, and special interest groups.

Other COI's in Contra Costa County would include:

- 1) Pittsburg, Antioch, Brentwood, Bethel Island, Discovery Bay, Knightsen, and Byron.
- 2) San Pablo, El Cerrito, Kensington, El Sobrante, Richmond, Pinole, Hercules, and possibly Rodeo, and Crockett.

I'll look forward to trying out the mapping tool to submit something.

Thank you for your time and dedication to this effort.

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California's 7th Congressional District

Map by www.GovTrack.us. Street data from OpenStreetMap.org. Reuse with attribution under CC-BY-SA 2.0.

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Subject: Comments for redistricting meeting at Oakland Ca

From: [REDACTED]

Date: Mon, 23 May 2011 21:44:16 +0000 (UTC)

To: [REDACTED]

Redistricting Commissioners Meeting Oakland, CA May, 21, 2011

Good afternoon commissioners; my speaker number was #44 and my name is Lorraine Humes. I have lived in San Pablo, CA for 30 years and have lived in the home, that I own, for over 20 years. I retired from the Federal Government as a food microbiologist.

Before I address my redistricting community of interest issues, I would like to thank you for taking on this very difficult yet also very important job of redistricting our state's voting district boundary lines. I voted for Propositions 11 and 20, because I think it is fairer to let the voters draw the voting district lines rather than the candidates, who many have ulterior motives for their decisions.

I would like to give you an example of poorly drawn boundary lines and well drawn boundary lines. The Congressional District #7 lines are poorly drawn and I would like to see them redrawn. District #7's lines go from Solano County's Vacaville and Sears Point areas, across two bridges (the San Raphael/ Richmond Bridge and the Carquinez bridge) and then zig-zag throughout Contra Costa County (a copy of the map is attached). As you can see the voting district's boundary is not contiguous, geographically compact, and does not respect county boundaries. In addition CD#7 contains 6 major commute highways (Routes 37, 80, 4, 780, 580, and 680) that go East, West, North, and South. Finally, I can find very little commonality of interest between the cities in my area and the ones in Solano or East Contra Costa Counties. I would find more commonality of interest with the cities of Rodeo and Hercules (to the North) and Ashby, Albany, etc. to the South; these cities are near Routes 80 and 580.

Ending on a positive note, a well drawn voting district boundary is California Assembly District #1; I live in District #1. It is composed of several cities in a compact area. The characteristics of this district exemplify the criteria, for voting districts, delineated on your website. Also, if you look at the seven supervisorial voting district maps, that are displayed on your website, the area for District #1 is about the same on all your maps. My district's borders are the San Francisco Bay on the West, San Pablo and Briones Reservoirs on the East, the city of Pinole on the North and the city of Kensington on the South. Our weather tends to be temperate due to the breezes from the bay and the shield created by the East Bay Hills separating us from the heat that exists in the rest of the county. We have Pinole and Point Isabel Regional Parks, Wildcat Canyon Creek and San Pablo Dam Reservoir for recreation areas.

San Pablo Avenue runs lengthwise through our district. This avenue runs from the Richmond/San Raphael Bridge near Rodeo, all the way through Oakland to downtown Berkeley. It is a very old avenue that has several commercial areas along it. We also encircle the length of Route 80 highway, which goes through our district - a highway that is used by many of our citizens to commute to work. We have three BART stations (Richmond, El Portal, and El Cerrito stations). Finally AC transit goes through our district. Two hospitals are located in our district - Doctors in San Pablo and Kaiser in Richmond with a clinic in Pinole; San Pablo has some nursing homes near Doctors Hospital.

The cities in my district are composed of mostly single family homes (usually single level ranch-style homes) with small yards and driveways. We also have some apartments, condominiums, and a few trailer parks. I would say our residents belong in the middle to lower economic groups. (San Pablo is rated as the poorest city in our county but the homes are clean and the residents are hard working.) We have several older citizens living in homes they have owned for years, senior apartments, and assisted living apartment communities. We also have families with young, teenage, and college level children. We have county libraries (except the Richard City library); Our schools mostly belong to the West Contra Costa County Unified School District; and Contra Costa Community College is located in San Pablo.

The ethnic breakdown of our communities is very diverse. We have several Latino, Indian, Pilipino, African-American, Chinese, and Caucasian families. We have several churches in our communities from Catholic, Lutheran, Protestant, Evangelical, Sikh, Moslem, etc.

The makeup of our Assembly District #1 seems to meet your criteria. **The only suggestion I would make is that I prefer Map #6**, because in it the eastern border of our district cuts off just before the San Pablo Reservoir rather than to the east of the San Pablo and Briones Reservoirs. The area around the reservoirs is definitely rural rather than urban, like the rest of our district. The homes around the reservoirs reflect a rural environment – they look more like the homes in Orinda than the ones in the cities in our district.

Finally, I request that you base your decisions on information from our district voters' testimonies. I know you want to get testimony from our various ethnic communities; however, I request that you do not put undue influence on remarks expressed by community special interest groups.

Thank you for your time and effort.

Lorraine Humes

CD#7.doc