

**Subject:** Contra Costa County

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Date:** Wed, 25 May 2011 19:57:12 EDT

**To:** [REDACTED]

I am a resident of Contra Costa County.

I support the MAPS presented May 24 by the California Citizens Redistricting Task Force and the California Conservative Action Group.

I support the following Congressional District: Lamorinda, Walnut Creek, Antioch, Oakley, Brentwood, Discovery Bay, the San Ramon Valley and the Tri-Valley (Dublin, Pleasanton, and Livermore).

My family and I live in the 10th CD, right on the border with the 11th CD. My next door neighbors live in CD 11. Both CD 10 and CD 11 are gerrymandered in impossibly crazy shapes.

Thank you for your consideration.

Anne Blake

[REDACTED]

Danville, CA 94526 (our house has a Danville address even though it is actually in Alamo).

**Subject:** Regarding Contra Costa County Congressional District Boundaries

**From:** Patsy Ronat <[REDACTED]>

**Date:** Wed, 25 May 2011 12:10:06 -0700

**To:** <[REDACTED]>

Dear Commissioners:

I am a resident of Contra Costa County, and I urge your support of all of the Bay Area Maps submitted on May 24, 2011 by the **California Conservative Action Group** and the **California Citizens Redistricting Task Force**.

A Congressional District comprised of Lamorinda, Walnut Creek, Oakley, Antioch, Clayton, Brentwood, Discovery Bay, the San Ramon Valley, and the Tri-Valley (Dublin, Pleasanton, Livermore) would be fair, in that it would include areas of common civic interest and would be competitive. The district includes socio-economic diversity; it would be a competitive Congressional district, because our areas of common interest would focus us on electing the best candidate of either party to represent the district.

Thank you,

Arthur and Patsy Ronat

[REDACTED]  
Lafayette, CA 94549

**Subject:** redistricting

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Date:** Wed, 25 May 2011 17:55:06 -0400

**To:** [REDACTED]

California Redistricting Commission  
[REDACTED]

Dear Commissioners:

I am a resident of Contra Costa County, and I am writing to urge your support of all of the Bay Area Maps submitted on May 24, 2011 by the California Conservative Action Group and the California Citizens Redistricting Task Force.

I support a fair and competitive Congressional District comprised of Lamorinda, Walnut Creek, Oakley, Antioch, Clayton, Brentwood, Discovery Bay, the San Ramon Valley, and the Tri-Valley (Dublin, Pleasanton, Livermore).

Thank you,  
Sandra Way

**Subject:** Redistricting

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Date:** Wed, 25 May 2011 16:04:39 +0000 (UTC)

**To:** [REDACTED]

---

California Redistricting Commission

Dear Commissioners:

I am a resident of Contra Costa County, and I am writing to urge your support of all of the Bay Area Maps submitted on May 24, 2011 by the California Conservative Action Group and the California Citizens Redistricting Task Force.

I support a fair and competitive Congressional District comprised of Lamorinda, Walnut Creek, Oakley, Antioch, Clayton, Brentwood, Discovery Bay, the San Ramon Valley, and the Tri-Valley (Dublin, Pleasanton, Livermore).

Thank you,  
Carol Gray

---

**Subject:** Redistricting Tri-Valley Lamorinda Areas

**From:** Harold Bray <[REDACTED]>

**Date:** Wed, 25 May 2011 11:40:37 -0700 (PDT)

**To:** [REDACTED]

To: California Citizen Redistricting Committee

From: Harold E. (Hal) Bray, Brentwood, Ca. (Contra Costa County)

Subject: Tri-Valley/Lamorinda/Contra Costa Redistricting

I currently reside in Congressional District 11, represented by Democrat Jerry McNerney, State Senate District 7, Represented by Democrat Mark DeSaulnier, and State Assembly District 15, Represented by Democrat Joan Buchanan. Only one of these districts, State Senate District 11 makes any sense at all.

Congressional District 11 (McNerney) was gerrymandered in the last redistricting to defeat incumbent Republican Richard Pombo. The District currently meanders across four counties; San Joaquin, Alameda, Contra Costa, and Santa Clara We share no common industry, no common natural resources, no common utilities, no common transportation corridor, no common weather pattern, and no common infrastructure. The District is 115 miles in length from its most northeastern city, Lodi to Morgan Hill in the south. It stretches from farm country in the San Joaquin Valley to Silicon Valley (or, as we say, from cow chips to silicon chips.) The district was constructed to simply move more Democrats into the district.

State Assembly District 15 covers parts of Contra Costa, Sacramento, Alameda and San Joaquin Counties. There is no discernable pattern to its construction, be it geography, income, industry, natural resources, governmental agencies, etc. It would not meet the criteria established by the Voters First Act (Proposition 11) that established this commission.

What would I like to see the Commission achieve?

I would like to see the Commission follow the mandates of the law that created it: Districts that are of equal population (within 1%), continuous so that all parts are connected to each other, respectful of boundaries of cities, counties, neighborhoods and communities of interest, are geographically compact (having a fairly regular shape), and complies with the Voters Rights Act.

It is critical in this time of budget constraints and cutbacks that districts be continuous, compact, and have a "regular shape". As budgets decline and the State shifts more and more responsibilities to local government, these government entities are merging services and/or forming Joint Powers Agreements to plan and/or provide services. For example, the cities of Livermore and Pleasanton have merged their fire departments; Antioch dispatches Brentwood's fire and police. Many cities are merging transportation and/or public works departments. Keeping cities that touch each other in the same districts will become critical to the functioning of government throughout California.

Ideally, this mean that the core of my districts includes Lamorinda (Lafayette, Moraga, and Orinda), Walnut Creek, Clayton, Alamo, Danville, San Ramon, Pleasanton, Dublin, Livermore (Tri-Valley), Discovery Bay, Brentwood, Bethel Island, Knightsen, Byron, Antioch and Oakley. If my calculations are correct, the population of these cities is slightly larger than a State Assembly District, seventy-five percent of a Congressional District, and about half a State Senate District. Population can be added by going east on the 580 corridor to Tracy and Mountain House and/or north up the 680 corridor.

Below I have used the format of your Presentation Worksheet to provide the information you have requested of people providing input to the Commission:

**þ What bonds your community – what do you see as the common links in your community?**

*I live in Brentwood, Contra Costa, California. My community is bound together by its natural resources, government services, infrastructure, and growing retail marketplace. We are an active community that hikes/bikes on Mt. Diablo, participate in boating, fishing and water skiing in the Delta and provides numerous golf courses, parks and other recreational facilities for our families. Our cities have formed numerous Joint Powers Agreements among each other and non-profits to provide regional planning for transportation, habitat conservancy, health services, law enforcement services, water resources and discharge, air quality and quality of life issues.*

*I serve on the Board of a Crises Pregnancy counseling center that partners with other non-profits in the communities of Antioch, Pittsburg, Bay point, Livermore, Dublin, Concord, etc. My wife serves on the Board of the UC Master Garner program that provides services to East Bay/Tri-Valley gardeners and farmers. Our experiences reflect the inter-dependencies of organizations and government agencies of the area.*

**þ Where is your community located – what are the boundaries of your community?**

*My City is a middle class bedroom community bounded by the 580 corridor in the South, the Berkeley/Oakland hills in the West, the San Joaquin county line in the east and the delta and San Francisco Bay in the North.*

*Brentwood is a former farming community that has been one of the fastest growing areas in the State for 10 years (with about half the farms still operating). It is a suburban community, with many blue collar (union and non-union) workers, that has and is growing into a more professional worker profile that mirrors the Walnut Creek, Lamorinda, Danville, San Ramon, Pleasanton, Livermore and Dublin areas.*

*We shop and dine frequently in the Walnut Creek or Pleasanton/Dublin/Livermore areas. We identify ourselves as an integral part of the Tri-Valley/Lamorinda community. My doctor is in Walnut Creek; my dentist is in San Ramon. My wife's Acupuncturist is in Lafayette. Members of my wife's book club live in Alamo, Danville, Pleasant Hill, Antioch and Brentwood.*

**þ Why should the community be kept together – or separate from another area?**

*The Tri-Valley/Lamorinda/Walnut Creek area is a geographically compact area, united by the 580/680 corridor and separated from the rest of the Bay area by the Oakland hills and more northern communities by the delta and San Francisco Bay. We are more and more dependent on cooperation among city governments, school districts and colleges/universities to solve complex traffic, air quality, law enforcement and quality of life issues and provide the services we require. We share our individual resources to improve the quality of life of our region, its natural resources, its infrastructure and its education and government services. Keeping us together enhances our ability to meet the unique needs of the people and environment of our community.*

Harold E. (Hal) Bray

[REDACTED]  
Brentwood, Ca 94513  
[REDACTED]

**Subject:** Redistricting request

**From:** "E/P Fowler" <[REDACTED]>

**Date:** Wed, 25 May 2011 13:48:28 -0700

**To:** <[REDACTED]>

Dear Commissioners:

I am a resident of Contra Costa County, and I am writing to urge your support of all of the Bay Area Maps submitted on May 24, 2011 by the California Conservative Action Group and the California Citizens Redistricting Task Force.

I support a fair and competitive Congressional District comprised of Lamorinda, Walnut Creek, Oakley, Antioch, Clayton, Brentwood, Discovery Bay, the San Ramon Valley, and the Tri-Valley (Dublin, Pleasanton, Livermore).

Thank you,  
Emily Fowler

**Subject:** RE: Redistricting

**From:** "[REDACTED]" <[REDACTED]>

**Date:** Wed, 25 May 2011 18:26:40 +0000

**To:** "[REDACTED]" <[REDACTED]>

Dear Commissioners:

I am a resident of Contra Costa County, and I am writing to urge your support of all of the Bay Area Maps submitted on May 24, 2011 by the California Conservative Action Group and the California Citizens Redistricting Task Force.

I support a fair and competitive Congressional District comprised of Lamorinda, Walnut Creek, Oakley, Antioch, Clayton, Brentwood, Discovery Bay, the San Ramon Valley, and the Tri-Valley (Dublin, Pleasanton, Livermore).

Thank you,

[Kris Parker](#)

**Subject:** Public Comment: Region 8

**From:** Al Donner <[REDACTED]>

**Date:** Wed, 25 May 2011 16:40:30 +0000

**To:** [REDACTED]

From: Al Donner <[REDACTED]>

Subject: Common Interests of Lamorinda (Lafayette, Moraga, Orinda)

Message Body:

I want to thank the commission for the opportunity to testify at the in Oakland public meeting on Saturday, May 21, 2011. You have an important responsibility and I appreciate the time and attention each of you putting into this effort.

Looking at the exiting districts, it is very clear that they were drawn to benefit incumbents, not the people whom they represent. As I pointed out in my remarks, when traveling from my home in Orinda to visit relatives in Sacramento, 80 miles away, I cross no less than seven Congressional district boundary lines.

My testimony focused on the communities of Lamorinda (the three similar cities of Orinda, Moraga and Lafayette) and their common interests and patterns of life. I've lived in Orinda for 28 years. Our clear interest is to be grouped with areas of similar interests. Clearly we don't have that kind of representation now in the State Assembly. The most obvious instance of our current separation from our common interest communities is our State Assembly representation. Lamorinda is part of the 14th Assembly District, most of which is concentrated along the Bayshore (Berkeley and Richmond are the biggest cities) and has differing needs and interests. Lamorinda is on the opposite side of the East Bay hills from the Bayshore. Lamorinda is separated from its primary natural interest community, Walnut Creek, plus the Central Contra Costa cities (notably Pleasant Hill, Concord and Clayton) and communities in the 680 corridor (Alamo, Danville and San Ramon).

While the elected Assemblymember for the 14th does her best to represent the entire district, she simply cannot. The interests of Lamorinda in such important subjects as schools, transportation and recreation are very different from those of the older, more densely populated communities along the Bay.

In transportation, for example, the Bayshore segment of the 14th is most concerned about the Interstate 80 corridor and its related transportation links. I-80 is that area is of little significance to Lamorinda. The Lamorinda community is dependent on State Route 24 and Interstate 680.

A relevant historical perspective is found in the current expansion underway of the Caldecott Tunnel on State Route 24. That key project came about almost entirely due to the efforts in the 1990s of the 15th Assembly District member. She lived in and represented Walnut Creek, when the 15th district included Lamorinda (established by the 1991 redistricting). She fought for and succeeded in getting the State Route 24 project started. (It would be unreasonable for our current 14th District Assembly member to make a State Route 24 project her top priority when there are so many other needs in the Bayshore portion of her district where most of the 14th's population live.)

In short, we wouldn't have that project underway but for the fact that we were represented within our community of interest. The 2001 redistricting moved Lamorinda from its community of interest to a District where we have fewer common interests and we are less adequately represented.

The same level of community interest conflict is found in other major areas, including education (where the more urban schools along the Bayshore have different needs from those of suburban Lamorinda) and even recreation (where the urban Bayshore needs again are different).

The Lamorinda community overall has less connection with the East Bayshore communities than with Central Contra Costa County. Our primary connections and common interests are with Central Contra Costa County. Many of us work in San Francisco and located here due to the Bay Area Rapid Transit [BART] service through Lamorinda and direct freeway access on State Route 24 to downtown San Francisco. Getting off BART or 24 for jobs in

Oakland or other parts of Alameda County is much less common. The next largest areas of employment for Lamorindans are in Walnut Creek Central Contra Costa County. In terms of shopping and recreation, when Lamorindans shop outside our community, Walnut Creek is normally our first destination, with San Francisco a second choice. Far less frequently do we go to Oakland or other Bayshore communities. The same is true with recreation.

Schools are the other the primary consideration prompting people to locate in this area and there, too, our common connection is with Walnut Creek. Lamorinda is joined with Walnut Creek in a single high school district, and with rest of Central Contra Costa County at the community college level.

The key point here is that, while on a flat map Lamorinda may appear to be as close to Oakland and the Alameda County Bayshore communities on the west as it is to Walnut Creek and the Diablo Valley areas on the east, Lamorinda's patterns are much, much stronger and are more in common with the communities to the east. Other than the freeway (Route 24) through the Caldecott Tunnel, which is most heavily used to reach the Bay Bridge, there is only one road over the hills Lamorinda to Oakland, an old logging path (now paved) that winds slowly through a canyon. It is not a major connector and is very lightly used.

Even the Bay Area news media treatment of Lamorinda and central Contra Costa County show a marked difference. As a person who worked in public relations in the area for many years, I found that Bay Area radio and television stations rarely cover news east of the Oakland hills, and that includes the most watched station in the Bay Area, KTVU, Channel 2 in Oakland. As a practical matter that means Lamorinda and central Contra Costa residents must get their information about local activities and local representatives from the one daily paper published in the area (Walnut Creek) or smaller weeklies and websites. And the elected official who represents communities both along the Bayshore and in Lamorinda knows that if he or she takes up an issue of interest to Bayshore communities s/he is much more likely to get media coverage that if the issue is from central Contra Costa.

In closing, my message is simple and, I hope, compelling. Lamorinda's common interests are those of Walnut Creek and the other central Contra Costa communities along the I-680 corridor in Pleasant Hill, Concord, Clayton, Alamo, Danville and San Ramon. In this area you would meet the criteria established for your work by putting Lamorinda into the same Congressional and legislative districts that include Walnut Creek and the I-680 corridor in central Contra Costa County.

Sincerely

Al Donner

--

This mail is sent via contact form on Citizens Redistricting Commission

**Subject:** Please support new Bay Area Maps submitted by Redistricting Task Force

**From:** Melissa Gallaway <[REDACTED]>

**Date:** Wed, 25 May 2011 07:29:20 -0700 (PDT)

**To:** [REDACTED]

Dear Commissioners:

I am a resident of Contra Costa County, and I am writing to urge your support of all of the Bay Area Maps submitted on May 24, 2011 by the California Conservative Action Group and the California Citizens Redistricting Task Force.

I support a fair and competitive Congressional District comprised of Lamorinda, Walnut Creek, Oakley, Antioch, Clayton, Brentwood, Discovery Bay, the San Ramon Valley, and the Tri-Valley (Dublin, Pleasanton, Livermore).

Thank you,  
Melissa Gallaway