
Subject: Letter to Citizens Redistricting Commission

Date: Wednesday, May 18, 2011 1:32 PM

From: Pam Hartwell-Herrero [REDACTED]

To: <votersfirstact@crc.ca.gov>

Conversation: Letter to Citizens Redistricting Commission

Please submit this letter and attachments into public comment. It is representative of the entire Fairfax Town Council.

Pam Hartwell-Herrero

Fairfax Vice Mayor

The opinions expressed in this email are those of this individual Council member and are not representative of the entire council or Town of Fairfax unless otherwise stated.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Michael Rock [REDACTED]

Date: Tue, May 17, 2011 at 5:21 PM

Subject: Letter to Citizens Redistricting Commission

To: David Weinsoff [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Please see attached per the Council direction at the May 4, 2011 meeting.

Michael Rock
Town Manager
Town of Fairfax



TOWN OF FAIRFAX

142 BOLINAS ROAD, FAIRFAX, CALIFORNIA 94930
(415) 453 - 1584 / FAX (415) 453 - 1618

Mayor
Larry Bragman

Vice Mayor
Pam Hartwell-Herrero

Town Council
John Reed
David Weinsoff
Lew Tremaine

Town Manager
Michael Rock

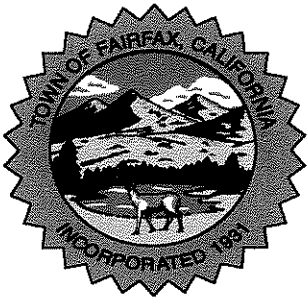
May 17, 2011

Citizens Redistricting Commission
1130 K Street, Suite 101
Sacramento, CA 95814
Fax: (916) 322-0904

Dear Commissioners,

In your consideration of drawing the lines for Congressional, State Senate, State Assembly districts we urge you to consider keeping Marin County aligned with Sonoma County and NOT including us with the San Francisco or Contra Costa counties for the land use, demographic, geographic and best representation reasons stated in this letter.

While the map on the Commission website makes it appear as though we are contiguous with Sonoma, SF and Contra Costa, the second map is more accurately shows the barriers and boundaries. The San Francisco Bay causes us to share a geographical border only with Sonoma. We also share contiguous watersheds, coastal regions, inland rural, agricultural, bay lands only with Sonoma County. While bridges, bays and commutes connect us to S.F. and Contra Costa we hope you will find our connection to Sonoma is greater and has many more common purposes.



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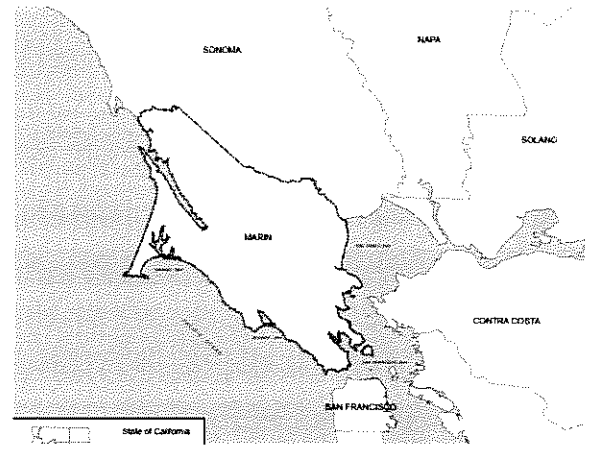
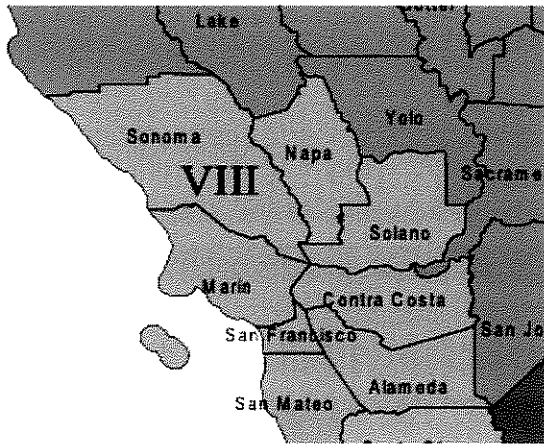
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Town Manager
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As representatives of Fairfax in the heart of Marin County we would like to share some of the character of our community and its sustainability goals as set forth in our Countywide plan.

Marin County is known for its distinctive **natural setting** and environmental and agricultural heritage. Surrounded on three sides by water, Marin encompasses abundant environmental resources beautiful and rich in diversity, as well as working agricultural landscapes. From the quality of the air we breathe, the water we drink, and the food we eat, to the outdoors where we relax and rejuvenate, we depend on nature to provide for us. A responsibility to understand and protect the environment and agriculture is a fundamental component of the Marin Countywide Plan. Reinforcing the critical role of watershed planning is an overarching concern.

Preservation of large parts of Marin County has served to protect important biological resources and the biodiversity of the region. Nevertheless, future development may threaten sensitive resources in Marin and contribute to further fragmentation of natural areas. In 2001, Marin ranked 17th among the 58 California counties in the number of special-status species documented here, indicating both an opportunity for preservation and a continued threat to sensitive resources. In fact, Lagunitas Creek supports the most important remnant population of federally endangered wild Coho salmon from California's central coast. Despite positive efforts to protect and restore habitat, native biodiversity is still at risk. Factors contributing to these risks, such as the continued loss

exotic species, all pose significant threats to native plants and animals. Other risks and concerns include obstruction of wildlife movement corridors, filling of wetlands, and loss of oak woodlands to disease.

The County **Open Space** District manages and protects ridge lands, baylands, and other environmentally sensitive lands. Open space lands also accommodate low-impact recreational uses. Most of the district budget goes toward managing open space, leaving little for land acquisition. The district relies increasingly on conservation or open space easements from private landowners to extend its preservation efforts.

Agriculture-Nearly one-fourth of Marin's agricultural land has been permanently protected from subdivision and development, but working ranches are increasingly threatened by the prospect of conversion to single-family residential estates. The majority of local agricultural operations are only marginally profitable. Major issues facing local agriculture include the high cost of land, regulation by multiple agencies, and difficulty recruiting younger generations to work in agriculture. Many local operations have begun diversifying to increase their viability, producing row crops and value-added products such as cheese, butter, organic foods, and grass-fed beef. Although agriculture is not technically considered a "natural system," most ranchers and farmers in Marin conduct agricultural activities in a manner compatible with the natural environment.

Marin County is also known for its creativity, innovation, and high quality of life. This lifestyle depends a great deal on the beautiful natural setting and excellence of residential neighborhoods in Marin, as well as many other factors that affect how people learn, work, obtain goods and services, and play. The **Socioeconomic** Element of the Countywide Plan focuses on the people of Marin County and seeks to reinforce the complex connections between individual well-being, economic prosperity, community involvement, cultural richness, and the environment. The percentages of voter registration and election turnout are higher in Marin County than for the state as a whole.

Marin should be in districts that we have common issues and land use.

While we have a respected and connected relationship with the urban parts of the Bay Area, our governance of land has much more in common with Sonoma County. We have grave concerns that with our limited population and divergent issues compared to the much more densely populated SF or Contra Costa that our voice would simply not be heard and our unique needs not be met. You are tasked with being sure that we receive fair and effective representation. And knowing our community best we request that you link us with another county or counties that share our coastal, agricultural, geographic and rural land use issues rather than ones that have urban concerns and issues. Thanks you for your time serving the state by drawing the lines, we understand the challenges in this matter and hope we have provided helpful information for you to make the best decision for our region.

Sincerely,



Larry Bragman
Mayor

MAP 1-2 ENVIRONMENTAL CORRIDORS

Legend

 County Boundary

 City Boundary

 Highways and Major Roads

Water Bodies

 Lakes

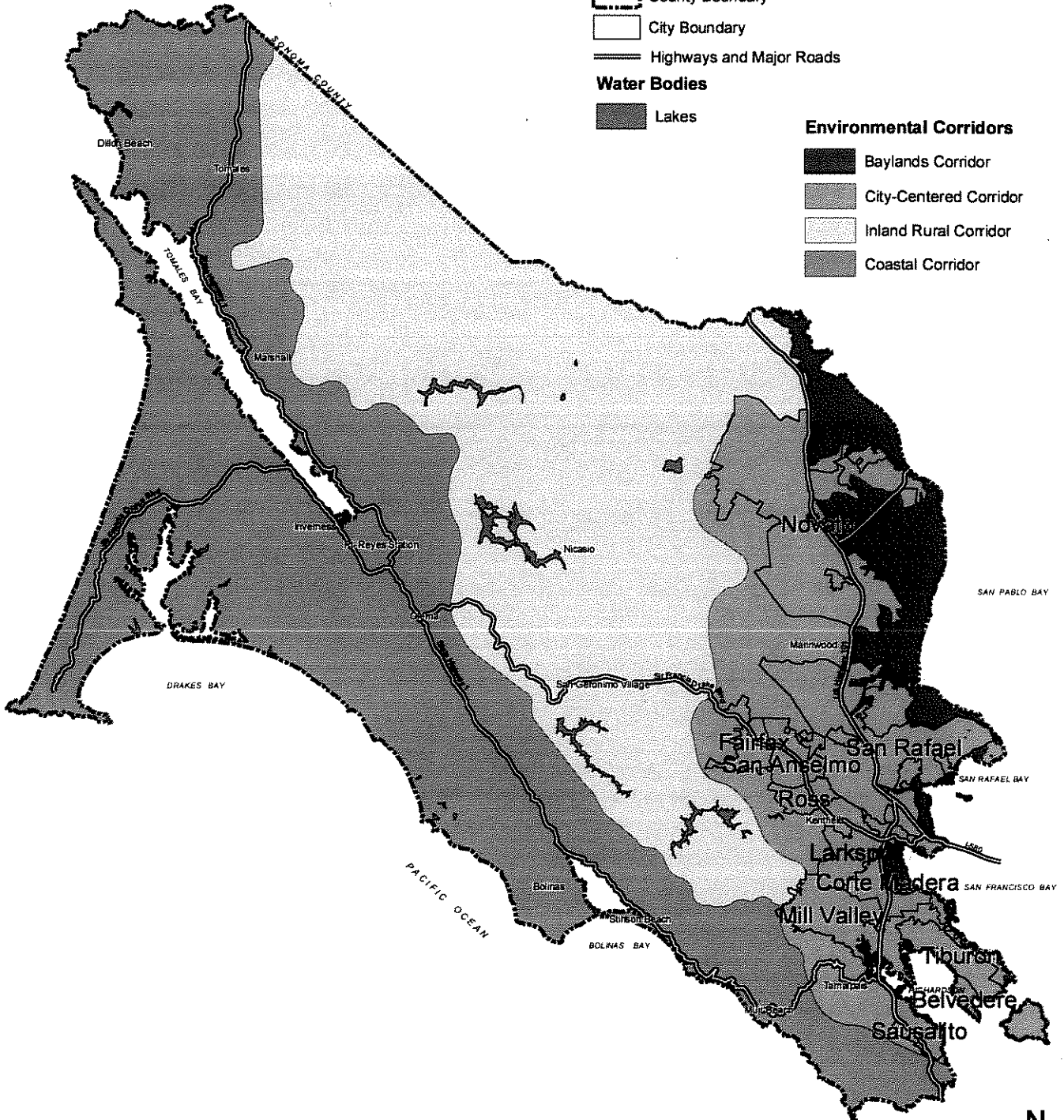
Environmental Corridors

 Baylands Corridor

 City-Centered Corridor

 Inland Rural Corridor

 Coastal Corridor



0 1 2 4 6 8 Miles

THIS MAP WAS DEVELOPED FOR GENERAL PLAN PURPOSES.
THE COUNTY OF MARIN IS NOT RESPONSIBLE OR LIABLE FOR
USE OF THIS MAP BEYOND ITS INTENDED PURPOSE.

SOURCE: County of Marin

Date: October 22, 2007

File: EnvCorr with Bayland 1-2.mxd

MAP 2-7 MAJOR WATERSHEDS

Legend

County Boundary

City Boundary

Highways and Major Roads

Streams

Perennial

Intermittent

Ephemeral

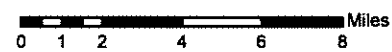
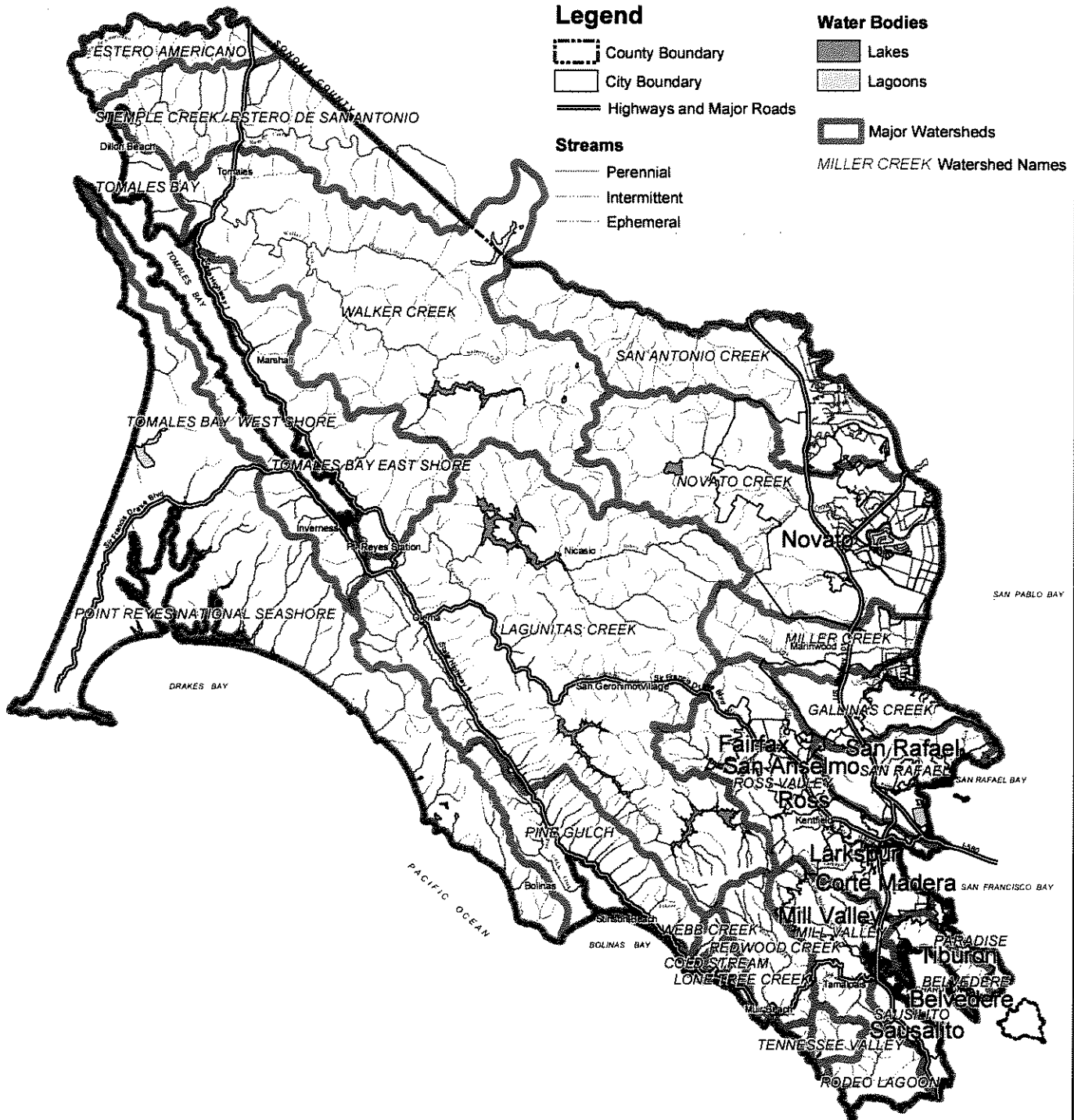
Water Bodies

Lakes

Lagoons

Major Watersheds

MILLER CREEK Watershed Names



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SOURCE: Prunuske Chatham, Inc.

Date: July 6, 2005

File: watersheds 2-7.mxd