

Subject: Marin and Sonoma should be one district**Date:** Thursday, May 19, 2011 2:21 PM**From:** Linda Graber <[REDACTED]>**To:** <[REDACTED]>**Conversation:** Marin and Sonoma should be one district

Hello,

Thank you for the opportunity to email you about redistricting. I'm unable to attend the meeting in Santa Rosa, so I hope this email will be helpful.

Marin and Sonoma should be one district.

1. Marin has less and less in common with San Francisco with every passing year. San Francisco has become more of a tourist town and Fun City for young singles and couples. San Francisco has some wealthy people, some young single / childless professionals, and lots of low income immigrants. Marin and Sonoma attract young families with children, many of whom move OUT of San Francisco when the first baby arrives, so these counties are much more middle class and family oriented than San Francisco is today.
2. Marin and Sonoma both have rapidly growing organic / sustainable agriculture and viniculture sectors (pun intended). There's more and more connections and mutual reinforcing benefits among businesses in these fields (another pun intended). Essentially, Marin and Sonoma are fusing into one economic and social unit.
3. Along with sustainable agriculture and viniculture, Marin and Sonoma have expanding businesses in high tech, tourism, gastronomy, gourmet retail foods exported all over the USA and internationally, lifestyle products related to wine country living, and business services related to the wine country. For future prosperity, it's important for Marin and Sonoma to form a unified market identity. Elected representatives need to be excited about these wonderful possibilities, and not be dominated by San Francisco's very different priorities.
4. Marin and Sonoma both have a growing workforce of highly skilled, well paid specialists in agriculture and viniculture, many of whom are of Hispanic heritage. Many are becoming business owners and sending their children to Sonoma State University, Santa Rosa Junior College, Dominican University in San Rafael, and College of Marin in Kentfield. This new upwardly mobile workforce needs elected representatives who appreciate and understand all that they are starting to contribute to Marin and Sonoma.
5. There's been some talk of separating Marin and Sonoma, and then uniting Marin with the East Bay. This is ridiculous. Marin and the East Bay have even less in common than Marin and San Francisco, since the East bay is also highly urban and not at all connected with agriculture and viniculture.
6. The view from Highway 101 in Marin is highly misleading. Since the 1970s, Marin's skillful and intelligent land use planning has clustered office and retail development close to 101. Marin appears from to highway to be much more urban than it actually is. Most of Marin is either agricultural or devoted to public open space. I've read estimates that 85% of Marin is public open space, which is the same percentage as the state of

Idaho!

7. Chaining Marin to either Marin or the East Bay would essentially deprive Marin of real representation and just be more gerrymandering, which is bad for our democracy.

Thank you for your interest,

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