

----- Original Message -----

Subject:Public Comment: Region 8

Date:Thu, 26 May 2011 01:56:17 +0000

From:Roger Peters <[REDACTED]>

To:[REDACTED]

From: Roger Peters <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Marin County Communities of Interest

Message Body:
Redistricting Commission:

I urge you to apply a common sense approach to redistricting by placing Marin and Sonoma Counties together as communities of interest. I worked in San Francisco for many years, crossing to and from "The City" back to Marin by ferry and across the Golden Gate Bridge. Driving north across that bridge as the sun set and into the rolling fog and the green hills of Marin, and into the canyons bordering Mt Tamalpais was always a transformational experience. As the city landscape gave way to the suburban settings of the small cities in Marin County I left my mind in San Francisco and regained my heart in Marin.

Similarly, residents of The City leave on the weekends to head north to get away from the urban density that is San Francisco. Whether they are going to the Sonoma wine country or the rolling hills and small farms of West Marin, or up Mt Tam, they are seeking the suburban and rural continuity that is definitely "not San Francisco."

Marin and Sonoma share transportation challenges (and the absence of BART) and struggle with an economy that is largely small business oriented and not corporate highrise framed. We struggle with similar housing challenges and share the same water resources. Please respect that as you apply the sense of aligning communities of interest.

As a final point, I note that in your web site FAQs, you note that "Districts must be contiguous so that all parts of the district are connected to each other."

I presume that this was intended to mean that the district parts are physically connected in some meaningful way. That being the case, it is hard to understand how two small signs located facing opposite ways in the middle of the Golden Gate Bridge that advise the drivers that they are either entering or exiting the City and County of San Francisco and at the same time entering or exiting, as case may be, Marin County, can be seen as satisfying that direct connectivity contemplated in the criteria. Anyone who has been on the water at the mouth of the Golden Gate as the tide shifts knows full well that the impediment created by the force of the great Pacific precludes any rational assertion that the lands of San Francisco are in any way connected to those of Marin.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Roger J. Peters

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