

Subject: Public Comment--CA Citizens Redistricting Commission--Santa Rosa--Public Hearing**Date:** Friday, May 20, 2011 1:14 PM**From:** Gregory Hunter <[REDACTED]>**To:** <[REDACTED]>**Conversation:** Public Comment--CA Citizens Redistricting Commission--Santa Rosa--Public Hearing

Honorable Commissioners:

Thank you very much for publicly soliciting needed and valuable input from your constituents. I am unable to attend tonight's major California Citizens Redistricting Commission public hearing in Santa Rosa, CA due to a prior commitment but wish to communicate my input to your hearing record.

I am a former CA elected official, i.e., I served 2 4-year terms as a City of St. Helena Councilmember, and I have lived in Napa County for over half a century now. When I sought office I ran on the platform that "(m)y special interest is serving you." I sincerely hope that in your frequent deliberations and decision-making, which are vitally important on a daily basis to all of us CA taxpayers and voters, that you ALWAYS remember that lofty but absolutely necessary guidepost that I always sought to exemplify.

Paramount is that all CRC Commissioners listen to us many independent voters who supported Proposition 11 in 2008, which initially created the California Citizens Redistricting Commission, and Proposition 20 in 2010, rather than those many incumbents in particular who opposed their passage. Most incumbents prefer gerrymandering and would have preferred another in a long line of awful gerrymandering masterpieces aka Incumbent Protection Acts (IPAs). Poll after poll clearly reveals that us California voters are totally disgusted with a majority of the Capitol Clowns in Sacramento and Washington, D.C. who can't even adopt a balanced budget and on time. We want an end ASAP to our perpetual dysfunctional governance and a change for the public good, not more of the same, only piled higher and deeper.

Therefore, please timely create competitive districts where the great marketplace of ideas can flourish unfettered and to change to the extent possible the status quo which has proven disastrous and has many levels of our governmental institutions on the verge of bankruptcy. We trust that you will create defensible districts that are truly compact, contiguous, and respect city and county lines as well as our "communities of interest."

To that end and given your overriding key mandate of "one person, one vote" and numbers-based methodologies, I suggest that an ideal situation for one CA Assembly District would be all of Napa County and northern Sonoma County and another all of Marin County and southern Sonoma County. Next, all 3 counties, plus maybe Lake County, would be in one CA Senate District. Approx. a century ago Napa and Lake County were one county but, outside of historical significance, I suggest that much less populous Lake be included to be consistent with the concept of including whole counties whenever possible. Plus, many Lake County residents commute daily to Napa and Sonoma counties to work as Lake housing is relatively quite affordable.

A few important points to consider buttressing my request to consider Marin, Sonoma, and Napa counties as a logical grouping are the following:

(1) Historically, based on communities of interest, the largely rural Marin, Sonoma, and Napa counties have frequently been part of one or more overlapping legislative districts dating back to at least the early 1960s;

(2) Are primarily rural and agriculturally-based counties, despite several large

urbanized areas, e.g., San Rafael, Novato, Petaluma, Rohnert Park, Santa Rosa, and Napa city, and are likely to remain such forever;

(3) Part of the greater Redwood Empire region stretching to Del Norte County that only financially supported the construction of the Golden Gate Bridge into San Francisco primarily to permit faster and easier private transportation for North Bay residents and its many agricultural products;

(4) San Francisco shares little in common economically with Marin, Sonoma, and Napa counties and its recent political representation is proof that the 2 areas are essentially worlds apart despite their proximity; and

(5) The North Bay citizenry, from a very early age in athletics and otherwise, join together and share common interests based on their rural lifestyles/identities and open space environments complemented by tourism.

Thank you for your most appreciated efforts to fully demonstrate your great wisdom for the benefit of all us Californians! Virtue would be the logical result IF the California Citizens Redistricting Commission opts to utilize common sense and respects North Bay history and reality. My St. Helena High School motto was "Wisdom Is Knowing What To Do Next--Virtue Is Doing It" and it applies equally well to the CA redistricting process at bar. I beseech you to reject the input of those with ulterior motives and to instead join with us who now demand common sense and impartial fairness.

Respectfully Submitted,

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