

From: Susan M. Hart [REDACTED]
Subject: Redistricting public comments

Message Body:

Attn: California Redistricting Commission:

Dear Commissioners:

My name is Susan Hart.

I live in Menlo Park, CA. I am one of 250+ supporters that testified that we want our communities kept together. Moreover, I support fair, transparent, and competitive redistricting, and the original legal definition of the use of the Voting Rights Act; not subsequent laws passed that sought to undermine or redefine what was the original wording or intent. Many laws passed have struck down racial preferences or quotas, and I feel these should not distinguish a "protected" or preferred group to have rights over other Americans. Our country became great because everyone was considered equal under the law; no one is a hyphenated-American, just an American.

I support fair and competitive districts that fully comply with Proposition 11 with district geography criteria of natural geographical boundaries such as mountain ranges, bodies of water, of equal population and that comply with the Federal Voting Rights Act. I want my district lines to maintain district contiguity, and compactness by keeping cities, communities and neighborhoods intact as much as possible.

1. I strongly oppose the Sierra Club Bay Area plan that violates the Voting Rights Act and gerrymanders the TriValley.

2. I agree with the Sierra Club plan ONLY on the one point, not to cross the Bay and Golden Gate Bridges.

3. I reject the San Joaquin County Citizens for Constitutional Redistricting plan; they carve up the TriValley to create a San Joaquin district favorable to a tiny fraction of our Bay Area population (mainly a Latino constituent, many of whom are illegal. I consider this an anti-American, racial group-rights, but anti-American individual rights and anti-assimilation, affirmative action grouping.

4. I reject the Latino Policy Forum maps; they create an absurd district that jumps over the water to connect Marin, half of San Francisco and West Oakland in violation of the Federal Voting Rights Act, which has been misinterpreted as preferring certain minority groups (Mexican, Chinese, etc., but definitely NOT Caucasian or Western European heritage groups).

5. I strongly oppose the California Institute for Jobs, Economy, and Education (CIJEE) plan and insist that districts not jump across the East Bay hills, because the communities from San Leandro to Milpitas have little in common with the Tri-Valley, and everything in common with each other. The commission got overwhelming testimony in the Oakland input hearings to this effect, both from Tri-Valley and from Oakland, San Leandro, Milpitas, Richmond, El Cerrito etc. to the effect, "Keep the Berkeley Oakland Hills as a natural geographic barrier between urban, ethnic, diverse communities west of the hills and suburban bedroom and office park communities east of the hills."

6. I strongly oppose the Institute for Jobs, Economy, and Education (CIJEE) gerrymander of Union City, an overwhelmingly Asian and Latino city along the East Bay shoreline that CIJEE links with the Tri-Valley communities such as San Ramon and Livermore. Union City is linked to its neighbors in Fremont and Newark by ethnicity, job patterns, and I-880. It has no connection whatsoever to Danville! Additionally, there was very clear testimony at the Oakland input hearing from community groups centered around the auto industry who did NOT want to be connected to Tri-Valley.

7. I strongly oppose the Institute for Jobs, Economy, and Education (CIJEE) plan forcing communities of Lamorinda and Pleasant Hill into a district with Berkeley, as was done in 1981, and is being resurrected by CIJEE. The Berkeley-Oakland area is different in every demographic respect from the suburban communities on the other side of the mountains.

8. I strongly oppose the Institute for Jobs, Economy, and Education (CIJEE) plan gerrymandering that put the mid-Peninsula area around Palo Alto with the city of Santa Cruz - a city on the other side of a mountain range, in a different county, and on the ocean.

9. I strongly oppose the Institute for Jobs, Economy, and Education (CIJEE) plan which splits the Latino community in San Jose into two Assembly districts, although it should be kept together in one district.

10. I reject the Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund (MALDEF) and LULAC plan for violations of the Voter Rights Act and abusive gerrymandering. So ridiculous that one commissioner spoke out during MALDEF's presentation on 5/26 in Northridge stating "Why so many Gerrymander Fingers?"

Thank you,
Susan M. Hart
Menlo Park, CA 94025

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This mail is sent via contact form on Citizens Redistricting Commission
