

Reg 9 - Mendocino

Norman L. de Vall
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May 9, 2011

Citizens Redistricting Commission
1130 K Street Suite 101
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Chair and Members of the Commission,

As a former member of the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors and a coastal resident since 1963, I urge your commission to recognize the scope of our "communities of interest".

We are bound together by our natural ocean and land based resources, their main economic value to us of fishing, tourism and regional agricultural products. The internationally recognized luxury wine industry includes Napa, Sonoma, Mendocino, Lake and Humboldt Counties.

We have passionate recognition of the need for environmental protection of our coast, ocean, forests, marine wildlife habitats and national monuments, our endangered species such as salmon, our birds our remaining redwood trees. Should you decide to slice our districts horizontally on the map, we will be included with other communities whose interest is resource extraction rather than resource protection.

How we relate to our neighbors in the connected adjacent counties and their communities is an important component of our present North/South district configuration which connects us through the Highway One and 101 corridors. Never has east/west travel been easy or much desired in California. From the cooperation in training exercises of our Coast Guard, Sheriff and Fire departments to our middle and high school kids school sports leagues our communities interact primarily in a north/south orientation.

It is very helpful for us in local governmental organizations (city councils, boards of supervisors and special districts) to be able to approach our elected officials who come from our similar communities with similar values and who understand our problems and concerns.

May I suggest that the telephone company designation of our area code boundaries provides your Commission with a very reasonable template for re-districting consideration.

In my First Congressional District, for example, my tendency is to travel, communicate, conduct my business, and trust those within my same area code.

We live here because there is much commonality. No matter our politics, in the winter we all walk in the same mud. Regardless of our differences we have many similarities.

I urge your Commission to acknowledge and recognize these bonds which hold us together and have done so for generations. Major changes in our district boundary lines will be unsettling and create difficulty for local government which will have to do a realignment with many traditional aspects of function.

Your Commissions quest is formidable, but please do not separate us from our natural neighbors no matter how distant. It will bring disarray into our communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Norman L. deVall".

Norman deVall

cc: Mendocino County Board of Supervisors