

Subject: North Coast redistricting hearing AFTER the wrap-up, direction and vote?

Date: Thursday, May 19, 2011 3:47 PM

From: Jennifer Poole <[REDACTED]>

To: <[REDACTED]>

Conversation: North Coast redistricting hearing AFTER the wrap-up, direction and vote?

(below also attached as a .pdf)

Dear CRC members:

I believe the California Citizens Redistricting Commission would be making a big mistake to change the current North Coast district to horizontal districts. I really hope the redistricting commission is looking at 3-D maps – because commission members really need to understand what a huge barrier the mountain ranges that would be in the middle of any horizontal east-west districts in Northern California would be to communication between the east and west end of any political district. These mountains are impassible in the winter, and barely passable in the summer. Does it makes any sense to build a political district with such a barrier in the middle of it? No, it doesn't. Local politicians running for state or national office from the east end of such a district would be / are unknown to citizens on the west end, and vice versa. That means – even more so than today – the politician with the most money to spend on advertising would win elections.

We here in Mendocino County have much more in common with our neighbors in Sonoma, Lake, Humboldt and Del Norte counties than we do with inland counties. We don't know much about the inland counties, and they don't know much about us. Our newspapers don't report about issues from those counties, and their newspapers don't report about issues from our counties. The big daily paper for the North Coast is the Santa Rosa Press Democrat – the PD covers Mendocino and Lake counties regularly and sell many newspapers, by subscription and on the street, in my own Mendocino County. Our own local papers – the Willits, Ukiah, Mendocino and Fort Bragg papers are in the same ownership group as the Eureka and Lake County papers – MediaNews Group. They print each other's stories. The Northwestern Pacific Railroad tracks go from Marin to Humboldt County, and some hope to see the trains running that whole route again, too.

Our climates, our economies, our culture, our political interests, our economic and environmental interest in seeing the coastal waters and harbors and fisheries protected – even the trees and the wild creatures -- are similar. That's why they call it "The North Coast," "The Redwood Empire" and the "Highway 101 corridor" – because we are a distinct and cohesive unit. Our district is not "liberal" due to gerrymandering, but because of the people who live here and their common interests, just like San

Francisco. It would be terrible gerrymandering to try to impose some kind of fake "balance" by redrawing districts that put people with no common interests and minimal knowledge of each other's issues or history together. It would also negatively impact many North Coast regional organizations who are interested in what the government does – from the North Coast county fair organizations who just got hit with a big cut in their budgets to the Coast Guard to the regional economic development organizations. Unfortunately, many members of these organizations don't even know the possibility that their membership and region might be divided up into different political districts.

Because, as I need to stress once more, Mendocino County's voice has not been heard at these hearings. And likely other coastal counties' voices have not been heard, either. There was no publicity sent to any of our North Coast news outlets about the District 9 hearings in April in Redding or Marysville. When I wrote an earlier comment about this I was told by the PR person Rob Wilcox that "we thought you'd rather come to Santa Rosa."

But the May 20 hearing in Santa Rosa is a hearing for what you've designated as District 8, not for what you've designated as District 9, which includes Mendocino and other coastal counties. The CRC notice says the committee will "taking testimony from local area residents" – do residents of District 9 count as "local area residents"? We know that earlier hearings have been ended before all those present who wished to speak had a chance to speak.

Also – and most importantly – checking the Agenda for the May 19 meeting (today) in Auburn, I see (see below) that the committee is expected to hear a "wrap-up" by the consultant, "provide direction" to the consultant for line-drawing and possibly even "vote on preliminary maps." **This wrap-up, direction and vote will take place before the hearing that Mendocino County and other North Coast residents were invited to even takes place.**

Agenda, May 19

1. Regions 1,2, and 3 Wrap-up by Q2 Data and Research
2. Commission provides direction to Q2 for line-drawing
3. Possible Commission vote on preliminary maps

Obviously, it's only common sense that after action on those three agenda items, any testimony by Mendocino County or other coastal county residents that is heard at the Santa Rosa hearing on May 20 will be late to the discussion. It's only common sense that it's better to get your voice heard before any decisions, even "first draft" decisions, are made, then to try to argue after the fact.

Thanks for reading.

Jennifer Poole

[REDACTED]
Willits, CA 95490

Dear CRC members:

I believe the California Citizens Redistricting Commission would be making a big mistake to change the current North Coast district to horizontal districts. I really hope the redistricting commission is looking at 3-D maps – because commission members really need to understand what a huge barrier the mountain ranges that would be in the middle of any horizontal east-west districts in Northern California would be to communication between the east and west end of any political district. These mountains are impassible in the winter, and barely passable in the summer. Does it makes any sense to build a political district with such a barrier in the middle of it? No, it doesn't. Local politicians running for state or national office from the east end of such a district would be / are unknown to citizens on the west end, and vice versa. That means – even more so than today – the politician with the most money to spend on advertising would win elections.

We here in Mendocino County have much more in common with our neighbors in Sonoma, Lake, Humboldt and Del Norte counties than we do with inland counties. We don't know much about the inland counties, and they don't know much about us. Our newspapers don't report about issues from those counties, and their newspapers don't report about issues from our counties. The big daily paper for the North Coast is the Santa Rosa Press Democrat – the PD covers Mendocino and Lake counties regularly and sell many newspapers, by subscription and on the street, in my own Mendocino County. Our own local papers – the Willits, Ukiah, Mendocino and Fort Bragg papers are in the same ownership group as the Eureka and Lake County papers – MediaNews Group. They print each other's stories. The Northwestern Pacific Railroad tracks go from Marin to Humboldt County, and some hope to see the trains running that whole route again, too.

Our climates, our economies, our culture, our political interests, our economic and environmental interest in seeing the coastal waters and harbors and fisheries protected – even the trees and the wild creatures -- are similar. That's why they call it "The North Coast," "The Redwood Empire" and the "Highway 101 corridor" – because we are a distinct and cohesive unit. Our district is not "liberal" due to gerrymandering, but because of the people who live here and their common interests, just like San Francisco. It would be terrible gerrymandering to try to impose some kind of fake "balance" by redrawing districts that put people with no common interests and minimal knowledge of each other's issues or history together. It would also negatively impact many North Coast regional organizations who are interested in what the government does – from the North Coast county fair organizations who just got hit with a big cut in their budgets to the Coast Guard to the regional economic development organizations. Unfortunately, many members of these organizations don't even know the possibility that their membership and region might be divided up into different political districts.

Because, as I need to stress once more, Mendocino County's voice has not been heard at these hearings. And likely other coastal counties' voices have not been heard, either. There was no publicity sent to any of our North Coast news outlets about the District 9 hearings in April in

Redding or Marysville. When I wrote an earlier comment about this I was told by the PR person Rob Wilcox that “we thought you’d rather come to Santa Rosa.”

But the May 20 hearing in Santa Rosa is a hearing for what you’ve designated as District 8, not for what you’ve designated as District 9, which includes Mendocino and other coastal counties. The CRC notice says the committee will “taking testimony from local area residents” – do residents of District 9 count as “local area residents”? We know that earlier hearings have been ended before all those present who wished to speak had a chance to speak.

Also – and most importantly – checking the Agenda for the May 19 meeting (today) in Auburn, I see (see below) that the committee is expected to hear a “wrap-up” by the consultant, “provide direction” to the consultant for line-drawing and possibly even “vote on preliminary maps.”

This wrap-up, direction and vote will take place before the hearing that Mendocino County and other North Coast residents were invited to even takes place.

Agenda, May 19

1. Regions 1,2, and 3 Wrap-up by Q2 Data and Research
2. Commission provides direction to Q2 for line-drawing
3. Possible Commission vote on preliminary maps

Obviously, it’s only common sense that after action on those three agenda items, any testimony by Mendocino County or other coastal county residents that is heard at the Santa Rosa hearing on May 20 will be late to the discussion. It’s only common sense that it’s better to get your voice heard before any decisions, even “first draft” decisions, are made, then to try to argue after the fact.

Thanks for reading.

Jennifer Poole

██████████
Willits, CA 95490

██████████
████████████████████