

Subject: Public Testimony Redistricting**Date:** Friday, May 20, 2011 9:42 AM**From:** Kelley House <[REDACTED]>**To:** <[REDACTED]>**Conversation:** Public Testimony Redistricting

To Whom It May Concern:

The Board of the Kelley House Museum, Inc. is recommending that the commission leave our coastal districts as they were drawn for the past several decades. Because our north coast communities share similar problems and goals we are better represented as a unit. A single representative helps foster communication within and administers programs that reach more effectively. It is critical to keep the north/south orientation of our districts. This orientation is dictated by our topography, our transportation networks and the need to protect interests that bind coastal communities to one another. It is critical to preserve environmental protection coalitions, fire protection districts, law enforcement, transportation routes, even the interaction of our schools whose teams play together in a league.

Furthermore, a north/south orientation favors resource protection over resource extraction. Historically speaking the north coast developed separately; isolated geographically and the small communities grew up primarily around cutting timber and later fishing interests. Originally the link to the larger world was through shipping and locally by north/south roads of limited size and quality. Our population size and occupations have not grown or diversified as much as other areas. We still have an economy based on our natural resources, but now showing them off in all their glory to visitors. We accommodate and entertain visitors while living here ourselves still bringing them in on our slower scenic roadways.

Some communities of common interests include but are not limited to:

- Ø Tourism - California's northern coastline attracts tourists because of its relatively undeveloped and natural environment, its bed & breakfast inns, etc.
- Ø Recreation - State Parks & Beaches, sport fishing, boating, kayaking, canoeing
- Ø Environmental Protection & Coastal Planning, such as California Coastal Commission; redwood harvesting, Marine Life Protection Areas (MLPA), such as whale migration; coastal natural monuments, and watersheds

In the modern era, California has kept the coast of northern California intact. The Commission is "non-partisan", and cannot consider political impacts and yet there is historical precedence for keeping the coastline connected electorally through both Republican and Democratic administrations: 1972, 1981, 1991, 2001.

The mission of the Kelley House is ***to collect, preserve, protect and share the rich history of the Mendocino Coast.*** For the above stated reasons, we recommend that the commission leave our coastal districts intact.

Respectfully submitted,

Board of Directors
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