

**Subject:** Public Comment CRC Northern California

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Date:** Mon, 23 May 2011 16:16:33 +0000 (UTC)

**To:** [REDACTED]

Dear Commissioners,

As a resident of Mendocino County in Northern California, I urge you to consider a coastal community of interest that is glued together by our connection to land and water--and wildlife.

The attached handout is a bit of a different map. The source is California Audubon and it's a map of California's Important Bird Areas--literally a road map for birds that indicates areas where large or significant numbers of birds forage, rest, reproduce and raise their young. In a poetic way, this bird map defines our North Coast community of people. The green portions are Important Bird Areas--some 145 areas in the state described by Audubon and American Bird Conservancy scientists as so important to animals and plants that heroic efforts should be made to conserve that land.

In the northwest corner of the state, you'll see a string of green spots that stretches along the coast north to south. That area corresponds fairly closely to Del Norte, Humboldt, Mendocino and Trinity counties. And further south there are pockets in Lake, Napa and Sonoma Counties. Birds don't respect county lines, so they aren't drawn on this map. These counties are where we would like you to look for our Congressional, State Senate and Assembly districts because we feel we are tied together with people in these counties by our commitment to unique ecological and economic environments.

We love our ocean, our wildlife, our water and our land. In Mendocino County alone, more than 45 per cent of our 2.2 million total acres is in some form of conservation ownership or management. And we share concerns of sustainable forestry, fishing and recreation with people in neighboring counties. Recently, a representative of our Audubon chapter participated in the Marine Life Protection Act Stakeholders group. The project was unique to the coast of California and included participants who have knowledge of coastal issues from all political sides.

If an elected official serves the people in this area of the state, that official must know about our land, water and wildlife. And that human community more or less reflects migratory bird behavior. People I know travel just like birds--mostly north to south (in our case, we travel primarily along the Highway 101 corridor). In northernmost California, it wouldn't make sense to draw district lines west to east because there are big mountains between the North Coast and the east part of the state--and those mountains divide our worlds.

The birds know that and so should we.

What's so important about birds and what difference does all this make to us? A year ago, the U.S. Interior Secretary came out with a state of the birds report that indicates large bird populations are being wiped off the face of the earth. Shorebirds and seabirds, especially, are in deeply serious decline and they are some of the first indicators of environmental stress on our planet. If the birds are in trouble, so are we.

We on the Mendocino Coast are deeply involved in citizen science and university level research about our coastal birds. We conduct research with the Bureau of Land Management, the

California Coastal Monument and an on-going long-term shorebird research project with California State Parks. And that work puts us in contact with researchers up and down the Northern California coast and Sonoma State University.

Birds teach us something every day about how to take care of our world. The lessons we learn from them apply to sustainability in our agriculture, commercial and recreational fishing, hunting, timber production in the coastal redwood zone and the land conservation movement in this Northern Coastal community of interest.

Logic tells us that it is wise to respect county boundaries as much as possible when the lines are drawn up north. Del Norte, Trinity, Lake and Napa County clearly can be grouped together with Humboldt, Mendocino as as much of Sonoma county as possible. We'd like to see that reflected in our State Senate District and as much as possible in our Assembly and Congressional District. Currently, there are fingers of the State Senate District and Congressional District that meander into Solano and/or Yolo Counties and that's too far from our communities of interest. It takes our representatives too far away from home. And we'd like you to adjust those district boundaries so they make more sense.

Thank you for an opportunity to expand on these thoughts I shared with you as speaker #16 at your May 20 hearing at Santa Rosa City Hall.

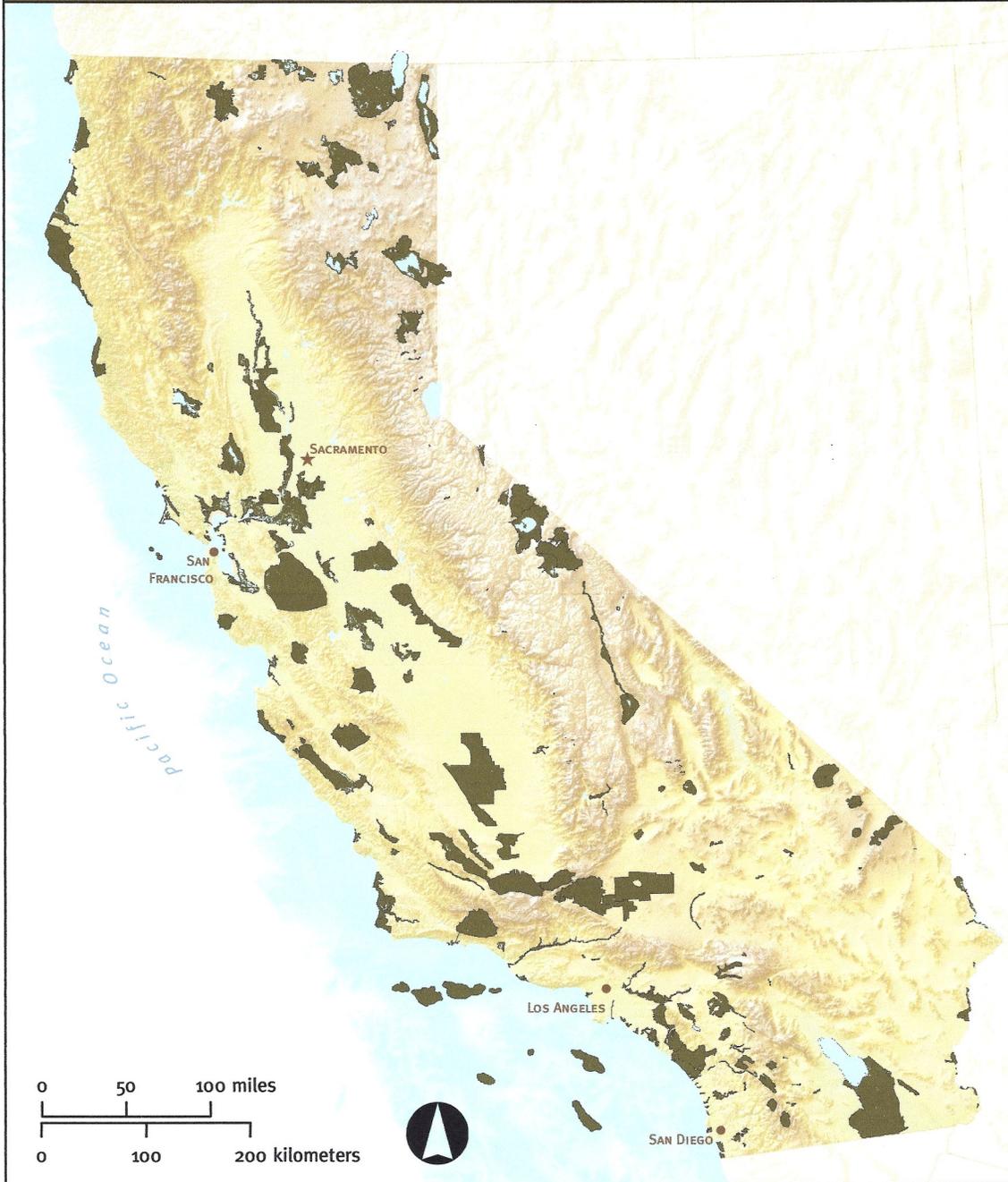
Respectfully yours,

Becky Bowen  
Caspar, CA

from downtown Caspar

**CA IBA.pdf**

# California's Important Bird Areas



**Subject:** Redistricting

**From:** "Andrea Silverstein" <[REDACTED]>

**Date:** Mon, 23 May 2011 08:37:50 -0700

**To:** <[REDACTED]>

As residents and business owners of Mendocino County I am voicing my opinion on the redrawing of Congressional and state legislator districts.

There is historical precedence for keeping these communities that brand themselves as the North Coast, Redwood Coast and the Wine Country together.

The seven counties that make up our congressional district are bound by areas of mutual interest and yet encompass a wide variety and swath of the political spectrum. We have a vibrant, diverse district that already meets the goals of the Commission.

In our current district we share bird, wildlife and marine protected areas.

We share the California Coastal National Monuments. We share watersheds, redwood trees and wineries. Agriculture more suited to the temperate coastal areas is another distinguishing factor.

Our coastal counties of Mendocino, Humboldt and Del Norte have long histories of working together on issues of common interest.

Our pasture based agriculture and wine industries have inherent mutual interests which make me urge you to continue to keep Mendocino's neighboring counties of Lake, Napa and Yolo in the same Congressional District.

We exist together on the North-South Highway 101 Corridor and Highway 1 along the coast.

Our communities of interest, regional partnerships and coalitions encompass these north-south transportation routes in the areas of tourism, recreation, fishing, and agriculture.

I am against redistricting to change northern California to an east-west orientation. For many constituents, the travel to the I-5 corridor is prohibitive in winter months and difficult in the best of weather.

Respectfully,

Dennis Patton & Andrea Silverstein

**Subject:** Redistricting

**From:** Spencer Brewer <[REDACTED]>

**Date:** Mon, 23 May 2011 06:55:47 -0700

**To:** <[REDACTED]>

As a resident (business owner or other identifying and relevant information) of Mendocino County I am voicing my opinion on the redrawing of Congressional and state legislator districts.

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I am against redistricting to change northern California to an east-west orientation. For many constituents, the travel to the I-5 corridor is prohibitive in winter months and difficult in the best of weather.

Respectfully,

Spencer Brewer  
Ringmaster- Direct to Consumer Business  
Mendocino Wine Co.  
Parducci Wine Cellars, Paul Dolan Vineyards, Wines That Rock

Tel-(707) [REDACTED]  
Cel-(707) [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
Ukiah, CA 95482



**Subject:** Redistricting of our Congressional District and State Legislator Districts

**From:** "Gregg Smith" <[REDACTED]>

**Date:** Mon, 23 May 2011 11:47:10 -0700

**To:** <[REDACTED]>

Dear Citizens Redistricting Commission:

As a resident and the retired Office of Emergency Services Coordinator (OES), Assistant Chief of Mendocino County Fire Warden and retired Fire Chief of the Hopland Fire Protection District I am voicing my opinion on the redrawing of Congressional and State Legislator Districts.

My particular focus is on Emergency Management as it relates to natural and man-made disasters throughout the North and Redwood Coastal Regions. Over my long public service career I served as a key Emergency Management Planner that developed Emergency Operational Plans for Mendocino, Humboldt, Del Norte and Lake Counties, including the 16 Incorporated cities throughout the region. Thought-out the late 1980's and 1990's I served as a key planner in developing emergency plans addressing response and preparedness to Off Shore Oil Spills related to shipping accidents from vessels traveling off our coastline from Alaska to Bay Area Refineries. Additionally during my active service I deployed to Wildland Urban Interface Fires, Floods, Tsunami, Earthquakes and Hazardous Materials spills throughout the region. With that I was task to coordinate response and recovery operations. As a major point, it has been a benefit for all the counties, cities, special districts, native American reservation governments and its citizens welfare to have the ability to work with our current Congressional District and State Legislator Districts following a Local Emergency Proclamation, Governors State of Emergency and Presidential Federal Declaration as key points in moving response and recovery efforts forward. The current Congressional and State Legislator Districts represent common interest in combating major contiguous disasters.

Our coastal counties and cities of Mendocino, Humboldt and Del Norte and neighboring counties of Lake, Napa and Yolo share common interest and address same issues related to emergency management programs. It is very common to rely on each other for Mutual Aid resources during major incident and disaster deployments, Our communities of interest, regional partnerships, including federal and state agencies encompass the north-south transportation on the Highway 101 and Highway 1 in all emergency planning that has been accomplished throughout my career with focus on the current congressional and state legislative districts.

I am against redistricting to change northern California to an east-west orientation. For many constituents, the travel to I-5 corridor is prohibitive in winter months. There has been millions of dollars spent in local, state and federal monies developing emergency operational plans that are commonly shared throughout the region.

Respectfully,

Gregg Smith

[REDACTED]  
Ukiah, CA 95482

Telephone: [REDACTED]

Cell: [REDACTED]

email: [REDACTED]

**Subject:** Redistricting California

**From:** "Lin Morgan Barrett" <[REDACTED]>

**Date:** Mon, 23 May 2011 11:15:32 -0700

**To:** [REDACTED]

Citizens Redistricting  
Commission  
1130 K Street, Suite 101  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
Greetings,

It is absolutley insane to consider re-distrcting Northern California with an east-west orientation. Eevery time I leave my home in Mendocino to visit friends and relatives in Sacramento, Eldorado and Fresno counties...and every time i take my track or absketabl1 teams to competiton in the north-eastern part of this state I marvel at the governmental incoeptence that fasil to provide decent safe east west road systems in Califonria most specifically northern California. The only decent Highway is 80 and it origiantes far south of us. Why am i stressing this point--because these inadequate unsafe road systems interfere and preclude developig the kind of realtionships thata re required for a group of people to work together to achieve political purposes.

Those of us who live in Mendocino county share realtionships with residents in neighboring counties on the North-South Highway 101 Corridor and Highway 1 along the coast. For many constituents, the travel to the I-5 corridor is prohibitive in winter months and onerous in the best of weather.

The geography of the state is one determinant of the poor road east-west road systems and is also a reason that affinity groups have grown up in the seven counties that presently considstitue our congressional district. The geography gives rise to the following factors that allow us to work together to acheive a better life for our communities.

As a resident coach and small business owner of Mendocino County I am oposed to redrawing of congressional and state legislator districts.

There is historical, cultural and ease of travel precedence for keeping these communities of the North Coast, Redwood Coast and the Wine Country together.

The seven counties that make up our congressional district are bound by areas of mutual interest and yet encompass a wide variety and swath of the political spectrum. We have a vibrant, diverse district that already meets the goals of the Commission.

In our current district we share bird, wildlife and marine protected areas.

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Our coastal counties of Mendocino, Humboldt and Del Norte have long histories of wo

**Subject:** Redistricting

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Date:** Mon, 23 May 2011 05:46:11 +0000 (UTC)

**To:** [REDACTED]

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I am against redistricting to change northern California to an east-west orientation. For many constituents, the travel to the I-5 corridor is prohibitive in winter months and difficult in the best of weather.

Respectfully,

Richard Green

**Subject:** Public Comment: Northwestern/Coastal California

**From:** "M.K. Grady" <[REDACTED]>

**Date:** Mon, 23 May 2011 20:26:34 +0000

**To:** [REDACTED]

From: M.K. Grady <[REDACTED]>  
Subject: Northwestern/Coastal California

Message Body:

My comments are based on my occupation as a post-secondary school educator in a California Community College district and on my long term residency in a northern California seacoast town. I have experienced firsthand the economic, social, and civic common interests that are inherent in the north coast counties of Del Norte, Humboldt, Mendocino, and Sonoma. Geophysical features, such as the maritime western boundary and the coastal range of mountains, and human-engendered patterns, such as the generally widespread rural settlement of the area and its transportation corridors, firmly define this as one community. I strongly believe this community represents an integrated and interdependent area that is best unified in a single legislative district.

The college student population of this area tends to move to and study at institutions to the north and south. From my home town in Mendocino County, students matriculate at Santa Rosa area schools such as Sonoma State University and secondarily to Humboldt State University. This reflects the continuing importance of a natural resource economy in the region for traditional reasons, such as timber and fisheries, and newer enterprises in tourism and recreation, since these schools possess or are developing strong career programs in these areas.

The agricultural base seems to be centered at the southern end of the district and to extend eastward only there, to the Napa and Sonoma valleys. The viticulture and wine-producing districts are justly world-famous and are perhaps also a natural part of the Mendocino and northwestern Sonoma agricultural bloc.

In general, this comparatively sparsely-settled region of California could best contribute to the commonwealth of the state by being unified and integrated to mirror its existing characteristics. Public officials should be able to clearly act to promote its rational development. For example, many parts of the area do not have reliable access to contemporary internet service, a key infrastructure for the 21st century. I would think a single legislative district would be better able to effectively bring such services to the population.

The people of this area would be fairly and reasonably represented by districting that acknowledges the maritime border, population centers and transportation routes, common economic and agricultural factors, and the social/educational needs of Del Norte, Humboldt, Mendocino, Sonoma and Napa counties. My thanks to the Commission for their consideration and their work.

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This mail is sent via contact form on Citizens Redistricting Commission