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Subject:Redistricting for Stockton

Date:Mon, 23 May 2011 16:28:43 -0700 (PDT)

From:eric parfrey <[REDACTED]>

To:[REDACTED]

Greetings Commissioners:

I have been a resident of Stockton for the last 20 years and I have been very involved politically in the City and in San Joaquin County.

Please ensure that your redistricting maps keep the major population centers of San Joaquin County in only one Assembly, Senate and Congressional district. As I understand it, Stockton, Manteca, Lathrop, and Tracy would form a good Assembly district with about the right number of voters.

Our city and county has suffered in the past at the hands of State elected officials, and it is time to rectify the gross injustice perpetrated on Stockton and the county the last time districts were drawn. Just take a look at the existing Assembly, Senate and Congressional district boundaries. They are a joke!

During the last redistricting of the city and county almost ten years ago, the entrenched powers (both parties in the Legislature) shamelessly carved the city "up like a Halloween pumpkin" so it was "divvied up among several legislative and congressional districts," as Sacramento Bee columnist Dan Walters wrote so succinctly in a 2002 column (partially re-printed below). Mr. Walters' column is overly cynical and out-of-date, but some of his points about how Stockton has been treated by the Legislature are on point.

Please be assured that the shady corrupt officials that roamed the halls of Stockton City hall have long since been voted out of office. A new progressive City Council has been firmly in control over the last three years. That's the good news--the bad news is obviously that the city and county are broke and in the depths of the worst real estate slump in our history.

We need to encourage strong political leadership at the local level, leadership that can move up the political ladder. The voters of Stockton and San Joaquin County deserve the right to elect leaders who live and work in our immediate community, not in Davis or Livingston or Atwater. We were

screwed the last time around when we were redistricted into political impotence. We deserve and demand to be treated as fairly as any other area in the state this time.

Thank you for your consideration,

Eric Parfrey

Stockton 95203

The Sacramento Bee 2002-10-16

Dan Walters

Stockton carved up to emasculate corruption-ridden city's clique

When legislative leaders redrew the political map of California last year, reconfiguring 173 legislative and congressional districts, **Stockton** was carved up like a Halloween pumpkin.

The city - an agricultural, manufacturing and shipping center - was divvied up among several legislative and congressional districts. Its Democratic voters were attached to Democratic districts and its Republicans to GOP districts with the practical effect of making it virtually impossible for any **Stockton** politician to move up the ladder during the next decade.

Why? Privately, those who drew the maps acknowledge that while it was politically convenient to split up the city, the redistricting plan also was aimed at thwarting a shadowy clique that largely controls local politics.

Stockton has a reputation among state and federal law enforcement officials, as well as political insiders, for corruption. A small, tightly knit cadre of insiders controls a stable of local politicians, dabbles in state and federal politics, and uses its influence to enhance its complicated financial schemes involving land development, lucrative public contracts and banking transactions, some of them with international overtones.

From time to time, criminal and/or journalistic investigations have shed light on specific cases, and those who know the city can see their connection to the overall pattern of local politics. It may not be "The Sopranos," but it's the closest any large California city comes to emulating Jersey City, and most Stocktonians are unaware because of a see-no-evil attitude among local media and civic leaders. They fear that a public image of corruption would detract from **Stockton's** efforts to upgrade its decrepit downtown district and develop its waterfront... [snip]

Stockton has had a surge of population growth over the last two decades, much of it coming from spillover pressure from the Bay Area. Sweeping housing tracts in and around **Stockton**, new shopping centers and other physical changes attest to its growth.

But fundamentally, **Stockton** remains unchanged with the growth merely providing opportunities for more political and financial scheming....

To those who have followed **Stockton** politics over the years, it all has a very familiar ring. It's why Capitol leaders in Sacramento don't want to contend with the local power brokers, and why it's time for upright Stocktonians, including editors of the local newspaper, to take their heads out of the sand

and clean up their city.
