

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and we look forward to continuing our work together as California's redistricting process moves forward.

Sincerely,

Rosalind Gold
Senior Director of Policy, Research and Advocacy

NALEO Educational Fund

[REDACTED]

Los Angeles, CA 90015

[REDACTED] Ext. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Fax

[REDACTED]

The NALEO Educational Fund is the leading nonprofit organization that facilitates full Latino participation in the American political process, from citizenship to public service.

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[REDACTED]

Ltr to CRC re Whittier hearing fin 06-11.pdf



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June 20, 2011

Via Electronic Mail
Citizens Redistricting Commission
1130 K Street, Suite 101
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Public testimony about California's redistricting process

Dear Members of the Citizens Redistricting Commission:

On behalf of the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) Educational Fund, I am writing to express our concerns about the Commission's June 17 public input hearing and its choice of a venue that had an inflexible closing time of 9:00 pm. This inflexible closing time prevented many Los Angeles County community members who were eager to participate in the hearing process from presenting in-person testimony.

Although the Commission generally informs the public that not all persons who obtain a number in a timely manner will have an opportunity to speak, it also appears to be making inconsistent choices with respect to the closing times of venues for its public input hearings. For example, on June 16, the Commission's hearing was held in a venue in Culver City that allowed the Commission to take testimony until 11:00 pm. Thus, members of the public who chose to attend the Whittier hearing, whether because of its proximity, or the day it was scheduled, had less of an opportunity to testify in-person than those who attended the Culver City hearing.

Most of the Los Angeles Latino community members we have been working with chose to attend the Whittier hearing for two reasons. First, the Whittier site was closer to their homes or place of work. Los Angeles' Latino population is largely concentrated east and southeast of the city of Los Angeles, in the San Gabriel Valley, and in areas adjacent to the 605 Freeway. The Whittier public input was clearly more accessible to these communities. In addition, because of work responsibilities, many Latino community members informed us that they preferred testifying on a Friday night, so that they could stay late on an evening that did not precede a work day.

Latino community members made many efforts to attend the Whittier hearing to represent their communities. Some left work early, others pooled resources to rent a 12-passenger van and attend in a group. Others brought their children with them because they did not have child care. Despite these efforts, these community members were not able to obtain a speaking number low enough that would allow them to testify that day.

The level of attendance at the public input hearings so far is certainly a tribute to the outreach the Commission has conducted, and the effectiveness of its efforts in educating the public about the importance of redistricting to all Californians. However, when community members take the Commission's message to heart, and

Los Angeles, CA 90015 Washington, DC 20003 Houston, TX 77002 New York, NY 10005 Orlando, FL 32819
Tel: (213) [redacted] Tel: (202) [redacted] Tel: (713) [redacted] Tel: (212) [redacted] Tel: (321) [redacted]
Fax: (213) [redacted] Fax: (202) [redacted] Fax: [redacted] Fax: (212) [redacted]

are then denied the opportunity to speak in-person, it erodes the public's confidence in the fairness of the hearing process, particularly when both Los Angeles hearing venues did not have the same closing time. This created the perception that there was a "different set of rules" for different communities in the Los Angeles area.

We understand that members of the public can provide written testimony, and we commend the Commission for emphasizing that written testimony will be given the same weight as in-person testimony. However, in-person testimony has a different impact than written testimony. It provides Commissioners the opportunity to see the impact of the proposed lines on community members in a very real and vivid manner. It permits community members who do not yet have high literacy skills to provide more effective input to Commission. It also enables the Commissioners to ask questions, and obtain clarification about the testimony presented.

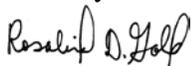
In light of the challenges presented by the inconsistent closing times of the Commission's two Los Angeles area hearings, we provide the following recommendations:

- Strongly consider having one additional hearing in the Los Angeles area: We understand that the Commission faces budget and logistical constraints, but we believe that scheduling at least one additional hearing in the Los Angeles area would provide community members with a more fair opportunity to provide in-person testimony. Ideally, this hearing could be scheduled very soon after the June 28 hearing in Sacramento, to ensure the testimony could be considered early in the Commission's second draft map drawing process.
- Assess the feasibility of ensuring that all remaining venues for public hearings can accommodate extended closing times: The Commission should actively work with any venues that cannot accommodate extending closing times to see if arrangements can be made to permit the venues to close later (such as the deployment of facilities or security staff for longer hours).
- Publicize closing times of remaining venues: The Commission should inform the public of the closing times of the remaining venues at least one day in advance. This will allow members of the public to make informed choices about the feasibility of attending hearings in-person, and maintain public confidence in the transparency of the Commission's public input process.

In this connection, we note that the Commission cited a desire to incorporate greater public input as the rationale for its recent decision to move the release of its second draft maps to July 12. Scheduling an additional Los Angeles public input hearing is consistent with this decision for several reasons. First, now that the Commission has some additional days beyond its original schedule to release its second draft maps, it is more feasible for it to obtain public comment for some short period of time after the June 28 hearing. Moreover, the Commission also decided not to hold additional public input hearings after this round. Thus, this round of hearings is the last chance for members of the public to provide in-person testimony, and it is critical that there be an additional opportunity for in-person public input in the Los Angeles area.

We believe the Commission shares our vision of an accessible and inclusive public participation process that provides all Californians with an opportunity to provide meaningful input to the Commission. We look forward to continuing our work together to achieve this important goal. Thank you for your consideration of our views.

Sincerely,



Rosalind Gold

Senior Director, Policy Research and Advocacy

Subject: Region 9 and Northern Region 8 Districts

From: "Casey Scott" <[REDACTED]>

Date: Mon, 20 Jun 2011 19:52:21 -0700

To: <[REDACTED]>

Dear Commissioners:

Thank you for your hard work to date. It is apparent from the first draft of the maps that you are doing your best to listen to the input from your fellow citizens in trying to develop coherent district boundaries. The respect for the shared interests of Northern California coastal, valley, and mountain communities can be readily seen. However, more work needs to be done to avoid splitting the less populated counties in the northern part of the State, like Glenn and Siskiyou counties.

Having resided 52 of my 54 years in the portion of California north of a line from the San Francisco Bay to Sacramento and on to Lake Tahoe, I have been following the comments on your website from my fellow citizens regarding the area that you have designated Region 9. I think I have a better plan for redistricting this area than the boundaries shown in the first draft of the maps, and I think a large majority of Northern California citizens would support my proposal. The following is a discussion of four Congressional districts in Northern California that would keep communities of interest whole as they have been expressed by the citizens of this area. It is supported by attached maps and population calculations. A crude map of Senate and Assembly districts is also attached without discussion or calculations. I think most readers will be able to extend the reasoning and math behind my Congressional districts proposal to the state representative districts. So here they are:

NORTH BAY

This would include all of Marin County and 93% of the population of Sonoma County. I spent the first twenty years of my life in Sonoma County. This Marin/Sonoma combination may not have seemed like common sense before 1980, but based on the numerous comments I have seen on your website and discussions with my family and friends that still live there, it certainly seems to make sense today. The remaining 7% Sonoma population (33,382 persons) would be combined with the following North Coast Range district. This population could be derived from either the Cloverdale to Healdsburg corridor of State Route 101 in the north or from the Sonoma Valley region in the east, whichever community would be least harmed by combining with another congressional district.

NORTH COAST RANGE

This congressional district would combine the remainder of Sonoma County's population with the entirety of Del Norte, Humboldt, Trinity, Mendocino, Lake, and Napa counties with southwestern Solano County (Benicia/Vallejo area). This district would keep the North Coast fine wine region and commercial ocean fishing regions mostly together, a goal widely expressed by citizens commenting on your website.

INTERSTATE 5/505 CORRIDOR

This congressional district begins with the remaining population of northeastern Solano County and runs up the 505 freeway through Yolo County, hits Interstate 5 in Colusa County, and proceeds up I-5 to include

Glenn, Tehama, and Shasta counties. I have seen numerous citizen comments suggesting the I-5 corridor be retained as a community of interest and requests to stop dividing Yolo County and keep it whole within all representative districts. My proposed congressional district accomplishes both those reasonable goals.

This district contains the one glaring flaw in all the four congressional districts I have proposed. It would be necessary to split Suisun and approximately 10,000 people from the remainder of Fairfield into two separate districts. However, I think this would certainly be a much more reasonable and preferable idea than splitting a low population county like Glenn in two. This district would also be 1,999 persons (-0.28%) shy of the target population for a Congressional district, but Sacramento County would be a good place to draw that population from.

NORTHEASTERN

The district would include the entire portion of Siskiyou, Modoc, Lassen, Plumas, Sierra, Nevada, Butte, Yuba, and Sutter counties along with 30% of the populace of Placer County. Although I could see a benefit to the citizens of Siskiyou County of sharing a representative with the coastal communities that might actually reconcile their water issues, the citizens from each community clearly don't see such a move as a good thing. I believe the district I propose will satisfy the CRC's criteria of keeping communities together where possible and should garner wide support among the citizens of the northeastern part of California.

At one time or another, I have lived and voted in each of the four Congressional districts that I have proposed. I currently own property in two of them (Redding and Scott Valley). My proposal divides only the three largest counties in Northern California while keeping the remaining smaller counties whole in each district. Sonoma, Solano, and Placer are the only counties in Northern California that contain more population than one-half of a congressional district. These are the counties that should be divided to make the entire jigsaw puzzle fit together. I think my proposal is sound and I hope that the Commission will seriously consider its merits.

If any members of the Commission would like further information, please contact me at [REDACTED]

Sincerely,

Casey R. Scott, RCE

[Congressional Map.pdf](#)

[Assembly and Senate Districts.pdf.pdf](#)

[Assembly and Senate Districts.pdf.pdf](#)

1ST SENATE



1ST ASSEMBLY - DEL NORTE, HUMBOLDT, MENDOCINO, NE SONOMA

2ND ASSEMBLY - MARIN, SW SONOMA

OREGON

2ND SENATE

NE PLACER



3RD ASSEMBLY - SISKIYOU, MODOC, TRINITY, SHASTA, LASSEN, PLUMAS, SIERRA, NEVADA



4TH ASSEMBLY - EL DORADO, SW PLACER

CALIFORNIA'S 58 COUNTIES

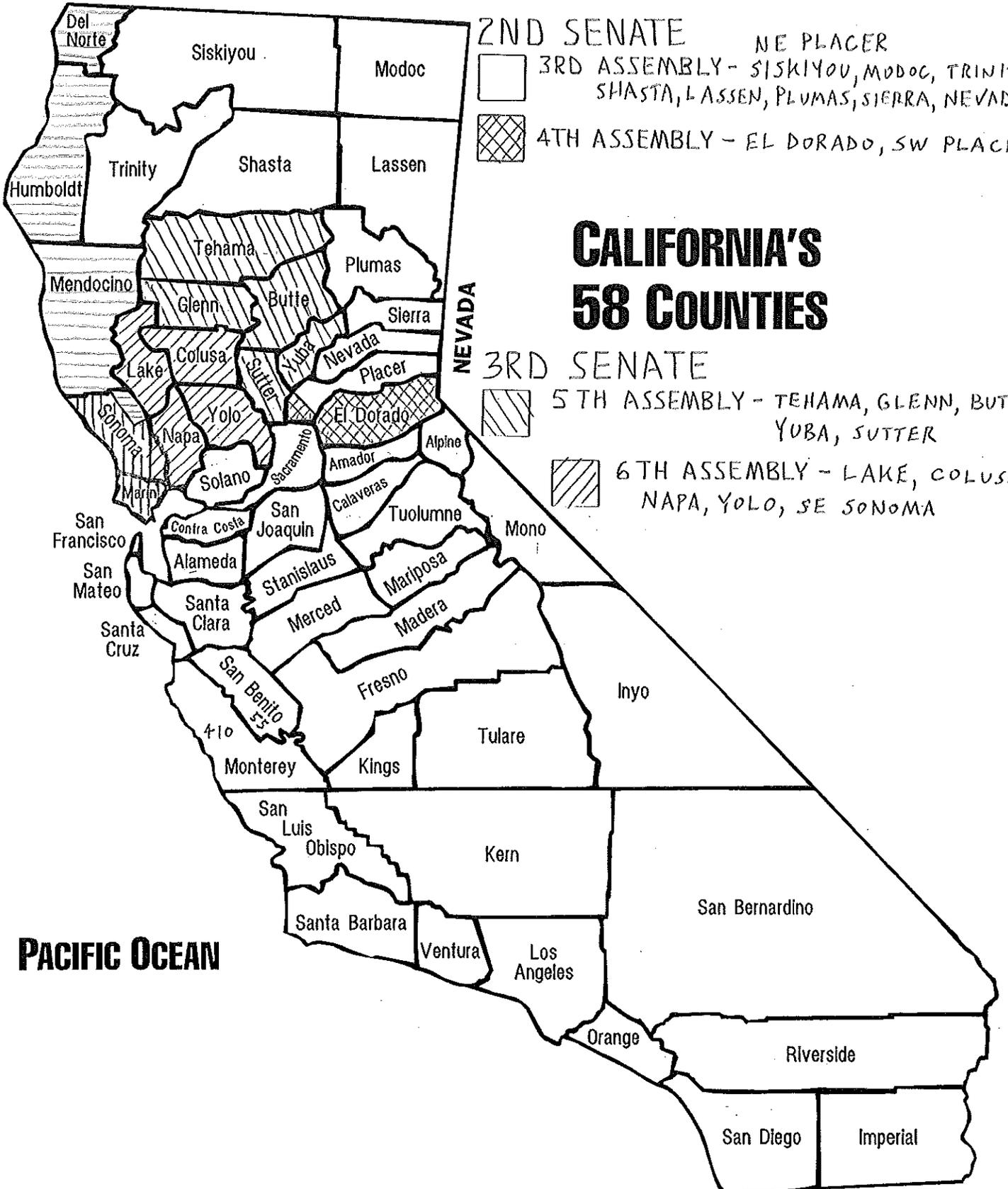
3RD SENATE



5TH ASSEMBLY - TEHAMA, GLENN, BUTTE, YUBA, SUTTER



6TH ASSEMBLY - LAKE, COLUSA, NAPA, YOLO, SE SONOMA



PACIFIC OCEAN

MEXICO

PROPOSED NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS.

▤ DIST. 1 - MARIN & 93% SONOMA

▥ DIST. 2 - DEL NORTE, HUMBOLDT, TRINITY, MENDOCINO, LAKE, NAPA, 7% SONOMA, 49% SOLANO

▧ DIST 3 - 51% SOLANO, YOLO COLUSA GLENN TEHAMA SHASTA

▨ DIST 4 - SISKIYOU, MODOC, LASSEN, PLUMAS, SIERRA NEVADA, BUTTE, YUBA SUTTER, 30% PLACER



NORTH BAY

Marin 252,409
S. Sonoma 450,496

TOTAL = 702,905

NORTH COAST RANGE

N. Sonoma 33,382
Mendocino 87,841
Humboldt 134,623
Del Norte 28,610
Trinity 13,786
Lake 64,665
Napa 136,484
SW. Solano 203,514

TOTAL = 702,905

INTERSTATE 5/505 CORRIDOR

NE Solano 209,830
Yolo 200,849
Colusa 21,419
Glenn 28,122
Tehama 63,463
Shasta 177,223

TOTAL = 700,906 (-1999, 0.28%)

NORTHEASTERN

Siskiyou 44,900
Modoc 9,686
Lassen 34,895
Plumas 20,007
Sierra 3,240
Nevada 98,764
Butte 220,000
Yuba 72,155
Sutter 94,737
NE Placer 104,521

TOTAL = 702,905



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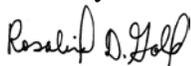
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Rosalind Gold

Senior Director, Policy Research and Advocacy

Subject: PUBLIC COMMENT -- Student Populations

From: James Wright <[REDACTED]>

Date: Mon, 20 Jun 2011 21:01:07 -0700 (PDT)

To: [REDACTED]

Commissioners,

While student populations are frequently vocal and passionate about various issues, their "home of record" may not be near the location of their school. You should determine how the census has counted temporary residents at Universities and Colleges.

A similar concern can be raised where there are large military facilities and state prisons.

When I was at University and also in the military, I continued to be counted and to vote at my "home of record" which was in a different state.

Are any of these University students (or military personnel) counted at their home rather than at their temporary residence and how does that affect your decisions concerning those locations?

Jim Wright
a voter from San Jose