



June 28, 2011

California Citizens Redistricting Commission

We would like to thank you for the opportunity to provide input on the draft redistricting maps. The proposed redistricting will be an important step in making sure California is up to date and all of its citizens are represented and have a voice in the direction of California's future.

After careful review of the maps, we have found that while our three foothill districts have been redrawn in what appears to make the most geographical sense, when you look closer and start to understand the topography and transportation corridors it becomes apparent that a logical alternative would include a more east to west district rather than north to south.

For example, a closer look at Tuolumne County will show that there are two major resources and watersheds, being the Tuolumne and Stanislaus rivers. These rivers are an important component that should be considered when making up the districts. They run east to west into the valley and naturally the transportation corridors also follow these resources. This type of topographical feature can be found up and down the foothills of the Sierra Nevada Mountains and it is this feature that makes a north to south district so difficult to navigate and travel. If a district is extended along a north to south direction, like the draft proposes and especially when it is nearly 300 miles long, it becomes almost impossible to travel and cover using the one, two lane highway, that is state route 49. Excluding Alpine County and a trip up highway 4, it would take in excess of 6 hours to travel from one end of the proposed districts to the other, along that route. Add in Alpine County and it would be impossible to travel the district in one day, let alone make any stops.

Please also consider that dissecting the rivers that provide water to the valley and the travel corridors will also result in conflicting management issues of those important resources as well as duplication and conflict of policy. A better approach would be to make sure that the legislative representatives from a contiguous district be able to represent and manage policy for the resource without the acrimony of fighting with another district or representative over the use of the resource.

We would strongly encourage that map modifications be considered that would exclude the large population centers to the extreme north, of Placer and Eldorado Counties, as well as the extreme south counties, of Fresno and Madera and instead, populations centers to the west be included to make less topographically challenged districts. These changes would create districts that would continue the representation of our legislators that the foothill regions now benefit by getting those representatives out of their cars, off the road and into more meetings with their constituents.

Sincerely,

Mark Banks
President
Tuolumne County Building Industry

Subject: Public Comment: 6 - Tuolumne

From: Allan Gelber <[REDACTED]>

Date: 6/28/2011 2:50 PM

To: [REDACTED]

From: Allan Gelber <[REDACTED]>

Subject: redistricting...

Message Body:

The proposed redistricting is not fair to Tuolumne county residents. We will lose three representatives and have little input on issues that impact our county. Please consider redistricting changes that are fair for all of us.

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This mail is sent via contact form on Citizens Redistricting Commission

Subject: Public Comment: 6 - Tuolumne

From: Alan Haack <[REDACTED]>

Date: 6/28/2011 2:26 PM

To: [REDACTED]

From: Alan Haack <[REDACTED]>

Subject: Results of The Union Democrat's poll

Message Body:

I am writing to thank you for doing a very good job on the new maps. If you haven't seen it, look at the Editorial Page, page A4, in Sonora's newspaper, The Union Democrat. The result of their poll question last week is that 67% of the respondents like the new foothill districts. That's a stunning consensus, reaffirming your work. Thank you.

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This mail is sent via contact form on Citizens Redistricting Commission

Subject: Public Comment: 6 - Tuolumne

From: Michael Ayala <[REDACTED]>

Date: 6/28/2011 1:11 PM

To: [REDACTED]

From: Michael Ayala <[REDACTED]>

Subject: Redistricting Proposal

Message Body:

Tuolumne County's commerce, rail, highways, and commute traffic each flow from the east to the west into Stanislaus Co. Specifically, the city of Modesto is only 1.25 hours driving time. Consequently, our emergency medical aid and air ambulance all flow from Sonora into Modesto's hospitals on most cases.

Some commute traffic does flow north into Calaveras Co. and south into Mariposa Co. Consequently, we are the shopping hub for those two counties, while Modesto is the commercial hub for Sonora and Tuolumne Co.

So, our political connections, commercial hubs, and historical links coincide with those three counties.

Consequently, we would also prefer that our Assembly, Senate, and Congressional Districts be similarly aligned to enhance our representation with those levels of government.

Finally, the proposed district is much too long, the driving time is too extreme, and with Fresno or Madera Counties on the south, and Placer or El Dorado on the north, we will essentially be without representation and effectively disenfranchised. In short, we won't have a voice and there will be no need for candidates to campaign here in Tuolumne Co.

Thank you for your consideration,

Michael Ayala
Sonora, CA

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This mail is sent via contact form on Citizens Redistricting Commission

Subject: Redistricting...

From: <[REDACTED]>

Date: 6/28/2011 2:44 PM

To: <[REDACTED]>

I think that the proposed new district guidelines do not give fair representation to all Californian's.

I live in Tuolumne county where we stand to loose three Republican representatives. Tuolumne county residents will have little or no opportunity for input on issues that impact our county. Please work to come up with a plan that is fair and even handed for all Californians.

Allan Gelber
Tuolumne County resident.