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REGION 7: SANTA CLARA



Mayor

Jamie L. Matthews

Council Members

Lisa M. Gillmor
Will Kennedy
Patrick Kolstad
Patricia Mahan
Jamie McLeod
Kevin Moore

June 22, 2011

RECEIVED JUN 27 2011

Citizens Redistricting Commission
901 P Street, Suite 154-A
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: First Draft District Maps – Support for City of Santa Clara’s Placement in a Single Legislative District within Santa Clara County

Dear Commissioners:

The City of Santa Clara is in support of the new district boundaries as shown on the draft maps released on June 10, 2011, placing the City of Santa Clara in a single legislative district within Santa Clara County. For the past ten years, the City has been separated into two districts, with boundary lines bisecting long-established parts of the City. For example, the area in Santa Clara known as the “Old Quad,” a cohesive neighborhood located in the part of the City covered in the first survey of the Town of Santa Clara made in 1866, was split and placed in two different legislative districts. El Camino Real, which travels the width of the City and is home to many of the City’s retail businesses, is crossed in four different locations by seemingly arbitrary district boundary lines. Santa Clara is known as “The Mission City” and carries this designation because of its origins in Mission Santa Clara; however, 20% of the City is not located in the same district as the mission.

Santa Clara is primarily served by a single school district, has its own electric and water utilities serving the entire City, a city-wide Chamber of Commerce serving the business community, and a full contingent of excellent City services for all of our residents, regardless of where they are located in the community. It makes sense for the City, its residents, and its businesses, to be united in a single legislative district as well.

The California Constitution mandates that the geographic integrity of any city, county, neighborhood, or community of interest shall be respected to the extent possible, and that to the extent practicable, and where this does not conflict with the criteria above, districts shall be drawn to encourage geographical compactness. The first draft district maps achieve these requirements with respect to the City of Santa Clara.

The City is on record in support of Santa Clara being placed in a single legislative district, making our community essentially whole in its legislative representation. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input into the redistricting process.

Sincerely,

Jamie L. Matthews
Mayor

Jennifer Sparacino
City Manager

cc: Santa Clara City Council

Mayor and Council Offices





CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE

Your Business Is Our Business

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June 24, 2011

Citizens Redistricting Commission
901 P Street, Suite 154-A
Sacramento, CA 95814



Dear Redistricting Commission:

On Tuesday, June 21, the Gilroy Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors unanimously and strongly opposed the map proposal for the Gilroy Assembly district lines. The proposal is not taking into consideration the best interests of our community in both the Assembly (South Santa Clara/West Monterey) and Senate (Coast) plans.

With the proposed plan, the Commission splits Santa Clara County four times in the Senate plan and four times in the Assembly plan. In the Assembly, those splits come from South San Mateo, Contra Costa County, and two come from Monterey County!

Gilroy shares communities of interest with our neighbors in Santa Clara County: we are not on the coast and we are not in the Central Valley. Gilroy has a long heritage, and our roots are deep in this valley's history. Today, we play an integral part in the Santa Clara County region sharing in the community college system, water, road funding, health care programs, and economic and tourism development arenas.

We advocate that the Citizens Redistricting Commission recognize the importance of our request to remain in the Santa Clara region and that the efforts of the Redistricting Commission keep communities with similar interests intact.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan Valenta".

Susan Valenta
President/C.E.O.

CC: Gilroy Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors
CC: City of Gilroy
CC: Office of Supervisor Mike Wasserman

