

JUN 08 2011

Rebeca Villafaña

Santa Cruz, CA 95062

California Redistricting Commission
1130 K. Street, Suite 101
Sacramento, CA 95814

RECEIVED JUN 8 2011

Region #7: Santa Cruz

Re: Keeping Santa Cruz, San Benito, and Monterey Counties in the same Congressional District

Honorable Commissioners:

I have lived in the County of Santa Cruz for the past 10 years. I am writing to request that the CRC keep Santa Cruz, San Benito, and Monterey Counties together as a community of interest under State and Federal Districts, for the purpose of its effectiveness and fair representation.

The common social and economic interests shared by these three counties are met in a variety of ways, including their agriculture and tourism based economy, regional community agencies, transportation services, and accessibility to media for all three counties. Our three counties are separated by mountainous areas from other counties; and, their waters flow into the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary.

In addition, these three counties make up our local Council of Governments known as the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments. Within the control district for regional water pollution and air board you can find the three counties. Many civic groups provide services to people in the three counties as well.

Another factor in this community of interest is its sector with the largest employment industry being agriculture. Specialty crops are grown continuously throughout the year, and in these counties the labor force is permanent with agriculture workers living in the coastal area and being long-term employees, not temporary laborers.

The tri-county region also shares media markets unique to them as they are separated by mountains from other counties. When looking for public venues through which advertise their companies, or candidates for office, our local media is there to give its audience the most comprehensive federal, state, and local coverage. Advertisers looking to reach our Santa Cruz, San Benito, and Monterey counties place commercial with our local broadcasters, and never with San Jose or San Francisco.

Maintaining our tri-county region is of great importance to us, constituents, as we share the same news media markets, small town economics, our environmental oversight and tourism flow through and within each of our three counties. Through the years we have come to rely on each other's transportation systems to ensure the effective delivery of our crops, as well as the lodging of tourists.

In order to work well, it is vital for us to remain united as a community of interest, willing to continue our tri-county cooperation and collaboration to make our counties more efficient, environmentally friendly, and politically fair.

We urge you to keep our community of interest intact under one Congressional District in order to strengthen and unite our voices, which in turn can speak to our elected officials in the State legislature and in Congress, so that we can create a better life for our families.

Thank you for your consideration.

~Rebeca Villafaña

Region #7: Santa Cruz

County of Santa Cruz



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

JUN 08 2011

SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060-4069

JOHN LEOPOLD
FIRST DISTRICT

ELLEN PIRIE
SECOND DISTRICT

NEAL COONERTY
THIRD DISTRICT

GREG CAPUT
FOURTH DISTRICT

MARK W. STONE
FIFTH DISTRICT

May 18, 2011

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

Dear Members of the Commission:

I am writing at the direction of the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors to convey our comments concerning your efforts to re-draw the boundaries for Congressional, Assembly, Senate, and Board of Equalization Districts based on the population data from the 2010 Census.

As you may know, in 2001, the last time a redistricting process took place, the historical State Senate District including Santa Cruz, Monterey, and San Benito Counties was gerrymandered in a way that divided Santa Cruz County into two separate State Senate districts. However, the Monterey Bay area, composed of Santa Cruz, Monterey, and San Benito Counties, is a community of interest (COI) and should be kept together in nested State and Federal Districts.

A COI, as defined by Propositions 11 and 20, is "a contiguous population which shares common social and economic interests that should be included within a single district for purposes of its effective and fair representation." Santa Cruz, Monterey, and San Benito Counties meet the COI test in numerous ways, including common geography, an agriculture and tourism-based economy, shared transportation facilities, regional civic groups and governmental organizations, and access to the same local media.

Therefore, our Board urges you to repair the damage done in the last redistricting plan by restoring the State Senate District to include Santa Cruz, Monterey, and San Benito Counties and to maintain the Assembly seats and Central Coast Congressional District.

Geographically, the Monterey Bay region is separated from other counties by mountain ranges. Waters in these counties flow into the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary.

May 17, 2011

Page 2

In addition, the three counties are the only counties making up the local Council of Governments known as the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments. The same three counties are under the same regional air board and water pollution control district. Numerous civic groups cover the three-county Monterey Bay region. Historically, all legislative seats have rested in this region with the exception of two State Senate districts which were gerrymandered in the last redistricting plan.

The Monterey Bay region's biggest industry and largest employment sector is agriculture. Specialty crops are grown year round and our work force is stationary and lives in this coastal specialized crop region. Many agriculture workers are permanent employees, not day laborers.

The Monterey Bay region has its own media market because of the mountains that separate the region from other counties. We have both radio and TV signals that are unique to the three counties. Because local media dominates the tri-county region and is affordable compared to the San Francisco/San Jose Bay area, it is heavily relied on by local candidates and in covering local, state, and federal news and the election process. Advertisers wishing to access local audiences place commercials with these local broadcasters, not with San Jose or San Francisco media.

For several decades, this region's legislative districts rested in these three counties. Elections in these districts proved to be politically diverse. The region elected both Democrats and Republicans to the Assembly seats and State Senate seat. The region's Boards of Supervisors have had African-American, Asian-American, and Latino men and women in office. Mayors of cities throughout the region have represented many cultural backgrounds.

Monterey Bay is a geo-political-socio-economic region. Its biggest industry is agriculture, with tourism playing a key economic role as well. Land use and environmental oversight are geared to the Monterey Bay region. The Monterey Bay area also has a common dependence on transportation systems to get tourists in and fresh row crops out.

The Monterey Bay region monitors pollutants from industry and agriculture which end up in a shared bay, and that is why the respective governance organizations are tri-county. We share the same news media markets, the same small town economics--from whale watching to wine tasting--and it is all within the three county region.

To work well with public and private sectors, our governance needs to be unified at the state and national levels. Looking at past election results, it is clear that this district can elect members from both major political parties and can elect diverse candidates.

Again, we urge the Commission, in the strongest terms possible, to recognize that Santa Cruz, Monterey, and San Benito Counties are communities of interest, that the State Senate District should be restored to reflect this, and that the Assembly and

May 17, 2011
Page 3

Congressional Districts should be maintained. In addition, we are formally requesting that you hold a public input hearing in Santa Cruz County so that our community will have an opportunity to share our views directly with members of the Commission.

Thank you for considering our comments.

Sincerely,


MARK W. STONE, Chairperson
Board of Supervisors

MWS:ted

cc: Clerk of the Board

1310A6