

Subject: Public Comment: 7 - Santa Cruz

From: Joseph Farmer <[REDACTED]>

Date: Fri, 17 Jun 2011 23:51:06 +0000

To: [REDACTED]

From: Joseph Farmer <[REDACTED]>

Subject: Redraw district

Message Body:

Lumping northern Santa Cruz County in with Santa Clara and San San Mateo, two counties with which Santa Cruz has nothing in common, only serves to negate the votes of the citizens of Scotts Valley and San Lorenzo Valley. In approving the redrawing of district lines, the voters were attempting to correct this very unfair Result of gerrymandering. Thank you.

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Subject: Public Comment: 7 - Santa Cruz

From: Louise West <[REDACTED]>

Date: Sat, 18 Jun 2011 03:23:33 +0000

To: [REDACTED]

From: Louise West <[REDACTED]>

Subject: San Lorenzo Valley

Message Body:

The districts that cut across Santa Cruz County disregard the geographical reality of the San Lorenzo Valley. Residents up and down the SLV have much more in common than the way the proposed lines have been drawn. We need representation that responds to the common needs of residents up and down the San Lorenzo River and Hwy 9. Fires/floods/mudslides/fallen trees, anything that happens in one part of the valley impacts the rest. Just one road connects us all. Representation should reflect that.

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Subject: Public Comment: 7 - Santa Cruz

From: "ROBERT O'BRIEN" <[REDACTED]>

Date: Fri, 17 Jun 2011 17:52:40 +0000

To: [REDACTED]

From: ROBERT O'BRIEN <[REDACTED]>
Subject: SCOTTS VALLEY

Message Body:

I HAVE BEEN A RESIDENT OF SCOTTS VALLEY FOR 22 YEARS AND HAVE BEEN POORLY REPRESENTED AS A SANTA CRUZ COUNTY RESIDENT. WE IN SCOTTS VALLEY ARE NOT WELL REPRESENTED BY OUR REPRESENTATIVE RESIDING IN SANTA CLARA COUNTY. THE BORDER OF THIS CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT SHOULD BE AT THE COUNTY LINE AND HAVE ALL OF SANTA CRUZ COUNTY UNDER THE SAME CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT.

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Subject: Public Comment: 7 - Santa Cruz

From: Pam Newbury <[REDACTED]>

Date: Sat, 18 Jun 2011 00:13:31 +0000

To: [REDACTED]

From: Pam Newbury <[REDACTED]>

Subject: Northern boundary of Monterey/Santa Cruz Congressional District

Message Body:

I live in the mountains above Santa Cruz and on examining the district boundaries for the US Congressional district between the Monterey/Santa Cruz Congressional district and the San Mateo/Santa Clara district to the north and east, I am very concerned that many voters in the northern areas of Santa Cruz County will be cut off from their neighbors and left without effective representation.

As I follow the northeast boundary of the Santa Cruz/Monterey Congressional District from the summit of Highway 17, I see that, after taking a strange loop to the east at the summit, it roughly follows the Highway 17, skirts around Scotts Valley, then zig-zags back and forth through the communities of Mount Hermon, Zayante, and Lompico before bisecting the town of Ben Lomond, cutting up Alba Road over the mountains, up Empire Grade, then heading to the coast north of Davenport, where it meanders leisurely up the coast to Waddell Creek, where it takes a mysterious dip into the ocean before petering out south of Ano Nuevo. (I have to say, the Summit loop and the Waddell Creek dip in the ocean can only be called "contiguous" if you put it in quotation marks!)

I have several problems with this boundary. First, it divides several closely knit communities throughout Scotts Valley, the San Lorenzo Valley, and Bonny Doon. In fact, it bisects the town of Ben Lomond, putting neighbors on one side of the street in a different district from those across the road. Second, it puts Scotts Valley and the rural mountain communities of Ben Lomond (half of it), Boulder Creek, Zayante, Lompico, Bonny Doon, and Mount Hermon in a district that includes Saratoga, Cupertino, Santa Clara, Mountain View, and Palo Alto. While you could make a vague argument that Scotts Valley is connected to those upscale, urban centers through industry and jobs, I can tell you that the other communities have absolutely no community of interest or culture in common with those cities to the north.

Second, it will be very hard for people in communities where the line zigzags through to understand where their district begins and ends. How would you explain to someone who lives in Ben Lomond that if they live on the north end of Main Street after you cross Sunnyside Avenue you are in the San Mateo district, but someone who lives on the south side of Sunnyside Avenue is in the Monterey district? You can't describe communities by which side of the road they are on. People can't understand or identify a district that fragments communities.

Another major concern is that there are no common media between those areas: they share no common radio, TV, or newspapers, leaving voters in the small rural fragments to the south of the San Mateo district to search far afield for news of candidates whose attentions will be focused on the more populated and affluent communities to the east. Being the victim of a previous gerrymandered district, I have direct experience with this type of situation, feeling like I was left out of contact with my friends and other community members, unable to follow the ins and outs of the political situation because my local media did not report news of political races in distant cities on the other side of the mountains.

I know of one young voter who proudly announced that she had carefully researched candidates, discussed them with her friends, read articles in her local paper, listened to all the debates on her local news, and finally made a decision on a candidate only

to discover that the candidates she was hearing about were not on her sample ballot. She was on the wrong side of the road; had she been on the other side, she would have been able to vote for that candidate along with most of her neighbors. This is the kind of confusion you sow when you divide towns and communities in half and try to patch them into a district where they have no connections.

A community of interest is one where the people mingle and communicate with others in the area. My community of interest includes all of Bonny, Doon, Boulder Creek, Davenport, Zayante, Lompico, Mount Hermon, Scotts Valley, Ben Lomond, as well as Santa Cruz. It does not include Palo Alto and the heart of Silicon Valley. While Scotts Valley may be big enough to draw some attention, the likelihood that any candidate will take an interest in Lompico or Boulder Creek is zero, effectively orphaning those citizens and leaving them without a voice.

Surely there is some more logical place to draw the line that does not sacrifice the voices of those tiny communities in northern Santa Cruz County and divide them from their friends and neighbors. To you these may be lines on a map. To me, these are my friends and neighbors. After 10 years of living in a gerrymandered district I had hoped to be once again reunited with my community; now I find lines drawn that again split it down the middle.

Please consider instead a line instead that runs down Skyline to Highway 9, follows 236 to Big Basin, then follows Waddell Creek to the ocean. Keep our community together. It would make much more sense to make up population by increasing the Silicon Valley district in Santa Clara or Menlo Park than to shoehorn in a few isolated country towns in Santa Cruz. Even East Palo Alto has more in common with the San Mateo district than does Northern Santa Cruz County.

Pam Newbury

[REDACTED]
Bonny Doon, CA 95060

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