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**Subject:**Redistricting

**Date:**Fri, 03 Jun 2011 20:11:29 -0400

**From:**Rita Johnson <[REDACTED]>

**To:**[REDACTED]

**Attn: California Redistricting Commission:**

Dear Commissioners:

As residents of Marin county for 40 years, we feel strongly that Marin should **NOT** be lumped together with San Francisco or any East Bay communities as there are no points in common with either of those communities. If Marin must be paired with any community it should be its sister county of Sonoma and possibly Napa. We request, along with others, that Marin, Sonoma and Napa be joined for the State Senate District; Marin and Sonoma be joined for the Congressional District; and, for State Assembly, it be paired with Southern Sonoma County--depending on the numbers involved that would encompass going up to Santa Rosa and, if possible, include the city of Santa Rosa as the links between Santa Rosa, Rohnert Park, Novato and San Rafael are many, both culturally, socially, transportation-wise and commerce-wise. Another acceptable scenario for Assembly would be Marin, Southern Sonoma including Petaluma/Rohnert Park and extending into the contiguous part of Napa. All three of these counties have cultural, commercial and transportation communities of interest.

Moreover we support:fair and competitive districts that fully comply with Proposition 11 with district geography criteria of natural geographical boundaries such as mountain ranges, bodies of water, of equal population and that comply with the Federal Voting Rights Act. I want my district lines to maintain district contiguity, and compactness by keeping cities, communities and neighborhoods intact as much as possible.

- 1. I strongly oppose** the Sierra Club Bay Area plan that violates the Voting Rights Act **and** gerrymanders the TriValley.
- 2. I agree** with the Sierra Club plan ONLY on the one point, **not to cross the Bay and Golden Gate Bridges.**
- 3. I reject** the San Joaquin County Citizens for Constitutional Redistricting plan; they carve up the TriValley to create a San Joaquin district favorable to a tiny fraction of our Bay Area population.
- 4. I reject** the Latino Policy Forum maps; they create an absurd district that jumps over the water to connect Marin, half of

San Francisco and West Oakland in violation of the Federal Voting Rights Act.

**5. I strongly oppose** the California Institute for Jobs, Economy, and Education (CIJEE) plan and insist that districts not jump across the East Bay hills, because the communities from San Leandro to Milpitas have little in common with the Tri-Valley, and everything in common with each other. The commission got overwhelming testimony in the Oakland input hearings to this effect, both from Tri-Valley and from Oakland, San Leandro, Milpitas, Richmond, El Cerrito etc. to the effect, "Keep the Berkeley Oakland Hills as a natural geographic barrier between urban, ethnic, diverse communities west of the hills and suburban bedroom and office park communities east of the hills."

**6. I strongly oppose** the Institute for Jobs, Economy, and Education (CIJEE) gerrymander of Union City, an overwhelmingly Asian and Latino city along the East Bay shoreline that CIJEE links with the Tri-Valley communities such as San Ramon and Livermore. Union City is linked to its neighbors in Fremont and Newark by ethnicity, job patterns, and I-880. It has no connection whatsoever to Danville! Additionally, there was very clear testimony at the Oakland input hearing from community groups centered around the auto industry who did NOT want to be connected to Tri-Valley.

**7. I strongly oppose** the Institute for Jobs, Economy, and Education (CIJEE) plan forcing communities of Lamorinda and Pleasant Hill into a district with Berkeley, as was done in 1981, and is being resurrected by CIJEE. The Berkeley-Oakland area is different in every demographic respect from the suburban communities on the other side of the mountains.

**8. I strongly oppose** the Institute for Jobs, Economy, and Education (CIJEE) plan gerrymandering that put the mid-Peninsula area around Palo Alto with the city of Santa Cruz - a city on the other side of a mountain range, in a different county, and on the ocean.

**9. I strongly oppose** the Institute for Jobs, Economy, and Education (CIJEE) plan which splits the Latino community in San Jose into two Assembly districts, although it should be kept together in one district.

**10. I strongly oppose** the Institute for Jobs, Economy, and Education (CIJEE) plan for Marin. Any AD based in Marin should expand north along Hwy 101, to reach people who work in Marin. It should not be gerrymandered far east to Benicia, which it has nothing in common with.

**11. I strongly oppose** the Institute for Jobs, Economy, and Education (CIJEE) plan which merges North Bay districts with SF districts. We insist that the North Bay districts be kept separate from the SF districts.

**12. I reject the** Coalition of Asian Pacific Americans for Fair Redistricting CAPAFR plan. Specifically but not limited to joining Fremont with The TriValley: the City of Pleasanton.

**13. I reject** the Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund (MALDEF) plan for violations of the Voter Rights Act and abusive gerrymandering. So ridiculous that one commissioner spoke out during MALDEF's presentation on 5/26 in Northridge stating "**Why so many Gerrymander Fingers?**"

Thank you,  
Rick and Rita Johnson  
Novato,CA