



Region #8: Marin

TOWN OF FAIRFAX

FAIRFAX, CALIFORNIA 94930

Mayor
Larry Bragman

Vice Mayor
Pam Hartwell-Herrero

Town Council
John Reed
David Weinsoff
Lew Tremaine

Town Manager
Michael Rock

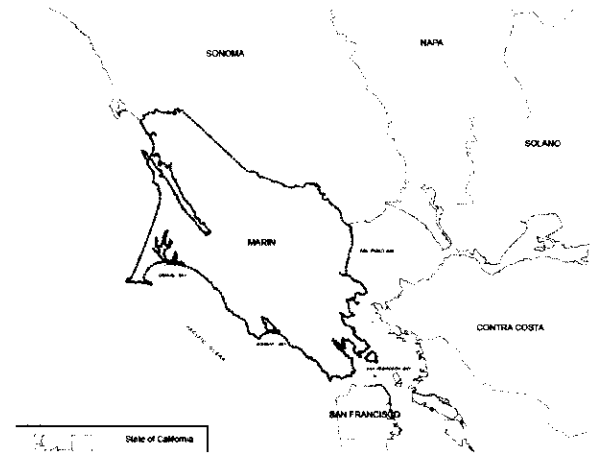
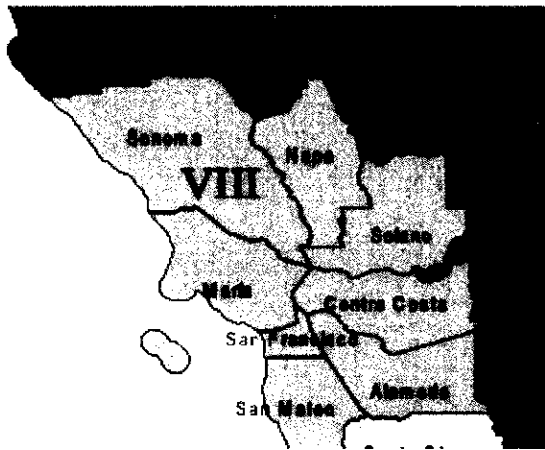
May 17, 2011

Citizens Redistricting Commission
1130 K Street, Suite 101
Sacramento, CA 95814
Fax: (916) 322-0904

Dear Commissioners,

In your consideration of drawing the lines for Congressional, State Senate, State Assembly districts we urge you to consider keeping Marin County aligned with Sonoma County and NOT including us with the San Francisco or Contra Costa counties for the land use, demographic, geographic and best representation reasons stated in this letter.

While the map on the Commission website makes it appear as though we are contiguous with Sonoma, SF and Contra Costa, the second map is more accurately shows the barriers and boundaries. The San Francisco Bay causes us to share a geographical border only with Sonoma. We also share contiguous watersheds, coastal regions, inland rural, agricultural, bay lands only with Sonoma County. While bridges, bays and commutes connect us to S.F. and Contra Costa we hope you will find our connection to Sonoma is greater and has many more common purposes.



As representatives of Fairfax in the heart of Marin County we would like to share some of the character of our community and its sustainability goals as set forth in our Countywide plan.

Marin County is known for its distinctive **natural setting** and environmental and agricultural heritage. Surrounded on three sides by water, Marin encompasses abundant environmental resources beautiful and rich in diversity, as well as working agricultural landscapes. From the quality of the air we breathe, the water we drink, and the food we eat, to the outdoors where we relax and rejuvenate, we depend on nature to provide for us. A responsibility to understand and protect the environment and agriculture is a fundamental component of the Marin Countywide Plan. Reinforcing the critical role of watershed planning is an overarching concern.

Preservation of large parts of Marin County has served to protect important biological resources and the biodiversity of the region. Nevertheless, future development may threaten sensitive resources in Marin and contribute to further fragmentation of natural areas. In 2001, Marin ranked 17th among the 58 California counties in the number of special-status species documented here, indicating both an opportunity for preservation and a continued threat to sensitive resources. In fact, Lagunitas Creek supports the most important remnant population of federally endangered wild Coho salmon from California's central coast. Despite positive efforts to protect and restore habitat, native biodiversity is still at risk. Factors contributing to these risks, such as the continued loss

exotic species, all pose significant threats to native plants and animals. Other risks and concerns include obstruction of wildlife movement corridors, filling of wetlands, and loss of oak woodlands to disease.

The County **Open Space** District manages and protects ridge lands, baylands, and other environmentally sensitive lands. Open space lands also accommodate low-impact recreational uses. Most of the district budget goes toward managing open space, leaving little for land acquisition. The district relies increasingly on conservation or open space easements from private landowners to extend its preservation efforts.

Agriculture-Nearly one-fourth of Marin's agricultural land has been permanently protected from subdivision and development, but working ranches are increasingly threatened by the prospect of conversion to single-family residential estates. The majority of local agricultural operations are only marginally profitable. Major issues facing local agriculture include the high cost of land, regulation by multiple agencies, and difficulty recruiting younger generations to work in agriculture. Many local operations have begun diversifying to increase their viability, producing row crops and value-added products such as cheese, butter, organic foods, and grass-fed beef. Although agriculture is not technically considered a "natural system," most ranchers and farmers in Marin conduct agricultural activities in a manner compatible with the natural environment.

Marin County is also known for its creativity, innovation, and high quality of life. This lifestyle depends a great deal on the beautiful natural setting and excellence of residential neighborhoods in Marin, as well as many other factors that affect how people learn, work, obtain goods and services, and play. The **Socioeconomic** Element of the Countywide Plan focuses on the people of Marin County and seeks to reinforce the complex connections between individual well-being, economic prosperity, community involvement, cultural richness, and the environment. The percentages of voter registration and election turnout are higher in Marin County than for the state as a whole.

Marin should be in districts that we have common issues and land use.

While we have a respected and connected relationship with the urban parts of the Bay Area, our governance of land has much more in common with Sonoma County. We have grave concerns that with our limited population and divergent issues compared to the much more densely populated SF or Contra Costa that our voice would simply not be heard and our unique needs not be met. You are tasked with being sure that we receive fair and effective representation. And knowing our community best we request that you link us with another county or counties that share our coastal, agricultural, geographic and rural land use issues rather than ones that have urban concerns and issues. Thanks you for your time serving the state by drawing the lines, we understand the challenges in this matter and hope we have provided helpful information for you to make the best decision for our region.




Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Larry Bragman', with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Larry Bragman
Mayor

MAP 1-2 ENVIRONMENTAL CORRIDORS





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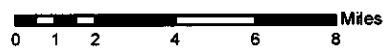
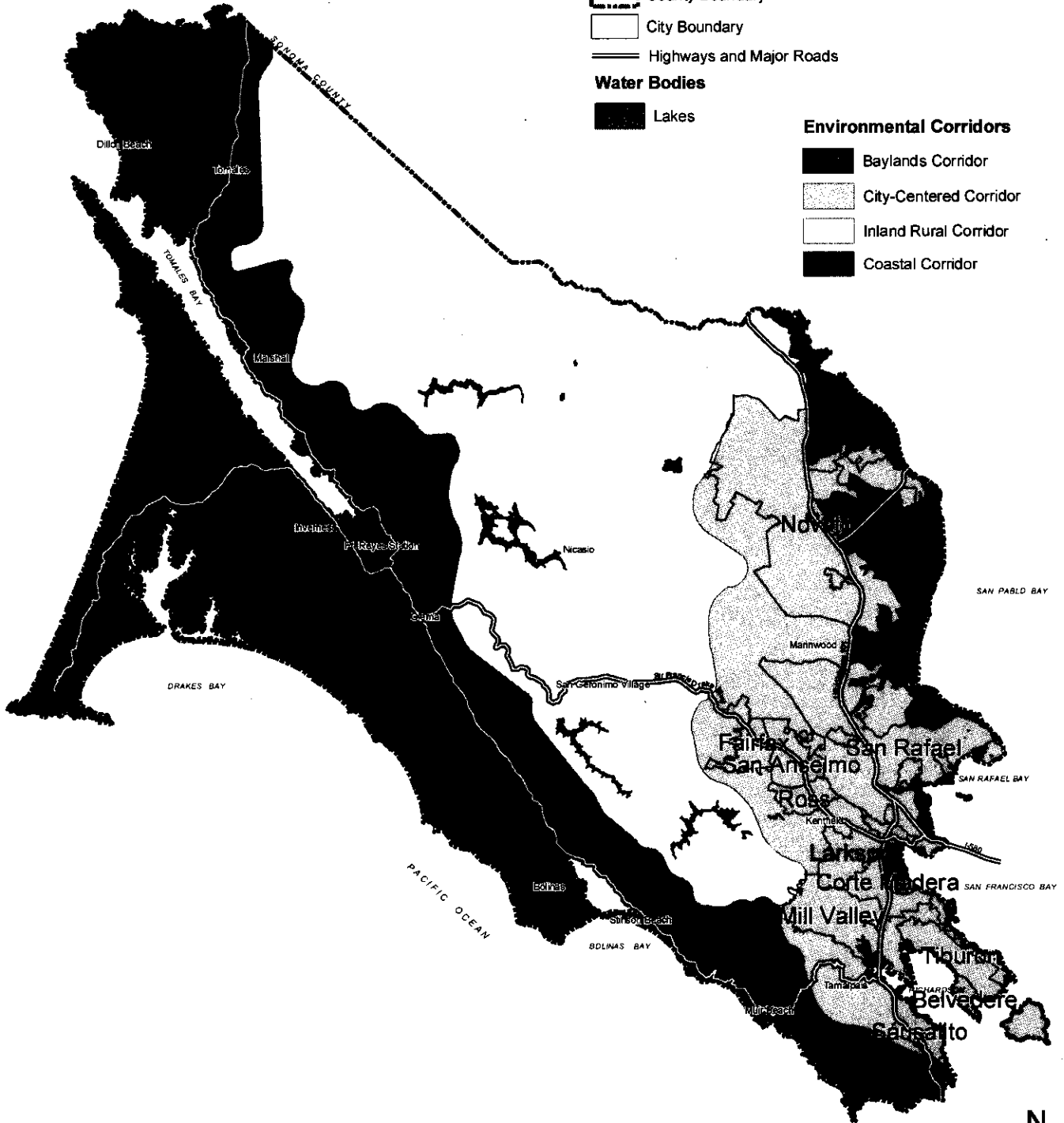
-  County Boundary
-  City Boundary
-  Highways and Major Roads

Water Bodies

-  Lakes

Environmental Corridors

-  Baylands Corridor
-  City-Centered Corridor
-  Inland Rural Corridor
-  Coastal Corridor



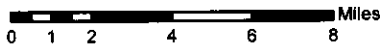
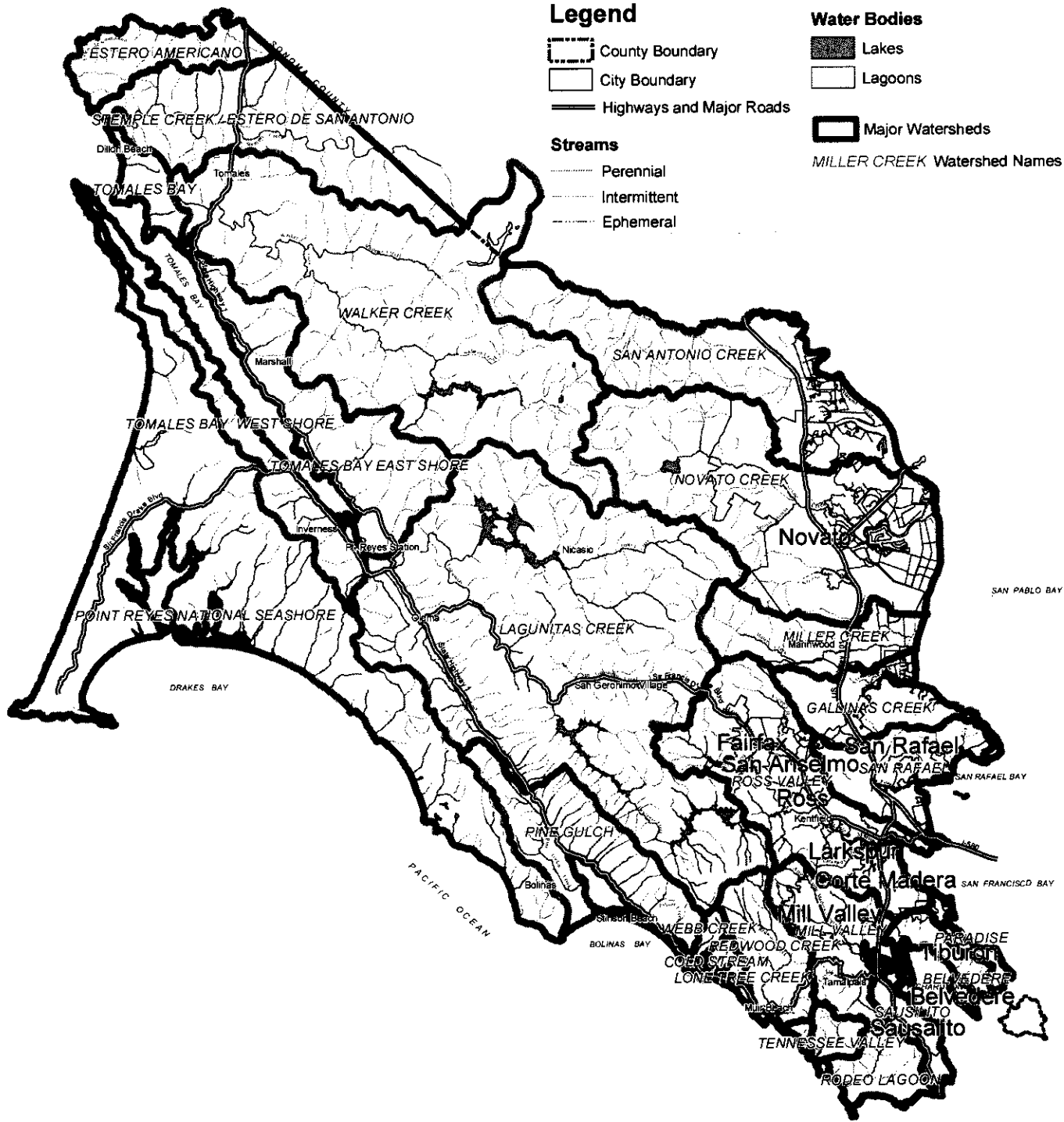
THIS MAP WAS DEVELOPED FOR GENERAL PLAN PURPOSES.
THE COUNTY OF MARIN IS NOT RESPONSIBLE OR LIABLE FOR
USE OF THIS MAP BEYOND ITS INTENDED PURPOSE.

SOURCE: County of Marin

Date: October 22, 2007

File: EnvCorr with Bayland 1-2.mxd

MAP 2-7 MAJOR WATERSHEDS



THIS MAP WAS DEVELOPED FOR GENERAL PLAN PURPOSES. THE COUNTY OF MARIN IS NOT RESPONSIBLE OR LIABLE FOR USE OF THIS MAP BEYOND ITS INTENDED PURPOSE.

SOURCE: Prunuske Chatham, Inc.

Date: July 6, 2005

File: watersheds 2-7.mxd

DOUGLAS H. BOSCO
ATTORNEY AT LAW
37 OLD COURTHOUSE SQUARE, SUITE 200
SANTA ROSA, CALIFORNIA 95404

TELEPHONE

FACSIMILE

RECEIVED MAY 8 1 2011

Region #8: Marin

May 23, 2011

Citizens Redistricting Commission
901 P St., Suite 154-A
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Commissioners:

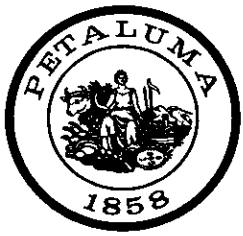
I had the privilege of representing the North Coast of California in the Assembly (1978-82) and then Congress (1982-90). I am writing to encourage you to maintain the community of interest that exists along the coast in a north-south direction, rather than crossing the mountains over to the Central Valley and eastward. There is a very steep learning curve for elected officials who must deal with coast-related issues such as fishing seasons, oil leases, harbors, dredging, redwood forests, beach access and protection, rail and highway transportation on very unstable and difficult terrain, restoration of major river systems and a host of other matters that these generally small communities share in common. I found that most of my work in the Legislature and Congress was focused on very practical issues that arise every day in this resource-oriented coastal district.

I am not running for anything now or in the future, nor do I have any reason to try and protect the seats of anyone currently in office. I strongly support your Commission and have long felt that redistricting should be handled by trustees and not beneficiaries. I am looking at your decision from a practical standpoint, however---namely, what does the work entail and how best can individual representatives accomplish it.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,


Douglas H. Bosco



Region #8; Marin

CITY OF PETALUMA

POST OFFICE BOX 61
PETALUMA, CA 94953-0061

Mike Healy
Councilmember

May 18, 2011

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

Dear Commissioners:

Thank you for volunteering for this very important task in our democratic process. I write to urge you to use the Golden Gate Bridge as a natural break point for the districts you will create for Congress, State Senate and Assembly.

Marin and Sonoma Counties have much in common. They are unusual in California – and unique in the Bay Area – in that their water supplies are completely based on local rivers and creeks, and not even connected with the State Water Project or other supplies in the Sierras. Their water systems are interconnected with each other, however, with local governments working together on many complex water issues that are of little interest to other regions.

Similarly, in 2008 voters in the two county Sonoma-Marine Area Rail Transit (“SMART”) District approved a regional sales tax to support passenger rail between the two counties. The SMART board consists of local elected officials from both counties. Because this system will not connect to other counties, it is of little interest outside the region.

There are other things in common as well. Marin and Sonoma are working together to upgrade Highway 101, the main transportation artery of the North Bay, parts of which have not been touched since the Eisenhower administration. An increasing portion of each county’s workforce commutes from the other. An environmental ethos pervades both counties, with voter approved urban growth boundaries surrounding many cities.

Finally, using the Golden Gate Bridge as a boundary relieves North Bay residents of the arduous task of immersing themselves in the arcane and over-caFFEINATED politics of San Francisco in order to be represented effectively. Thank you for your consideration of these matters.

Petaluma City Hall
[REDACTED]
Petaluma, CA 94952

Sincerely,

Mike Healy
Petaluma City Councilmember

Region #8: Marin

May 23, 2011

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

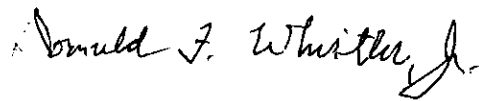
I attended the Santa Rosa meeting last Friday. As a citizen who voted for this process, I am impressed with its approach, openness, and degree of public participation. While not prepared to speak then, I have given much thought to it this weekend.

I observed that the Commissioners are mostly representatives from urban Southern California. Few others are rural and none are from the smaller communities of the North Coast or North East portions of the state. Thus, their visions and life experiences do not encompass realistic appraisals that might add depth to the bonding relationships, important to a close network which exists in them. It was disappointing to hear from Speaker #14 – Little River – and two others that documents submitted previously to the commission were unlisted in the April Minutes, which would indicate that they were not discussed or acknowledged.

Like many speakers, I favor an assembly district comprised of as much of Sonoma and Marin counties as possible. I would suggest that the Marin towns of Sausalito, Mill Valley, Bolinas, Stinson Beach, and Inverness be placed in a San Francisco dominated Assembly district. This would permit nearly all of Sonoma County and a truncated Marin County as one contiguous and homogenous district with the common interests. If it is still slightly high in numbers, put Tiburon in the SF district.

Mount Tamalpias would be accessible to both areas, but would remain in the proposed Sonoma-Marín district.

Thank you for your consideration of my proposal.



Donald F. Whistler, Jr.

[REDACTED]

Santa Rosa, CA 95401

[REDACTED]

Region 8 : Marin

Elizabeth and Jon Hanlein

May 20, 2011

[REDACTED]

Novato, CA 94947

Also

[REDACTED]

Sebastopol, CA 95472

Citizens Redistricting Commissions:

I would like to voice my concern that Marin and Sonoma Counties may be co mingled with San Francisco and the East Bay. We do not have the same constituent priorities. We need representatives that understand the concerns of the industry, traffic, rural conditions unique to Marin and Sonoma. Please do not separate Marin and Sonoma and divide and distribute them with San Francisco or the East Bay districts. They have they own particular set of needs and can be more favorably addressed with leaders who understand them. We need representatives who want to protect the schools, land uses , and industry of Marin and Sonoma.

Thank you,

Elizabeth B. Hanlein

E.B. Hanlein

Tried to fax and email but neither way worked! :-)

Region 8: Marin

Susan L. Adams, Ph.D., R.N.
[REDACTED]
San Rafael, California 94903

May 16, 2011

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

Dear Commissioners:

I am respectfully requesting that the Commission seriously consider redrawing, what is currently the Sixth Congressional District, to include as much as possible, the Counties of Marin and Sonoma, in any new congressional district that may be drawn.

The reasons for my request are motivated by the many similarities that both counties share with one another. Allow me to list just a few important reasons why I believe it is important to keep both counties in one congressional district.

- Marin and Sonoma Counties share a contiguous border
- Both counties share one main freeway system, State Highway 101
- Both Marin and Sonoma Counties are in the process of establishing an intercounty transportation system: The Sonoma Marin Area Rail Transit (SMART).
- The North Coast Rail Authority will soon begin running a freight train operation between both counties.
- Marin and Sonoma Counties are both supplied by potable water from the same source, the Russia River, via the Sonoma County Water Agency.
- Both counties have a thriving agricultural economy that is linked by family run farms and ranches, some that are located both counties

Page 2

- The Pacific Ocean laps on the shores of both counties. The Petaluma River is shared by both counties
- The population demographics are similar, including a growing Hispanic community
- Thousands of Sonoma/Marin residents commute between both counties during the average work week to and from their job locations
- A majority of each county's residents live in small towns located along the Highway 101 corridor and have one larger city as the county seat (San Rafael/Santa Rosa)

The population base of both counties should come very close to the total amount of citizens required to form a one congressional district.

I sincerely feel that by combining Marin and Sonoma Counties into one congressional district will make the most sense once the redistricting is complete.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan L. Adams".

Susan L. Adams, Ph.D., R.N.

Holmes, James

Region 8: Marin

May 18, 2011

California Citizens' Redistricting Commission
1130 K St., Ste. 101
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Request to combine Marin with Sonoma, not San Francisco or the East Bay, in legislative districts.

Dear Commissioners:

This letter is to request that the Citizens Redistricting Commission combine Marin and Sonoma into any voting district that must cross county lines. Currently our State Senate district is combined with San Francisco, resulting in greatly-reduced responsiveness of representation. Now, reportedly, our Congressional district is being considering for similar fragmentation; potentially combining it with either S.F. or the East Bay. That would be unreasonable, unjust, and inconsistent with the intent of the redistricting legislation, which both logic and history show, as explained below. Unfortunately, I could not attend your hearing in San Rosa; hence this letter.

Sonoma and Marin are generally similar, as you may already know, being primarily suburban counties, with similar concerns about inadequate roads and public transit, excessive traffic, protecting open space, farmland, and the natural environment generally, dealing with the effects of sprawl, and with wildfire-safety. While neither county is completely dissimilar to S.F. or the East Bay, in the final analysis little doubt exists that Marin shares many more similarities with Sonoma than it does with either the much-more urbanized S.F. or East Bay.

Geographically, Marin is about as separate from SF and the East Bay as possible, being separated by the Bay Area's defining feature, SF Bay.

Perhaps most significant, most Marin residents are *refugees* from S.F. or the East Bay; seeking completely-different surroundings, atmosphere and way of life. This fact would make it especially unjust to consider Marin a 'community of interest' with either of them.

Reflecting the larger middle class in Marin and Sonoma, as opposed to the sharper rich-poor divide of the more-urban areas, Marin-Sonoma politics focuses more on environmental issues than on the social-justice issues which assume greater significance where the middle class is smaller and the population more split between rich and poor.

Ideologically, while both Marin and the urban areas are largely Democratic, Marin Democrats are more moderate than S.F. or East Bay Democrat.

The tenor of Marin politics is completely different, with much less of what commentators in S.F.-based sources such as the S.F. Chronicle and the S.F. weekly papers (Bay Guardian and S.F. Weekly) have called the "blood sport" of S.F. politics. Marin politics is less polarized and less personalized.

5/19/2011

While ethnicity is always uncomfortable to discuss, reports about the redistricting process cite ethnic composition as one element in what makes up a community of interest. Marin's demographics differs dramatically from those of S.F. or the East Bay. Marin is overwhelmingly white, for better or worse. It also has a growing Latino population. Its demographics thus resemble Sonoma's much more closely than those of the two urban areas. Hence, to the extent demographics are a factor, Marin should stay with Sonoma.

Perhaps most important, combining Marin with either S.F. or the East Bay would greatly reduce the responsiveness of Marin's legislators and the ability of their Marin constituents' concerns to be heard and heeded. For decades, I have witnessed first-hand, as a lifelong Marin resident, how being combined with S.F. dilutes the legislative representation of Marin residents. For the Commission to further combine Marin with either urban area would perpetuate the very injustice that the new redistricting process was designed to remedy.

Years ago, Marin's State Senate district was gerrymandered by combining it with San Francisco's, precisely because Marin was in the habit of electing moderate, environmentally-oriented Republicans to that seat (notably, Peter Behr). The Democratic State Senate majority wanted to prevent any Republican of any stripe from ever being elected from Marin again, so it combined Marin with some of S.F. The gambit worked. Partisan politics aside, however, S.F.-based State Senators have, ever since, not always been, shall we say, highly-attentive to the concerns of their Marin constituents. They did not need to be--the great majority of the voters whom they had to satisfy were in S.F. By contrast, Marin's Assemblymembers and Congresspersons have been consistently more personally-responsive to Marinites, and more politically-focused on Marin issues, through the years, regardless of whether or not one agreed with their basic ideologies. Our representation in the State Senate stands in stark contrast to our representation in Congress, where sharing a district with Sonoma has worked well. To undo this successful combination of similar communities, and replace it with one between less-similar areas that has not worked as well in the past, would be a large step backward, and be inconsistent with the intent of the redistricting legislation. Please, therefore, do not expand to Marin's Congressional district the same problem that has plagued our State Senate District for decades. Please also further the intent of the redistricting legislation by likewise separating our State Senate District from San Francisco.

Thank you very much for considering these comments.

Sincerely,


James Holmes


Larkspur, CA 94939-1912

860108: WOKIN