

JUN 08 2011

**BYRD A. LOCHTIE, CONSULTANT**

\* Eureka, CA 95503 \*

May 16, 2011

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

Dear Members of the Citizens Redistricting Commission:

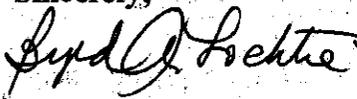
I am writing to ask that you consider the North Coast of California from the Oregon border south, to include Del Norte, Humboldt, and Mendocino counties, as a Community of Interest. These coastal counties have more in common with one another than they do with the mountainous areas east toward Sacramento, Redding and the north central area of the state. I realize you must balance the population in each district, so the secondary Community of Interest, in order to include more voters, could include those adjacent counties that hold the watersheds of the rivers that flow through these three coastal counties.

The whole north coast has been lumped together with the Sacramento/Northern California area in your regions for meetings for public input, making it difficult for residents of these three counties to attend the meetings. A meeting in Humboldt County would be a way to allow more personal testimony from members of this Community of Interest.

The Governor's recent appointment of a Del Norte County resident as the region's representative to the CA Coastal Commission makes it clear that Del Norte, Humboldt and Mendocino counties are all part of the same Community of Interest. Please take this into consideration when you draw the lines for the districts in California.

Thank you for making your work in this first Citizens Redistricting Commission a fair and effective process for all the voters in California.

Sincerely,



Byrd A. Lochtie



# CITY OF EUREKA

MAYOR

██████████ • Eureka, California 95501-1146 • ██████████

Region #9: JUN 08 2011  
Humbolt

RECEIVED JUN 8 2011

May 11, 2011

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

Dear Redistricting Commission Members:

The purpose of this letter is to respectfully request that the Citizens Redistricting Commission consider scheduling a Public Input Hearing somewhere on the North Coast of California. The City of Eureka would like to offer one of our venues as a potential location.

In reviewing the schedule of hearings, it has been noted that those hearings closest to Eureka are either being held in Redding or Santa Rosa, leaving citizens of the North Coast to drive three to four hours **one way** to participate. Residents of Del Norte County would have to add at least another hour and one half to their one way trip. Not only does this schedule put the residents of the region at a serious disadvantage compared to other residents in the State, the cost of fuel and lodging further impact our ability to be represented at the hearings.

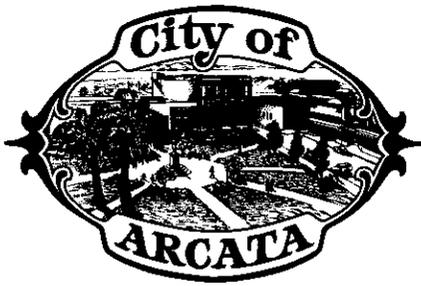
The unique aspects of our community warrant the provision of an opportunity closer to home for public testimony. A visit to this part of the state is essential for the Commission to understand and appreciate our region.

Thank you for your consideration of our request. The City of Eureka would be happy to assist in making the appropriate arrangements for a meeting.

Sincerely,

Frank J. Jager, Mayor  
City of Eureka

cc: Eureka City Council



Arcata, CA 95521

City Manager  
[REDACTED]

Environmental Services  
[REDACTED]

Police  
[REDACTED]

Recreation  
[REDACTED]

Community Development  
[REDACTED]

Finance  
[REDACTED]

Public Works  
[REDACTED]

Transportation  
[REDACTED]

Region #9: Humboldt

JUN 08 2011

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May 19, 2011

via Facsimile and U.S.P.S.  
[REDACTED]

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

Dear Commissioners,

The Arcata City Council respectfully requests that the Citizens Redistricting Commission immediately schedule a Public Input Hearing on the North Coast, preferably in Humboldt County. If this cannot be done within the timeframe of the current redistricting process, we encourage you to delay your decisions and take additional steps to encourage input from North Coast communities.

The Commission is most likely not aware of how remote our area is from the Public Input Hearings that have been scheduled for the very large region IX. The closest hearing was held in Redding, a hazardous three- to four-hour drive from Arcata. The next closest hearing is in Santa Rosa, a four-hour drive for our residents.

This situation itself is indicative of the need for more input from the North Coast. The mountainous terrain that made driving to Redding impractical for our residents is a natural barrier that divides coastal counties from inland counties. It is important that such factors be seriously considered in this process.

The counties of the North Coast have more in common with each other than they do with counties to the east. Our economies are dependent on our coastal resources. We share industries such as fishing, timber, tourism, and agriculture. Geographical, environmental, and economic bonds are the basis of a shared culture that is uniquely coastal in character.

North Coast counties—particularly Humboldt, Mendocino, and Del Norte—clearly represent a community of common interest and belong together. Dividing them from each other in favor of east-west districts, as some have suggested, would likely change the focus and priorities of our elected officials. We are concerned that coastal counties would suffer under such an arrangement.

California Citizens Redistricting Commission  
May 19, 2011  
Page Two

Underrepresentation in this process could lead to years of underrepresentation in Washington, D.C., and Sacramento. It is essential that our citizens have equal representation and fair access to the Commission. I would, therefore, like to offer a public building where the Commission could hold a Public Input Hearing for our area.

I am anxiously awaiting your reply.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susan Ornelas". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Susan Ornelas  
Mayor

SO:bd

# Region 9 : Humboldt



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

JUN 08 2011

## COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

EUREKA, CALIFORNIA 95501-1153

May 26, 2011

Citizens Redistricting Commission  
1130 K Street, Suite 101  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
Fax: (916) 322-0904  
[votersfirstact@crc.ca.gov](mailto:votersfirstact@crc.ca.gov)

Dear Members of the Redistricting Commission,

I am writing on behalf of the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors to urge you to keep our North Coast counties linked through Assembly, State Senate and Congressional district boundaries that recognize our unique character and protect our common interests.

The North Coast is a rugged and isolated area, with small rural communities strung together along the Highway 101 corridor. We self-identify not as Northern California, but rather as the North Coast or the Redwood Region, as these are the two primary influences that define us, and which we all share.

Our climate, our watersheds, our soils and geology are all significantly different than our inland neighbors. These factors make our timberlands unique in the world, and help distinguish our farms, ranches, dairies and vineyards from those found elsewhere in the State. Our identity as the Redwood Region drives our vital tourism industry.

We are, by definition, a coastal region. We share the edge of the continent in a way that distinguishes us as fundamentally different, not only from California's inland counties, but from all other counties in all other states to the East of us, until you reach the opposite edge of the continent.

Our shared coastline binds us together with our neighbors to the North and South. When we think of those commonalities that define our coastal counties as distinct communities of interest, the list is long. These issues cause us to regularly work with a long list of State and Federal agencies and non-governmental organizations that are unique to coastal regions, and which inland regions simply don't deal with. A partial list of these unique issues, industries, agencies and organizations would include the following:

- Commercial and recreational fishing
- Pacific Salmon Restoration
- Aquaculture and mariculture
- Marine research
- Maritime shipping
- The Marine Highways program
- Cruise lines and sea-going travel
- Ocean watersports and recreational boating
- Sea level rise
- Tsunamis
- Beach erosion and replenishment
- Desalination
- Wave and tidal energy
- Off-shore oil drilling
- Geologic conditions/seismic activity

- The Marine Life Protection Act
- Ocean pollution
- The California Coastal Commission
- The Coastal Conservancy
- The Coast Guard
- The Navy
- The Maritime Administration
- The Bureau of Oceanic Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement
- The Ocean Protection Council
- The Ocean Research and Conservation Association
- Surfriders
- The Ocean Conservancy

Humboldt County was incorporated in 1853 specifically because the legislature recognized that our coastal communities could not be adequately or appropriately represented by someone on the other side of the mountains. In their book *Two Peoples, One Place*, historians Ray Raphael and Freeman House describe the reasons for establishment of Humboldt County this way:

*"In 1853, responding to angry residents from the coast who did not wish to venture across the mountains to conduct official business, the California Legislature split Trinity County once more, this time creating Humboldt County out of the western section."*

Since then our roads have improved tremendously and our travel times have been greatly reduced, and yet the fundamental difference between the distinct and unique interests of our coastal communities and those of our inland counties is as clear today as it was 158 years ago. While we share common interests with our neighbors to the North and South, we often find ourselves at odds with inland counties, most notably on water-related issues such as the Klamath Dams and the Trinity River.

Perhaps nowhere are these differences illustrated more clearly than in the House of Representatives' recent vote to open up the North Coast to off-shore oil drilling. This has been one of the most important and unifying issues for coastal counties and communities for the last 40 years, and accordingly our coastal Congressional representatives voted against the bill. The North State's two inland representatives voted for it, thus highlighting our concern as to whether an inland representative would have our best interests at heart on critical coastal issues.

Lastly, we wish to repeat our previous request that the Redistricting Commission hold a hearing on the North Coast, rather than in a location so distant that it requires a two day trip for citizens to be able to attend. The May 20<sup>th</sup> meeting in Santa Rosa was 4 ½ hours from Eureka, and a full 6 hours from Crescent City. Such distance makes it prohibitive for citizens to be meaningfully involved in this issue that is so important to ensuring that we are accurately and fairly represented.

I thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,



Mark Lovelace, Chair  
Board of Supervisors  
County of Humboldt

# Region #9: Humboldt

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JUN 08 2011

WILLIAM M. KIER

██████████  
BLUE LAKE, CA 95525  
██████████

22 May 2011

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

Dear Commissioners

I am writing you as a native Californian and lifelong student of, and participant in State and local government and politics to urge you to recognize and respect the commonality of California's North Coast communities and to provide us with authentic North Coast representatives in Congress and the California Legislature.

My direct experience with redistricting goes back to bills drawn in response to the decennial census of 1960. The hearings on those bills, which I attended in the Capitol as an interested citizen, produced representatives from California's minority populations, in strong numbers for the first time, who made, what were for me, very compelling cases for respecting their community cohesion.

I have lived and worked, quite literally, all over California. I am most knowledgeable, however, concerning the communities – the cultures – of the Sacramento Valley and surrounding mountains and those of the North Coast counties from San Francisco northward. I can assure you, based on more than 50 years of sustained professional public-service interaction with both valley and coastal communities, that the legitimate needs and goals of the coastal communities are far, far more common with one another than they are with the Valley-mountain communities.

We on the North Coast would appreciate it tremendously if you could find it in your hearts to schedule a public meeting in Eureka to gather testimony on why the counties of Sonoma north to Del Norte are, in fact, a single community of interest, a common culture.

Sincerely,



William M. Kier  
Blue Lake, California