

**Subject:** Public Comment: 9 - Siskiyou

**From:** "Sheriff Jon E. Lopey, Siskiyou County" <[REDACTED]>

**Date:** Thu, 16 Jun 2011 02:08:01 +0000

**To:** [REDACTED]

From: Sheriff Jon E. Lopey, Siskiyou County <[REDACTED]>  
Subject: Opposition to Redistricting Proposal

Message Body:

June 15, 2011

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

Dear Honorable Commission Members:

The purpose of this letter is to express my strong opposition to the proposed redistricting of Siskiyou County. As the elected Sheriff of Siskiyou County, I feel that this separation of state and federal assembly, senate and congressional boundaries will adversely impact the public safety, health, and potentially, the economic and social fabric of our county. I am very alarmed by the first draft of maps proposed by the Commission and can see absolutely no benefits to this plan.

I am in opposition to the proposed split of Siskiyou County into separate Assembly, Senate and Congressional Districts. I am convinced that several communities of interest in the county would be adversely affected. Your Commission's proposal for Siskiyou County will result in splits of Supervisorial Districts 5 including the incorporated cities of Fort Jones and Etna, Supervisorial District 3, Siskiyou County Board of Education Areas 3, 6, and 7, Siskiyou Community College District Areas 3 and 7, Yreka Union High School District Areas 3 and 7, Siskiyou Union High School District, Scott Valley Unified School District Area 1 and 2, Hornbrook Elementary School District, Gazelle Elementary School District, Scott Valley Fire Protection District and Gazelle Fire Protection District.

Although the negative impact of this split are too numerous to mention, I will elaborate on a few of the most compelling arguments to maintain the districts as they currently stand. The public safety community in Siskiyou County has an excellent working relationship with Senator Nielsen, Assemblyman LaMalfa and Congressmen Herger. These elected representatives know our county and have the interests of our citizens as a priority. I have been a law enforcement professional for over 33 years and have worked with our current elected representatives intermittently for nearly 19 years. Placing us in the coastal districts will almost completely eliminate my ability and the capacity of our citizens to attend key events and meetings on a regular basis due to distance, weather and expense. Currently, I have free access to my elected representatives and do not have to drive three hours to visit them. I also believe the coastal elected representatives have different law enforcement priorities and critical issues such as agriculture, water rights, dam removal, endangered species, forestering, mining, recreation, and general land use topics are significantly different in the coastal areas.

Citizens' Redistricting Commission  
Page 2  
June 15, 2011

I know this because I once worked in Mendocino County and have occasionally worked in areas like Humboldt County during my employment with the California Highway Patrol.

I firmly believe that the priority of a county united under the same elected representatives promotes more effective, comprehensive and timely public health and safety. A separation of our county along the proposed boundaries would inhibit my ability to address critical law enforcement prevention, response and program responsibilities. Siskiyou County already has tremendous budget challenges and has seen a significant decline in the economy and a divided political approach to our problems will be potentially catastrophic. I have discussed this issue with many county residents and I have not talked to one person who thinks this is a good idea. Most people I have talked to view this as a deliberate political ploy with which to reduce the voice and freedoms of county citizens, especially in relation to critical land and water use issues.

If this proposal is implemented, I am convinced that the people of Siskiyou County will have very little if any voice and my concerns about public health and safety will not be addressed in a timely fashion. I have had recent conversations with coastal county sheriffs and it is evident that coastal political priorities and public safety perspectives are not compatible with the priorities and issues that Siskiyou citizens most care about. For example, the majority of citizens here view land use, water rights, marijuana cultivation, recreation, and many other issues differently.

Since this issue is a government-sponsored initiative which potentially impacts the public health, safety, stability, and economy of Siskiyou County, and effects my ability to enforce the law and conduct public safety programs, I respectfully request that the Commission conduct proper coordination with me, a duly elected official, to ensure there is reasonable consistency in the decision made by your Commission. In other words, my understanding of federal and state law indicates that the Commission has an obligation to coordinate with me, the elected Sheriff of Siskiyou County because of the negative impacts I predict will occur as a result of this redistricting, should this realignment of boundaries be implemented in its current form.

Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to meeting with the Commission in the near future to personally discuss my strong opposition to this redistricting proposal.

Should you have any questions, please contact me, at [REDACTED]

Sincerely,

Jon E. Lopey, Sheriff-Coroner.

--  
This mail is sent via contact form on Citizens Redistricting Commission

**Subject:** Public Comment: 9 - Siskiyou  
**From:** Ed Valenzuela <[REDACTED]>  
**Date:** Wed, 15 Jun 2011 18:43:26 +0000  
**To:** [REDACTED]

From: Ed Valenzuela <[REDACTED]>  
Subject: Redistricting

Message Body:

Thank You for allowing me to comment on the draft maps of the proposed Assembly, Senate, and Congressional Districts for California.

I am the Second District Supervisor of Siskiyou County ( Southern). I can not support your proposal for Siskiyou County.

Please keep Siskiyou county whole in your redistricting processes. Splitting Seven Thousand people out of Forty Five Thousand Siskiyou County residents would weaken our already small voice in governance. A prime example was the April 9th meeting held in Redding Ca. This was not well noticed and would have been a two plus hours drive from Scott Valley. As word gets out I find it unlikely that any Siskiyou County resident would support splitting a unique and diverse county as ours.

As an Elected Official I can appreciate your hard work and efforts. Please reconsider to keep Siskiyou County Whole.

Sincerely Ed Valenzuela District 2 Supervisor Siskiyou county

--  
This mail is sent via contact form on Citizens Redistricting Commission