



COUNTY OF YOLO

Board of Supervisors

District 1, **Michael H. McGowan**
 District 2, **Don Saylor**
 District 3, **Matt Rexroad**
 District 4, **Jim Provenza**
 District 5, **Duane Chamberlain**

Woodland, CA 95695

FAX

County Administrator, **Patrick S. Blacklock**
 Deputy Clerk of the Board, **Julie Dachtler**

June 14, 2011

California Citizens Redistricting Commission
 901 P Street, Suite 154-A
 Sacramento, CA 95814
 Fax: (916) 651-5711

To: Members of the California Citizens Redistricting Commission

We have been directed by the Yolo County Board of Supervisors to communicate our shared belief that the maps identifying proposed legislative congressional districts do not accurately reflect Yolo County's communities of interest. Yolo County as a whole is a community of interest.

We believe it would be a mistake to divide Yolo County into three separate districts for all three of the levels of representation (Assembly, Senate and Congress). Such a suggestion fails to recognize the distinct character of the areas within Yolo County and the role Yolo County plays in the surrounding regions of the Sacramento area, the Delta and the I-80 corridor.

Yolo County was founded in 1850 as one of the original California counties. The County has 1,021 square miles within its boundaries and is home to over 200,000 people. There are four distinct incorporated cities within Yolo County, each with their own unique character and all nested within a rich agricultural environment. The pervasive ethos of Yolo County is reflected in the careful land use planning of all four cities and the County. The residents of these cities share far more common interests with one another than with jurisdictions outside Yolo County. Yolo County is a primarily agricultural- and university-focused community of interest with a growing knowledge-based industrial economy.

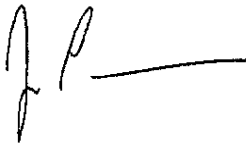
The maps could disenfranchise the interests of Yolo County citizens. Yolo County's strength is in its shared values and the example it sets for other counties in the state. We have preserved our farmland and open space while promoting higher education and building the local economy. We are a model for cross-sector and multi-jurisdictional collaborations. We have forged alliances that have resulted in smart growth, good land use decisions, and a regional economy that benefits the state and the nation.

A cursory examination of the character and interests of the residents of Yolo County would result in awareness of the unique commonalities and shared interests between Yolo County communities. We urge the Commission to revise District boundaries to accurately reflect the community of interest that has existed in Yolo County since 1850 and which remains so today.

We also would like to bring to the Commission's attention when choosing the numbering of Senate Districts the importance of retaining an odd number for the district (or districts), including Yolo County, so that Yolo County voters can choose their next Senator in the normal election cycle. The previous redistricting plans for the last three decades have switched the numbers for Yolo County and resulted in two year deferrals. This historic disenfranchisement of Yolo County voters should not continue.

Please consider our request to keep Yolo County together in our Assembly, Senate and Congressional Districts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Provenza", followed by a horizontal line.

Jim Provenza
Vice-Chair, Yolo County Board of Supervisors

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Don Saylor".

Don Saylor
Yolo County Supervisor