

----- Original Message -----

Subject:Public Comment: 9 - Yolo

Date:Tue, 21 Jun 2011 19:01:41 +0000

From:Carl Schmid <[REDACTED]>

To:[REDACTED]

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Subject: consolidate Yolo in one or at most two districts

Message Body:

Dividing little Yolo County into three districts (for both the Senate and Assembly) strangely ignores its geographical, economic and cultural integrity. At its incorporation, our county's boundaries were defined by a very, large river with its huge floodplain in the east and coastal hills in the west, natural boundaries which still exist and are still relevant to how we live today:

For example as a Davis resident, I shop frequently (several times each week) in nearby Woodland, which I conveniently access by driving on either HWY 113 or Poleline Rd, roads running north-south. The twin cities of Woodland and Davis (fraternal twins perhaps but twins nonetheless) are tightly linked to each other in many other ways. As just one example, they must now develop common water resources, a multimillion dollar project that will directly impact Yolo rate payers. Yolo has unique history of agricultural land preservation dating back to the historic Williamson act. This common heritage has been strongly supported by both Yolo's Ag community and city residents, myself included, who value our quality of life.

I understand the Commission's need for some judgment in drawing artificial political lines and, there may be an argument for linking the City of West Sacramento with nearby Sacramento rather than with the rest of Yolo County. However, I also notice that Sacramento County and other nearby valley counties have been Balkanized just like Yolo. The Commission should better recognize the geographical significance of county boundaries by consolidating each county within the minimum number of possible legislative districts. In particular, Yolo County should be consolidated into one, or at most two, legislative districts, one of which should link Davis and Woodland. Again, the Commission can easily accomplish this recommendation change by simultaneously respecting the boundaries of Yolo's neighboring counties.

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