My name is Richard Egner and I am a long time resident of California. As a former reporter for a local newspaper, I have followed the redistricting issue closely.

I am appalled with the recommendations of the Commission to split San Jose and East San Jose. Having lived in this area, I know how important it is to keep our communities of interest intact. The Latino community is one largest communities in Santa Clara County and the State. The maps would create a dilution of the political leadership of East San Jose and San Jose. Latinos have worked hard to get equal representation over the years which will be lost if the maps you have created are approved.

The 23rd Assembly District should be maintained as is or with minor adjustments. The 23rd and 28th Assembly Districts could be nested to form a Senate District that combines Latino communities in Santa Clara, Monterey and San Benito Counties. These areas have common similarities such as:

1. income and poverty levels.
2. educational needs
3. cultural similarities
4. employment needs
5. transportation corridor

It is critical that the Commission does not disenfranchise our Latino communities. This would be seen as discrimination against an important and growing Latino community. Your mission is to make our diverse communities able to have a voice in our government. Please do the right thing and revisit the recommendations you have released in the recent visualization maps as it relates to Santa Clara County.
Subject: The area south of The Villages Parkway to Metcalf Road and east should be part of the proposed SANJO assembly district
From: Mike Ivey
Date: 7/23/2011 2:29 PM
To: ""
The attached PDF file shows several alternate borders for a congressional district splitting the City of Santa Cruz.

The red and green lines represent the minimum change needed to keep the main downtown business and civic area intact by shifting the proposed border (brown line) slightly east or west.

The other lines are logical dividing lines if more population needs to be moved.

Thank your consideration,

David K Watson
To see all the details that are visible on the screen, use the "Print" link next to the map.
Subject: Assembly Districts for East San Jose
From: Frank or Barbara Biehl <[redacted]>
Date: 7/23/2011 1:45 AM
To: [redacted]

My address is on Valley Ridge Lane in San Jose, in unincorporated portion of Santa Clara County, one block outside of the city of San Jose limits. Your latest version of the assembly maps places me in a district with rural Milpitas and Morgan Hill. I do not live on a ranch. I live on a city block consisting of 12 houses.

I shop in San Jose, I work in San Jose, my children attend school in San Jose. You have placed the entire portion of my small school district, Mt Pleasant, in an East San Jose assembly district, except for my block. Is there some strange political agenda going on here that you cut just my block out? The previous versions of the assembly map placed me either with Alum Rock for the assembly district or Evergreen for the senate district. Why have you chopped our block away from the rest of the neighborhood?

If you stand at the front of the San Jose City Hall, you can see my house approximately 5 miles to the east. The Morgan Hill City Hall is 22 miles away. The Milpitas city Hall is 12 miles away.

Please place the boundaries of the assembly districts for East San Jose at the eastern boundaries of the urban service areas. Please do not cut off the citizens of east San Jose and Evergreen off from the rest of their San Jose neighborhood.

Thank-you,

Barbara Biehl
San Jose, CA 95148
Subject: Don’t split up East San Jose
From: Rafael Renteria <[redacted]>
Date: 7/23/2011 8:56 AM
To: [redacted]

I am a long time resident of San Jose and have been very active in numerous community organizations. I want to encourage you to not divide East San Jose and downtown into multiple districts. Please keep our Assembly and Senate districts intact in East San Jose and don’t divide us into diluted districts where we will not be able to elect Latino representatives in our area where nearly 40% of the residents are Latinos.

Specifically, I want to recommend that the East San Jose area be kept whole. It is the area east of Highway 87 to the foothills in the east. It should then go from Penitencia Creek up the hill to Suncrest and up Perie Lane so that the residents of the East Foothills will retain their relationship to San Jose/Santa Clara County. This is a community of interest. There is no relationship between this area and the Western part of the county.

Please keep in mind that for generations the Latino community has fought for inclusion in the governance of the city, county and state. It was only 10 years ago that the first Latino was elected to state office from our county, after the redistricting took place in 2000 after struggling for fair representation and being denied in the 1980's and 1990's. It was intentional discrimination then, please don’t do it again. We don’t want to be victims of retrogression.

Please don’t split up East San Jose and divide our neighborhoods. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Rafael Renteria
Subject: Please keep East San Jose intact
From: Frances Renteria <[email protected]>
Date: 7/23/2011 12:41 PM
To: 

Members of the Redistricting Commission,

I am a long time resident of East San Jose and have been active in community organizations and worked in East San Jose for 35 years. I want to encourage you to not divide East San Jose and downtown into multiple districts. Please keep our Assembly and Senate districts intact in East San Jose and don't divide us into diluted districts where we will not be able to elect Latino representatives in our area where nearly 40% of the residents are Latinos.

Specifically, I want to recommend that the East San Jose area be kept whole. It is the area east of Highway 87 to the foothills in the east. It should then go from Penitencia Creek up the hill to Suncrest and up Perie Lane so that the residents of the East Foothills will retain their relationship to San Jose/Santa Clara County. This is a community of interest. There is no relationship between this area and the Western part of the county.

Please keep in mind that for generations the Latino community has fought for inclusion in the governance of the city, county and state. It was only 10 years ago that the first Latino was elected to state office from our county, after the redistricting took place in 2000 after struggling for fair representation and being denied in the 1980's and 1990's. It was intentional discrimination then, please don't do it again. We don't want to be victims of retrogression.

Thank you for your consideration.

Frances Renteria

Please don't split up East San Jose and divide our neighborhoods. Thank you for your consideration.
Commissioners,

During possible future litigation activities would you please ...

... provide timely notice on your website and via eMail to interested parties of all scheduled court hearings and decisions?

... ask the court for approval to stream video of the proceedings?

... provide streaming video of all your court proceedings (when the court approves) at your expense?

... store and make available all videos of court proceedings on your website?

... ensure that any or your open meetings concerning litigation continue to be distributed to the public via streaming video?

Even your strategy meetings should be open meetings because in defending the maps, you are essentially acting on behalf of all 38,000,000 Californians (minus the litigants) and we have a right to know how you will proceed and why. The only time you should have closed meetings on litigation would be to receive advice from counsel that must be considered privileged communications.

Relative to court proceedings, these requests assume that the court itself does not regularly provide streaming video of their proceedings. If they do, then your website should contain a notice and link to that stream.

Jim Wright
a voter from San Jose
I want to urge you to keep our community "Evergreen" within the same boundary lines - please do not divide our community! It is my understanding that the current proposal splits our community by placing subdivisions such as "The Villages, California Oak, The Meadowlands, etc" in the MLPTS district. Please keep our 'Evergreen Community' whole (also known as the City's District 8)!

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This mail is sent via contact form on Citizens Redistricting Commission
Subject: Public Comment: 7 - Santa Clara

From: Donald Fernandez
Date: 7/23/2011 12:14 PM
To:  

From: Donald Fernandez
Subject: Redistricting

Message Body:
I am opposed to redistricting that separates Evergreen into two districts. I am also very much opposed to separating The Villages, a planned community of 4000 residents, into 2 different districts.

--
This mail is sent via contact form on Citizens Redistricting Commission
I am a resident of The Villages in Evergreen, living at 6214 Wehner Way in San Jose. I am also an instructor at Evergreen Valley College, 3095 Yerba Buena Road, San Jose. As your draft map reads now, San Jose's Evergreen region, Council District 8, would be split. State and federal electoral boundaries should NOT split communities like the Villages, the Meadowlands and California Oaks from the rest of Evergreen!

Current plans call for my neighborhood to be represented with the East Bay, which is not only not my city, but not even my region. I never even travel to the East Bay.

In addition, Evergreen has a sad history of disenfranchisement. At my former 32-year address in Evergreen, 3312 Pomeroy Court, I was represented by the California State assembly district of Salinas, which has very different concerns than San Jose. This lack of representation continued throughout the 1990s, when Evergreen was undergoing explosive growth, development, and strain on public services. The 2000 redistricting brought Evergreen back into San Jose, and now your maps are tearing it out again.

Please allow Evergreen residents, who live, work, attend school, drive, and use public transportation in San Jose, to be joined with our neighbors in San Jose districts.

Sincerely,
Robin Hahn
Subject: San Jose Assembly and Congressional Districts

From: Hermelinda Sapien

Date: 7/23/2011 5:18 PM

To: [Redacted]

Dear Commissioners:

It is with utmost respect and deep understanding of your difficult task of redrawing the redistricting maps of California that I once again urge you to consider the importance of keeping San Jose unified.

In regards to the Assembly District I urge you to keep San Jose unified by joining the communities of Old Willow Glen, Monterey Road, Burbank, East Foot Hills and Penitencia Roads.

In regards to the Congressional District I urge you to do the same as with the Assembly, and at the very least, keep the Congressional District within Santa Clara County.

As I have stated during my oral presentation, San Jose, and especially the East San Jose community, is undergoing tremendous economic stress with declining resources, including less educational services, police and fire protection, child care and housing and jobs. Splitting the community dilutes resources and human capacity to deal with these issues. Keeping communities of interest unified, at the very least defines common issues and arms leaders and public officials with clear objectives as to how to tackle serious problems.

I again urge you to keep San Jose unified. It is the right thing to do.

Respectfully,

Hermelinda Sapien, CEO
Center for Employment Training - CET
San Jose, CA 95110