

## County of Santa Cruz



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SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060-4069

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FIFTH DISTRICT

July 6, 2011

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

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing to voice my strong opposition to the proposal to divide the City of Santa Cruz, which I represent on the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors, into two separate Congressional Districts. The entire City of Santa Cruz should remain whole within the Monterey Bay Congressional District.

Dividing the City of Santa Cruz would disconnect half of the City of Santa Cruz from the shared community of interest of Monterey County, San Benito County, and the majority of the County of Santa Cruz. The eastern and western portions of the City of Santa Cruz share a community of interest based on our media and local economy of tourism and visitor services, higher education, and high tech.

If the proposal to split the City of Santa Cruz was implemented, the boundaries would not match either the State Senate or the State Assembly boundaries leading to confusion and disenfranchisement.

With only four incorporated cities in Santa Cruz County, having half the City of Santa Cruz (County Seat of Santa Cruz County) in a different Congressional District would disenfranchise the County as a whole.

With a population of nearly 60,000, the City of Santa Cruz is one of the smallest cities to be divided in the current statewide redistricting process. It does not make sense to divide such a small city.

In the 2001 redistricting, Santa Cruz County, the smallest county in California, was divided between two Congressional Districts, two State Senate districts and two State Assembly districts. The Commission is projecting to divide the community once again at the Congressional and Assembly levels.

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Please preserve the entire City of Santa Cruz in the Monterey Bay Congressional District. Our region's future depends on your Commission's actions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Neal Coonerty', with a large, sweeping flourish extending from the end of the name.

NEAL COONERTY, Supervisor  
Third District

NC:lg

cc: Vincent Barabba, Citizens Redistricting Commission  
Ryan Coonerty, Mayor, City of Santa Cruz

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