Subject: Santa Cruz Whole MONT Congressional District
From: Nik Bonovich <nik@redistrictingpartners.com>
Date: Wed, 20 Jul 2011 21:24:49 -0700 (PDT)
To: [redacted]
CC: Paul Mitchell <paul@redistrictingpartners.com>, Chris Chaffee <[redacted]>

Please see the attached maps of Congressional Districts that make the City of Santa Cruz whole in MONT, make Sunnyvale and Santa Clara whole in SNMSC, decrease the split of San Jose from three to two districts (SNACL & SANJO) and increase the Asian CVAP in SANJO from 40% to 41%.

Thank you,
Nik Bonovich
Redistricting Partners
July 20, 2011

Dear Members of the CA. Citizens Redistricting Commission:

Many members from our region have pointed out at your public hearings or by written testimony that our Tri-County (Monterey, Santa Cruz, San Benito) constituents share many community of interests: media markets, shared local governmental planning (Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments), coastal agricultural techniques, farm labor, shared water issues, the San Lorenzo, Pajaro and Salinas River basins, and even that the local adult softball league covers our three counties.

The major counties represented in the California State Senate since the last redistricting have been Merced, Stanislaus, Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, and Santa Clara. However, we have not been able to elect a State Senator from our home counties of Santa Cruz, Monterey or San Benito. Consequently, our communities of interest have not been represented by the previous state senators.

As an elected official in Santa Cruz County and as members of the Tri-County Association of Latino Elected Officials (TCALEO) I am requesting that the California Citizens Redistricting Commission develop a Tri-County State Senate District where our constituents will have an opportunity to elect a State Senator of our choice, rather than spending the next ten years as a Central Coast after thought for the large Central Valley district as shown on your Visualization map of July 19, 2011.

I would like to add that as I review other redistricting visualization maps I find that the Commission has failed to increase the opportunity for Latinos to progress politically in the state, particularly in the Los Angeles area. As you know since the last Census, California’s Latino population has accounted for 90% of the state’s growth. However, the Commission’s maps do not reflect that growth and in fact diminish Latino’s ability for political representation as required by the Voting Rights Act, 1965. In your deliberations, please do address this very serious error.

Respectfully,
Rebecca J. García, Trustee
Cabrillo Community College