

**Subject:** Letter from Councilmember Michael Harris

**From:** Martin Nelis <[REDACTED]>

**Date:** Wed, 20 Jul 2011 00:37:00 +0000

**To:** "[REDACTED]" <[REDACTED]>

Please see the attached letter.

**Martin Nelis**

*Public Information Officer*

City of Pleasant Hill

[REDACTED] Pleasant Hill, CA 94523

[REDACTED]

**letter from Pleasant Hill City Councilmember Michael Harris.pdf**



# City of Pleasant Hill

Citizens Redistricting Commission  
[REDACTED]

July 19, 2011

Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing to you to express my strong opposition to the proposed State Senate District (WINE) which would result in the removal of Pleasant Hill and Martinez from current Senate District 07. There are many reasons why it is inequitable and unfair to the citizens of these communities and Contra Costa County to include this portion of the County with the Counties of Lake, Napa, Solano and Yolo.

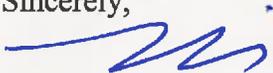
As outlined in Proposition 20, which passed in 2010, the commission is required to use the "community of interest" guidelines or standards in considering districts. Specifically, community of interest is defined as "a contiguous population which shares common social & economic interests....examples of such interests are those common to areas in which the people share similar living standards, use the same transportation facilities, have similar work opportunities, or have access to the same media of communication...."

We are very different from the proposed WINE District. Neither Pleasant Hill nor Martinez, the County seat of Contra Costa, is geographically contiguous to the proposed district and both cities are physically separated from the other counties by Suisun Bay. We share no specific social or economic characteristics with the four northern counties, nor do we share transportation systems. Our media market is completely different and the vast majority of our residents are employed in the East Bay or San Francisco.

Clearly, the communities of interest guidelines were not taken into consideration with the current redistricting proposal. Pleasant Hill and Martinez are an integral part of the central Contra Costa community and the East Bay region in general. We share the same transportation modes such as BART, County Connection Bus Services and many bicycling and pedestrian routes. We are part of the same Bay Area media market which only partially reaches into the proposed 'WINE' district. Both Cities are also active participants in the East Bay Economic Development Alliance incorporating all of the major cities in Contra Costa and Alameda.

From a social, economic and cultural perspective, Pleasant Hill and Martinez share many common interests with our neighboring cities and the entire East Bay community. Conversely, there is little or no connection with Solano, Napa, Lake and Yolo Counties, most of which is not considered as part of the Bay Area region. I strongly urge you to reconsider this redistricting proposal by placing our community where it should be - with the rest of Contra Costa in the proposed 'RAMON' district.

Sincerely,



Michael G. Harris, OD  
Councilmember

**Subject:** Oppose Pleasant Hill, CA Redistricting

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Date:** Wed, 20 Jul 2011 04:33:47 +0000 (UTC)

**To:** [REDACTED]

I've been a resident of the East Bay and Pleasant Hill, CA for over 25 years. I completely oppose the redistricting of Pleasant Hill for the following reasons:

1) Pleasant Hill's businesses, school district, employment opportunities, industries, and transportation systems, and political ties are closely matched and embedded with other East Bay cities in Contra Costa County.

2) Solono County cities have no similarities with Pleasant Hill in almost every aspect. Solono's industries, economy, employment, transportation, and demographics are worlds apart and Pleasant Hill and Solono are separated by a large body of water.

Because of these differences, Pleasant Hill would be at great risk of not being fairly represented. Please keep Pleasant Hill where it belongs with Contra Costa County districting.

Thank you,

Alicia Minyen, CPA  
Pleasant Hill, CA Resident  
[REDACTED]

**Subject:** Public Comment: 8 - Contra Costa

**From:** John Matthesen <[REDACTED]>

**Date:** Tue, 19 Jul 2011 19:41:55 +0000

**To:** [REDACTED]

From: John Matthesen <[REDACTED]>

Subject: Do not redistrict Pleasant Hill to Solano

Message Body:

It makes no sense to put Pleasant Hill and Martinez into Solano County representation.

We are part of Contra Costa.

Please do NOT make us use representation from Solano.

John Matthesen

--

This mail is sent via contact form on Citizens Redistricting Commission

**Subject:** Public Comment: 8 - Contra Costa

**From:** Tom Guarino <[REDACTED]>

**Date:** Tue, 19 Jul 2011 19:53:35 +0000

**To:** [REDACTED]

From: Tom Guarino <[REDACTED]>

Subject: State Senate District

Message Body:

Greetings,

The Pleasant Hill Chamber of Commerce has serious concerns about the proposed elimination of our local State Senate District (currently represented by Mark DeSaulnier) and to relocate this to Solano County.

The Chamber believes this would seriously disrupt our community of interest.

Thank you for your consideration,

Tom Guarino  
Chair, Government Relations Committee  
Pleasant Hill Chamber of Commerce

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This mail is sent via contact form on Citizens Redistricting Commission

**Subject:** Public Comment: 8 - Contra Costa

**From:** Bielle Moore <[REDACTED]>

**Date:** Tue, 19 Jul 2011 20:49:02 +0000

**To:** [REDACTED]

From: Bielle Moore <[REDACTED]>

Subject: Senator DeSaulnier

Message Body:

As a member of the Pleasant Hill Chamber I am writing this request to keep Pleasant Hill in Contra Costa County in the Senator's district. it makes no sense to move us in a district with Solano County.

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This mail is sent via contact form on Citizens Redistricting Commission

**Subject:** Public Comment: 8 - Contra Costa

**From:** Supervisor Karen Mitchoff <[REDACTED]>

**Date:** Tue, 19 Jul 2011 21:32:14 +0000

**To:** [REDACTED]

From: Supervisor Karen Mitchoff <[REDACTED]>

Subject: Redistricting

Message Body:

It has come to my attention that in a recent State Senate district visualization, the city of Pleasant Hill is removed from the rest of Contra Costa County and placed in a district that is predominantly in Solano County. As the current County Supervisor representing Pleasant Hill, as well as a former Mayor, I strongly urge you to include Pleasant Hill with the rest of Central Contra Costa County in any State Senate district.

Pleasant Hill sits in the middle of Contra Costa and works closely with Walnut Creek, Clayton and Concord on regional matters such as transportation priorities and public safety coordination. Pleasant Hill parents send their kids to schools in the Mount Diablo Unified School District, which also covers Concord, Clayton, and a large section of Walnut Creek. Pleasant Hill is covered by many of the same special districts as Walnut Creek and Concord. The BART station that serves Pleasant Hill even sits in unincorporated Walnut Creek, an area called Contra Costa Centre.

As you are drawing the boundaries, I know that you have many different issues to take into account. But if Pleasant Hill is separated from the rest of Central Contra Costa, I fear that we will be dividing up a larger regional community that works well together, especially on transportation and growth issues. It makes more sense for us to stay together under one Senator, rather than be carved out and put into a district that is predominantly over the bridge in Solano County.

I appreciate you considering this input, and please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions about this area.

Sincerely,

Karen Mitchoff

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This mail is sent via contact form on Citizens Redistricting Commission

**Subject:** Public Comment: 8 - Contra Costa

**From:** Karla Garcia <[REDACTED]>

**Date:** Tue, 19 Jul 2011 22:28:41 +0000

**To:** [REDACTED]

From: Karla Garcia <[REDACTED]>

Subject: redistricting

Message Body:

I am a resident of Pleasant Hill, Contra Costa County, a former resident of Solano County. I would like to unequivocally object to the decision made by the redistricting commission. These areas are completely unmatched and have nothing in common save the bridge that connects them. Our voice will be entirely lost. I implore you to take another look at how ridiculous these lines that have been drawn are.

Thank you for your time.

Best regards,

Karla S. Garcia

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This mail is sent via contact form on Citizens Redistricting Commission

**Subject:** Public Comment: 8 - Contra Costa

**From:** Gretchen de la O <[REDACTED]>

**Date:** Wed, 20 Jul 2011 00:41:23 +0000

**To:** [REDACTED]

**From:** Gretchen de la O <[REDACTED]>

**Subject:** Redistricting Pleasant Hill and Martinez

**Message Body:**

For some reason, government tends to treat Pleasant Hill and Martinez as an after thought. It is over due and worn out to keep pawning our communities off to the highest bidder. Pleasant Hill is a bedroom community located between Concord, Walnut Creek and Lafayette. We are tied to our community around us. There is nothing that bonds us to Yolo, Napa, Salano, or Lake counties. Redistricting Pleasant Hill and Martinez to those counties make as much sense as trying to fit a square peg in a round hole, it doesn't work. Pleasant Hill and Martinez are NOT geographically part of the rest of this proposed district -(Napa, Yolo, Lake and Solano) - as we are physically separated from them by Suisun Bay. Our two cities are an integral part of the East Bay region as well as being major cities in central Contra Costa County. As such, we share no specific social or economic characteristics with the four northern counties mentioned above. Our media market is completely different tha!

n these other counties. The vast majority of our residents are employed in the East Bay or San Francisco. There is very little overlap between us and these other counties when it comes to employment.

Please give Pleasant Hill and Martinez their dues and keep us with our community.

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This mail is sent via contact form on Citizens Redistricting Commission

**Subject:** Public Comment: 8 - Contra Costa

**From:** David Durant <[REDACTED]>

**Date:** Wed, 20 Jul 2011 02:06:33 +0000

**To:** [REDACTED]

From: David Durant <[REDACTED]>

Subject: July 14 Proposal

Message Body:

Dear California Redistricting Commission:

I am on vacation in China and writing this to you on a Blackberry. Please forgive typos.

But, as you know, there is little more important to California voters than adequate and proper representation. So, I feel compelled to write about the Commission's July 14 proposed maps of State Senate districts. That set of maps proposes to move the Contra Costa cities of Martinez and Pleasant Hill from a Senate District (DeSaulnier) that has a strong community of interest -- these two cities are a vital part of Central Costa County, where we do a lot of cooperative planning (including land use and transportation). The proposal would put us (as small cities of approximately 36,000 people each) into a district which incorporates the counties of Yolo, Lake, Napa and Solano.

There is precious little that Pleasant Hill shares with our neighboring Counties to the North, and especially Yolo and Lake Counties.

There is little migration by workers from Pleasant Hill to these areas. Instead, Pleasant Hill and Martinez are Bay Area cities, heavily tied to the commercial and economic centers of San Francisco, Berkeley, Oakland, San Ramon and Pleasanton (where the vast, vast majority of our residents that work outside of Central Costa County (including in Pleasant Hill, Martinez [the County seat], Concord and Walnut Creek).

BART and other public transportation infrastructure and investments tie us to the communities to the South, West and East, but not North to Napa, Solano, Yolo and Lake Counties.

Moreover, Pleasant Hill and Martinez are geographically (physically) separated from Napa, Yolo, Lake and Solano Counties by the Carquinez Straight and Suisun Bay (as evidenced by the multiple bridges crossing from Contra Costa to counties to the North).

In Pleasant Hill, we share no specific social or economic characteristics with the four northern counties mentioned above. We are far more tied to the rest of Contra Costa and Alameda Counties. Arts, music and culture for our residents are found mostly in urban and suburban centers like Walnut Creek, Oakland, Berkeley and San Francisco, when not found at home in Pleasant Hill. We are most often referred to as a "bedroom community," as a suburb less than 30 miles from Downtown San Francisco and 16 miles or so from Oakland. Our roots and history show that we are a former agricultural community which began being more heavily populated at the end of World War II, as the suburbs moved West from San Francisco. To the contrary, the counties to the North have seemed to retain and perhaps even expand their agricultural roots (principally but not exclusively with grape growing).

I recognize that your task of redrawing the district boundaries for State Senate and Assembly seats, as well as congressional districts, is daunting and difficult. And, while there are no perfect solutions, I fear that our small communities will lose a voice in Sacramento by being paired with much larger areas with whom we share precious

little. I strongly urge you to keep Pleasant Hill joined with our contiguous cities of Walnut Creek, Concord and Lafayette, as well as Martinez.

Very best wishes,

David Durant  
Mayor, City of Pleasant Hill

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This mail is sent via contact form on Citizens Redistricting Commission

**Subject:** Public Comment: 8 - Contra Costa

**From:** Richard Minyen <[REDACTED]>

**Date:** Wed, 20 Jul 2011 04:41:32 +0000

**To:** [REDACTED]

From: Richard Minyen <[REDACTED]>

Subject: Solano County voting district

Message Body:

Why on earth would ANYONE think that Contra Costa wants anything to do with Solano County when it comes to them being part of our voting district???

Just for your information, Contra Costa has nothing in common with Solano. They are more of a NORTH BAY (i.e. Sacramento based county) and we are an East Bay (i.e.: S.F. based county) We want NOTHING to do with Solano County.

You need to revise these maps back to their original origin!!!

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This mail is sent via contact form on Citizens Redistricting Commission

**Subject:** Public Comment: 8 - Contra Costa

**From:** Tod Gomes [REDACTED]

**Date:** Wed, 20 Jul 2011 04:47:04 +0000

**To:** [REDACTED]

From: Tod Gomes <[REDACTED]>

Subject: Keep Contra Costa County as is!

Message Body:

Keep Pleasant Hill (and the rest) in Contra Costa County! It is no where near Lake, Yolo Napa or Solono. The residents have been paying taxes in Contra Costa County for decades and hopefully, it won't be for nothing!

--

This mail is sent via contact form on Citizens Redistricting Commission

**Subject:** Public Comment: 8 - Contra Costa

**From:** Teresa Medina <[REDACTED]>

**Date:** Wed, 20 Jul 2011 04:57:21 +0000

**To:** [REDACTED]

From: Teresa Medina <[REDACTED]>

Subject: Pleasant Hill & Martinez redistricting

Message Body:

Are you seriously proposing putting P Hill and Mtz in a district with Napa, Yolo, Lake and Solano counties? Did you actually look at a map??

We should be in the same district as Concord, Walnut Creek and Lafayette. It is pretty obvious.

--

This mail is sent via contact form on Citizens Redistricting Commission

**Subject:** Public Comment: 8 - Contra Costa

**From:** Jennifer Regan <[REDACTED]>

**Date:** Wed, 20 Jul 2011 05:22:24 +0000

**To:** [REDACTED]

From: Jennifer Regan <[REDACTED]>

Subject: Pleasant Hill should remain in RAMON

Message Body:

Pleasant Hill being taken out of the senate district for Contra Costa (referred to as RAMON) and moved into a district which incorporates the counties of Yolo, Lake, Napa and Solano (WINE)? This is ridiculous - Pleasant Hill and Martinez are part of Contra Costa County, and do not belong in the Yolo, Lake Napa area. Our residents are employed primarily in the Easy Bay and San Francisco.

Pleasant Hill and Martinez share no specific social or economic characteristics with the four northern counties mentioned above, and we are separated by Suisun Bay. Please leave Pleasant Hill and Martinez in RAMON...where they belong!

--

This mail is sent via contact form on Citizens Redistricting Commission

**Subject:** Public Comment: 8 - Contra Costa

**From:** Carol Reade <[REDACTED]>

**Date:** Wed, 20 Jul 2011 05:33:47 +0000

**To:** [REDACTED]

From: Carol Reade <[REDACTED]>

Subject: Don't Move Pleasant Hill and Martinez to WINE Senate District

Message Body:

I am a resident of Pleasant Hill, CA and was shocked and dismayed to see that the latest State redistricting maps show Pleasant Hill and Martinez in the WINE Senate district, not the RAMON Senate district. I do not feel that I would be properly represented by the proposed Senate redistricting and urge you to move Pleasant Hill and Martinez into the RAMON Senate district.

The RAMON Senate district appears to include all of Contra Costa County except Pleasant Hill and Martinez. This plan looks like Gerrymandering and does not make sense from a geographical, economical, social, and political perspective.

**Geographical:** It is my understanding that Pleasant Hill is the geographic center of Contra Costa County, and it is surrounded by Walnut Creek, Lafayette, Concord, Pacheco, and Martinez. With the exception of Martinez, all of these cities are in the proposed RAMON Senate district. Pleasant Hill and Martinez are south of the Suisun Bay, and the rest of the proposed WINE Senate district lies north of the Suisun Bay.

**Economic/Social:** As a resident of Pleasant Hill, I have little "connection" with the wine country, whereas I conduct my daily activities in Contra Costa County (i.e., the proposed RAMON Senate district). I do not feel that my interests would be represented in a district dominated by an area I cannot relate to and that probably cannot relate to my area.

Pleasant Hill and Martinez are an integral part of the East Bay region, as well as being major cities in central Contra Costa County. As such, they share no specific social or economic characteristics with Solano, Napa, Yolo, and Lake Counties. The vast majority of the residents of Pleasant Hill and Martinez are employed in the East Bay or San Francisco. There is very little overlap between the residents of these cities and these other counties when it comes to employment.

**Political:** Martinez is the County Seat of Contra Costa County, and it does not make sense for this city to be in a district different from the rest of Contra Costa County. The media market for Pleasant Hill and Martinez is completely different from these other counties.

As I stated above, I do not feel that I would be properly represented by the proposed Senate redistricting and urge you to move Pleasant Hill and Martinez into the RAMON Senate district.

Thank you.  
Carol Reade

--

This mail is sent via contact form on Citizens Redistricting Commission

**Subject:** Public Comment: 8 - Contra Costa

**From:** Byron Montague <[REDACTED]>

**Date:** Wed, 20 Jul 2011 05:55:47 +0000

**To:** [REDACTED]

From: Byron Montague <[REDACTED]>

Subject: redistricting

Message Body:

I live in Pleasant Hill and have resented the fact that we have been in the same district with Berkeley, and other left-leaning communities. I have read the newly proposed configuration would put us with more rural counties. That would suit me just fine.

--

This mail is sent via contact form on Citizens Redistricting Commission

**Subject:** Public Comment: 8 - Contra Costa

**From:** Terry Kamrin <[REDACTED]>

**Date:** Wed, 20 Jul 2011 06:20:50 +0000

**To:** [REDACTED]

From: Terry Kamrin <[REDACTED]>

Subject: re-districting Pleasant Hil

Message Body:

We are against the plan to re-district Pleasant Hill and Martinez into the WINE district. Our cities have nothing in common with Napa, Solano, etc. Not only are these cities miles away but the economic structure of Martinez and Pleasant Hill have nothing in common with these other cities.

Please vote against this re-districting plan. It makes no sense.

--

This mail is sent via contact form on Citizens Redistricting Commission

**Subject:** Public Comment: 8 - Contra Costa

**From:** Damaris Sambajon <[REDACTED]>

**Date:** Wed, 20 Jul 2011 06:59:18 +0000

**To:** [REDACTED]

**From:** Damaris Sambajon <[REDACTED]>

**Subject:** redrawing boundries to exclude pleasant hill from contra costa county

**Message Body:**

Pleasant hill should remain within the contra costa district. Pleasant Hill is a major artery and launch point for jobs within the walnut creek, oakland, san francisco and san ramon area and as thus has much more in common with these areas than solano and napa. It is simply ridiculous to place pleasant hill within a district who has nothing in common socially, workwise, economically or even physically. I am very much opposed.

--

This mail is sent via contact form on Citizens Redistricting Commission

**Subject:** Redistrict letter

**From:** Jill Scheidel <[REDACTED]>

**Date:** Tue, 19 Jul 2011 17:00:50 -0700 (PDT)

**To:** [REDACTED]

I'm attaching a letter in support of NOT moving Pleasant Hill and Martinez into WINE.

Jill Scheidel

[REDACTED] Pleasant Hill, CA 94523

[scheiden redistrict letter.pdf](#)

Citizens Redistricting Commission

████████████████████  
Sacramento, CA 95814

July 19, 2011

Dear Commissions:

I am writing to you to express my strong opposition to the proposed State Senate District (WINE) which would result in the removal of Pleasant Hill and Martinez from current Senate District 07. There are many reasons why it makes absolutely no sense whatsoever to include this portion of Contra Costa County with the Counties of Lake, Napa, Solano and Yolo, not least of which is the fact that there is no geographic contiguity between the two areas.

As outlined in Proposition 20, which passed in 2010, the commission is required to use the 'community of interest' guidelines or standards in considering districts. Specifically, community of interest is defined as "a contiguous population which shares common social & economic interests....examples of such interests are those common to areas in which the people share similar living standards, use the same transportation facilities, have similar work opportunities, or have access to the same media of communication..."

Clearly, these guidelines were not taken into consideration with the current redistricting proposal. Pleasant Hill and Martinez are an integral part of the central Contra Costa community and the East Bay region in general. We share the same transportation modes such as BART, County Connection Bus Services and many bicycling and pedestrian routes. We are part of the same Bay Area media market which only partially reaches into the proposed 'WINE' district. Both Cities are also active participants in the East Bay Economic Development Alliance incorporating all of the major cities in Contra Costa and Alameda.

From a social, economic and cultural perspective, Pleasant Hill and Martinez share many common interests with our neighboring cities and the entire East Bay community. Conversely, there is little or no connection with Solano, Napa, Lake and Yolo Counties, most of which is not considered as part of the Bay Area region.

I strongly urge you to reconsider this redistricting proposal by placing our community where it should be - with the rest of Contra Costa in the proposed 'RAMON' district.

Sincerely

Jill Scheidel

████████████████████ Pleasant Hill, CA 94523

**Subject:** WINE Senatorial district - re Pleasant Hill and Martinez

**From:** Martin Nelis [REDACTED]

**Date:** Tue, 19 Jul 2011 22:19:49 +0000

**To:** [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>

Can someone please respond and give me a rational explanation, if one is possible, as to why Pleasant Hill and Martinez have been thrown in with Yolo, Lake, Napa and Solano counties in the WINE senatorial district as proposed? I also find it disturbing that we were not informed about this earlier.

**Martin Nelis**

*Public Information Officer*

City of Pleasant Hill

[REDACTED] Pleasant Hill, CA 94523

**Subject:** WINE/RAMON

**From:** Mary Gray <[REDACTED]>

**Date:** Tue, 19 Jul 2011 17:06:27 -0700 (PDT)

**To:** [REDACTED]

Please see the attached letter. Thank you.

*Mary P. Gray*

[REDACTED]

**Citizens Redistricting Commission final letter.pdf**

Citizens Redistricting Commission

████████████████████  
Sacramento, CA 95814

July 19, 2011

Dear Commission:

I am writing to you to express my strong opposition to the proposed State Senate District (WINE) which would result in the removal of Pleasant Hill and Martinez from current Senate District 07. What are you folks thinking? There are many reasons why it makes no sense whatsoever to include this portion of Contra Costa County with the Counties of Lake, Napa, Solano and Yolo, not least of which is the fact that there is no geographic contiguity between the two areas.

From a social, economic and cultural perspective, Pleasant Hill and Martinez share many common interests with our neighboring cities and the entire East Bay community. Conversely, there is little or no connection with Solano, Napa, Lake and Yolo Counties, most of which is not considered as part of the Bay Area region.

As outlined in Proposition 20, which passed in 2010, the commission is required to use the 'community of interest' guidelines or standards in considering districts. Specifically, community of interest is defined as "a contiguous population which shares common social & economic interests....examples of such interests are those common to areas in which the people share similar living standards, use the same transportation facilities, have similar work opportunities, or have access to the same media of communication...."

Clearly, these guidelines were not taken into consideration with your current redistricting proposal. Pleasant Hill and Martinez are an integral part of the central Contra Costa community and the East Bay region in general. We share the same transportation modes such as BART, County Connection Bus Services and many bicycling and pedestrian routes. We are part of the same Bay Area media market which only partially reaches into the proposed 'WINE' district. Both Cities are also active participants in the East Bay Economic Development Alliance incorporating all of the major cities in Contra Costa and Alameda.

Please reconsider this redistricting proposal and **do the right thing** – place our community where it belongs - with the rest of Contra Costa in the proposed 'RAMON' district.

Sincerely,

Mary P. Gray

████████████████████  
Pleasant Hill