July 23, 2011

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

Ladies and Gentlemen:

RE: Region 8 — Contra Costa

The CRC has done a fine job of defining the boundary between the two assembly districts which will generally represent Contra Costa County, that is district “PTANT” and district “EALAM.” In general, the proposed boundary is faithful to existing city boundaries. However, there is one area in which the northeastern portion of the city of Walnut Creek is divided between the two districts in what appears to be a rather arbitrary fashion. I enclose a map showing this area.

An important “community of interest” pertains to people whose children attend Northgate High School. To the extent possible, I believe it would be appropriate to include those people in the same assembly district. The current map does not do that, and while it clearly is not possible to do so entirely I believe an improvement to the present proposal could easily be made.

I suggest that the boundary run along Treat Boulevard, as shown on the enclosed map. People living in the shaded area north of Treat, while residents of Walnut Creek, are in the Ygnacio Valley High School district. The second suggestion is that the boundary run along Ygnacio and Walnut Avenues, also as shown. As presently proposed, there are many people living in the shaded area south of Walnut who are in the Northgate High School district but would find themselves in the “PTANT” assembly district.

In my view, these proposed changes would provide several benefits:

1. The assembly district boundaries would be much easier for people to understand and relate to than those presently proposed.
2. A significant number of people with an important “community of interest” would be added to the appropriate assembly districts for both Northgate and Ygnacio Valley High Schools.
3. The present small population disparity between PTANT and EALAM would be closed, as the area to be moved into PTANT seems larger than those to be moved into EALAM.

I hope it is not too late for the Commission to consider this suggestion.

Sincerely,

John A. Peterson

Walnut Creek, CA 94598