Petition in Support of City of Richmond Resolution No. 52-11
Keeping the City of Richmond in the Contra Costa County Congressional District

We, the undersigned understand that the Citizen's Redistricting Commission (CRC) is charged with redrawing California's Senate, Assembly, State Board of Equalization, and Congressional districts based on information gathered during the 2010 census. That the Commission must draw the districts in conformity with strict, nonpartisan rules designed to create districts of relative equal population that will provide fair representation for all Californians. We, the undersigned request that the Citizens Redistricting Commission keep the City of Richmond (community of interest) intact and in the Contra Costa County Congressional district. Fax completed petitions to: CRC (916) 651-5711.

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1. Gwendolyn Davis
2. [Name Redacted]
3. [Name Redacted]
4. [Name Redacted]
5. [Name Redacted]
6. [Name Redacted]
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I am watching your meeting on my computer and I can hardly believe my ears and eyes. You passed over SD 3 with zero mention of the huge concerns expressed by the people of Pleasant Hill about our inclusion in what you yourselves just described as, and I quote, a “central valley Ag district”.

There are no farms in Pleasant Hill. There are no orchards, no cattle, no crops...unless you include my tomato plants. Pleasant Hill is a suburban bedroom community linked economically, socially and in every other way with the San Ramon Valley and the central Bay Area. It has nothing in common with the rest of the district you have dropped it into.

You were tasked by the voters of California with keeping communities of interest intact and it appears you have wilfully disregarded that mandate where Pleasant Hill is concerned.

If there is any silver lining to today’s hearing, its that your description of Pleasant Hill as an “Ag” community is now on the record and will no doubt be used in a lawsuit challenging this insane decision.

Sincerely,

Matt Regan

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This mail is sent via contact form on Citizens Redistricting Commission
Subject: Public Comment: 8 - Contra Costa
From: Matt Regan <mattregan@...>
Date: Thu, 28 Jul 2011 22:36:42 +0000
To: 

From: Matt Regan <mattregan@...>
Subject: Pleasant hill

Message Body:
Dear Commissioners,

I am very concerned that the e-mail I sent you on July 21 is not contained in the public record. I will include the text of that communication once again, but I am very concerned that your system may not be collecting all of the e-mails sent and you may not be aware of the depth of public concern facing you.

here is the e-mail once more.

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to express my very grave concerns that you are proposing to include the East Bay/ San Ramon Valley communities of Martinez and Pleasant Hill in a rural Senate district made up in large part by agricultural communities to the north of Suisun Bay.

Pleasant Hill and Martinez are urban/suburban communities and share all the issues of concern that our fellow 680 corridor communities share; freeway congestion, failing school districts, BART funding, open space preservation, etc. We have absolutely no shared common interests with residents of Yolo County or Lake County which are largely agricultural and rural.

To extend an artificial finger of this large rural Senate District into our urban/suburban communities, just to solve a math problem, is to disenfranchise all the people who live here and call these communities home.

I urge you to reconsider this proposed Senate District and to keep our cities in a contiguous East Bay district that represents communities with shared concerns, shared challenges and shared values.

I was a strong supporter of the creation of a citizen driven process to redraw our electoral districts and I remain convinced that you will do a good job. However, part of your task is to listen to the concerns raised by the public, and I am sure that once you are aware of the level of concern in our community you will address this problem,

Sincerely,

Matt Regan
Pleasant Hill, CA

--
This mail is sent via contact form on Citizens Redistricting Commission
Subject: Commission Funding

Message Body:
Commissioners: You are already close to over-budget. The taxpayers should not be asked to fund this Commission beyond August 15, and we should not be paying incredibly expensive ($1,000 per hour??!!) attorneys to defend your corrupt maps. If your maps are good, they will stand, and if not, they will be defeated. We, the taxpayers, should not pay for your advocacy. We are the people you are serving and we will decide.

The Commission stops on August 15! No more expenditures!

--
This mail is sent via contact form on Citizens Redistricting Commission
Dear Commission,

I am writing to express my concern that an e-mail I sent to you on July 21 is not part of the public record. I hope my case is unique, but it does raise the question that you may not be receiving all of the comments sent your way and you may not be aware of the levels of public concern. I have attached the content of that e-mail here.

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to express my very grave concerns that you are proposing to include the East Bay/ San Ramon Valley communities of Martinez and Pleasant Hill in a rural Senate district made up in large part by agricultural communities to the north of Suisun Bay.

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Sincerely,

Matt Regan
Pleasant Hill, CA
Commissioners,

At the request of Commissioners Dai, Filkins Webber and Blanco following your meeting on Wednesday, July 13, which I attended, and at which you created the current East Bay Congressional Districts visualization, I went to the Berkeley Redistricting Assistance Site and made the changes to your map to show how you can follow the COI testimony regarding using the East Bay Hills as the natural dividing line between districts and create a COCO district, OKLND district and FRENE district that make more sense.

I emailed that changed plan to you, last Friday, July 22 before your Saturday night cut-off for public input and sent a copy to both Karin MacDonald and Tamina Alon of Q2, with the equivalency file, so they could easily bring it up for you to see.

However, there was no mention of it when you took your consensus vote on the East Bay CD map on Sunday.

The changes have no impact on the Monterey County district, as was the concern of Commissioner Galambos Malloy.

You did a good job in following the COI testimony on the State Assembly and State Senate Districts, with regards to the East Bay Hills and even stated so on Sunday, which we appreciate.

We encourage you to do the same on the Congressional Districts.

Again - Richmond should be with the rest of the West Contra Costa County communities (which are all in the 510 area code, unlike the rest of Contra Costa County and the Tri Valley communities of Dublin, Pleasanton, Livermore and Sunol) and those in Alameda and Solano Counties along the I-80 corridor, instead of connecting it with the rest of Central, East and Southern Contra Costa County via two 2-lane country roads and a large unincorporated area known as Briones.

Plus, it makes no sense to take San Ramon out of the San Ramon Valley in order to put Richmond into the COCO district. It, plus the Tri Valley communities of Eastern Alameda County should be in the same CD, with Lamorinda, Walnut Creek, Concord and Clayton.

By not following the COI testimony and input from over 300 people on both sides of the East
Bay Hills, you're violating the intent of Proposition 20 in having the Commission create the Congressional Districts.

With all due respect to all of you and your knowledge about the East Bay, we believe we know better, as most of us involved in our task force have lived here for a long time.

So, please see the attached files and reconsider your East Bay CD's, today, before you take your final vote.

Thank you.

Allen Payton
Chairman
Contra Costa Citizens Redistricting Task Force

or

East Bay CD 7-19-11 REV.jpg

East Bay CD 7-19-11 REV.DBF

EB CD 7-19-11 REV.pdf
Subject: Public Comment: 8 - Contra Costa
From: Yehudit Lieberman <yehudit@lieberman.com>
Date: Fri, 29 Jul 2011 06:18:03 +0000
To: citizensredistrictingcommission@california.gov

From: Yehudit Lieberman <yehudit@lieberman.com>
Subject: Pleasant Hill and Martinez belong with Central Contra Costa County

Message Body:
I am appalled to learn that the Commission’s most recent proposed maps of State Senate districts, released on July 14, have the cities of Martinez and Pleasant Hill being taken out of the proposed senate district for Contra Costa (RAMON) and moved into a district which incorporates the counties of Yolo, Lake, Napa and Solano (WINE).

I live in Pleasant Hill. I go almost daily to Walnut Creek and Concord for shopping, cultural events, recreation, and medical care. These cities, plus Martinez, are my community. They are tightly integrated and linked to the rest of central Contra Costa and the East Bay. On the other hand, I rarely go to Napa, and almost never go to Yolo, Lake, or Solano Counties. I don’t follow their politics or read their newspapers.

Clearly the "community of interest" standard is not being followed here. If this redistricting becomes final, I will feel disenfranchised. I want a State Senator who clearly represents my community of interest, and is not also representing other communities whose culture and needs are different from ours.

Please revise your map to keep central Contra Costa connected!

Thank you.

--
This mail is sent via contact form on Citizens Redistricting Commission
We are very concerned with the latest Assembly District plan for Antioch and Pittsburg (and surrounding areas). We ask that you take into consideration:

1) East Contra Costa County has traditionally had problems unique to this area. Hwy 4, BART, problems with our schools due to our proximity to the Bay Area, and other issues do not have a commonality with the cities in Solano County. The cities in this area (Antioch, Pittsburg, Oakley, and Brentwood) need to have a common Assembly District representative who is familiar and concerned with these towns and their issues.

2) Antioch and Pittsburg are NOT geographically part of the rest of this proposed district – that is, the county of Solano – as we are physically separated from them by Suisun Bay.

3) Our businesses need to maintain their media market unique from those in Solano County. The businesses have little in common and need the ability to compete and draw consumers from their own areas.

4) Many of our citizens work in the East Bay or San Francisco. This impacts our roads, commute times, etc. and we need representation that will be able to focus on our citizens.

These are important issues and we would appreciate your consideration. Please do not lump the cities on the Hwy 4 corridor in with those across Suisun Bay.

Thank you,

Richard and Sharon Mossman
**Subject:** Public Comment: 8 - Contra Costa

**From:** Rosalind Rogoff

**Date:** Thu, 28 Jul 2011 21:54:07 +0000

**To:**

From: Rosalind Rogoff

Subject: San Ramon

Message Body:
I'm a little confused by the Google Earth map. I'd like to see a separate map of the EALAM District that includes San Ramon. How can I find this without all the clutter, so I can see what is in the proposed district and its boundaries?

Roz

--
This mail is sent via contact form on Citizens Redistricting Commission