



THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF MARIN

COUNTY OF MARIN

ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

SAN RAFAEL, CALIFORNIA 94903-4193



July 19, 2011

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

RE: Congressional redistricting related to representation of Marin County

Dear Commissioners:

Thank you for undertaking the enormous job of redistricting federal and state district boundaries and for the opportunity to comment on proposed Congressional district boundaries. The Marin County Board of Supervisors prefers that Marin and Sonoma counties continue to be represented by a consolidated congressional district as is provided by the current 6th District boundary. However, should that not be possible, our board strongly prefers the first draft North Coast Congressional District proposed by your Commission to other subsequent proposed district boundaries. We would like to offer the following comments regarding the advantages of the proposed first draft North Coast Congressional District.

Marin County has more in common with Sonoma County than it ever will have with San Francisco. Marin is a suburban and rural county while San Francisco is fully urban. For two decades, Marin commute trips to the city have been declining as jobs within the county and up Highway 101 have increased.

Marin County has more in common with Sonoma County than with Napa County. While there are similarly rural lands in Napa, their agriculture is primarily vineyards, while Marin and Sonoma share a strong dairy and livestock industry. In addition, Marin and Sonoma Counties each have significantly more incorporated communities than Napa County, which has five incorporated communities.

Marin and Sonoma share water supply from the Russian River, and there are many related and important State and Federal issues. Marin and Sonoma also share a contiguous portion of the Pacific Ocean coastal shoreline, with numerous environmental and tourism issues in common.

Transportation is inextricably linked between Marin and Sonoma. While there is only a two lane road connection between Marin and Napa, Highway 101 is a commute backbone and freight corridor connecting Marin and Sonoma County. Additionally, the new Sonoma-Marlin commuter rail system (SMART) has been funded through a 1/4 cent sales tax in the two counties and it currently is under development.

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While a more consolidated district than the one presented in the Redistricting Commission's first draft would be desirable from the perspective of common interests and representation, the proposed first draft North Coast extension provides greater commonality than extending the district inland to include Napa County. That is because there are many more issues in common along the North Coast related to natural resources management and coastal community development than exist between Marin County and inland Napa County.

Lastly, our board has been discussing the proposed Congressional boundaries with our constituents. The great majority of Marin County residents agree that the proposed first draft North Coast district, while not perfect, is significantly better than a Marin-San Francisco or Marin-Napa district.

Sincerely,



Steve Kinsey, President Pro-Tem
Marin County Board of Supervisors

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