

Kirsten Keith

Menlo Park, CA 94025

Citizen's Redistricting Commission
901 P Street, Suite 154-A
Sacramento, CA 95814

June 22, 2011

Dear Commissioners:

As an elected representative on the Menlo Park City Council, I offer this letter of concern regarding the Commission's proposed draft of the Congressional map for the Silicon Valley District known as SMSCSC.

You have dissected Menlo Park between two Congressional Districts, which is unacceptable. On behalf of Menlo Park residents, I urge you to reconsider and redraw these lines so that the entire city is in one district. Menlo Park is a small but cohesive community and we feel it is extremely important that we are represented by one congressional member.

Menlo Park is the home to many important hi-tech businesses, including Facebook. Many in our community work in the cities to the south of us while some who live in those cities come to our community for work. We have a great deal in common with Stanford and its' world-renowned University. Since we share many of the same interests with communities to the south of us – Palo Alto, Mountain View and Sunnyvale, for example – we believe our entire city should be grouped with those communities to form one cohesive Congressional District.

Menlo Park has a great deal of interaction with the communities to our south on federal issues from transportation to the environment. Menlo Park has federal agencies conducting important scientific research in conjunction with Stanford University including the US Geological Service and the Stanford Linear Accelerator Complex. This is another reason to keep Menlo Park wholly contained in one Congressional District. Additionally, the current draft district splits the Veterans Administration facility in Menlo Park from the VA Headquarters in Palo Alto. This would be splitting a vital community of interest between two Congressional Districts.

Overall, the Commission has balanced many different criteria and made excellent decisions on districts throughout the state. In this case, we of Menlo Park do not believe you need wholesale changes for our city. We urge the Commission to redraw Congressional District SMSCSC and include all of Menlo Park in that District. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely, Kirsten Keith, speaking as an individual, not as the Vice Mayor of Menlo Park.



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