

**Subject:** Comments from the City of Cotati on redistricting

**From:** "Tami Taylor" <[REDACTED]>

**Date:** Thu, 28 Jul 2011 10:40:14 -0700

**To:** <[REDACTED]>

**CC:** "Dianne Thompson" <[REDACTED]>

Dear Commissioners,

Thank you for taking our additional comments. Please see the attached letter regarding the concerns of the City of Cotati relative to proposed redistricting.

Tami Taylor, Deputy City Clerk

[REDACTED]

Cotati, CA 94931-4217

[REDACTED]

ph [REDACTED]

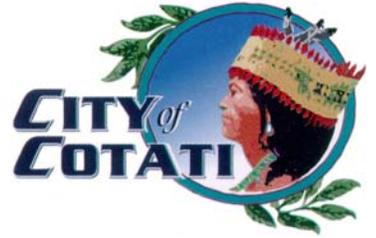
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[www.ci.cotati.ca.us](http://www.ci.cotati.ca.us)

**Redistrictletter2.pdf**

# City of Cotati

Sonoma County, California



July, 27, 2011

California Citizens Redistricting Commission  
1130 K St., Suite 101  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Via email: [REDACTED] and

Via fax attn.: Raul Villanueva [REDACTED]

Dear Commissioners:

On behalf of and at the direction of the Cotati City Council, I am writing to thank you for the work you are doing on the California Redistricting Commission.

We have previously corresponded with you (our letter and resolution dated June 9, 2011 are attached) expressing our position and appreciate that you have taken many of our concerns into consideration.

We are generally satisfied with the proposed State Assembly and Congressional Districts.

However, we ask that you revisit the proposed State Senate District for the reasons stated in our letter and resolution - i.e. our coastal roots and our shared "man-made" and natural amenities which connect us to our coastal communities of interest. The proposed Senate District puts us at the very outer edge of a District comprised vastly of inland communities to the east with which we share very little. As a small city in such a District, we have serious concerns that our voice will not be heard and ask that you instead place us in the proposed Coastal Senate District with our communities of interest.

Thank you again for all your hard and important work. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

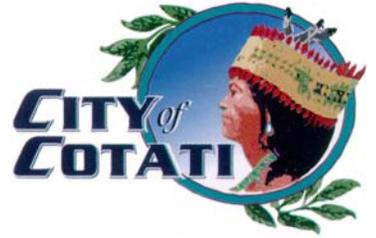
Janet Orchard, Mayor

Enc.

C: Cotati City Council

# City of Cotati

Sonoma County, California



June 9, 2011

California Citizens Redistricting Commission  
1130 K St., Suite 101  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
Via email: [REDACTED] and  
Via fax attn.: Raul Villanueva [REDACTED]

Dear Commissioners:

On behalf of the City Council of the City of Cotati, I am writing to offer our input as you formulate the new State Assembly, State Senate and Congressional District Boundaries. Thank you for your willingness to tackle this monumental task. We ask that you consider our comments in this letter and in the enclosed City of Cotati Resolution No. 2011-25 in your deliberations.

The City of Cotati has “communities of interest” with communities found within the “North Coast” of the Northern Bay Area. We have a shared history and culture with these communities, developed over thousands of years.

Cotati is located at the southern end of the Laguna de Santa Rosa. This water resource connects Cotati to the communities to the west. Ever since Cotati's local indigenous population developed a system of bartering with its coastal neighbors for salt, shells and fish, Cotati has had a unique and collaborative relationship with the local coastal populations.

This unique shared geography has also contributed to Cotati's ongoing connection to Penngrove and Petaluma through a common agricultural history especially related to the early 20th Century development of the poultry industry. As an historic agricultural center, Cotati has shared the rise and fall (and rise again) of many agricultural products with Penngrove and Petaluma. These rural agricultural communities remain remarkably connected today in areas such as dairy, beef, sheep, and hay production. Cotati has historically been a commercial and social center for dairy farmers to the west. In addition, we share a watershed with Penngrove and rural Petaluma.

Like the rest of the “North Coast”, Cotati is geographically separated from inland northern California by a mountain chain. The geography of the region creates some critically important distinctions. Pacific coastal weather conditions influence Cotati's climate and are very different from those in the eastern valley and mountain regions. Typical of our region are dense coastal fog and floods. The local climate will affect local community climate change-related decisions for years to come.

Our local agriculture is shaped by the coastal influences. A climatically cooling fog and winds are drawn into Cotati through what's locally called the "Petaluma Gap" due to the configuration of the hills. This permits, for example, wine-grape production of coastal varieties such as Pinot Noir and Pinot Gris.

Cotati shares in the natural features of the North Coast which generate significant tourism. Cotati is located directly on the "man-made" footprint of Highway 101 which connects the communities of the North Coast to its environmental assets, including national and state parks, among other amenities. We do not share Interstate Highways 5 or 80 which connect the communities of the eastern & northern valleys and mountains. In addition, Cotati is linked with other North Coast communities by the transportation systems of the North Coast Railroad Authority, Golden Gate Transit District, Sonoma County Transit Authority and the Sonoma-Marín Area Rail Transit District.

In terms of historical and on-going shared services, Cotati shares a Fire District with Penn Grove and rural Petaluma and City staff with the City of Sebastopol.

We believe strongly that Cotati should be included in a district which includes our neighboring communities of Penn Grove, Petaluma and Sebastopol. Due to proximity, geography and a shared history, many longstanding valuable relationships exist with deep connections related to shared economic issues and concerns. We ask that you consider our intertwined histories and our commonality of interests when finalizing the district lines.

Thank you again for all your hard and important work.

Sincerely,



Janet Orchard, Mayor

Enc.

## **RESOLUTION NO. 2011-25**

### **A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COTATI STATING THE CITY'S POSITION REGARDING THE POTENTIAL RE-DRAWING OF STATE ASSEMBLY, STATE SENATE AND US CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS**

**WHEREAS**, Proposition 20 was passed by the voters of California in 2010 and the California Citizens Redistricting Commission was formed; and

**WHEREAS**, The California Redistricting Commission has the vitally important task of establishing new district boundaries based on data from the US Census of 2010; and

**WHEREAS**, The City of Cotati, is linked economically, socially and geographically creating "communities of interest" specifically with the communities of Petaluma, Penngrove and Sebastopol; and

**WHEREAS**, these "communities of interest" have developed over many, many years due to a shared common agricultural history, particularly in the production of chickens, eggs, milk, beef, hay and, today, wine; and

**WHEREAS**, Cotati, Penngrove and Petaluma have a common geography, including a shared watershed; and

**WHEREAS**, The Native American Tribes residing in Southern Sonoma County were closely connected, sharing common ancestry, history and social customs; and

**WHEREAS**, Cotati and Sebastopol have been historically connected by their locations adjacent to the Laguna de Santa Rosa, a valuable food, water and environmental resource; and

**WHEREAS**, many solutions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions are local in nature, related to local geography and climate, which we share with Penngrove, Petaluma and Sebastopol; and

**WHEREAS**, Cotati, Penngrove and Petaluma and the North Coast, in general, are linked by transportation in the form of US Highway 101, Golden Gate Transit and Sonoma County Transit; and

**WHEREAS**, Cotati, Penngrove and Petaluma and the North Coast are further linked by transportation in the form of the North Coast Railroad Authority established in 1989 to provide a unified & revitalized rail infrastructure meeting the freight and passenger needs to build and sustain the economy of the region; and

**WHEREAS**, Cotati, as a small historic community, respectfully requests to be represented within districts that include other "communities of interest", where long-standing valuable relationships exist with deep connections to shared economic issues and concerns; and

**Subject:** Public Comment: 8 - Sonoma

**From:** Jennifer T [REDACTED]

**Date:** Fri, 29 Jul 2011 06:36:17 +0000

**To:** [REDACTED]

From: Jennifer T <[REDACTED]>  
Subject: Santa Rosa

Message Body:

I appreciate that this is a complicated task and this procedure is new.

However, as a resident of Santa Rosa, I'm quite unhappy to see the city is still been gerrymandered to share congressional representation with Napa and other cities east.

Santa Rosa is very different from the majority of its new district.

To split it off from the rest of Sonoma County serves to disenfranchise both Santa Rosa residents as well as residents of the surrounding communities.

Santa Rosa will not benefit from congressional representation which is based in another region of the state, as this new district will be.

We have pressing transportation issues involving all of south Sonoma County and Marin County such as the 101 expansion, our SMART train, and road quality. These problems require the heavy involvement of Santa Rosa and have nothing to do with the city's proposed new district. We don't even have many good roads (and no public transportation) connecting us with the rest of this district!

Santa Rosa has a business climate in tune with it's surroundings. Our local Internet ISP has made tremendous strides expanding services throughout the county. It is based in Santa Rosa and is poised to possibly become a major player on a national level. Santa Rosa is also trying to attract more high tech and bio-tech industries, as are several of our neighboring towns. Our common business interests give us common congressional interests.

Organic farming has become very important in Santa Rosa, as it is throughout Sonoma County. We would like congressional representation to understand this. I do not believe the current proposed district would give us a representative who values our type of agricultural interests.

Santa Rosa is home of Sonoma County's community college, the SRJC. Attending students come from all over Sonoma County, and the SRJC holds facilities and classes in other Sonoma County towns. I believe the gerrymandered district already has its own community college. I'm so disconnected from the region we are to be joined with, I do not even know what colleges serve that area. We have share educational interests with that area as we do in our home county.

I am currently seeking a new job and am looking only within Sonoma County. If I were to expand beyond, I would look to the south, not to the east. It would not be a good commute and I rarely travel east. Again, there is little to no shared community between Santa Rosa and those other counties.

Please reconsider the proposed congressional map and Santa Rosa's placement.

It would be a great disservice to our residents and businesses to deny us congressional representation which understands and values our needs as related to Sonoma County.