To Members of the Redistricting Commission:

Re: First Draft of Redistricting Maps, June 2010

I am disappointed to learn of some of the peculiar groupings that make up the districts in the first draft congressional map.

Ideally, congressional districts should be grouped together with other communities of interest; i.e. Folsom and Folsom Lake should be lumped together with El Dorado Hills and South Placer, rather than grouping us with Elk Grove.

We want to be represented along with other similarly situated communities that have common interests and needs. To lump a rural mountain community with the southern region of Sacramento and Elk Grove makes absolutely no sense. We want our representatives to speak for us and be knowledgeable of our communities and neighboring interests. Freeway boundaries should not dictate political lines. Stretching the district boundaries for clearly political reasons means that the future representative of our community may have no finger on the pulse of our area. It does our rural mountain area injustice, as it likewise does injustice to the residents of Elk Grove.

We ask you to please go back to the drawing board and fix this error that will have long term consequences in our congressional representation.

Sincerely,
Mr. and Mrs. Tom Scott

Folsom, CA 95630
Dear CRC Commissioners,

I write to express deep concern that unlike earlier drafts, the recent NorCal State Senate visualizations carve up the vibrant community and jobs powerhouse of Rancho Cordova, splitting our city and planning area neighborhoods among 4 Senate Districts. (Yuba, MtnCap, Foothill & Sac)

For reference, I have attached maps indicating the city and planning area boundaries and which indicate how the recent Senate Visualizations overlay our city.

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Since the community of Rancho Cordova is a highly diverse, urbanized jobs powerhouse community, one recognized nationally for a distinctive civic life, i.e. designated a 2010 All America City by the National Civic League, 2010) the spreading of its voters across four Senate districts that cover 38% of the entire state of California defies ready explanation.

The purpose of this note is to document a provide a number of Rancho Cordova’s distinctive features which make this parceling out of the voters within our 96 square mile city and planning area especially difficult to grasp.

Facets which document Rancho Cordova’s distinctiveness as a community of interest include:

1. **Solid Community Identity:** The only new city in Sacramento County in the last 30 years to be approved by its local voters the first time the question was placed on the ballot. It passed by 78%.

2. **2010 “All America City” Honoree:** Just last year, Rancho Cordova was selected by the National Urban League as one of 10 “All America Cities” nationwide. To win this honor, a community must demonstrate innovation, inclusiveness, civic engagement, and cross sector collaboration by describing successful efforts to address pressing local challenges.

3. **A Community of Famously Diverse Neighborhoods:** In 2002, Rancho Cordova’s community was recognized by the Public Policy Institute of California, in a study entitled “Who’s Your Neighbor”, as the Number 1 community in the entire state for growing diversity between 1990 and 2000 and the Number 2 community statewide for maintaining diverse neighborhoods. (See: [http://www.ppic.org/main/publication.asp?i=163](http://www.ppic.org/main/publication.asp?i=163))
4. **A Highly Urbanized, Regional Jobs Powerhouse:** Rancho Cordova grew up as an Air Force town and the headquarters city for Aerojet where work was performed that placed American astronauts on the moon. When the Air Force closed Mather Field in 1993, this community reinvented itself as a regional jobs center. Today, more persons are employed at Mather Field than at the time of its closure. The city and its adjacent neighborhoods have more private sector commercial office space than downtown Sacramento; employment in the city is estimated at 50,000 people, making Rancho Cordova among the largest employment subcenters in Northern California. Our industries cover a broad array of professional and business services, aviation, financial and insurance enterprises, and education and health services, trade, transportation. As just one part of this whole, our Mather Commerce Center has over 2 million sq.ft. of office space.

5. **The Region's Top Jobs/Housing Ratio:** By a standard measure of economic vigor, Rancho Cordova has the highest jobs/housing ratio of any city in the Sacramento region. In the region, the average is 1.2 jobs per Housing Unit. The estimated Jobs/Housing ratio of Rancho and other communities follows:

a. Rancho Cordova 2.7
b. City of Sacramento 2.0
c. Elk Grove 0.6
d. Folsom 1.3
e. Roseville 1.4

**Regarding the 38% Figure, Key Land Area Metrics are:**

Rancho Cordova City Area - 35 Sq Mi

Rancho Cordova City Area + Sphere of Influence (SOI)/Planning Area - 96 Sq Mi

Estimated Area of the 3 Proposed Senate seats inside city borders plus the 4th on city's western edge. - 62,493 Sq Mi

Total California Area is 163,000 Sq Mi

Thus the latest Senate “Visualizations” spread Rancho Cordova and its immediate neighbor voters (meaning across Bradshaw and surrounding the Rancho Cordova Library on our western edge) among 4 districts which cover 38% of the state's land area.

As an aside, Rancho Cordova’s entire 96 square mile planning area (basically city plus nearby neighborhoods) is just .058896% of the California’s total area.

Thank you, Commissioners, for your diligent work in this vital endeavor and, of course, for your thoughtful consideration of this appeal on behalf my All America community.
I recognize this arrives late in your process but as stated at the outset, it was only when the latest Senate visualizations emerged that the gravity of what was proposed struck home. Our city currently hosts four separate school districts. We have learned the hard way how extraordinarily difficult it is for a single local government to maintain healthy and productive relationships with so many similarly situated entities. The four Senate district approach will severely disadvantage my community. I confess I find it difficult to imagine any single community elsewhere in California which could possibly be proposed for such a dramatic “slicing and dicing”.

Onward and Upward,

Ken Cooley
Councilmember
City of Rancho Cordova

Cell
Home
City Hall
Office:

PROPOSED_SENATE_RANCHO_CORDOVA_JULY_2011.pdf

— Rancho Cordova Planning Area Map.pdf

Rancho Cordova Planning Area Map.pdf
Citizens Redistricting Commission
901 P Street, Suite 154-A
Sacramento, CA 95814
Fax: 
Via Email to: votersfirstact@crc.ca.gov

To Members of the Redistricting Commission:

Re: First Draft of Redistricting Maps, June 2010

We are writing to express our opinion with regard to the first draft maps. We are disappointed with the way our congressional district is shaping up.

It is important that congressional districts be formed with other communities of interest. Folsom and Folsom Lake should be grouped together with El Dorado Hills and South Placer, rather than grouping us with Elk Grove.

To lump a rural mountain community with the southern region of Sacramento and Elk Grove doesn't make good sense. We want our representatives to speak for us and be knowledgeable of our communities and neighboring interests. Stretching the district boundaries for clearly political reasons means that the future representative of our community may not have the necessary knowledge to understand our unique needs, therefore we are asking to be represented along with other similarly situated communities that have common interests and needs. It does our rural mountain area injustice, as it likewise does injustice to the residents of Elk Grove to do otherwise.

We ask that you re-address this area of the map and make the necessary changes to ensure that we are grouped together with other communities of interest.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

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

Re: First Draft of Redistricting Maps

Members of the Redistricting Commission,

We would like to express our disappointment with the way our congressional district is being drawn in the latest version of the maps.

Our congressional district should contain communities of like interest. Folsom and Folsom Lake should be grouped together with El Dorado Hills and South Placer, rather than grouping us with Elk Grove.

It makes no sense to lump a rural mountain community with the southern region of Sacramento and Elk Grove. Our representatives need to be knowledgeable about our communities and unique interests. Drawing district boundaries for clearly political reasons means the future representative of our community may not have the necessary knowledge to understand our unique needs. We would like to be represented along with other similarly related communities with common interests and needs. To do otherwise does our rural mountain area injustice, as it likewise does injustice to the residents of Elk Grove.

We respectfully respect you reconsider this district and make the necessary changes to ensure we are grouped together with other communities of interest.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,