Yolo County is a homogeneous community of interest centering on agriculture and higher education notably in the fields of agriculture and food science. Splitting the county in three for Assembly representation dilutes the representation for all communities within the three proposed districts. Woodland and Winters do not share a community of interest with Fairfield, Napa and Lake counties nor does Davis share a community of interest with Vacaville and Pittsburg. On the other hand West Sacramento clearly shares an urban community of interest with Sacramento and West Sacramentans seem to want to be in the same district as their cross river neighbor.

So please return to the district lines that keep Davis, Woodland and Winters in a single Assembly district.

Tim Fenton
Davis CA 95616
Subject: Please keep all of Yolo County west of the Causeway in one Assembly district

From: "Bartolic, Michael" <[dummy_email]>
Date: Fri, 15 Jul 2011 18:19:23 -0700
To: <[dummy_email]>

California Citizens Redistricting Commission
Sacramento, CA  95814

email: [dummy_email] via email

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to you to ask that you keep all of Yolo County except West Sacramento united in one Assembly district. This is the fair and right thing to do.

The re-revised plans now being pushed on you by some staff are simply wrong -- politically, rationally, and morally. They'd be worse than the old style of gerry-mandering your Commission is supposed to protect us from. To split Woodland away from Davis and Winters into another district with counties that mostly lie east of all three cities is neither efficient, fair, nor necessary. Indeed, when our borders with Woodland are only a couple miles apart, and our needs, services, and businesses are intertwined between all three cities, to separate Davis and Winters from Woodland, and throw us into an Assembly district with Pittsburg, across the Sacramento River and in an entirely different county, and part of a very different exurban milieu with transportation, business, school and government ties to the East Bay, defies all logic.

I beg you to act appropriately, and justly, according to the physician's code: "first, do no harm". Please do not disenfranchise Yolo County citizens. Please keep whole everything west of the Causeway -- where the land is our bond with each other, both in and between towns as well as with our fellow citizens in the adjacent countryside, with whom we share so many common values of land use, preservation of agriculture, the careful development of green industries, and the partnership of UC Davis with county residents and businesses.

I feel sure that you all know in your hearts that what I am saying is true, right, and just. Keeping Yolo County west of the Causeway whole, preserving our integrity as a county and a community, would fulfill your duty as commissioners. As citizens that is what we deserve: districting of the people, by the people and for the people.

Cordially,

Michael P. Bartolic

513 12th St.
Davis, CA 95616

[Email redacted]
Rec-Park Commissioner, Davis (current)
Open Space Commission Liaison, Davis (current)
Former Davis Food Co-Op Board member
Former Davis AYSO Soccer Divisional Administrator
Former Davis Little League Vice-President for Facilities
Subject: Do not divide Yolo County into 3 districts

From: Marlene Bell <marlenebell@marlenebell.com>
Date: Fri, 15 Jul 2011 18:24:06 +0000
To: marlenebell@marlenebell.com

Message Body:
As a business owner and rancher in Yolo County, I write to express my deep concern regarding the proposal to divide Yolo county 3 ways, with 9 different legislators. This just won’t work and I’m appalled that the Commission would recommend the design of such a legislative nightmare. The plan recommended last night will not work for the following reasons.

1. Yolo County is committed to preserving open space and agricultural land. Nearly all of our projects are administered on a county-wide level: levee upkeep and improvements, water usage, management of open space, etc.

2. As issues arise related to our priorities, rather than have solid local legislative support, we will have NINE different Legislators (3 each Senate, Assembly and Congressional) covering our priorities county-wide.

3. Your plan would require Yolo County vets to go to nine different offices just to get one thing changed. The same would follow for agricultural and preservation issues, child care advocacy and whole host of other services.

4. As your directive recommends, Yolo County, a leading agricultural interest in the state of California, would become an after-thought in each of the districts, since the larger populations for each district would be in with those areas where priorities and needs are not aligned with Yolo County. This plan would completely thwart our ability to be represented.

5. Our county seat, Woodland, would be scooped into a different region as well... separating our county seat from the rest of the county

This is a bad plan and a recommendation that needs to be completely set aside. Please do so.

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This mail is sent via contact form on Citizens Redistricting Commission
I am extremely upset and concerned to hear that despite very strong testimony to the contrary, the commission is considering dividing Yolo County - my county- into several legislative districts. I believe that it is very important for the commission to keep our communities of interest intact despite political pressure to do otherwise. Our county has a very dense web of interconnections and service delivery mechanisms that will be hindered by involvement of as many as 9 different legislators under one plan I'm hearing about. Currently one of our most important population segments, the over 55 residents, are seriously underserved. This would increase the services and transportation challenges that they face, not to mention their voice in the community. I urge the commission to halt any plan that splinters the interests of our community in this way. I believe that you are not listening to the voices of our community if you intend to proceed with your current plan.

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This mail is sent via contact form on Citizens Redistricting Commission
Message Body:
My friend Stan Forbes has been quoted in local papers as saying that Davis is a suburb of Sacramento. While containing an element of truth, his assertion is incomplete since it would be equally true to say that Woodland is in the same sense a suburb of Sacramento. And this statement ignores the even closer relationship of Davis and Woodland to each other. 

As a Davis resident, I shop frequently (several times each week) in nearby Woodland, which I conveniently access by driving on either HWY 113 or Poleline Rd, roads running north-south. The twin cities of Woodland and Davis (fraternal twins perhaps but twins nonetheless) are tightly linked to each other in many other ways. As just one example, they must now develop common water resources, a multimillion dollar project that will directly impact Yolo rate payers. Yolo has unique history of agricultural land preservation dating back to the historic Williamson act. This common heritage has been strongly supported by both Yolo’s Ag community and city residents, myself included, who value our quality of life.

I understand the Commission’s need for some judgment in drawing artificial political lines and, there may be an argument for linking the City of West Sacramento with nearby Sacramento rather than with the rest of Yolo County. However, I also notice that Sacramento County and other nearby valley counties have been Balkanized just like Yolo. Counties are already the step children of state government. The boundaries proposed by the Commission will further disadvantage our local counties. The Commission should better recognize the geographical significance of county boundaries by consolidating each county within the minimum number of possible legislative districts. In particular, Yolo County should be consolidated into one, or at most two, legislative districts, one of which should link Davis and Woodland. Again, the Commission can easily accomplish this recommendation change by simultaneously respecting the boundaries of Yolo’s neighboring counties.

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This mail is sent via contact form on Citizens Redistricting Commission.
Subject: Public Comment: 9 - Yolo
From: Brian Sway <brian.sway@gmail.com>
Date: Sat, 16 Jul 2011 00:01:46 +0000
To: 

From: Brian Sway <brian.sway@gmail.com>
Subject: Support for July 11 & 13 Visualizations

Message Body:

July 15, 2011

Citizens Redistricting Commission

Dear Commissioners,

Re: Support of Visualizations:
1) 2011-07-11 02:46PM assembly norcal;
2) 2011-07-11 05:43PM congress norcal;
3) 2011-07-11 05:46PM senate norcal; and
4) 2011-07-13 09:43AM board of equalization norcal

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the above referenced visualizations. I have previously participated in your redistricting process through written comments submitted on June 26, 2011 and testifying at your June 28, 2011 hearing in Sacramento.

The Commission is to be complemented for its efforts in the development of the above referenced visualizations. Clearly the Commission has worked hard to preserve the Community of Interest known as Yolo County.

These visualizations should be well received by the more than 100 Yolo County residents that have participated in your deliberations through direct testimony and submittal of letters. The compromise of allowing West Sacramento to be included in Sacramento legislative districts and keeping the balance of Yolo County united in a single Senate and Assembly district is fair and responsive to both the general population of Yolo County and the residents of West Sacramento.

I would urge you to avoid any further division of Yolo County in your adoption of final legislative and congressional maps. Further division of Yolo County would undermine the Yolo County Community of Interests that you have obviously worked hard to preserve.

One other issue in your move from visualizations to final maps is of importance to our community. As presented at Commission’s June 28th hearing in Sacramento, the assignment of senate district numbers is important to Yolo county voters. County residents have had to wait an additional two years beyond normal term periods following the last several reapportionments due to changes in district numbers. Accordingly, I urge the Commission to assign an “odd” number to the senate district that contains the greatest area of Yolo County.

Thank you for your consideration.

Brian Sway
Davis, Ca
Dear Folks,

Thank you for this historic effort, which I support. With that in mind, I testified at the Commission hearings at the State Capitol June 28. After that meeting it appeared the Commission heard the overwhelming testimony, and submission of comments in favor of keeping Yolo County whole in all districts as strongly representative of a community of interest for ag preservation, land protection, and dominated economically, and culturally by the University of California, Davis.

While much as been improved, the current draft maps proposals to split the Assembly districts into three for Yolo County simply is not workable for our community. I am closely involved in the non profit community—some 70 representing needs of the community of interest of Yolo County only-- which relies on the support of a single Assemblyperson for liaison to the State.

For those entities and for our united citizenry with strong and common interests in keeping our community whole, I strongly urge the Commission to unite the District into one Assembly district.

Thank you for your consideration.

Don Morrill
To the Citizens Redistricting Commission:

Please keep Yolo County whole, to the extent possible. As a Yolo County resident and former Yolo County official (Public Defender), I can say without equivocation that Yolo County is and remains a single community of interest. My understanding is, as of now, you are considering a plan that would divide the four cities in Yolo County among three separate Assembly districts. I beseech you, please do not divide our community in such a manner for purposes of redistricting Assembly districts.

As a current resident (and former county official) of Yolo County, I testified before your Commission on May 19, 2011, when it met at the Placer County Board of Supervisors chambers in Auburn, California. At the time, I expressed concern that you might group us along the “I-5 Corridor,” with Colusa, Glenn and Sutter County, instead of with Solano County, along the “I-80 Corridor.” I commend you for your efforts at abiding by this principle when creating your current visualization of our Senate district; however, I am greatly concerned about the proposed redistricting of Yolo County’s Assembly districts.

My overriding concern is that you keep Yolo County whole, to the extent possible, when creating our Assembly district(s). We are presently divided into two Assembly districts; but one of those districts speaks for the vast majority of Yolo County residents. Yolo County is entitled to an undiluted voice in the Assembly that speaks for a majority of its residents, as is presently the case. Please do not use our county’s central geographical location to use it as a balancing tool for other, more powerful, counties that border us.

Thank you for your service, time and consideration.

--Barry Melton

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Barry Melton
Attorney at Law
PO Box 72505
Tel: [redacted]
Fax: [redacted]
Email: [redacted]
Website: http://www.yololegal.com

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