

Public commentary from the desk of Alice A. Huffman, President of the California Conference of the NAACP .





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GCC/INT )

• Sacramento, CA 95814 •

7/5/2011

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

Dear Commissioners:

As you enter the final phase of your work, please accept these comments from the California NAACP. We believe the last few days of your work are probably the most important, and the ability of the public to have quality input is critical.

Your prior format for public input was deficient. You made no distinction between those speaking as individuals and those representing members. As the state president of the NAACP I came to Los Angeles to properly present our issues. The two minutes were insufficient and you would not permit anyone there to transfer time to me. This seemed to be an arbitrary decision since allowing other attendees who had properly registered to speak yield their time to me would have resulted in no net increase in public speaking time. Almost everyone there knew my position and that I represent 52 Branches and more that 30 youth and college divisions, well over 25,000 Californians. We were also distressed and incensed over the tone of the Chair, which when combined with the arbitrary speaking rules, noted earlier, raises questions about the fairness and meaningfulness of the process.

For those of us who joined the campaign early and stayed through both initiative processes, this is an important civic undertaking. We believe input to the Commission was seriously hampered by insisting that public input be reduced to almost childlike speeches and that, given this approach, you unnecessarily and unfairly limited the public's substantive input. For the last round of meetings, we encourage you to reconsider this approach. Instead, consider allowing organizational heads more time or, alternatively, allowing public members who have properly registered to speak to transfer all or part of their time to their leader. You might even combine this latter approach with a reasonable cap on any particular organization's speaking time.

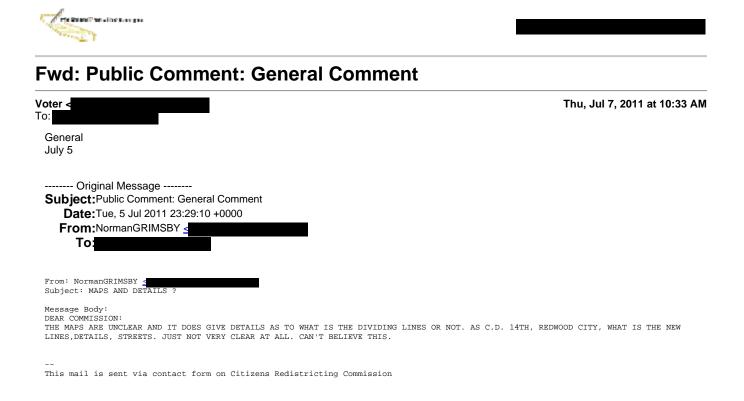
The second area has to do with the discussion about establishing a hierarchy in the criteria as set forth in the initiative. The proponent of the initiative indicated to the California State Conference Executive Committee that all of the criteria were to be

considered but that none took precedence over the other. After so much input please advise us as to exactly how you are applying the criteria. This, of course, goes to the matter of transparency, an issue that has haunted redistricting processes known all too well for their history of cloaked decisions in smoke-filled rooms.

Thank you.

Alice A. Huffman

President



Subject: What is the reason? From: Larry Livesay < Date: Tue, 5 Jul 2011 14:31:33 -0700 To:

Dear Commission, What is your reason for the redistricting? This is not acceptable. Lines should run North South, Not East West. Why cross the mountians. Why cross the Valley's with the Coast. Let me know your reasons. Thanks.



Larry Livesay Agronomist



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Subject: Gerrimandering of Black Voting district From: Date: Tue, 5 Jul 2011 20:47:04 -0400 (EDT) To:

Please add my name to any action taken on behalf of Black Voters to rectify the redistricting efforts of Ms Malloy.