

Subject: July 28 Map of Almaden Valley, San Jose

From: Bob Strain <[REDACTED]>

Date: Sat, 06 Aug 2011 22:24:29 -0700

To: [REDACTED]

CC: Pat McMahon <[REDACTED]>

The attached note is submitted on behalf of the Almaden Valley Community Association.

Pat McMahon is president of the AVCA, and Bob Strain is a board member and Planning and Zoning chair. In short, we would like to revert to the June 10 maps for the State Assembly to avoid splitting Almaden Valley between two Assembly districts.

Cordially,

Bob Strain

[AVCA_re_AssemblyDistricts.pdf](#)



Bob Strain, Planning/Zoning Chair

████████████████████
San Jose, CA 95120

August 6, 2011

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

Re: July 28 Map Release

Dear Sirs:

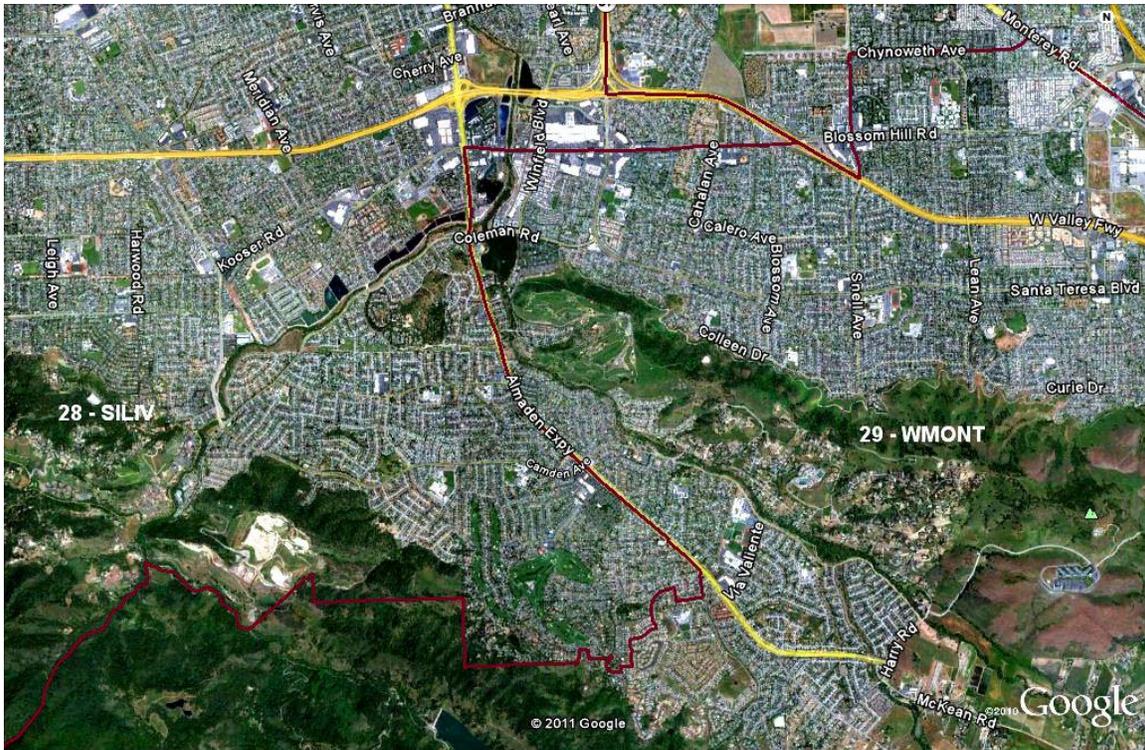
The board of the Almaden Valley Community Association has been cheered by the work that your commission has done. This is a long overdue reform for California's political climate. We represent Almaden Valley, a region in San Jose that is largely defined by ridges of hills and its interface with the rural area south of the city. This is a community of roughly 40,000 people. Wikipedia describes Almaden Valley well.

Almaden Valley, besides its geography, has a community of interest because of several factors:

- A general interest in excellent education, which is supported by several well regarded elementary, middle and high schools.
- Strong ties to the Silicon Valley technology community, particularly IBM. Almaden Valley has a large population of current and past IBM employees.
- Shared concern for transportation because Almaden Valley is predominately accessed via a single corridor, the Almaden Expressway. Camden and Meridian Avenues act as secondary access routes.

Our review of the June 10 maps showed them to be generally compact and rational, and they also show that Almaden Valley was wholly contained in a single congressional district, in a single state senatorial district and in a single state assembly district. This pleasure vanished with the release of the July 28 maps. The line dividing Assembly District 28 (SILIV) from Assembly District 29 (WMONT) runs down that common artery, the Almaden Expressway, and then it meanders through the neighborhoods lying southwest of the expressway.

This is all illustrated by the Google Earth snapshot below. The most heavily populated region is clear, and there is a rural region of Almaden Valley extending southward out of the frame. The natural boundaries of the community are also clear. The Santa Teresa Hills to the north east of the Almaden Expressway and another ridge south west of Almaden Expressway form two natural boundaries. A third boundary is the string of waterways generally running along Coleman Road. (An alternative northern boundary is Blossom Hill Road.) The Assembly District boundaries are shown in magenta, below.



While we have no particular preference for either WMONT or SILIV, we are convinced that having the community divided is clearly a disadvantage. This is particularly disturbing because our area has long been part of a highly gerrymandered district, and our recent state assembly representatives have had their roots in San Mateo County. They live and have principal offices miles away from San Jose.

I am certain that the July 28 maps reflect your solving a problem, but Almaden Valley wishes you had solved without splitting our community. If not a full return to the June 10 maps, it would be far better if the line between election districts followed a natural barrier. For instance you have run the boundary between Congressional Districts along the peaks of the Santa Teresa Hills. That would keep us united for the State Assembly as well as for the other electoral domains.

Sincerely yours,

Pat McMahon, President
Almaden Valley Community Association

Bob Strain, Planning/Zoning Chair
Almaden Valley Community Association

Subject: Public Comment: 7 - Santa Clara

From: DIANE RIDLEY <[REDACTED]>

Date: Sun, 7 Aug 2011 01:31:20 +0000

To: [REDACTED]

From: DIANE RIDLEY <[REDACTED]>

Subject: SANTA CLARA

Message Body:

The redistricting change to move Santa Clara to Alameda county does not make sense to me. We share few immediate resources with Alameda; in sharp contrast to our close ties to Mt. View, Sunnyvale, Cupertino, and San Jose. We should be aligned with these cities as our communities in Silicon Valley share similar values, location requirements (parks/roads/schools/etc.) and neighborhoods.

I agree with the Mayor and City Manager when they say, "We firmly believe that these changes are egregious, unnecessary and detrimental to our city."

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This mail is sent via contact form on Citizens Redistricting Commission

Subject: Public Comment: 7 - Santa Clara

From: Jeff Ridley <[REDACTED]>

Date: Sun, 7 Aug 2011 00:05:05 +0000

To: [REDACTED]

From: Jeff Ridley <[REDACTED]>

Subject: Concern over the loss of the Santa Clara community of interest

Message Body:

The newly proposed districts do not provide the residents of the city of Santa Clara a voice in local and national forums. The city is connected in demographics and economics to the surrounding cities of Sunnyvale, Cupertino, and San Jose. These same links do not exist to the east bay. The citizens in Santa Clara do not commute to the east bay to shop, attend plays and events, explore parks, etc. They use the facilities in the surrounding areas that are significantly more easily accessed.

Creating a district that links the relatively smaller population of Santa Clara with the larger east bay communities with shared interests will result in a loss of influence for the residents. Our representative will be focused on business and other elements of the east bay regions that will have no impact or utility for the residents of the city.

In short, please review the district lines. The people of the city want to have their votes count by placing them for people that will work to improve the south bay communities where we work, shop, and play.

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