

Subject: Public Comment: 7 - Santa Cruz

From: Stacey Croft <[REDACTED]>

Date: Mon, 1 Aug 2011 20:09:51 +0000

To: [REDACTED]

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Subject: Congressional districts still... suck.

Message Body:

While many of the congressional districts are more compact, and connect communities which desire to be connected, there are a few borders where it makes little sense.

While many in Santa Cruz County and the beach areas commute to the SF Bay to work, our politics, communications, and communities are distinct from those on the east side of the peninsula. As it stands, the line goes straight through our communities, and does not gather our valleys but instead splits them down the middle. Our redwoods lifestyle is broken into four or five districts, and our small, majority latino farms are cut off from their peers to the south along Hwy 1 and 101.

This isn't to say I like the district that groups Santa Cruz with Pismo Beach;

We have different issues than in the valley of the SF bay and these issues become very important at the Federal level. None of the communities on the west side get water from the east - but the reverse is true. The communities on the east side don't worry about tourism and storm damage, but those of us on the west side do. The east side no longer has farms to protect, but the farms are still a major part of our economy on the west side.

The biggest part is that when faced with it, our watersheds nearly define us on the west side, and they've been cut apart at the federal level. I don't mind being included with Sunnyvale - but it becomes very disempowering when the newspapers based in Santa Cruz and Scotts Valley are confused as to which district their readers are in! When I'm in a district that has no major newspaper, and none distributed to my grocery store, but the newspapers nearest me are in yet another? It's a recipe for frustration.

The watershed of the San Lorenzo is not a large place. It should not be split between districts! Water defines our life and where we go to the grocery; cutting us in half like this is frustrating.

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