

Subject: RE: Public Comment Problems

From: "Matt Regan" <[REDACTED]>

Date: Wed, 3 Aug 2011 10:02:51 -0700

To: <[REDACTED]>

Commissioners,

Thank you for including my previous comments on the public record.

I would like to add one more. As I, and about 100 other people from Pleasant Hill, have already explained we are separated from the bulk of Senate District 3 by Suisun Bay. We have explained to you that this is a physical boundary, an economic boundary, and a cultural boundary. One thing that has not yet been made clear is that each time we residents of Pleasant Hill cross this boundary we are charged a \$5.00 toll.

It is very obvious from the population numbers that the Senator from D3 will always be from north of Suisun Bay and his/her District Office will (and ought to be) located close to the population centers in the Yolo/Napa/Solano area. This means that should a resident of Pleasant Hill need to visit their Senator or Senate District Staff they will be charged a \$5.00 toll for the privilege of doing so.

I find it very difficult to believe that you would intentionally put the people of Pleasant Hill in such a situation; separated from their elected representative not just by a great distance and several well defined boundaries, but by a \$5.00 toll as well.

Sincerely,

Matt Regan
Pleasant Hill.

From: Matt Regan

Sent: Tuesday, August 02, 2011 9:15 AM

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: Public Comment Problems

Dear Commissioners,

This is my third attempt to submit public comment to voice my concerns that the cities of Pleasant Hill and Martinez are being moved from their current Contra Costa focused Senate District and dropped into, what your staff have described as a "Central Valley Ag district". I have submitted comment to this e-mail address as well as via your online form and have yet to see any of my correspondence appear on the public comment record.

Naturally I am somewhat concerned that you may not be receiving all of the comments sent to you and that you may not have been aware of the level of public angst caused by some of your proposed districts. I have a full electronic record of all e-mails sent,

On July 21 I sent this e-mail;

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to express my very grave concerns that you are proposing to include the East Bay/ San Ramon Valley communities of Martinez and Pleasant Hill in a rural Senate district made up in large part by agricultural communities to the north of Suisun Bay.

Pleasant Hill and Martinez are urban/suburban communities and share all the issues that our fellow 680 corridor communities share; freeway congestion, failing school districts, BART funding, open space preservation, etc. We have absolutely no shared common interests with residents of Yolo County or Lake County which are largely agricultural and rural.

By extending an artificial finger of this large rural Senate District into our urban/suburban communities, just to solve a math problem, is to disenfranchise all the people who live here and call these communities home.

I urge you to reconsider this proposed Senate District and to keep our cities in a contiguous East Bay district that represents communities with shared concerns, shared challenges and shared values.

I was a strong supporter of the creation of a citizen driven process to redraw our electoral districts and I remain convinced that you will do a good job. However, part of your task is to listen to the concerns raised by the public, and I am sure that once you are aware of the level of concern in our community you will address this problem,

Sincerely,

Matt Regan
Pleasant Hill, CA

On July 28 I sent this follow up e-mail and I also resent my original correspondence from July 21 (with a couple of grammatical corrections)

Commissioners,

I am watching your meeting on my computer and I can hardly believe my ears and eyes. You passed over SD 3 with zero mention of the huge concerns expressed by the people of Pleasant Hill about our inclusion in what you yourselves just described as, and I quote, a "central valley Ag district".

There are no farms in Pleasant Hill. There are no orchards, no cattle, no crops....unless you include my tomato plants. Pleasant Hill is a suburban bedroom community linked economically, socially and in every other way with the San Ramon Valley and the central Bay Area. It has nothing in common with the rest of the district you have dropped it into.

You were tasked by the voters of California with keeping communities of interest intact and it appears you have willfully disregarded that mandate where Pleasant Hill is concerned.

If there is any silver lining to today's hearing, its that your description of Pleasant Hill as an "Ag" community is now on the record and will no doubt be used in a lawsuit challenging this insane decision.

Sincerely,

Matt Regan

Is there a reason my e-mails are not appearing on the public comment record?

Thank you.

Matt Regan | Vice President Government Relations | **BAYAREA** COUNCIL

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