

Subject: Public Comment: 8 - Contra Costa

From: "John A. Peterson" <[REDACTED]>

Date: Thu, 11 Aug 2011 04:09:10 +0000

To: [REDACTED]

From: John A. Peterson <[REDACTED]>

Subject: Proposed Senate/Assembly District Boundaries

Message Body:

To: The California Redistricting Commission

Subj.: District Maps, Draft of 2011-07-19

Ramon Senate District

PTANT and EALAM Assembly Districts

From: John A. Peterson (address below)

Ladies & Gentlemen:

After a good start with the June 10 draft maps, I'm afraid things seem to have gone backward with the latest maps at least insofar as Contra Costa County is concerned! To begin with the presently-proposed Ramon senate district, I think it's a grievous error to exclude Martinez and Pleasant Hill from the district while including all of eastern Contra Costa County. Martinez is the county seat of Contra Costa County! Pleasant Hill has far more "community of interest" with its surrounding central county cities of Concord, Walnut Creek and Lafayette than it does with Fairfield, Vacaville and Davis! And stated in the reverse, Concord, Walnut Creek and Lafayette have far more "community of interest" with Pleasant Hill than they do with Pittsburg, Antioch and Oakley!

I urge, therefore, that Martinez and Pleasant Hill be included in the Ramon senate district, and that a corresponding population of the northeastern corner of Contra Costa County, comprising Oakley, Brentwood, and as-needed portions of Antioch and Pittsburg, be included in the proposed "Wine" senate district. This would be a straight-across numerical swap which can be easily achieved between these adjoining districts with no impact on any other district.

With regard to the proposed "PTANT" and "EALAM" assembly districts, the draft of July 19th makes no sense at all, as compared with that of July 11th! I can think of no rational explanation for adding Vallejo and Benicia to PTANT while excluding Antioch and half of Pittsburg. For one thing, it directly violates the text of Proposition 11, which requires that to the extent practicable "...each Senate district shall be comprised of two whole, complete, and adjacent Assembly districts..." (PTANT and EALAM do not achieve this, with respect even to the presently-proposed Ramon senate district.) It also violates the "geographical integrity" of two counties rather than just one (eastern Contra Costa). Finally, it violates the intent of the term "geographical compactness" in Proposition 11 by reaching across water bodies that are not crossed anywhere else in the Bay Area.

All of the problems described above regarding the proposed assembly districts can be readily resolved simply by adopting the above recommendation for improvement to the Ramon senate district. The dividing line between PTANT and EALAM remains unchanged, and those two assembly districts then come into full compliance with the guidelines clearly set forth by the voters in Proposition 11. This is so simple one has to wonder how the inconsistent and convoluted options set out in the July 19th drafts could possibly have been devised!

I sincerely hope the Commission will give fair consideration to these suggestions. I recognize that I am a "special interest group" of only one person, but as an applicant for Commissioner that made it down to the semi-final cut to 314 I have a strong interest in this process and want to see it done properly.

Sincerely,

John A. Peterson

[REDACTED]
Walnut Creek, CA 94598

[REDACTED]

Cc: Tom Barnidge, Contra Costa Times
Lisa Vorderbrueggen, Contra Costa Times

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This mail is sent via contact form on Citizens Redistricting Commission

Subject: Region 8, Contra Costa County

From: [REDACTED]

Date: Thu, 11 Aug 2011 00:11:45 -0400 (EDT)

To: [REDACTED]

Please see attached letter, in .pdf format as requested.

[July_21_Letter_to_CRC.pdf](#)

July 21, 2011

To: The California Redistricting Commission
Subj.: District Maps, Draft of 2011-07-19
Ramon Senate District
PTANT and EALAM Assembly Districts
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Sincerely,
John A. Peterson

████████████████████
Walnut Creek, CA 94598
████████████████████

Cc: Tom Barnidge, Contra Costa Times
Lisa Vorderbrueggen, Contra Costa Times

Subject: SD 3 Pleasant Hill & Martinez

From: "Matt Regan" <[REDACTED]>

Date: Wed, 10 Aug 2011 16:55:14 -0700

To: <[REDACTED]>

Dear Commissioners,

Thank you once again for publishing the many letters of opposition to the inclusion of Pleasant Hill and Martinez in Senate District 3. By now it must be very clear to you that you were badly misinformed about the nature of our communities or you would not have described them thus;

15 District 3, where's 3? Is that 3? Okay, 3.

16 Three is a Central Valley District, it's an ag district.

17 We did manage to separate out part of -- did we get part

18 of Lake County out? But it is a Central Valley Ag

19 District.

(transcript of July 28 Commission meeting)

If any of you have ever been to either Pleasant Hill or Martinez you would know we are not "Ag" communities. There are no farms here. I can send you pictures of our completely built out footprint if you would like, and our door is always open and the welcome mat out if you would like to come for a visit and see for yourselves. You'll see houses, apartments, office buildings, a couple of freeways, BART stations, shops, parks and schools...but definitely no agriculture.

You can also visit Google maps or pick up any map of California to confirm that we are most definitely not in the Central Valley. We are in the San Ramon Valley which runs through the heart of the East Bay and Contra Costa County from Martinez in the north to Pleasanton in the South. The Central Valley is about 40 miles to the East of us. You can verify that by clicking on this link or pasting the link into your browser.

<http://maps.google.com/maps?q=california&hl=en&ll=37.958275,-121.637878&spn=0.559794,1.231842&sll=37.0625,-95.677068&sspn=35.957999,78.837891&vpsrc=6&t=h&z=10>

I hope that you will be able to correct this error and put us back in our old district with our neighbors in Contra Costa County.

Sincerely,

Matt Regan