

P.O. BOX 156 • ALAMO, CALIFORNIA 94507

June 29, 2011

By E-mail to “TLenn@cob.cccounty.us”

Board of Supervisors
Contra Costa County
651 Pine Street, Room106
Martinez, CA 94553

Re: Decennial Re-Districting Process

Honorable Supervisors:

The Alamo Improvement Association (AIA) has closely followed the development of alternatives for the decennial re-drawing of the supervisorial districts, up to and including the alternatives proposed by each of the five supervisors for their June 28, 2011 hearing. AIA believes that, to achieve reasonable representation and electoral accountability, the new districts must be compact, preserve communities of interest and recognize the functional components of the county (e.g. school and other special districts, transportation corridors, etc.). It is also extremely important to Alamo to maintain the historically strong community of interest of the San Ramon Valley (Alamo, Danville, Diablo, Blackhawk, San Ramon and the Dougherty and Tassajara Valleys and their surrounding agricultural and open space lands) within one supervisorial district.

Of the original seven map alternatives presented for public comment, AIA felt that Map 5 (CC Times) and Map 6 (CCCRDTF – A2) met the principles outlined above, but that the other five maps definitely did not. Map 5 was somewhat preferred because the boundary between Districts 2 and 4 was better drawn in the Crest Avenue/Tice Valley area of northwest Alamo (identified as Castle Hill on the maps).

More recently each supervisor submitted his or her preferred map (Maps 8-13). Of these maps, only Map 8 (Gioia) and Map 13 (Glover) meet the above principles. AIA prefers Map 13 (Glover) because we feel that both the aforementioned Crest Avenue/Tice Valley area and the agricultural/open space areas for a reasonable distance east of the Alamo CDP should be in the same district as Alamo and the rest of the San Ramon Valley (i.e. in District 2 rather than District 4).

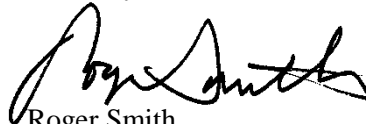
AIA sees all of the remaining maps as having severe problems as follows:

- Map 9 (Uilkema): This map separates Alamo and Diablo from the rest of the San Ramon Valley and perpetuates the illogical combination within one district of the geographically remote and functionally unrelated communities of the San Ramon Valley and far East County.

- Map 10 (Uilkema): This map also perpetuates the illogical combination within one district of the communities of the San Ramon Valley and far East County.
- Map 11 (Piepho): This map places the geographically remote and functionally unrelated communities of Walnut Creek and far East County within one district. It also places all of the agricultural and open space lands directly abutting the San Ramon Valley communities, including the Camino Tassajara area, in the same district as the remote far East County communities, yet in a different district than the directly adjacent San Ramon Valley communities. This would seriously weaken electoral accountability to the impacted communities for supervisorial decisions on development proposals in these adjacent lands, such as the controversial New Farm project outside the Urban Limit Line.
- Map 12 (Mithoff): This map has the same drawbacks as Map 11, but with the added drawbacks of dividing two cities rather than one. One of the two divided cities, Walnut Creek, is divided into three supervisorial districts.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on these very important decisions.

Sincerely,



Roger Smith
President

cc:	Supervisor John Gioia	(by e-mail)
	Supervisor Gayle Uilkema	(“)
	Supervisor Mary Piepho	(“)
	Supervisor Karen Mithoff	(“)
	Supervisor Federal Glover	(“)
	CAO David Twa	(“)
	DCD Director Catherine Kutsuris	(“)