July 14, 2021

Dear Honorable Commissioners:

My family and I have lived in Dublin for almost 30 years. Dublin is located in the San Francisco East Bay in an area commonly identified as the Tri-Valley. I am writing to express how the Tri-Valley is a Community of Interest (COI) as defined in the State Constitution. As such, it is important for the region to be kept whole in Assembly, Senate, and Congressional Districts written by the Redistricting Commission.

The five main cities in Alameda and Contra Costa that are collectively referred to as the Tri-Valley: Danville, Dublin, Livermore, Pleasanton, and San Ramon. These are all contiguous suburban and semi-rural cities with residents who socialize, shop, work, play, serve, and in a certain extent even govern together as a region.

Local governments in the Tri-Valley collaborate significantly on advocacy, including an annual trip of all 5 Mayors to Washington DC where they communicate the region’s shared priorities with federal leaders. In fact, the Tri-Valley City Councils even meet together as a group several times throughout the year to work as a team on major policy issues. The 5 cities formed the Tri-Valley Transportation Council to jointly prioritize and pull together resources for major projects. Agencies such as the Livermore-Amador Valley Transit Authority, Tri-Valley ROP and Tri-Valley Career Center are just some examples of governmental agencies that were specifically created to serve the region, and local water districts, park districts, K-12 districts, and community college districts have similarly crossed city borders to serve local needs within the five cities.

It is not just governmental entities that partner on behalf of this uniquely defined Tri-Valley region – the private sector comes together as one community of interest on behalf of the region as well. The five local Chamber of Commerce organizations are aligned in the Tri-Valley Chamber of Commerce Alliance where they collaborate on advocacy and joint events such as the Tri-Valley Mayor’s Summit.

Similarly, the Tri-Valley communities have been partnered for a decade in a shared private-sector led economic development initiative known as Innovation Tri-Valley Leadership Group (ITV). Together with the Bay Area Council Economic Institute, ITV just completed a Tri-Valley 2040 Vision Plan that outlines 24 recommendations for regional planning in the areas of transportation, education, housing, climate change, expanding health care and solving the digital divide.

The Tri-Valley has its own venture fund created by Tri-Valley Ventures, who along with another organization known as i-GATE have a mission to build a vibrant and diverse network of entrepreneurs and provide them with resources they need to succeed in the Tri-Valley.

The region’s collaboration extends to cultural activities as well. This effort is highlighted by a shared initiative to promote tourism known as Visit Tri-Valley, where festivals, special events, and other cultural, artistic, and athletic events are promoted within the region. Most local cultural organizations such as Tri-Valley APAPA (Asian Pacific Islander Public Affairs), artistic organizations such as the Tri-Valley Alliance for the Visual Arts focus on all five communities. In fact, even high school athletic leagues such as the East Bay Athletic League (EBAL) that encompass the five Tri-Valley communities are recognized by the state’s governing body the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF).
In addition to governments, businesses, and cultural entities, even Tri-Valley non-profit organizations are interconnected and working across the five-city region. This is evidenced in the names of the organizations themselves where groups with names such as Tri-Valley Non-Profit Alliance, Tri-Valley Conservancy, Tri-Valley Haven, City Serve of the Tri-Valley, and Tri-Valley Community Television are just a sampling of groups who both in their name and mission provide services and resources within the region.

In summary, the Tri-Valley is a community with a contiguous population, shared common social goals and interests, and intertwined economies and cultures. It is critical we be included within a single district and not split up for purposes of effective and fair representation.

Sincerely,

Steve Van Dorn
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