



Mendocino County Farm Bureau

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Affiliated with the California Farm Bureau Federation and the American Farm Bureau Federation

November 17, 2021

Mendocino County Board of Supervisors
501 Low Gap Road, Room 1010
Ukiah, CA 95482

Via Email: bos@mendocinocounty.org

RE: Agenda Item 3A) Discussion and Possible Action to Review and Approve Final Redistricting Map, Receive Public Input on Communities of Interest and Supervisorial District Boundaries.

Dear Chair Gjerde and Board Members,

The Mendocino County Farm Bureau (MCFB) is a non-governmental, non-profit, voluntary membership, advocacy group whose purpose is to protect and promote agricultural interests throughout the county and to find solutions to the problems facing agricultural businesses and the rural community. MCFB would like to submit the following comments for agenda item 3A

First, MCFB would like to thank the redistricting advisory committee for volunteering the time to participate in the current county supervisorial district redistricting process. Although the 2020 census data was late in being released, the committee took the responsibility seriously to outreach to the various communities in the county and listen to the input provided.

Second, it was appreciated that the Board of Supervisors took the recommendations and draft maps from the committee seriously. This was not the situation in 2011 and there was angst with the disregard of the time spent by the volunteers on this topic.

In reviewing draft map 12, there are a few general comments MCFB would like to submit.

Hopland from 5th District to 1st District

Back in 2011, one of the draft maps suggested moving areas of Hopland from the 5th District to the 1st District. The map in reference was Option E2. It is difficult to see the exact alignment of the voter districts from the 2011 proposal to compare to the current draft map 12 for 2021, but the thought process is similar. In 2011, MCFB was in support of moving the Hopland area over to the 1st District mainly for the purpose of having better alignment of interests related to the Russian River watershed. However, MCFB also sees the benefit of having the 5th district remain connected to the Russian River watershed. Draft map 12 accomplished both.

By moving Hopland and the main stem Russian River areas from the 5th District to the 1st District, there is success in aligning areas of interest that are connected to this shared water resource. By

continuing to have areas of the 5th District connected to the Russian River watershed, this also leaves at least three supervisorial districts connected to the Russian River which will be beneficial for contending with water related issues such as the future of the Potter Valley Project which is critical to the water supply for the entirety of the Russian River.

Variation

Based on the 2020 census data, there were population shifts amongst the current districts that warranted attention. This population shift also provided an opportunity to look at areas/communities of interest and make changes accordingly. MCFB feels that there is flexibility with moving beyond the 6% variance that has been the standard for county redistricting in the past. With the state requirement of 10% or less variation, there is room to increase the variation amongst the districts if needed. Draft map 12 has a variance of 7.62% which is well under the state allowance.

It is understood that it is impossible to make everyone happy in a redistricting process. Just look at the current California Senate, Assembly and Congressional redistricting draft maps to see the significant changes that are being proposed and related public comment. For this item before the Board today, draft map 12 seems to have worked to compromise the comments, for and against, that were received from various communities of interest throughout the county.

MCFB appreciates the consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "George Hollister". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

George Hollister
President