

Chuck Eyerly
Secretary

Sally Grigg
Director

Bill Knapp
Treasurer

Thad Van Bueren
Chair

Judith Vidaver
Vice-Chair

Robert Scott
Alternate



Westport Municipal Advisory Council

P. O. Box 307, Westport, CA 95488
www.westportmac.org

July 5, 2011

2011 Redistricting Citizen's Advisory Committee
Executive Office
County of Mendocino
501 Low Gap Road, Room 1010
Ukiah, CA 95482

Dear Committee Members:

The WMAC held a public hearing today to receive input from our community on the map proposals you will be considering at your July 6 meeting. Our area of geographic interest extends from the Ten Mile River north to Usal Road and inland about six miles (see a map of our region of interest at: http://www.westportmac.org/documents/WMAC_Area.jpg). Based on input we received, the WMAC voted unanimously on the following motion:

Reflecting the interests of our community, the WMAC strongly opposes Option C and favors the configuration for District 4 shown identically in Options A and B. We do not have a particular preference for Options A or B because we feel the citizens of the south county should influence the boundary differences in their region. The reasons we support the District 4 boundary shown in Options A and B include our strong cultural, economic, political, and transportation connections to that coastal region. Our citizens depend on Fort Bragg for commerce (including coastal tourism), essential services, and cultural interaction. We do not feel our interests will be adequately represented if the WMAC's geographic sphere is lumped with inland areas whose citizens have very different priorities.

The WMAC would like to know whether your committee will recommend a single redistricting option or several, and when that decision will be made. We would also like to be informed about the date your recommendation(s) will be considered by the Board of Supervisors, to ensure our community has an opportunity to make our position known. You can reach me at 964-7272 or thadvanbueren@directv.net. Thank you for giving our views serious consideration.

Sincerely,

Thad M. Van Bueren, Chairperson

cc: Board of Supervisors

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July 12, 2011

2011 Redistricting Citizen's Advisory Committee
Executive Office, County of Mendocino
501 Low Gap Road, Room 1010
Ukiah, CA 95482

Dear Committee Members:

The Westport Municipal Advisory Council would like the Mendocino County Redistricting Advisory Committee to know we support Options A or B and oppose Options C, D, and E. We understand Options A and D have been 'tabled' by the committee, but wish to ensure our views are known on all option maps that may be later be presented to the Board of Supervisors July 26, 2011. Past minutes of this committee discussed recognizing coastal and inland areas are different, balancing rural and urban areas, and keeping most districts except Ukiah roughly the same size. The options we oppose appear to ignore these stated principles, as well as the fundamental importance of shared communities of interest and public comments available on your web site. Most public comments favor Option B because it is compatible with your stated principles and does not disenfranchise coastal voters.

We oppose Option C because it dilutes coastal representation by placing Westport, Leggett and Piercy in a district dominated by inland interests (District 3); it creates a version of District 4 that has little rural/urban balance; and it creates enormous Districts for 3 and 5 that will not give voters in those areas good access to their supervisors. We oppose Option E because it also creates a version of District 4 that has little rural/urban balance; it divides the communities of Leggett and Piercy into two districts; and it concentrates the central coast population in District 4, therefore diluting the representation of coastal interests in proposed District 5. We oppose tabled Option D for many of the same reasons, as well as the fact that it creates an unmanageably large District 5 that is impractical for any single supervisor to effectively represent. This option separates Westport from Fort Bragg, which we oppose for reasons stated in our prior comments.

Thank you for considering these further comments by the Westport MAC. You can reach me at 964-7272 or thadvanbueren@directv.net. Thank you for giving our views serious consideration.

Sincerely,

Thad M. Van Bueren, Chairperson

cc: Board of Supervisors