Action Item

Agenda Item No. 6

City Manager's Approval

Report to the Auburn City Council

To:	Mayor and City Council
From:	Councilman Kevin Hanley
Date:	April 25, 2011
Subject:	California Citizens Redistricting Commission and Placer County

The Issue

Shall the City Council send a letter to the California Citizens Redistricting Commission requesting that Placer County be kept whole in the redistricting process?

Shall the City Council encourage other public and private sector leaders in Placer County to send a similar letter to the Commission?

Conclusion and Recommendation

That the City Council directs the City Manager to: (1) Mail the enclosed letter from the Auburn City Council to the California Citizens Redistricting Commission requesting that Placer County be kept whole in the redistricting process and (2) Send an email with this attached report and sample letter to the administrative point person representing Placer County, the four other cities and town of Loomis, Placer County Transportation Agency, Placer County Water Agency, Sierra College and various school districts and local chambers of commerce encouraging their governing boards to similarly send a letter to the Commission in support of keeping Placer County whole in the redistricting process.

Background

The 14-member California Citizens Redistricting Commission was created by the voters to draw state Congressional, Legislative and Board of Equalization districts. The Commission is holding public hearings throughout the state and has their first meeting on April 9th in Reading. The Commission will release draft district maps in June and issue certified final maps by August 15. The final maps for the districts will be in effect for ten years.

Several residents in Auburn have mentioned to me that they are concerned that without any input from public and private sector leaders in our region that Placer County will be sliced and diced rather than kept whole in the district maps. This is the situation now. The redistricting gerrymander of 2000 by the California Legislature resulted in the balkanization of Placer County into three Assembly districts and two State Senate districts. A better outcome can be achieved. The residents of Placer County can best be represented at the state and federal levels when Place County as a whole is a major portion of the elected official's constituency.

The Commission will draw district boundaries of approximately equal size (maximum 5% population variation) for 53 Congressional districts of approximately 702,804 persons; 40 State Senate districts of 931,349 persons; 80 Assembly districts of 465,674 persons; and four BOE seats with 9.3 million persons.

Background continued

Since Placer County has a growing population of over 330,000 residents, it makes sense that public and private sector leaders in Placer County should request that the Commission provide that all of Placer County be the central element in the district boundary of one Assembly seat and a major component of the State Senate, Congressional and BOE seats.

Placer County, the five other cities and town of Loomis, transportation agency, water agency, Sierra College and various school districts and local chambers of commerce should each send a letter to the Commission that requests that Placer County be kept whole in the redistricting process. The City of Auburn can get the ball rolling by mailing a copy of the enclosed letter to the Commission and then emailing this report and our sample letter to each of above-mentioned jurisdictions encouraging their governing boards send a similar letter to the Commission.

Alternatives

Take no action. Let the Commission redraw the district lines without input from Auburn or other public or private sector leaders in Placer County.

Fiscal Impact

None. Since I will provide the email addresses to city staff, the task of mailing the letter to the Commission and sending a blast email will take one hour or less.

Proposed Letter to the Commission

April 25, 2011

California Citizens Redistricting Commission
1130 K Street, Suite 101
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Commissioners:

We respectfully request that the Commission keep Placer County whole when issuing the final district maps for the Assembly, State Senate, Congress, and the Board of Equalization. With a growing population of over 330,000 residents, all of Placer County, from Granite Bay to Lake Tahoe, should be the central element in the district boundaries of one Assembly seat and a major component of the State Senate, Congressional and BOE seats. The cities of Auburn, Colfax, Lincoln, Roseville, Rocklin, the town of Loomis and the northern communities of Lake Tahoe should be kept together in one Assembly seat.

As one of the earliest established counties in California, elected officials, civil servants, business owners and residents in Placer County have developed strong ties in identifying and coming together to solve public policy problems. Since the Gold Rush days, we have over time developed important infrastructure networks and service delivery systems to benefit all residents in Placer County.

We believe that our residents would benefit if Placer County were kept whole in the district boundaries for our elected state and federal representatives. Unfortunately, the redistricting gerrymander of 2000 resulted in the balkanization of Placer County into three Assembly districts and two State Senate districts. From a public policy point of view, this doesn't make any sense. Placer County represents a strong and cohesive community of interest and keeping our county whole in the drawing of the district boundaries will help the Commission fulfill it's important mission.

Thank you for considering our request.

Sincerely,

Mayor William W. Kirby

Vice Mayor Keith Nesbitt

Councilman Kevin Hanley

Councilman Mike Holmes

Councilmember Bridget Powers

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