



CITY OF MARTINEZ

**CITY COUNCIL AGENDA
July 20, 2011**

TO: City Council
FROM: Mayor Schroder
PREPARED BY: Mitch Austin, Recreation Manager
SUBJECT: Redistricting Official Comment
DATE: July 15 2011

RECOMMENDATION:

Consider a response to the Citizen's Redistricting Commission senate and congressional district changes.

BACKGROUND:

As Every ten years, the census gives us a snapshot of how many people are in the United States and where they live. Once we know how many people live in California, we redistrict. That is, we draw new district lines that put the same number of people into each electoral district. In 2008 and 2010, the voters passed Propositions 11 and 20. In 2011, for the first time in California, a 14-person Commission will draw maps of:

- 53 Congressional districts
- 40 California Senate districts
- 80 California Assembly districts
- 4 Board of Equalization districts

Based on census data and public input, the Commission will draw new district maps in open public meetings. The final map is expected to be released on July 27, and then a 14 day public hearing will be held with maps finalized on **August 15, 2011**.

The *California Constitution* gives the Commission specific prioritized criteria in drawing district maps:

1. **Draw districts with equal population**, based on the U.S. Constitution.
2. **Comply with the federal Voting Rights Act**, to ensure minority voters have an equal opportunity to elect candidates of their choice.
3. **Draw districts that are contiguous**, so that a district should be connected at all points.

4. **Respect counties, cities, communities of interest, and neighborhoods**, to the extent possible.
5. **Draw districts to be compact**, where practicable, and applied only after the earlier criteria have been satisfied.
6. **Draw districts to nest within each other**, where practicable. That is, one Senate district contains two Assembly districts, one Board of Equalization district contains ten Senate districts, and so on.
7. **Additionally the Commission may not consider an incumbent or political candidate's residence in creating a district.**

Along with census data, publicly submitted comments will be used to assist the Commission when it begins drawing district boundaries. The focus of public testimony is to receive information about the unique characteristics of the public's Communities of Interest. Shown in attachments A and B are the first draft maps which are still under consideration by the Commission.

Staff recommends affirming the City's interest in remaining with the Contra Costa County and asking that adjacent counties Solano and Alameda be kept together in redistricting efforts. The City of Martinez is the seat of Contra Costa County and the City works closely with the County to coordinate safety and public services. Keeping Solano and Alameda Counties together with Contra Costa County helps ensure regional planning efforts regarding land use, traffic management, safety coordination and other regional issues can be better addressed by our legislators.

FISCAL IMPACT:

No fiscal impact.

ACTION:

Motion to send a letter to the Redistricting Citizen's Commission and attend a public meeting to provide Public Comment on new district's impact to the City of Martinez before July 27.

ATTACHMENTS:

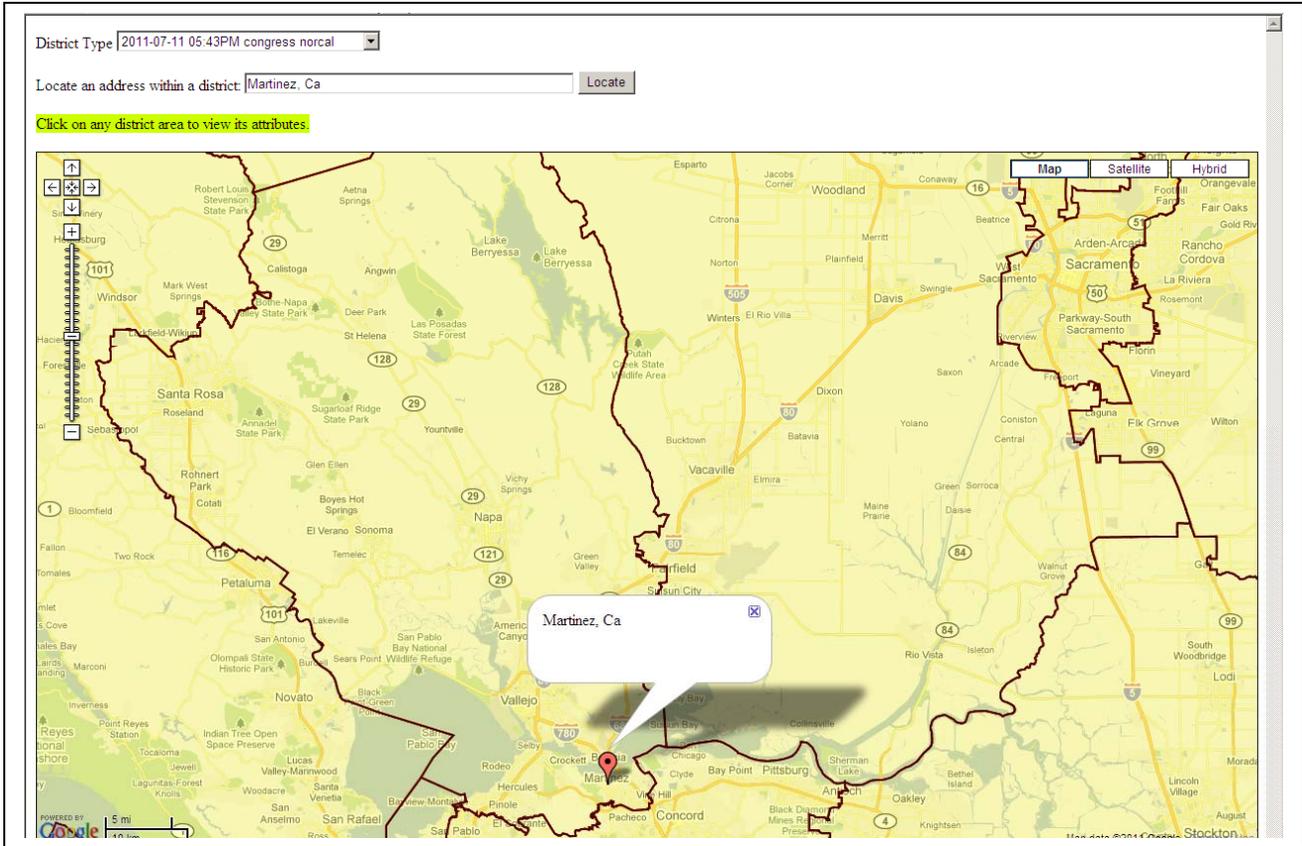
Attachment A: Congressional and Senate Districts
Attachment B: Assembly District



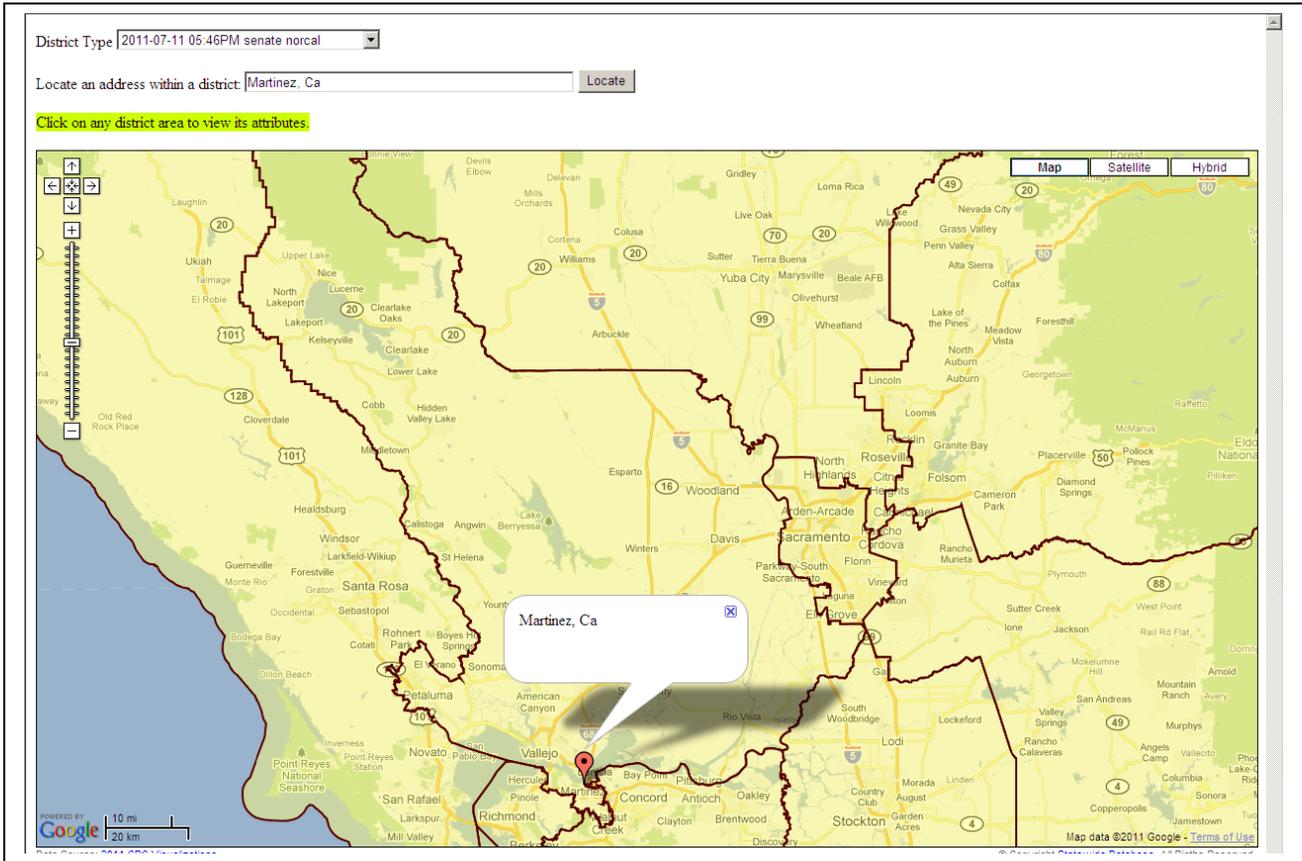
APPROVED BY: City Manager

Attachment A

Congress District Boundaries drawn 7-11-11



Senate District Boundaries drawn 7-11-11



Assembly District Boundaries as drawn 7/11/11

