

[REDACTED] **HANDOUT**

**Redistricting issues affecting the Almaden Valley (zip 95120) in San Jose** July 19 2011

Dear members of the Water District Redistricting Committee:

As a resident of San Jose with a strong interest in civic issues in Santa Clara County, especially ones that affect San Jose, I am concerned about the Water District redistricting as it affects the Almaden Valley.

**The Almaden Valley Community**

The Almaden Valley has a unique community identity geographically and historically. The community of New Almaden, located in Santa Clara County at the southern end of Almaden Valley, is the site of the most productive quicksilver (mercury) mine in the U. S., dating from the early and mid-1800s. Almaden Valley, which derived its name from the New Almaden Quicksilver Mines, is a neighborhood of about 40,000 people, effectively equivalent to zip code 95120, which was established for the Almaden Valley. Almaden Valley has its own community center, library, post office, shopping centers, and zip code.

Geographically, the Almaden Valley is a valley south of Coleman Road in south San Jose, bounded by the Sana Teresa Hills on the east and the Santa Cruz Mountains on the west. The Almaden Valley includes areas along Almaden Expressway from Coleman Road to its southern terminus at Harry Road, the South Almaden Valley Urban Reserve along McKean Road from Harry Road to Calero Reservoir, areas along Almaden Road from near the southern end of Almaden Expressway south to New Almaden, and areas along Camden Avenue southeast of Coleman Road to its southern terminus at Harry Road.

**Redistricting Goals for Almaden Valley**

1. As an identifiable, unique area geographically and historically, **Almaden Valley should be in only one Water District district and not split amongst districts.** In "Plan Q", Almaden Valley is split between Districts 4 (which sensibly includes Campbell and the Blossom Valley neighborhood of San Jose), and District 7 (which illogically includes faraway Los Altos, Mountain View, and Palo Alto).
2. By interests, occupation, and outlook, **Almaden Valley should be put in a district with adjacent or nearby residential suburban areas of south San Jose**, such as the Blossom Valley, Cambrian, Santa Teresa, or Willow Glen neighborhoods; or cities adjacent to or nearby south San Jose, such as Campbell, Los Gatos, or Morgan Hill. In "Plan Q", District 4 is such a district. District 7 is not.
3. **Do not gerrymander Almaden Valley into a district with faraway cities with which we have no commonality**, such as in "Plan Q" District 7. District 7 includes Los Altos, Mountain View, and Palo Alto, but Almaden Valley shares no common interests with these northwest cities. On the long 30 mile trip from Almaden Valley to Palo Alto, one passes by Campbell, Saratoga, and Cupertino, which are not in District 7. District 7 is an elongated, gerrymandered nightmare that makes no sense. Cupertino or Sunnyvale would have more in common in a district with Mt. View and Palo Alto.

Thank you for considering my comments on redistricting. If you have any questions, please contact me.

Steven Levin  
1311 Cerro Verde, San Jose, California 95120

**Affiliations:**

- Member of the Board of Directors of the Almaden Valley Community Association (AVCA – the umbrella community association for zip code 95120) and Chair of AVCA Transportation Committee
- Member of the Santa Clara County Roads Commission representing Santa Clara County District 1
- Member of the Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee

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