



# ADVISORY REDISTRICTING COMMISSION OF SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

Website: [www.santacruzcounty.us/Redistricting2021](http://www.santacruzcounty.us/Redistricting2021)

Email: [redistricting2021@santacruzcounty.us](mailto:redistricting2021@santacruzcounty.us)

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## ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

TO: ARC21 Commissioners

FROM: County Staff

SUBJECT: Additional materials for October 13, 2021 – 1:00 p.m.

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### AGENDA ITEM

- 4.D. Preliminary notes submitted by Commissioner Radin;  
Community of Interest Report as of 10/12/21

PRELIMINARY NOTES:

Peter Radin – Advisory Redistricting Commission 2021 – October 6, 2021

The 2020 census reports that the population of the current Fourth District presently falls marginally below the targeted population per district.

The Fourth District population “shortfall” is approximately 400 persons.

Notably, for the first time in several decades, the geographic reach of the Fourth District is likely to expand.

A credible approach to the requisite expansion is to extend the Fourth District to the west along the Beach Road corridor to the Monterey Bay. This would accommodate the need to include approximately 400 additional persons within the Fourth District.

Relevant factors supporting such an expansion include:

1. This change would be fully consistent with the agricultural character of the Fourth District, since the Beach Road corridor is largely composed of prime agricultural land. Corresponding communities of interest would be well served.
2. There are myriad complex environmental issues involving the Pajaro River and the Pajaro Valley watershed. These issues are necessarily a central focus of the supervisor for the Fourth District and staff. Adding the Beach Road corridor to the Fourth District would spread the benefits associated with the special attention and expertise these “river management issues” require of the Fourth District supervisor and staff.
3. As presently configured, the Fourth District touches only the Second District within Santa Cruz County. However, except for the Beach Road corridor, all areas of Santa Cruz County bordering either Monterey County or San Benito County are within the Fourth District (with the county lines generally tracking the course of the Pajaro River). Adding the Beach Road corridor to the Fourth District would spread the “inter-governmental” advantages derived from the working relationships between the Fourth District supervisor (and staff) and their counterparts across the Monterey County line.

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## What is a Community of Interest, and How can I Participate in Redistricting?

Every ten years, cities and counties must consider the population statistics provided in the decennial census of people living in the United States, to ensure that each District has a substantially equal population. During this process, counties comply with the federal Voting Rights Act and new State laws enacted in 2019 and 2020. These new laws (AB 849 and AB 1276) are designed to encourage public participation and increase transparency in the process. So, to ensure fair representation for you and your community, the County's Advisory Redistricting Commission and Board of Supervisors are asking County residents and interested parties to tell us about your community, and how your community factors into creating boundary lines for each of the five Supervisorial Districts. A map of the current boundaries is found here:

<http://www.santacruzcounty.us/Redistricting2021/CommunitiesofInterest/CommunitiesofInterestReceived.aspx#map>

## What Are Communities of Interest?

Keeping Communities of Interests together is an important part of redistricting. Communities of Interest (COI) are overlapping sets of neighborhoods, networks, or groups that share interests, views, cultures, histories, languages, and values, and whose boundaries can be identified on a map. A Community of Interest can be defined in many ways. Relationships with political parties or elected officials and candidates are not considered communities of interest. And, while race and ethnicity can play a role in defining a COI, it cannot be used as a sole definition.

COIs are self-defined and create a common story. The following provides some examples of a Community of Interest:

*\*Shared interests in schools, housing, community safety, transit, health conditions, land use, and the physical environment, such as the coast, and farming and agricultural spaces;*

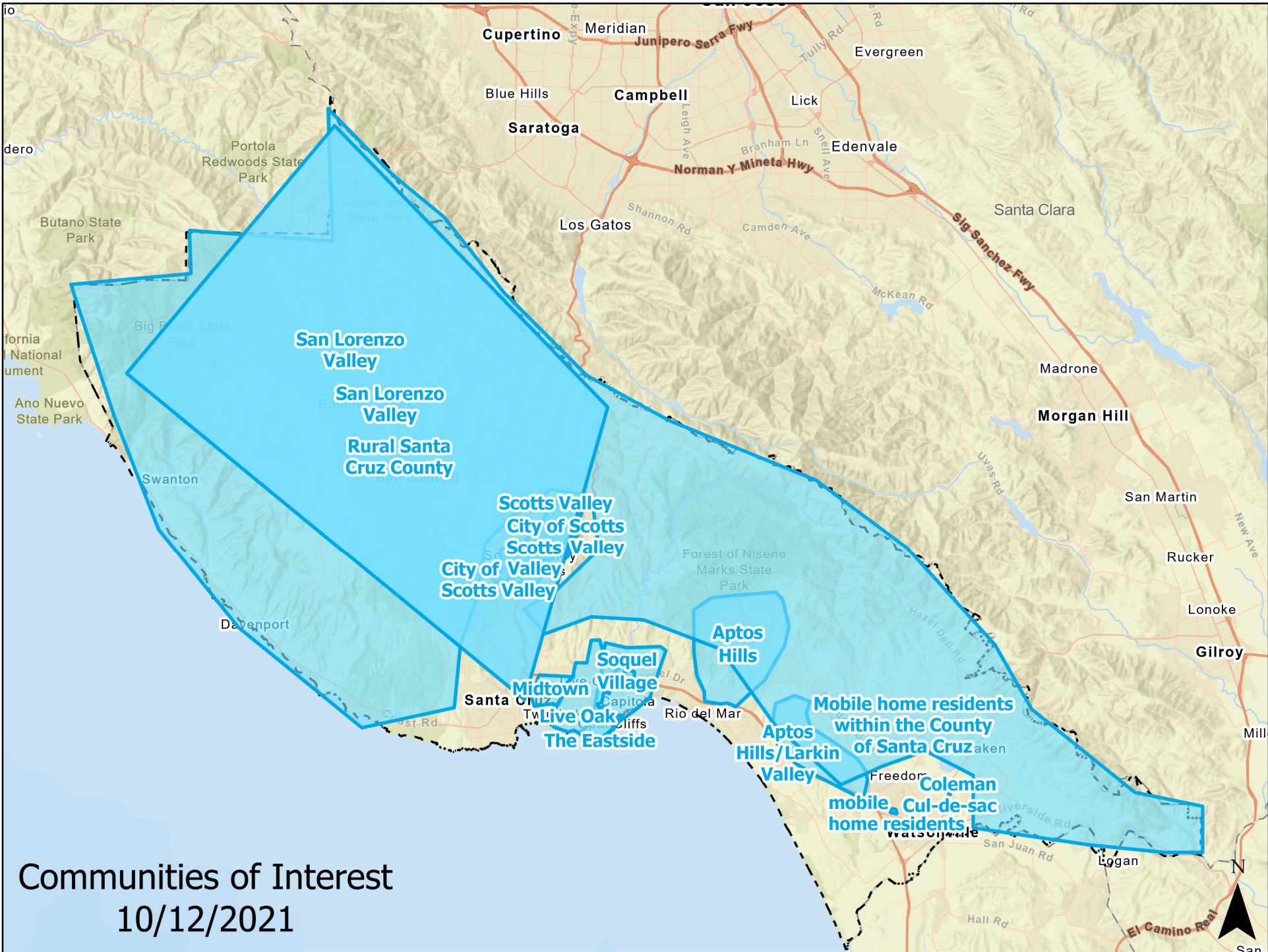
*\*Common social and civic networks, including places of worship, homeowner associations, community centers, and shared use of community spaces like parks, dog parks, and shopping areas;*

*\*Racial and ethnic compositions, cultural identities, and households that predominately speak a language other than English;*

*\*Similar socio-economic status, including but not limited to income, home-ownership, and education;  
Shared political boundary lines from other jurisdictions, such as school districts, community college districts, and water districts;*

*\*Residents who have been working together to advocate for a community issue, such as increasing after-school hours, getting assistance to come back from a natural disaster, or locating a health clinic in their neighborhood.*





## Community of Interest Report: 10/12/2021 9:50 AM

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Which County Supervisor District do you live in? :

Give Your Community A Name:

Rural Santa Cruz County

Tell Us About Your Community : Rural parts of the county have needs that are distinct from the built up areas. By anchoring all the supervisorial districts in built up areas, our interests are "cracked" and nobody really becomes a supervisor for our interests. Their "center of mass" is the built up part of their district. Please consider "packing" the rural areas into a supervisorial district with a smaller citified footprint. Perhaps have it include smaller cities separated from the urbanized portions of the county.

Tell Us About Your Place :

I should be with all the rural parts of the county, plus smaller-to-larger towns until the population quota is reached.

More About Your Story :

Getting the attention of our supervisors is difficult when most of their voters live in Santa Cruz, Capitola, Aptos or Watsonville. P.S. the "Map Your Community of Interest" does not work.

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Which County Supervisor District do you live in? :

Give Your Community A Name: [mobile home residents](#)

Tell Us About Your Community : Mobile home residents in the County live in affordable housing, are multi ethnic; often elderly. Mobile homes fall under local rent stabilization (control) ordinances. County of Santa Cruz has an ordinance; City of Watsonville has a different one. County;'s Mobile Home Commissioners help residents in parks in their district.

Tell Us About Your Place : Rancho Cerritos, 2121 Kralj Ave, Watsonville, below Nob Hill, east of Green Valley road, within the City of Watsonville. This park belongs in District 4. All other mobile home parks in the City are in District 4. Residents best served by Mobile Home Commissioner of District 4.

More About Your Story : I am the Chair of the County's Manufactured and Mobile Home Commission. This park is now in District 2. It is not under County rent ordinances. By agreement, the District 2 Commissioner assist this parks' residents to exercise their rights under the City's ordinances.

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Which County Supervisor District do you live in? :

Give Your Community A Name: [Scotts Valley](#)

Tell Us About Your Community : Our community takes pride in our small town atmosphere. Roads, policing, schools and parks are important to us. Community events such as parades, music at the park and farmers markets are a few events that bring us together.

Tell Us About Your Place : We don't need to be grouped with Santa Cruz or Live Oak because their priorities are not the same as ours. Scotts Valley needs to all be in one district. Cutting us in half destroys our unified city. Placing us all in District One with other small towns would be the best option.

More About Your Story : In the past Scotts Valley was all in one district. We were grouped with Felton, Boulder Creek and Ben Lomond. This seems to make the most sense to me. Scotts Valley should all be in one district in order to make our votes count.

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Which County Supervisor District do you live in? :

Give Your Community A Name: [San Lorenzo Valley](#)

Tell Us About Your Community : The residents of the San Lorenzo Valley are a tight, close-knit community that has become even closer following the challenges of the CZU fire, PG&E outages, and health inequities. We are a community that values rural environments and we depend on our network of neighbors and friends. We have a shared interest in solving the complex climate, water, utility and transportation challenges that come with rural living.

Tell Us About Your Place : I am advocating that the District 5 lines either: 1) stay the same, or 2) expand to include the rural region of Bonny Doon and/or Davenport. Further expanding District 5 to include more Scott's Valley residents would not represent the shared community challenges and rural lifestyle of the San Lorenzo Valley.

More About Your Story : I think residents of SLV and Bonny Doon think of ourselves as a single community with our towns representing each of our idiosyncrasies and cultures. Together we are a cohesive group.



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Which County Supervisor District do you live in? : District 1 (Supervisor Koenig)

Give Your Community A Name: [The Eastside](#)

Tell Us About Your Community : The Eastside is a distinct community in the Santa Cruz area - including the neighborhoods of Pleasure Point, Capitola and Soquel. Shared interests are surfing, recreation, arts, sports - being active and social. Most retail/services (including healthcare) are available within the Eastside, so traveling to the Westside, Midtown, Downtown, or Aptos is often unnecessary and a burden due to traffic. Relevant issues to people on the Eastside include real estate and development, making a bike/run trail on the traintracks, street bike lanes, environmental conservation, retail collapse at Capitola Mall and potential re-development, beach parking, over-tourism, and academic improvement of local schools.

Tell Us About Your Place : The Eastside is a classic location in the Santa Cruz area, and should be fully included in one district. The Eastside is connected by academic, retail, economic, recreational, social and geographic considerations. Most Eastside kids attend school at SUESD Elementary schools, then New Brighton Middle School, then Soquel High, and participate in Junior Lifeguards in Capitola. Most retail shopping and banking is done along 41st, Soquel Ave, and in Capitola. The Eastside surf spots run from Pleasure Point to Capitola, and on big swells you can surf your way down from Sewers to New Brighton. A favorite path of runners and cyclists is from the Rockview down to Capitola through Opal Cliffs. We all share park space (Jade Street, Monterey Ave Park, Brommer, Blue Ball), and the local sports leagues are based around Eastside geography, such as Capitola-Soquel Little League.

More About Your Story : Hopefully redistricting to include the Eastside in one district will provide governmental efficiencies, and help to better serve our community.

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Which County Supervisor District do you live in? : District 1 (Supervisor Koenig)

Give Your Community A Name: [Soquel Village](#)

Tell Us About Your Community : Soquel in the park. Closer or walkable farmers markets.

Tell Us About Your Place : Mobile home rent protections, close to shopping & restaurants, and is close to the ocean.

More About Your Story : Walkable restaurants, ATM machines, EV charger, and close by micro-mobility options (bike share).

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Which County Supervisor District do you live in? : District 1 (Supervisor Koenig)

Give Your Community A Name: [City of Scotts Valley](#)

Tell Us About Your Community : I live in Scotts Valley because it is a community, good police and fire departments, parks as well as schools.

Tell Us About Your Place : I don't want to be associated with the City of Santa Cruz or Live Oak . I moved here to get away from those areas, crime is major factor. The city of Scotts Valley should not be represented by district 1, it should be in district 5.

More About Your Story :

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Which County Supervisor District do you live in? : District 1 (Supervisor Koenig)

Give Your Community A Name: [City of Scotts Valley](#)

Tell Us About Your Community : Scotts Valley is a city where community priorities include good schools, public safety and the environment. Scotts Valley is family oriented and is home to many seniors. Many residents work in Silicon Valley. Residents enjoy outdoor activities, including visiting our parks and hiking trails. Scotts Valley is a small friendly town where residents greet each other on the street.

Tell Us About Your Place : The portion of Scotts Valley on the east side of Highway 17, where I live, is all within District 1. The larger portion of Scotts Valley on the west side of Highway 17 is all within District 5. I strongly believe that the City of Scotts Valley is one community of interest and should be unified and represented at the County level in one District. This could be either District 1 or District 5.

All of Scotts Valley is one community of interest because all residents share the same parks and recreational opportunities, receive the same City services, share the same religious institution opportunities, share the same Library, shop at the same stores, drive on the same major roads, go the same schools, and love the Scotts Valley life style.

More About Your Story :

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Which County Supervisor District do you live in? : District 1 (Supervisor Koenig)

Give Your Community A Name: [Live Oak](#)

Tell Us About Your Community : Please review this article for background about highly urbanized but unincorporated Live Oak: [https://www.academia.edu/39798396/Between\\_the\\_Gulches\\_The\\_Twin\\_Fates\\_of\\_Live\\_Oak\\_Cityhood\\_and\\_the\\_Broadway-Brommer\\_Road](https://www.academia.edu/39798396/Between_the_Gulches_The_Twin_Fates_of_Live_Oak_Cityhood_and_the_Broadway-Brommer_Road)

We need ONE County Supervisor to represent us as we have NO OTHER local government representatives.

Tell Us About Your Place :

More About Your Story : Also see Norman Poitevin's book "Historic Live Oak" for more background & history.

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Which County Supervisor District do you live in? : District 2 (Supervisor Friend)

Give Your Community A Name: [Aptos Hills](#)

Tell Us About Your Community : This is a rural community with pockets of residential development among the forested Santa Cruz Mountains. Nisene Marks State Park is adjacent, and scattered areas of agricultural production exist, mostly orchards and vineyards. There is a wide range of economic status that includes multi-million dollar homes with ocean views that are second homes or short-term rentals, and also very simple homes from the post-logging era that provide homes for retired people as well as low-income workers and students. Many areas are served by substandard infrastructure, such as narrow roads maintained by County Service Areas and private wells or small water companies. All are on septic systems. Most rely on fire protection from County Fire Dept. volunteers and CalFire. Some are in high-risk fire areas. Many are experiencing insurance policy cancellations.

Tell Us About Your Place : Aptos Hills should be separate from the urbanized Seacliff and Rio del Mar communities because those areas have little in common with rural dwellers. My community is defined by the Aptos Creek Canyon but also the ridgetops on either side, and are connected with adjacent rural communities of the Trout Gulch and Valencia Canyons. We share in common the two PG&E high voltage transmission lines running through our communities that have been the source of wildland fires in recent history. We are in the Second Supervisorial District.

More About Your Story : All rural roads are in shambles and need resurfacing, with new drainage culverts. Valencia Road culvert failure in 2017 was a harbinger of things to come for the Aptos Hills where there are large metal culverts under the roadways. Roadside brush clearing programs have stopped happening, so the roadways are narrower, with corners made blind by encroaching vegetation. Bicycling on these roadways is hazardous because of increased traffic, faster traffic, and vegetation that encroaches into the roadway. There are more people moving into the rural Aptos Hills areas, because they are often more affordable, but many are renting a room or ADU, hence increasing traffic congestion in the adjacent urban Aptos areas. Also , with the permit approvals of more rural wineries and tasting events, and associated special events, the rural roadways are taxed by extra congestion, and pose a real risk for fire evacuation efforts if ever needed.

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Which County Supervisor District do you live in? : District 2 (Supervisor Friend)

Give Your Community A Name: [Mobile home residents within the County of Santa Cruz](#)

Tell Us About Your Community : People who reside in mobile home parks. More narrowly, residents of mobile home parks within the unincorporated areas of the County. I serve on the County's Manufactured and Mobilehome Commission; appointed by Supervisor Friend.

Tell Us About Your Place : Pinto Lake Mobile Estates is now in District 2. It should stay in #2. The park is in the unincorporated area, just west of the Sheriff's substation on Green Valley Road, and on the same side of that road as the County's Pinto Lake park. The park is under the County's mobilehome ordinances. County has defended residents there. I represent the park on the County's MobileHome Commission.

More About Your Story : The park is in zip code 95076. It is not in the City of Watsonville. All the parks in the City are in County District 4. The City's mobilehome ordinances are fine. However, it would be difficult for the District 4 Mobilehome Commissioner to have to learn two sets of ordinances. K.I.S.S.

I could not tell from the preliminary map what district the park is dreamt in.

? Is the "Map your Community of Interest" the existing or proposed districts?

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Which County Supervisor District do you live in? : District 2 (Supervisor Friend)

Give Your Community A Name: [Aptos Hills/Larkin Valley](#)

Tell Us About Your Community : Our neighborhood is an agriculture/residential area of plots of land that are unused but usable. I believe that housing is of utmost importance to county residents. Our area should be allowed to be more easily split or allowed to build ADU's to accommodate the need for housing. There are currently numerous county restrictions in place that are dated back decades, that significantly restrict certain building projects that hurt our local housing progress. Housing matters and we can help this current dilemma Santa Cruz County is experiencing. The state Assembly/Senate recently approved SB9 that would enhance duplexes on single family residences. SB9 requires CITIES allow lots larger than virtually all of the lots in Aptos Hills/Larkin Valley to be approved for two homes or a duplex. This could help seniors who might want to 'age in place' and have a generated income stream. According to the most recent Census Bureau, the average age of our area is 49.6 years old. This age group start to seriously think about retirement. Of the housing units within this region, approximately 80% are owner occupied. This is the time to generate income through other sources, such as ADU's or lot splits. These two criteria alone are indicative and motivation for a unique group of residents(us) that are able and willing to enhance the housing challenges if we were included in the city limits.

Tell Us About Your Place : I believe that our community would be better served if we were incorporated into the city limits of Watsonville so as to have more direct access to services. The unincorporated areas of our county are large. We seem to lose the privileges that being in the city limits would allow, including housing restraints now in place from the county. Those that live in the Aptos Hills/ Larkin Valley have an enhanced ability to help the housing challenges that face our county, if given the opportunity to do so. We are willing and able to build the ADU's and do lot splits that our county and state are deeming as needed for our future. Our state has lost residents at an alarming rate due to housing costs. As residents of Larkin Valley, we have the financial resources as well as the land to build, but are restricted in doing so. Many of the proposed state legislation that help building of additional units are aimed at cities and exclude the unincorporated county regions, such as Aptos Hills/Larkin Valley. We would be best served to be in the city limits of Watsonville, since we currently are recognized partially in Watsonville via our zip code (95076), but with few of the services...

More About Your Story :



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Which County Supervisor District do you live in? : District 3 (Supervisor Coonerty)

Give Your Community A Name: [Midtown](#)

Tell Us About Your Community : Our neighborhood has it's roots in the historic Villa de Branciforte township prior to annexation into Santa Cruz in 1905. Looking at old maps, I see familiar names of friends and families. The Villa Branciforte families are still here & I'd anticipate adding our neighborhood to District 1 could address Hispanic representational concerns. Currently we are in District 3 which includes all of North County and Santa Cruz city. I think we are more unique than that historically and demographically.

Tell Us About Your Place : I would like to see my neighborhood added to District 1. My neighborhood has more in common with Live Oak than Santa Cruz. Historically we were not a part of Santa Cruz, our development wave came later - just like Live Oak. Many of the workers serving Dominican live in Midtown and Live Oak. It makes more sense for our shared concerns to be addressed in a common District 1 boundary. We are bordered by Hwy 1, Branciforte Ave, Arana Gulch and above the Harbor. Please see the map I have submitted.

More About Your Story : We are largely a hard working, middle class community with concerns about representation and safety.

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Which County Supervisor District do you live in? : District 4 (Supervisor Caput)

Give Your Community A Name: Coleman Cul-de-sac

Tell Us About Your Community : We all feel that we are residents of the Watsonville community but do not enjoy many of the same benefits since we are unincorporated Santa Cruz County. We are very distinct from the rest of unincorporated county and have much different financial needs; we are mostly agricultural workers who feel much more at home in Watsonville then being lumped together with unincorporated Santa Cruz.

Tell Us About Your Place : We think that we should be incorporated into the city of Watsonville. We are currently right on the boundary line of unincorporated Santa Cruz but feel it makes sense for us to move locations. All that divides us from Watsonville is East lake Ave and as you'll see directly across from us and for much further down it is all considered Watsonville community. As Watsonville has grown this boundary has remained relatively unchanged and with growth in the future it's time for this boundary to change.

More About Your Story :

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Which County Supervisor District do you live in? : District 5 (Supervisor McPherson)

Give Your Community A Name: [Scotts Valley](#)

Tell Us About Your Community : I write today to express my opinion that it's important for you to re-consolidate the City of Scotts Valley into one supervisor district in Santa Cruz County.

Tell Us About Your Place : Currently it is split into 2 districts separated by Highway 17, but the community interests are the same on both sides of Highway 17. The children go to the same schools. The adults shop at the same stores. We are served by the same police and fire services, and we use the same parks and recreation facilities. Dividing Scotts Valley into two supervisor districts dilutes our voice and our vote, and should not have been done in the first place.

More About Your Story :

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Which County Supervisor District do you live in? : District 5 (Supervisor McPherson)

Give Your Community A Name: [San Lorenzo Valley](#)

Tell Us About Your Community : Our community includes rural residents with interests in homesteading, animal husbandry, self-sufficiency. We are connected through the remoteness of our homes and our shared small communities up and down highway 9. We track water issues, trauma and rebuilding after the CZU fire, and constant struggles with PG&E.

Tell Us About Your Place : Geographically and culturally the towns along Hwy 9 share much in terms of points of reference, communities, and education. We are a tight-knit group. The residents of Bonny Doon share our point of view, needs, and community focus.

More About Your Story : I think residents of SLV and Bonny Doon think of ourselves as a single community with our towns representing each of our idiosyncrasies and cultures. Together we are a cohesive group.