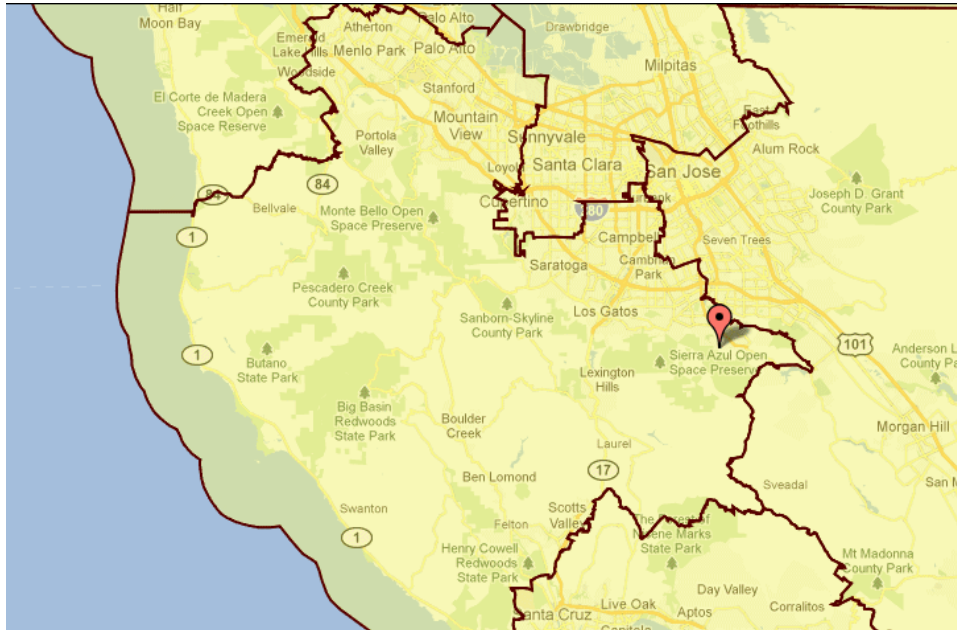


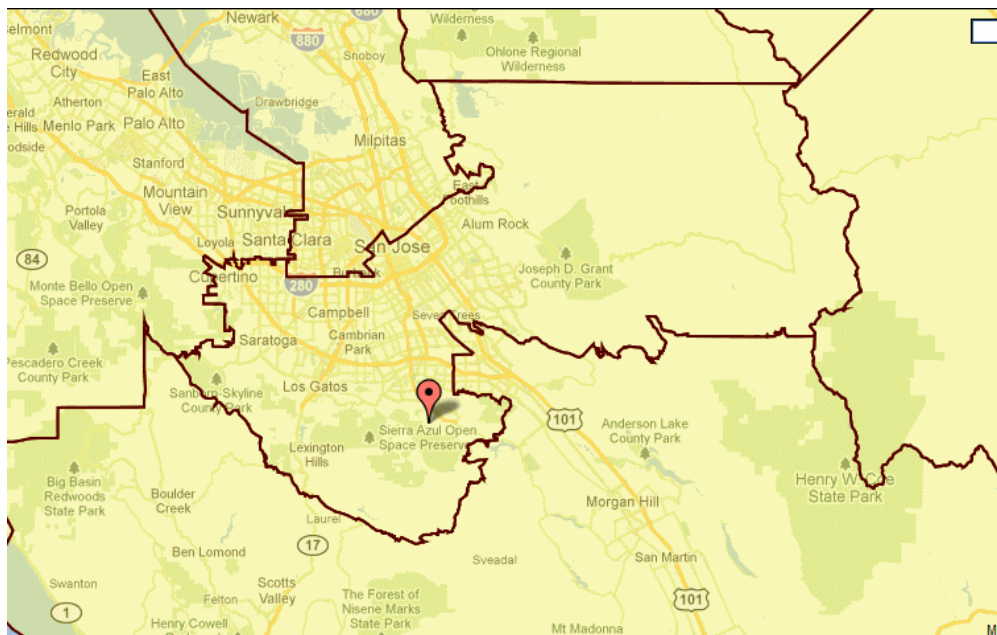
Redistricting is Frustrating

The board of the Almaden Valley Community Association has been watching the redistricting process in the wake of the 2010 census. We believe that the Voters FIRST Act, enabled by Proposition 20 in 2010, has offered us the opportunity to have sensible, compact electoral districts, free of the gerrymandering that characterized the prior district lines. To a significant degree, these goals have been achieved in our area. This is illustrated by the Congressional District 18 boundaries shown in the map below, where the push pin identifies Bob Strain's home and locates Almaden Valley. We note with regret that New Almaden has been put in Congressional District 19.

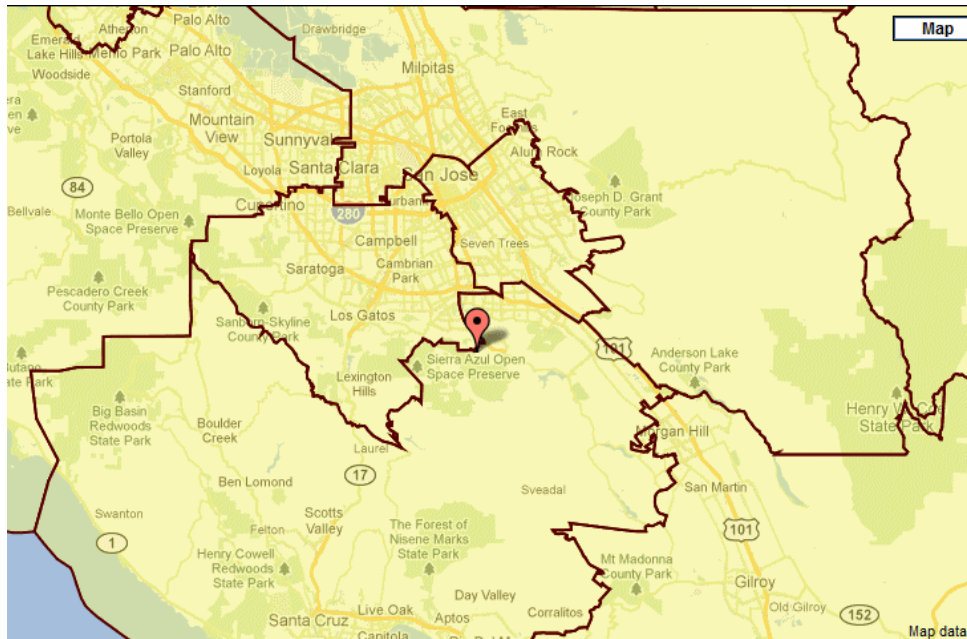


(This map comes from Google and the CA state database)

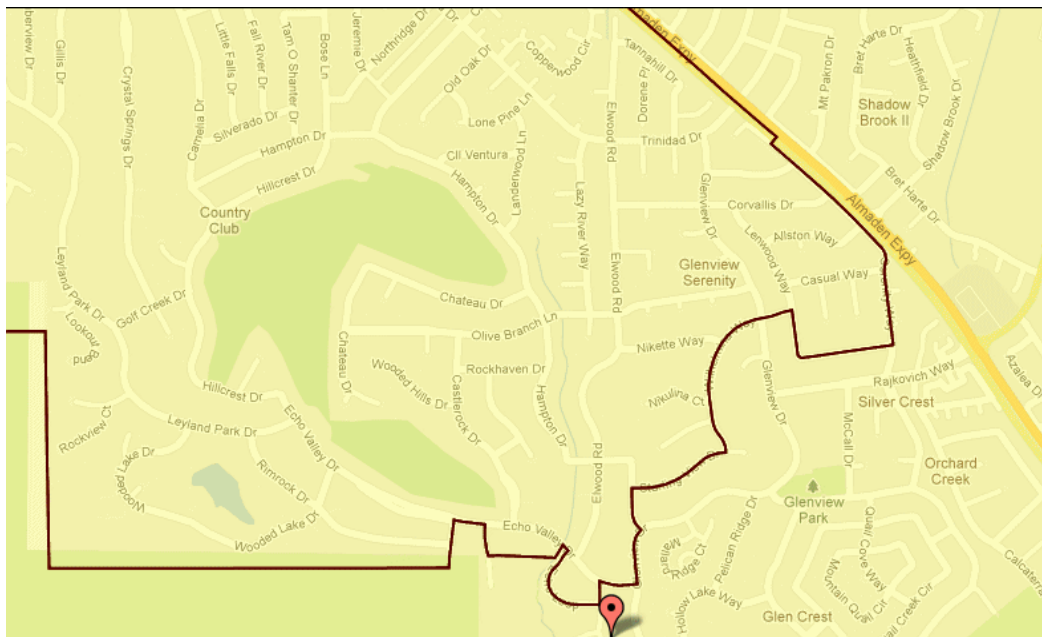
The CA Senate District 15 is also compact, as shown below, and it includes most of New Almaden. Our next state senator will not come from San Luis Obispo.



We have taken the position that Almaden Valley is a community of interest, and it is in the best interests of Almaden Valley if all of us are included in the same electoral district. While this was the case for all elements of the draft maps released on June 10, the later maps and the final certified maps from the Citizens Redistricting Commission have split us between two different CA Assembly Districts, 28 and 29.

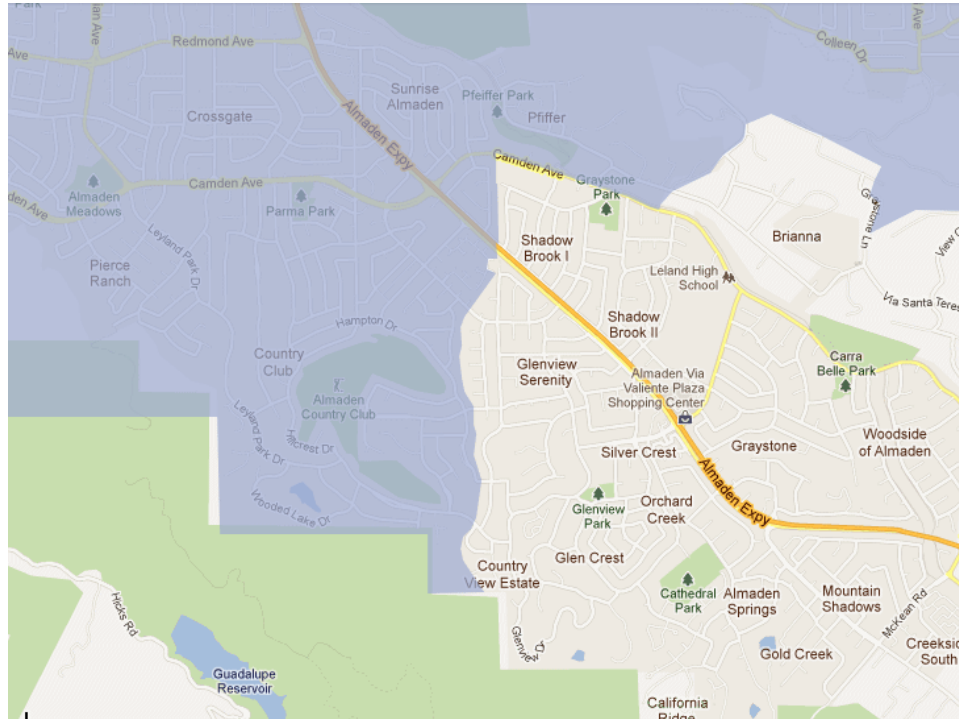


Part of Almaden Valley is in Assembly District 28 along with Los Gatos and Saratoga, and the balance is in District 29 with Scotts Valley, Santa Cruz and Boulder Creek. From Serenity Way up to Blossom Hill Road, the boundary generally follows the Almaden Expressway. The map below shows a detail of the boundaries snaking through our neighborhoods.



The AVCA Board of Directors sent a letter of objection to the Citizens' Redistricting Commission shortly after the July 28 maps, and this was followed by a letter from Pat McMahon. Neither communication was acknowledged, and the final certified maps have left us split. However, neither of our next Assembly representatives will come from San Mateo.

Much closer to home, the Santa Clara Valley Water District also has a citizens' commission that has done redistricting. Last year, the Water District divided Almaden Valley between election district 4 and election district 7. Starting on July 19, the AVCA Board has tried to reverse that split, and on August 2 an alternative map uniting Almaden Valley was defined, but that map was rejected by a 4 to 3 vote on August 16. A detail of the existing map is shown below, also with the help of Google.



The blue shaded region is SCVWD district 4, and the balance of the map plus large swaths of land to the south and west lie in SCVWD district 7. The generally vertical line is Greystone Creek, which runs in back of Bob Boydston's home. Note that the SCVWD district 7 director Brian Schmidt will be addressing the AVCA on September 12, 2011. The 7/4 split will be a topic of some of our questions.

The AVCA documents addressing the redistricting issues are available here:

[AVCA Board Letter on the State Assembly, August 6](#)

[Pat McMahon Letter on the State Assembly, August 12](#)

With respect to the Santa Clara Valley Water District:

[Steve Levin's Handout, July 19](#)

[Bob Strain's Handout, August 2](#)

Some of the basic references are on line:

[State Redistricting Database for Maps](#)

[SCV Water District Maps](#)