

From: [John](#)
To: [Redistricting](#)
Cc: [Rich Desmond](#); [John O'Farrell](#)
Subject: Sacramento County Decennial Redistricting
Date: Saturday, November 6, 2021 9:16:31 AM

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To whom it may concern,

My name is John O'Farrell. My wife and I have been Fair Oaks residents for 5 decades, living in the same house on Winding Way.

Our daughters were raised here, attended Fair Oaks Elementary School, Barrett Junior High and Bella Vista. I am a retired Sacramento County Deputy County Executive and Agency Administrator. Since retirement in 2004, I have served in various capacities in the District 3 portion of Fair Oaks—Fair Oaks Community Council, Fair Oaks Village Enhancement Committee and for the last 15 years as a Director for the Fair Oaks Recreation and Park District. For 2021, I am the current Chair of the Board of Directors.

As Agency Administrator for Sacramento County, my staff and I participated in two of the decennial redistricting efforts, 1990 and 2000, so I am acutely aware of the challenges of the redistricting process. As the County has grown, particularly in the suburban communities, supervisorial district boundaries need to be adjusted to reflect the new growth and realignment of communities of interest.

With respect to Fair Oaks, it has been part of District 5, 4 and currently in District 3 over the last 50 years. Our community has been closely aligned with Arden- Arcade, Carmichael, Orangevale and since the development of Gold River, that community as well. Fair Oaks children attended the Gold River Discovery Center when Fair Oaks Elementary School was shuttered. Friendships developed between parents and children. When the Bel Air market closed on Sunrise and Sunset and relocated to Gold River, many Fair Oaks residents began to shop for groceries and other items at the then “new” Bel Air on Gold Center Drive. Although separated by the American River, Fair Oaks and Gold River remain physically connected via Sunrise and Hazel Avenues. Further, the “red bridge” on Bridge Street is the bicycle and pedestrian linkage to Gold River with hundreds of walkers and riders accessing the American River Bike trail daily as well as the Gold River community. The red bridge also acts the pathway for Gold River residents to walk or ride into the Fair Oaks Village to enjoy music in the Park, new restaurants in the Village, and programs at the Fair Oaks Amphitheater. Finally, In 1990, there was actually a semi-serious effort to initiate an incorporation effort to turn Fair Oaks and Gold River into a new city.

In my opinion, Gold River is more connected to Fair Oaks than Rancho Cordova and should be part of District 3.

Thank you for taking my comments into consideration as you move forward with the redistricting process.

John O'Farrell

November 6, 2021