

RESOLUTION NO. 326-21 (CM)

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WATSONVILLE
DECLARING ITS OPPOSITION TO THE PROPOSED CONGRESSIONAL
DISTRICT MAP**

WHEREAS, every ten years, after the federal census, California must redraw the boundaries of its Congressional, State Senate, State Assembly, and State Board of Equalization district, to reflect the new population data; and

WHEREAS, following the 2020 U.S. Census, California was apportioned 52 congressional seats, one less than the number it had after the 2010 census; and

WHEREAS, California's State Assembly is made up of 80 districts; California's State Senate is made up of 40 districts; and

WHEREAS, in November 2008, California voters passed the Voters FIRST act, authorizing the creation of the Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission to draw new district lines, taking the job out of the hands of the California Legislature and transferring it to the citizens; and

WHEREAS, the 2020 California Citizens Redistricting Commission is comprised of 14 members and has the responsibility to draw both congressional and state legislative district lines; and

WHEREAS, on September 22, 2021, the California Supreme Court directed the Commission to release its first preliminary statewide maps no later than November 15, 2021, and approve and certify final statewide maps to the Secretary of State by December 27, 2021; and

WHEREAS, on November 10, 2021, the commission released its preliminary maps; and

WHEREAS, the proposed map would carve the City of Watsonville out of the neighboring communities of interest in Santa Cruz and Monterey counties and place it in a district with little to no common voices or interests. It is hard to argue that Watsonville has more in common with the Silicon Valley than it does with its direct agricultural neighbors, yet that's what the proposed map purports; and

WHEREAS, Watsonville, a primarily agricultural-based economy where the median income is approximately half that of the federal average, is much more aligned economically and socially with Santa Cruz and Monterey counties. Many of the surrounding areas (currently all placed in the 20th Congressional District) are communities of interest, attending the same faith institutions, working for the same agricultural companies, attending the same local schools and relying on the protections along the federally-funded Pájaro River Flood Control Project for economic and life safety issues. Watsonville often partners with Santa Cruz and Monterey Counties on issues surrounding the Pajaro River, transportation and agriculture; and

WHEREAS, enacting such a map would only dampen the influence and access that the City of Watsonville is currently afforded in the 20th Congressional District.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WATSONVILLE, CALIFORNIA, AS FOLLOWS:

1. That the City Council of the City of Watsonville hereby declares its opposition to the proposed Congressional District Map and urging the Citizens Redistricting Commission in keeping our Monterey Bay area communities of interest together.
2. That the City Clerk is hereby directed to transmit a copy of this resolution

to the 2020 California Citizens Redistricting Commission.

The foregoing resolution was introduced at a regular meeting of the Council of the City of Watsonville, held on the 14th day of December, 2021, by Member García, who moved its adoption, which motion being duly seconded by Member Dutra, was upon roll call carried and the resolution adopted by the following vote:

AYES: COUNCIL MEMBERS: **Dutra, Estrada, García, Hurst, Montesino, Parker**

NOES: COUNCIL MEMBERS: **None**

ABSENT: COUNCIL MEMBERS: **None**

DocuSigned by:

Ari Parker

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Ari Parker, Mayor

ATTEST:

DocuSigned by:

Beatriz Flores

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City Clerk

DS



12/15/2021 | 8:33 AM PST

Date

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

DocuSigned by:

Alan J. Smith

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City Attorney

I, Beatriz Vázquez Flores, City Clerk of the City of Watsonville, do hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution No. 326-21 (CM) was duly and regularly passed and adopted by the Watsonville City Council at a meeting thereof held on the 14th day of December, 2021, and that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of said Resolution.

DocuSigned by:

Beatriz Flores

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Beatriz Vázquez Flores, City Clerk

Date 12/15/2021 | 8:33 AM PST

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