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New electoral map shifts East County supervisor districts

By Paul Bugarino
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Antioch and Oakley residents will be seeing a lot more of Mary Nejedly Piepho and less of Federal Glover.

Contra Costa supervisors narrowly adopted a new electoral map last week that shifts most of East Contra Costa into Piepho's district.

Electoral maps change each decade to account for county population changes. The maps will formally take effect later this year, likely in mid-September.

Aside from a part of northern Antioch that extends east to Cavallo Road, Glover's district no longer includes Oakley, Bethel Island and Antioch. His district now stretches along the waterfront from Antioch to Pinole, including Pittsburg, Bay Point, Martinez and Hercules.

"It's kind of like getting a divorce," said Glover, of Pittsburg, noting how he and his staff have built relationships in the communities over the past decade and now must develop new ones.

Glover was among three supervisors who supported the new map; the other two opposed it.

Piepho's district now includes all of Antioch south of Highway 4 and far East County, stretching into part of eastern San Ramon Valley. Her district no longer includes San Ramon, Danville, Alamo and the southern part of Walnut Creek

Though opposing the new map because it split several cities between districts, Piepho, of Discovery Bay, said she's looking forward to working closer with leaders in Antioch, Oakley and Bethel Island.

"There are a lot of issues that have been a focus of

mine, including Delta water rights, transportation and Vasco (Road) safety, that affect all East County cities," Piepho said.

Though familiar with the key issues in her district's new cities, Piepho said she plans to meet with Antioch and Oakley leaders to become better acquainted. Glover's staff will also pass along information about cases they are handling.

Because of the district shift, Piepho will replace Glover as the county's representative on local transportation agencies. Glover will continue to focus on refinery and waterfront issues, including annexing land northeast of Antioch as part of a new power plant project.

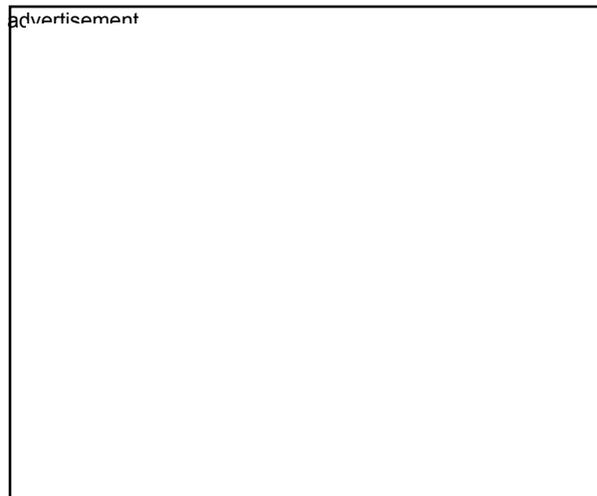
Local officials expressed mixed feelings about the new districts.

Oakley Mayor Jim Frazier said having an East County-centric district benefits the region, particularly in its push to complete several transportation projects on Highway 4 and the Highway 4 bypass.

"I think this kind of solidifies our interests," he said.

Some Antioch officials were upset that the city was split into two districts.

"We didn't get what we wanted," Councilwoman Mary Rocha said. She's concerned that Antioch will not have a stronger voice concerning water issues and that residents will be unsure who represents them.



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"It's not the preferable option, but at least we have some semblance of an East County district," said Antioch Councilman Gary Agopian, who lost the race for supervisor against Glover in 2008.

"It doesn't make sense that part of Antioch is missing, yet Blackhawk and Tassajara Valley are thrown in. But we're just going to have to work with it."

In preparation for the changes, all staff members in Piepho's Danville office are moving to Brentwood. Glover's main office will move from Pittsburg to Martinez, and he may open satellite offices in Pittsburg and Hercules.

Contact Paul Burgarino at 925-779-7164.
Follow him at [Twitter.com/paulburgarino](https://twitter.com/paulburgarino).

