

My name is Thaddeus Orzechowski. I live at [REDACTED] in Alamo, CA.

I am here to express my concerns about the way the proposed merger is being managed and advanced.

First, there has been no real analysis or research showing the new arrangement with added Sheriff Dept coverage will result in any significant reduction in crime. There was no comparison of crime rate in the P2B area with similar communities (*e.g.* Danville, Lafayette, Orinda) that have more enhanced police coverage. There was not even a comparison of crime rate in P2B vs P5 which have different Sheriff Dept monitoring. The only thing I am aware of is the P2B committee members tried to negotiate with P5 committee to compromise on an increased tax value. P5 refused to compromise, so now most of Alamo may be required to pay the same higher rate that P5 pays. Our previous Valley District Sheriff Lieutenant, Scott Dickerson, did not think it would make a significant difference (I believe his words were “the juice is not worth the squeeze.”)

Second, and perhaps more important, it seems like democracy, the vote -- the will of the people, is under attack by our own government. Washington is trying to interfere with the state in running elections; and here the county is just trying to eliminate it. Let the people who have to pay for this measure vote on this measure. The money is there in the P2B and P5 budgets to pay for the special election.

In summary, if done appropriately, this merger would have been properly researched and analyzed to provide input for a legitimate cost/benefit analysis. Will a 7-fold increase in the P2B service area assessment result in a 10% reduction in crime or a factor of two reduction in time? Let's see the analysis. Until this is done, and perhaps even after it's done, it should go to a vote of the people.