

is now Bakersfield, as shown in Figure 2.⁵ The northern delegates rejected Carrillo's plan.

The delegates initially approved an eastern border that would be the Rocky Mountains. This eastern border was supported by some delegates in the belief that the state's huge size would result in the Congress dividing the state. A subsequent vote by the delegates established the state's current eastern borders to reduce the possibility of the Congress dividing the state.⁶



Fig. 2 Proposal at Constitutional Convention, 1850

The delegate's vote on the proposed California Constitution was 28-8, with all six southern delegates voting "no."⁷

The proposed California Constitution included a provision outlawing slavery.⁸

Congressional Hearings to Admit California as a State

President Zachary Taylor openly supported statehood for California.⁹

⁵Ibid., p.104.

⁶DiLeo, pp.21-22.

⁷Ellison, p.104.

⁸Ibid., p.107.

⁹Ibid.

At the time of the Congressional hearings, there were 15 slave states and 15 non-slave states.¹⁰ Admitting California would have tipped the balance in favor of the non-slave states. Since there was only one request before the Congress for admission, the Congress could not admit two states: one slave and one free. Thus, the pro-slave forces, primarily headed by Mississippi Senator Foote, attempted to split California into a northern slave-free state and a southern territory. Foote wanted a southern territory

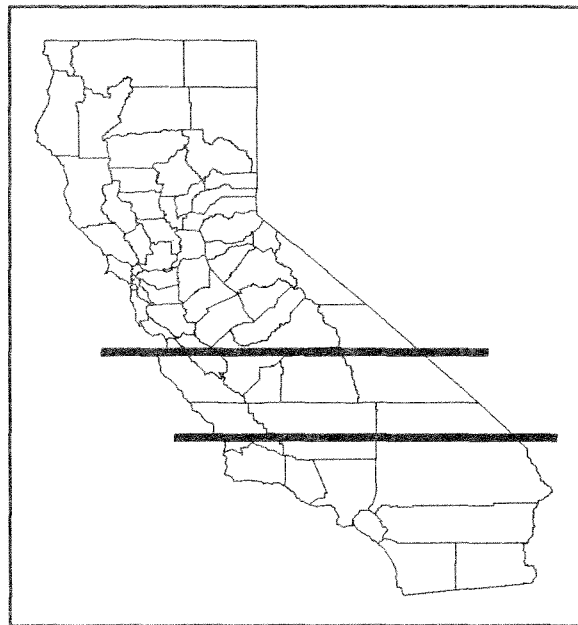


Fig. 3 Proposals in U.S. Congress, 1850

in order to preserve the option of converting the southern territory into a slave state in the future. Two proposed dividing lines were suggested, as shown in Figure 3. The first dividing line was an east-west line through Monterey. The second dividing line was further south, an extension of the latitude line used in the Missouri Compromise of 1850, which established a general boundary between slave and non-slave states. California, with its originally proposed boundaries, was admitted to the Union on September 9, 1850.

It should be kept in mind that slavery was primarily a federal issue rather than a state issue.¹¹

¹⁰Dillon, p.24.

¹¹Ellison, pp.137-139.

The 1850s

At a "meeting" in Santa Barbara in 1851, Southern Californians urged the separation of the South from the North, with the South to become a federal territory, as shown in Figure 4. The southerners concluded that the union of the two regions was:

*...in contradiction to the eternal ordinances of nature who herself, has marked with unerring hand the natural boundaries between the ... north ... and ... the south.*¹²

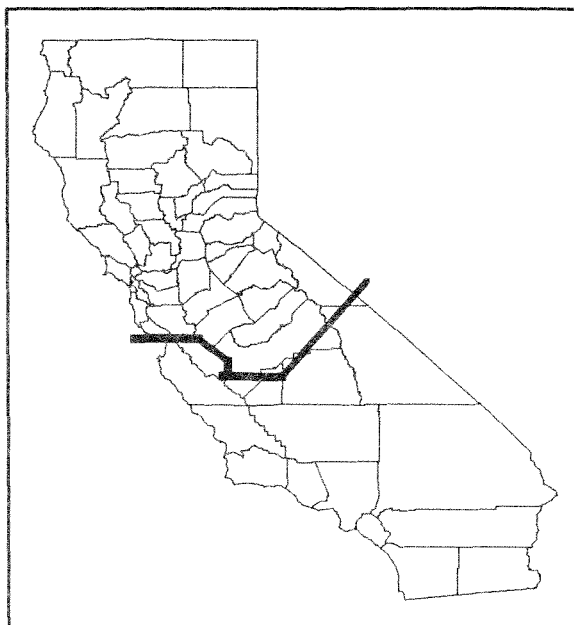


Fig. 4 Santa Barbara Meeting Proposal, 1851

In his 1852 message to the California Legislature, Governor John McDougal called for a constitutional convention to remedy specific problems with the California Constitution, one of which was the unequal levels of taxation in the South as compared to the North. While the Governor did not call for a division of the state, his message raised the issue.¹³ Legislative measures calling for a constitutional convention were introduced in 1852 and 1853, but none were approved by the California Legislature.¹⁴ In an 1853 Assembly report on a constitutional convention, Assemblyman Crabb from San Joaquin County argued for a split of the state into three parts.

¹²Dillon, p.25.

¹³Senate Journal 1853, Document 16. Majority and minority reports of the Select Committee on the Constitution.

¹⁴In 1852, measures were introduced by Assemblymen Graham of Solano County, Wall of San Francisco County, and Boggs of Sonoma County. In 1853, a measure was introduced by Assemblyman Myres of Placer County.

In 1852, residents of Carson Valley (in what is now Nevada) petitioned California to add their area to California.¹⁵ The senate select committee that considered this request concluded that the state's eastern border did not make much sense since the border splits the inhabitable area between the crest of the Sierra Mountains and the Nevada Desert. The committee suggested a new boundary line, as shown in Figure 5. The California Legislature then asked Congress to add these lands to California.¹⁶ California withdrew the request in 1859.¹⁷

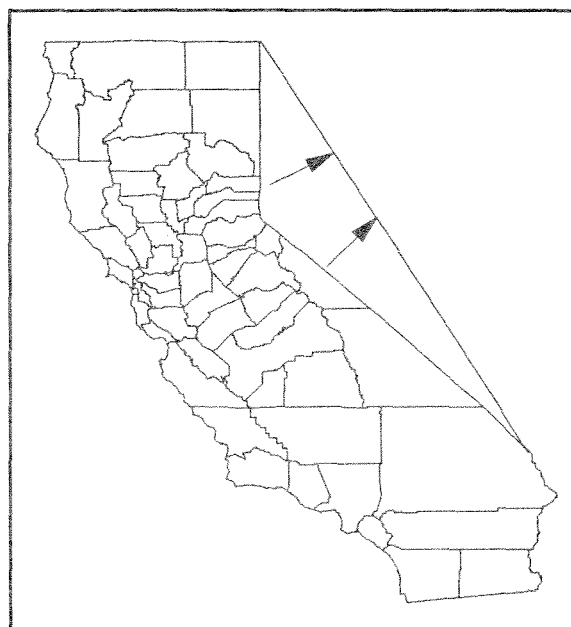


Fig. 5 Senate Committee Proposal, 1852

In 1853, Senator Kurtz of San Diego introduced a joint resolution calling for the division of the state into two or more states, but it was promptly laid on the table (killed).¹⁸

In 1855, Assemblyman Hunt from San Bernadino County introduced a bill suggesting a North-South split along a line from Santa Cruz to Lake Tahoe, as shown in Figure 6. The new southern state was to be called "Columbia." An Assembly committee considering the bill subsequently issued a report recommending that the state be expanded to include parts of eastern Nevada (not yet a state) and the resulting area be split into three states, as shown in

¹⁵Senate Journal 1853, p.90.

¹⁶Chapter 193, Statutes of 1852.

¹⁷Chapter 186, Statutes of 1859.

¹⁸Senate Journal 1853, p.150.

Figure 7.¹⁹ The northern state was to be called "Shasta," the middle state "California," and the southern state "Colorado."²⁰



Fig. 6 Proposal by Assm. Hunt of San Bernardino, 1855

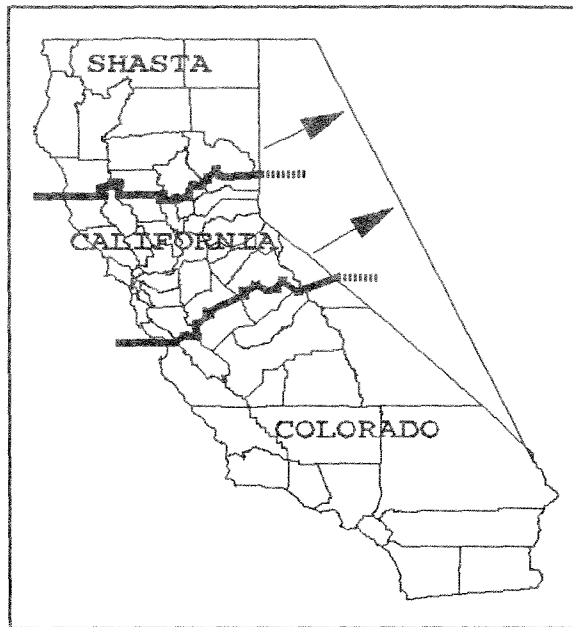


Fig. 7 Proposal by Assembly Committee, 1855

In 1855, Assemblyman Douglass of San Joaquin County introduced a bill to split the state into three parts.²¹

In 1856, Senator Cosby of Trinity and Klamath counties introduced a bill to split the state into three parts.²²

In 1859, Assemblyman Watkins from Siskiyou County introduced legislation proposing the creation of a new state north of

¹⁹ Assembly Journal 1855, pp. 359 and 613.

²⁰ Ellison, pp.126-129.

²¹ Assembly Journal 1855, p.460.

²² Senate Journal 1856, pp. 390 and 571.

40 degrees latitude, as shown in Figure 8.

In 1859, Assemblyman Andres Pico of Los Angeles introduced Assembly Joint Resolution 22 to divide the state.²³ Pico apparently concluded that a Legislative resolution was all that was necessary for the California Legislature to give its consent to divide the state.



Fig. 8 Proposal by Assm. Watkins of Siskiyou, 1859

The Assembly Special Committee considering the Pico bill (Pico was the Chairman) recommended in favor of the division, but expressed its desire for a bill rather than a resolution.²⁴ A minority report held that the proposed separation could only take place by the same manner in which states are created: by amending the state constitution or by a constitutional convention, with a vote of the electorate being required in both cases. The minority report recommended that the issue be postponed indefinitely.²⁵

Pico then introduced Assembly Bill 223²⁶ which proposed a division of the state, as shown in Figure 9. The bill directed the governor to call an election in the South. If the split was approved by at least two-thirds of the southern voters casting their

²³Assembly Journal 1859, p.230.

²⁴Assembly Journal 1859, p.342.

²⁵Assembly Journal 1859, pp.350-352.

²⁶Assembly Journal 1859, pp.790-791, shows that Pico was the author of Assembly Bill 223.

ballots, the bill specified that the California Legislature's consent to divide the state would become operative.

Figure 10 (page 20) shows how the Assembly voted on the Pico bill, which was approved by a vote of 34-25.²⁷ Note that both the North and the South voted for the bill, with many counties having split votes, i.e., for and against. Note also that county boundaries were notably different than they are today, since the following counties had not yet

been created: Imperial, Riverside, Orange, Kings, Inyo, Mono, Alpine, Butte, Lassen, San Benito, and Modoc. Also, the county of Klamath no longer exists. The Pico bill passed the Senate by a vote of 15-12.²⁸ Governor Weller signed the bill.

The public vote in the South on the Pico bill was approved by a "yes" vote of 75 percent. Thus, the state's consent to divide the state had been given.

The Governor advised Congress by letter that the state had given its consent for a division of the state. The Governor expressed his view that the legislative act was the only state action necessary to grant consent to divide the state. Thus, the Governor was declaring that a public vote by all the state's voters was not

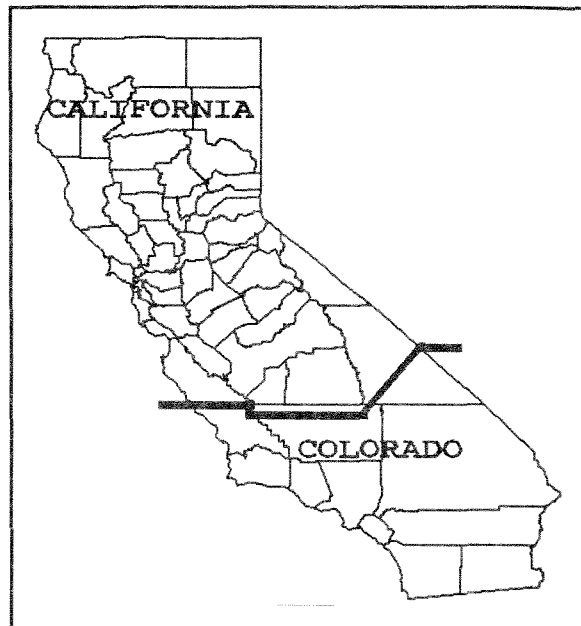
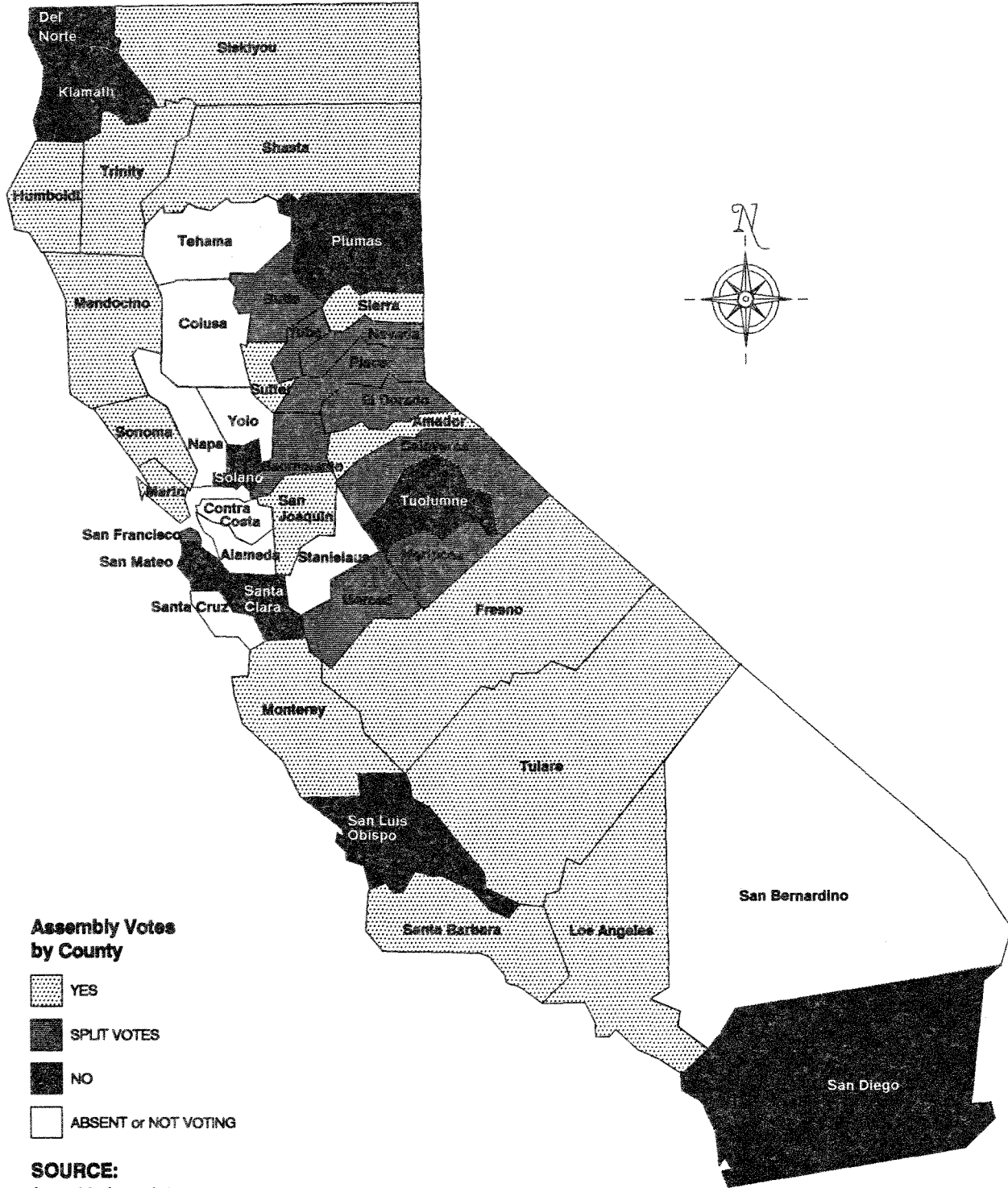


Fig. 9 Proposal Enacted in Statute, 1859

²⁷Assembly Journal 1859, p.474.

²⁸Senate Journal 1859, p.744.

Figure 10
ASSEMBLY VOTES ON THE PICO BILL, 1859



An 1881 southern California "convention to split the state" failed to recommend dissolution, mainly because of the fear of domination in the southern state by populous Los Angeles County.³⁰

In 1888, Congressman William Vandever of Ventura County introduced a bill to split the state, but the bill was not reported out of committee.³¹

In 1891, state Senator McComas of Los Angeles proposed a North-South split along the Tehachapi Mountains, as shown in Figure 11.

In 1907, State Senator Robert Bulla of Los Angeles called for the division of the state by the creation of a southern state called Los Angeles. Bulla claimed the state should be divided because southern Californians wanted a separate, more accessible state government. Separate states would reduce the influence of the railroads, lessen the jealousy between North and South, and increase the Pacific Coast representation in Congress by the addition of two U.S. Senators. Bulla wanted the Congress to approve the Pico Act, but Bulla could not find any way to add Inyo County to the South,

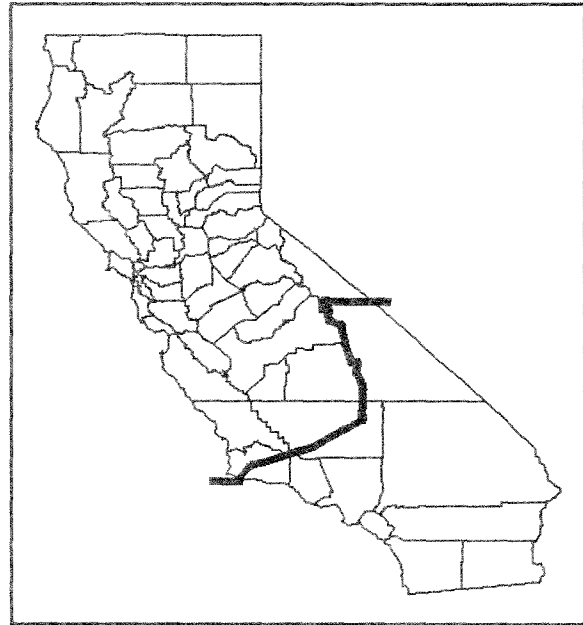


Fig. 11 Proposal by Sen. McComas, 1891

³⁰Dillion, p.27.

³¹Ibid., p.27.

something Bulla felt necessary because of the newly authorized Los Angeles Aqueduct.³²

In 1909, a new plan was considered in the very northernmost part of the state to create a "State of Siskiyou" from parts of California and Oregon.³³

In 1915, a northern organization, called the "Peoples Association for Changing the Boundary of California by Amending the Constitution," was created. The association wanted to split off the eight southern counties, as shown in Figure 12. The association wanted the split because:

- The South was trying to force its will on the North,
- Legislative measures supported by the South discouraged out of state investments in the North,
- Northern mining interests were being hurt by the South-supported laws,
- The South supported prohibition, and
- There would be two new U.S. Senators.

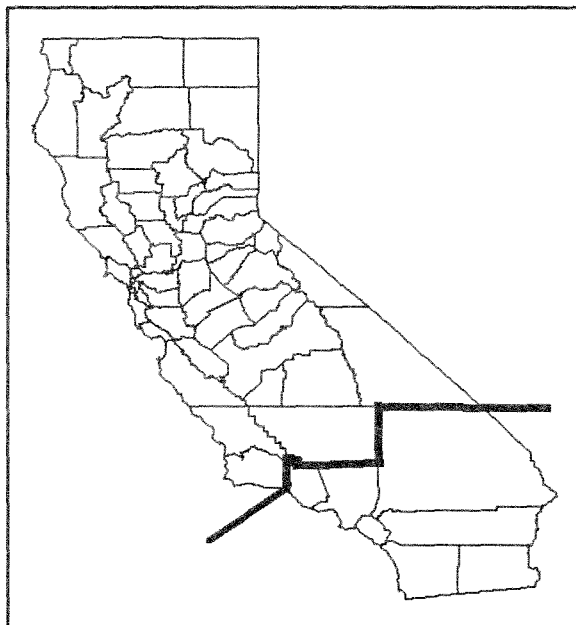


Fig 12. Proposal by the People's Association, 1915

³²Roberta M. McDow, "State Separation Schemes, 1907-1921," *The California Historical Society Quarterly*, March 1970, pp.39-41.

³³*Ibid.*, pp.42-43.

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³³*Ibid.*, pp.42-43.

As the result of the U.S. Supreme Court's action in 1964, State Senator Richard Dolwig of San Mateo proposed legislation for a North-South split, as shown in Figure 13. Dolwig's bill and constitutional amendment were approved by the North-dominated State Senate, but there was no action in the South-dominated State Assembly. Dolwig reintroduced his "package" in 1967, 1968, and 1970, but there was no action on his measures after the California Senate was reapportioned.



Fig. 13 Proposal by Sen. Dolwig of San Mateo County, 1965-1970

In 1971, State Senator Randolph Collier introduced legislation to divide the state urban-rural, producing a highly urbanized and industrialized western state and a sparsely populated agrarian eastern state, as shown in Figure 14. Collier's proposal was founded on the concept that the rural segments of the state would fare better if they were detached from the populous and, thereby, powerful urban counties. Collier introduced a similar package in 1975. There are no recorded legislative votes on any of the measures.

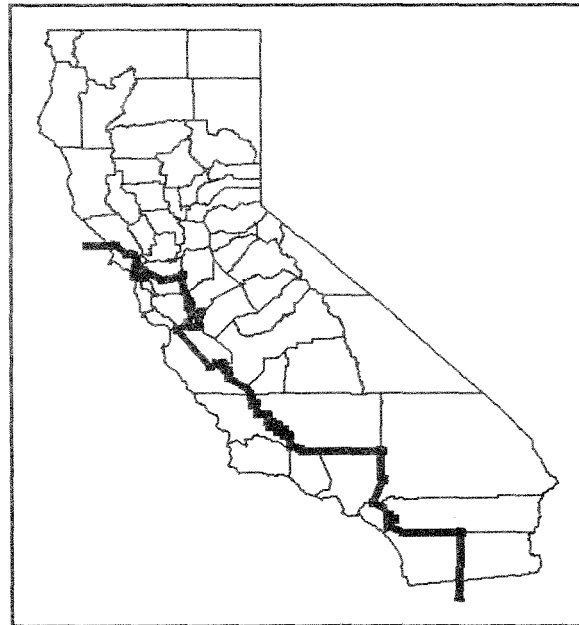


Fig. 14 Proposal by Sen. Collier, 1971 and 1975

In 1978, Assemblyman Barry Keene introduce a bill (to approve the split) and a joint resolution (to ask the Congress) to split the state, as shown in Figure 15.

In 1992, Assemblyman Stan Statham requested that each of the 58 counties place measures on their ballots asking: (1) whether the state should be divided into two new states, and (2) if the state is divided, whether the county should be in the North or the South.



Fig. 15 Proposal by Assm. Keene, 1978