I am sending a request to you today because I understand there is a conference membership change under consideration involving Columbia College at an upcoming COA Board Meeting. It is my understanding this action is being considered due to one or more recent conference membership changes in southern California that would affect the Central Valley Conference to which we currently belong. I have been informed the current issue before the COA Board is whether to move Columbia College from the Central Valley Conference to the Big 8 Conference. Such a move would place Columbia College at a serious competitive disadvantage. The average student enrollment in the Big 8 Conference is more than double that of the Central Valley Conference (see either tables below, or attached spreadsheet).

Central Valley	**Enrollment**
Columbia College	4137
Fresno City College	25191
Merced College	14099
Porterville College	4259
Reedley College	14240
College of the Sequoias	13439
Taft College	10000
West Hills College - Coalinga	5054
West Hills College - Lemoore	7091
Average	10,834

Big 8	**Enrollment**
American River College	34,526
Cosumnes River College	13,979
Diablo Valley College	21,692
Modesto Junior College	20,481
Sacramento City College	25,902
San Joaquin Delta College	21,169
Santa Rosa College	32,999
Sierra College	21,448
Average	24,025

By comparison, the Bay Valley Conference average student enrollment is comparable to that of the current Central Valley Conference (see table below, or attached spreadsheet):

Bay Valley	Enrollment
College of Alameda	6,554
Contra Costa College	8,411
Folsom Lake College	-
Laney College	13,129
Los Medanos College	9,905
College of Marin	7,719
Mendocino College	4,947
Merritt College	7,155
Napa College	9,479
Solano College	11,014
Yuba College	8,418
Average	8,673

If the Central Valley Conference is indeed being rearranged to include one or more southern California schools, then we would like to request that the COA Board consider moving Columbia College to the Bay Valley Conference rather than the Big 8 Conference. This proposal has the support of the Columbia College President.

Furthermore, in accordance with Bylaw 5.4.1 we would like the COA Board to consider the following Division structure change for the Bay Valley Conference based on this re-conferencing option (see tables below, or attached spreadsheet):

Bay Valley North Division (Proposed)	Enrollment
Columbia College	4,137
Folsom Lake College	-
College of Marin	7,719
Mendocino College	4,947
Napa College	9,479
Solano College	11,014
Yuba College	

	8,418
Average	7,619

Bay Valley South Division (Proposed)	**Enrollment**
College of Alameda	6,554
Contra Costa College	8,411
Laney College	13,129
Los Medanos College	9,905
Merritt College	7,155
Average	9,031

There would be a home/away game within each Division with eight (8) games in Division and five (5) additional crossover games annually (which would alternate sites). This would mean a total of thirteen (13) Conference games, and a Champion could be crowned in each Division. This option offers a better way to accommodate the concerns of smaller colleges and alleviate travel costs as well.

Obviously, such a change would require the full support of all the member colleges in the Bay Valley Conference. We have begun informal discussions with those member colleges to gauge interest and the initial results are encouraging. We respectfully request the COA Board to give serious consideration to this option at their earliest convenience. Thank you for your time and consideration. Please contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

Michael L. Torok