



Desert Water Agency
Introduction to Districting

February 5, 2019

- Under the Federal Voting Rights Act (passed in 1965), a jurisdiction must fail 4 factual tests before it is in violation of the law.
- The California VRA makes it significantly easier for plaintiffs to force jurisdictions into “by-district” election systems by eliminating two of the US Supreme Court *Gingles* tests:
 - ~~1. Can the protected class constitute the majority of a district?~~
 2. Does the protected class vote as a bloc?
 3. Do the voters who are not in the protected class vote in a bloc to defeat the preferred candidates of the protected class?
 - ~~4. Do the “totality of circumstances” indicate race is a factor in elections?~~
- Liability is now determined only by the presence of racially polarized voting

- Switched (or in the process of switching) as a result of CVRA:
 - At least 175 school districts
 - 29 Community College Districts
 - 100+ cities
 - 1 County Board of Supervisors
 - 10 water and other special districts.
- Palmdale, Santa Clara and Santa Monica fought “on the merits.” All lost.
 - Santa Monica and Santa Clara are appealing.
 - Palmdale spent about \$1.8 million, Santa Clara about \$800,000, and Santa Monica between \$5 and \$8 million, just on their defense.
 - No jurisdiction has won a case.
- Key settlements:
 - Palmdale: \$4.7 million
 - Santa Clara: \$3.16 million
 - Modesto: \$3 million
 - Highland: \$1.3 million
 - Anaheim: \$1.1 million
 - Whittier: \$1 million
 - Santa Barbara: \$600,000
 - Tulare Hospital: \$500,000
 - Madera Unified: about \$170,000
 - Hanford Joint Union Schools: \$118,000
 - Merced City: \$42,000

Districting Process

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Step	Description
Two Initial Hearings	Held prior to release of draft maps. Education and to solicit input on the communities in the District. Hearings must be within 30 days of each other
Release draft maps	Maps must be posted at least 7 days prior to 3 rd hearing.
Two Hearings on Draft Maps	Two meetings to discuss and revise the draft maps and to discuss the election sequencing. Hearings must be within 45 days of each other
Final Hearing & Map Adoption	(Could be held at same meeting as 4 th hearing)
2020	First by-district elections
2021	Map adjusted using 2020 Census data
2022	Remaining districts hold first by-district elections

Federal Laws

- Equal Population
- Federal Voting Rights Act
- No Racial Gerrymandering

Traditional Redistricting Principles

- Communities of interest
- Compact
- Contiguous
- Visible (Natural & man-made) boundaries
- Respect voters' choices / continuity in office
- *Planned future growth*



Demographic Summary

Each of the five divisions must contain about 17,863 residents.

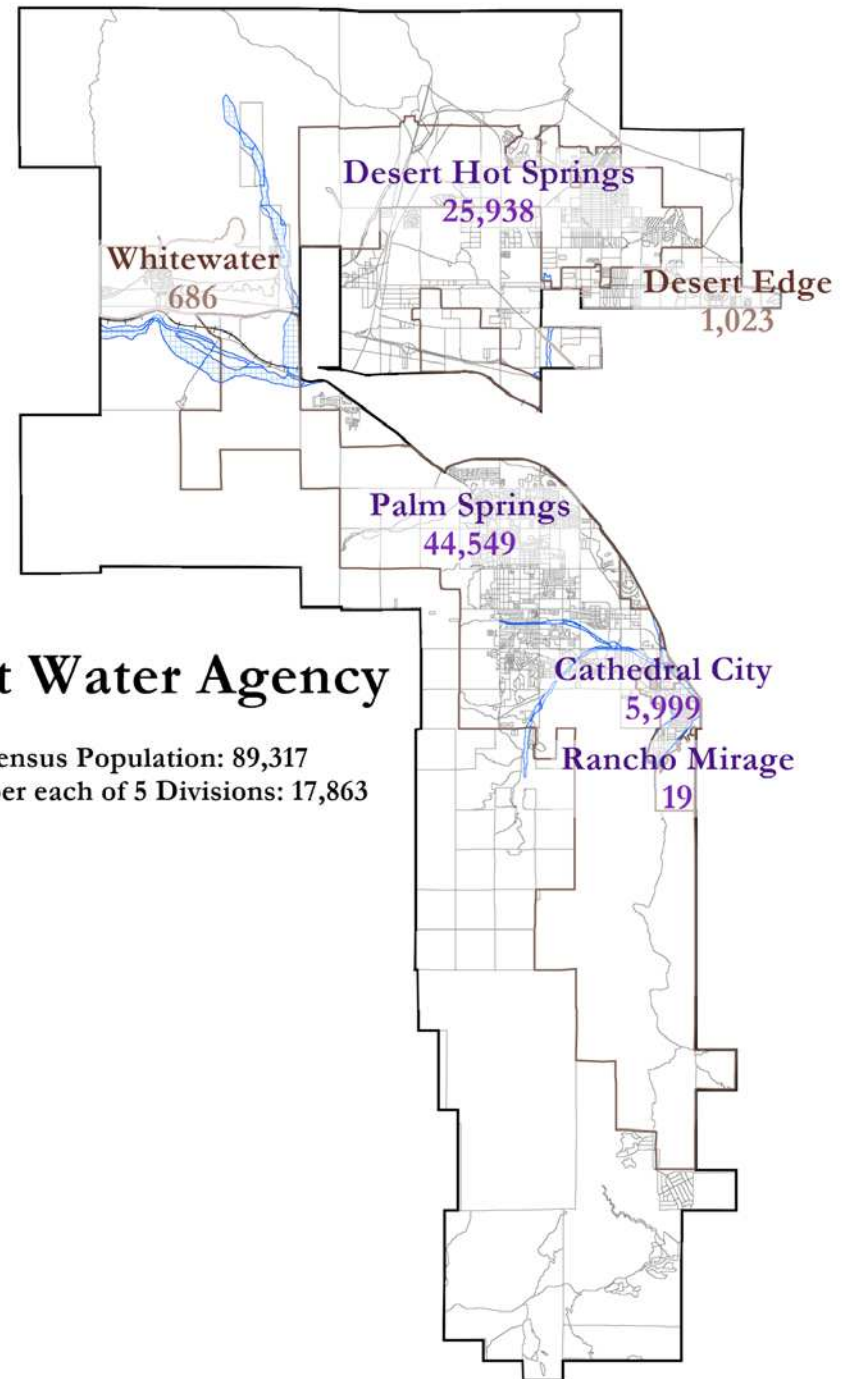
Category	Field	Count	Pct	Category	Field	Count	Pct	
	Total Pop	89,317		ACS Pop. Est.	Total	91,195		
Total Pop	Hisp	35,195	39%	Age	age0-19	20,483	22%	
	NH White	44,788	50%		age20-60	43,880	48%	
	NH Black	4,618	5%		age60plus	26,833	29%	
	Asian-American	3,119	3%	Immigration	immigrants	20,006	22%	
Citizen Voting Age Pop	Total	61,288			naturalized	7,581	38%	
	Hisp	15,558	25%	Language spoken at home	english	54,745	64%	
	NH White	39,161	64%		spanish	26,507	31%	
	NH Black	3,466	6%		asian-lang	2,077	2%	
	Asian/Pac.Isl.	2,048	4%		other lang	2,883	3%	
Voter Registration (Nov 2016)	Total	43,612		Language Fluency	Speaks Eng. "Less than Very Well"	11,299	13%	
	Latino est.	10,659	24%	Education (among those age 25+)	hs-grad	36,917	55%	
	Spanish-Surnamed	9,575	22%		bachelor	10,339	16%	
	Asian-Surnamed	457	1%		graduatedegree	6,965	10%	
	Filipino-Surnamed	459	1%	Child in Household	child-under18	7,649	20%	
	NH White est.	28,621	66%	Pct of Pop. Age 16+	employed	35,696	48%	
	NH Black	2,402	6%		Household Income	income 0-25k	12,230	31%
Voter Turnout (Nov 2016)	Total	32,726		income 25-50k		10,821	28%	
	Latino est.	6,686	20%	income 50-75k		6,288	16%	
	Spanish-Surnamed	6,006	18%	income 75-200k		8,027	21%	
	Asian-Surnamed	358	1%	income 200k-plus		1,474	4%	
	Filipino-Surnamed	299	1%	Housing Stats		single family	43,309	76%
	NH White est.	22,785	70%			multi-family	13,594	24%
	NH Black	1,773	5%		rented	16,959	44%	
Voter Turnout (Nov 2014)	Total	19,810			owned	21,881	56%	
	Latino est.	2,714	14%					
	Spanish-Surnamed	2,438	12%					
	Asian-Surnamed	170	1%					
	Filipino-Surnamed	164	1%					
	NH White est.	15,329	77%					
NH Black est.	1,037	5%						

Population by City

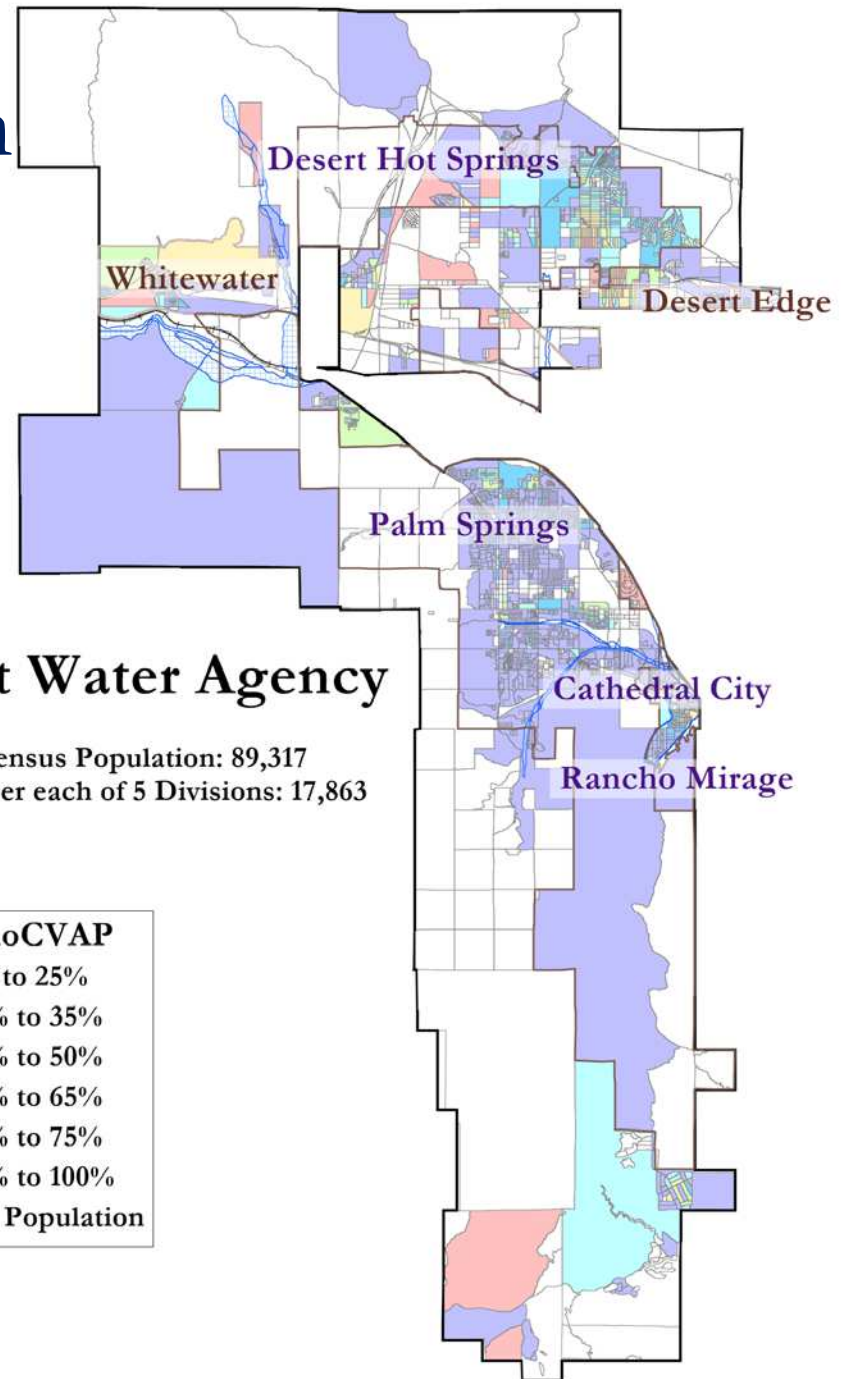
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Total 2010 Census Population: 89,317

Population per each of 5 Divisions: 17,863



Latino Population



Asian-Americans and African-Americans are not concentrated in large number anywhere in the city.

Defining Communities of Interest

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1st Question: what is your neighborhood or community of interest?

A Community of Interest is generally defined as a neighborhood or community of shared interests, views, problems, or characteristics.

Possible community feature/boundary definitions include:

- ❑ School attendance areas
- ❑ Natural neighborhood dividing lines, such as highway or major roads, rivers, canals, and/or hills
- ❑ Areas around parks and other neighborhood landmarks
- ❑ Common issues, neighborhood activities, or legislative/election concerns
- ❑ Shared demographic characteristics
 - ▣ Such as similar levels of income, education, or linguistic isolation

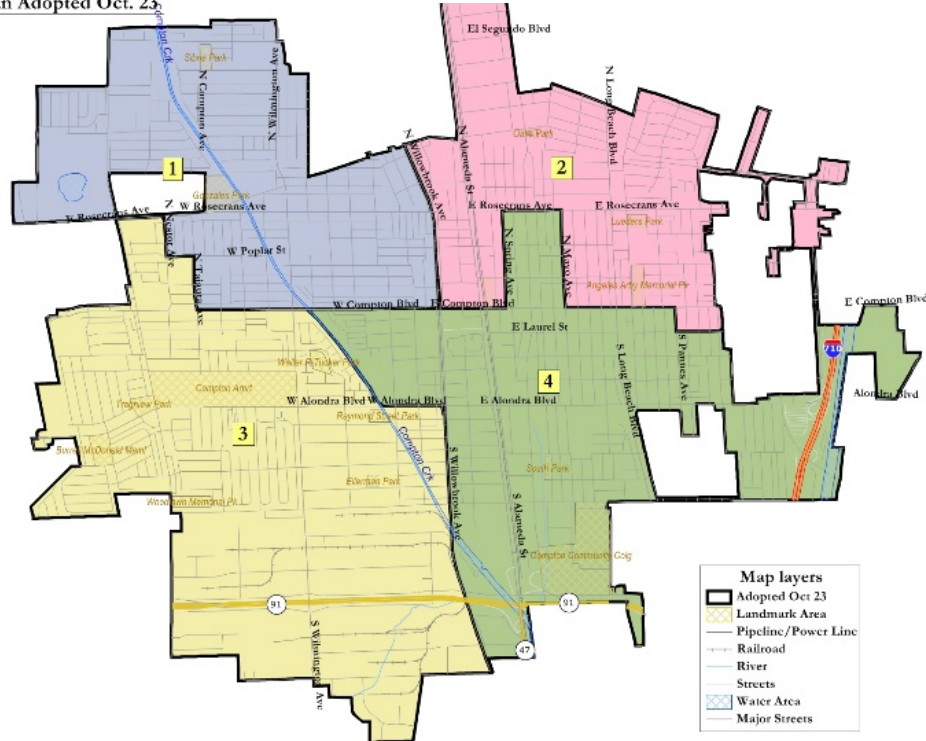
2nd Question: Does a Community of Interest want to be united in one district, or to be divided to have a voice in multiple elections?



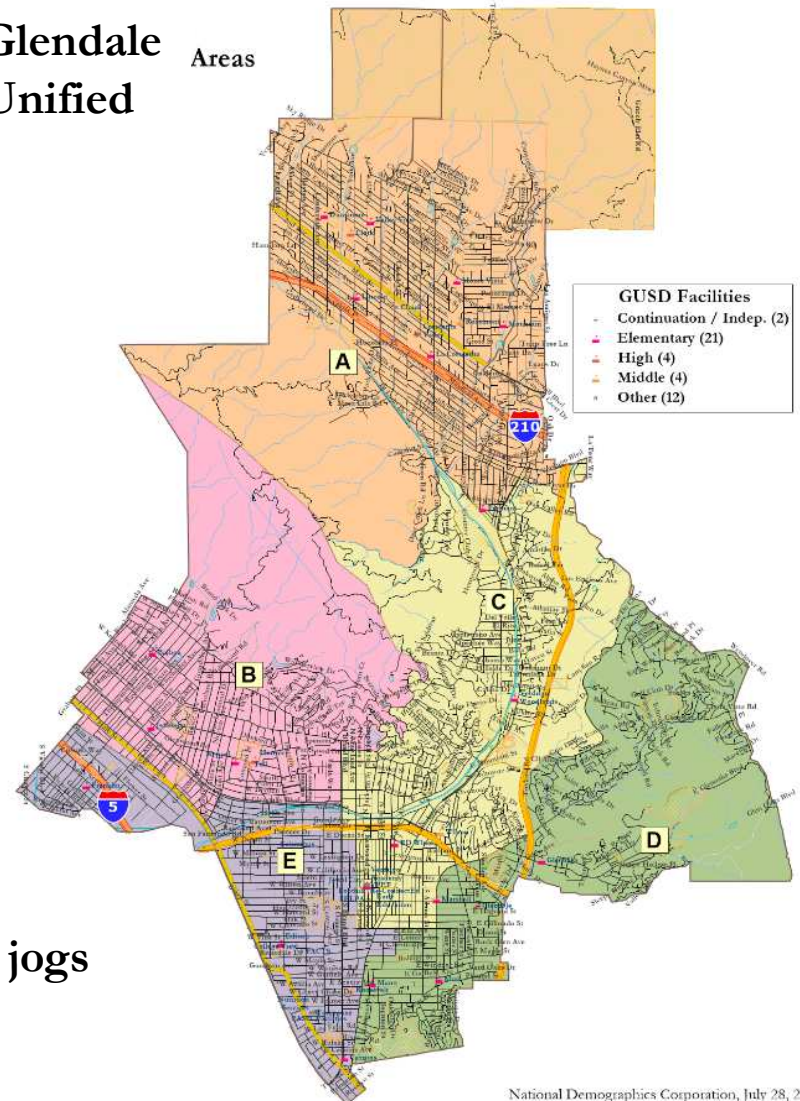
Sample Compact Maps

City of Compton
2012 Redistricting
Plan Adopted Oct. 23

Compton

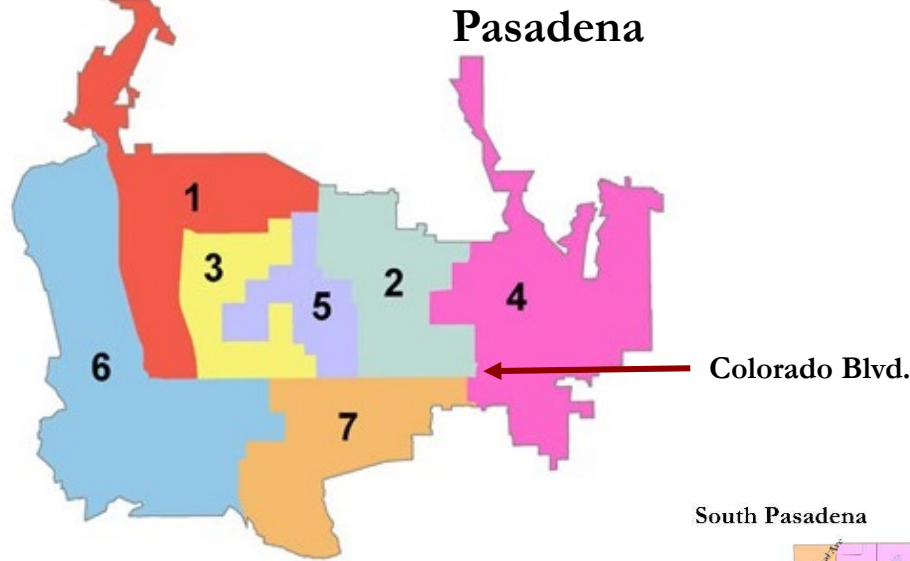


Glendale Unified Areas

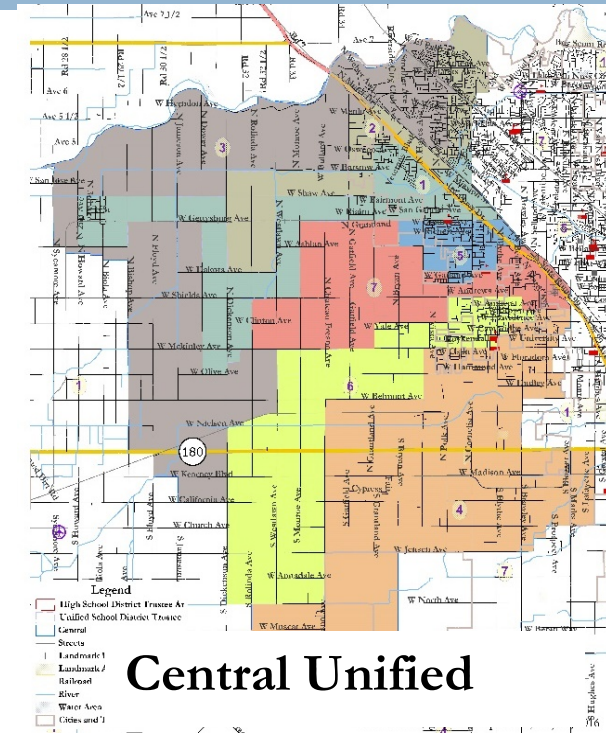
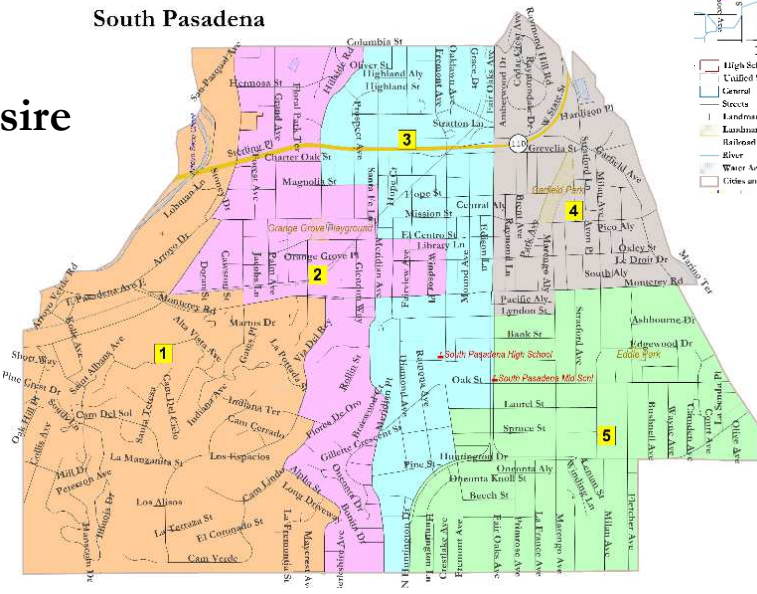


Examples of highly compact maps, with nooks and jogs driven only by equal population requirements.

Sample Multiple-Representative Maps



South Pasadena



Examples of maps where a desire to have all members touch downtown (Pasadena) or rural areas (Central), or as many neighborhoods as possible (South Pas), led to policy-driven but non-compact maps.

Public Hearing & Discussion

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1. What is your neighborhood or “community of interest”?
2. Do you prefer your neighborhood be kept together in one district or have multiple representatives?
3. What are other communities of interest in the District that should be considered when drafting maps?