

# Valley Wide Recreation and Parks District

## Introduction to the California Voting Rights Act

- 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
  - 110+ cities
  - 1 (the final) County Board of Supervisors
  - 12 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

# Tentative Project Timeline

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Date	Event
Hearings 1 & 2 June 17 & July 15	Informational and educational hearings held to gather public input on communities of interest.
<i>No later than 7 days before hearing 3</i>	<i>Draft maps released</i>
Hearing 3 Sept. 16	3 <sup>rd</sup> hearing: public input on draft maps and election sequencing. Possible narrowing of map options and/or requests for revised maps.
Hearing 4 Oct. 21	4 <sup>th</sup> hearing: public input on draft maps and election sequencing Possible selection of preferred map
Hearing 5 Possibly also Oct. 21	Board adopts resolution with chosen map and election sequence (can be at the same Board meeting as Hearing 4)
Nov. 2020	First by-district elections
2021	Division map updated to reflect 2020 Census data
Nov. 2022	Remaining divisions hold their first by-district election

## Federal Laws

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



## Traditional Criteria

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



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# Demographic Summary of the District

Each of the five would have about 43,915\* residents.

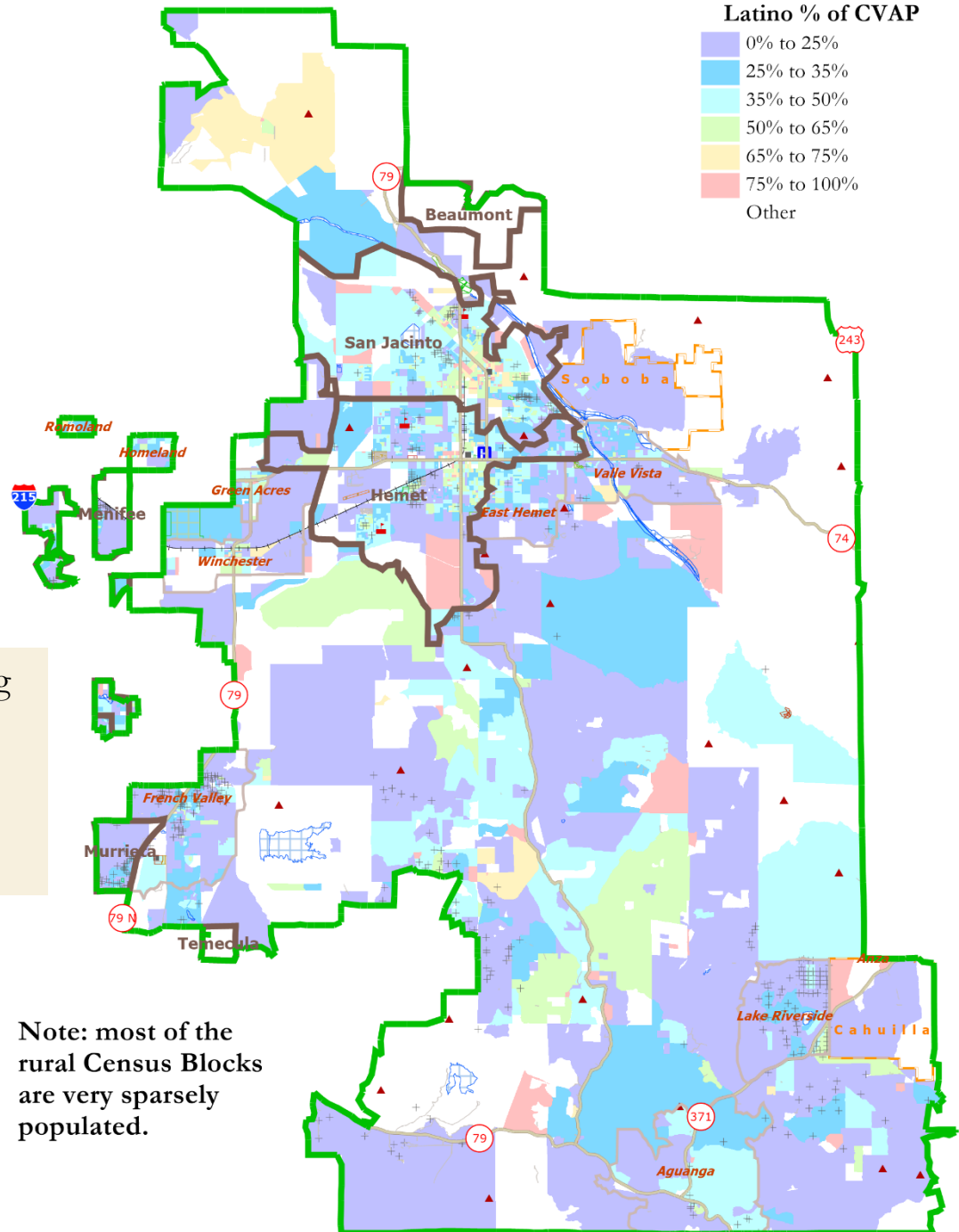
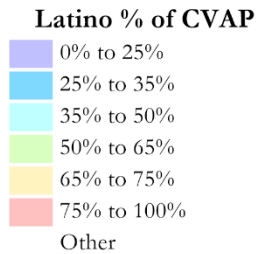
All of these data categories can be mapped.

Category	Field	Count	Pct	Category	Field	Count	Pct
	Total Pop	219,576		ACS Pop. Est.	Total	237,699	
Total Pop	Hisp	80,630	37%	Age	age0-19	72,446	30%
	NH White	107,954	49%		age20-60	115,861	49%
	NH Black	13,274	6%		age60plus	49,392	21%
	Asian-American	11,842	5%	Immigration	immigrants	37,402	16%
	Total	155,765			naturalized	19,671	53%
Citizen Voting Age Pop	Hisp	47,446	30%	Language spoken at home	english	152,492	69%
	NH White	85,416	55%		spanish	55,966	25%
	NH Black	11,720	8%		asian-lang	6,951	3%
	Asian/PacIsl.	7,349	5%		other lang	4,805	2%
		Total	105,104			Language Fluency	Speaks Eng. "Less than Very Well"
Voter Registration (Nov 2016)	Latino est.	30,037	29%	Education (among those age 25+)	hs-grad	97,565	65%
	Spanish-Surnamed	26,983	26%		bachelor	16,224	11%
	Asian-Surnamed	1,275	1%		graduatedegree	8,365	6%
	Filipino-Surnamed	1,425	1%	Child in Household	child-under18	26,240	36%
	NH White est.	63,727	61%	Pct of Pop. Age 16+	employed	83,330	47%
	NH Black	7,991	8%		Household Income	income 0-25k	18,843
	Total	76,012		income 25-50k		19,440	26%
Voter Turnout (Nov 2016)	Latino est.	19,908	26%	income 50-75k		13,072	18%
	Spanish-Surnamed	17,884	24%	income 75-200k		20,351	28%
	Asian-Surnamed	828	1%	income 200k-plus		2,187	3%
	Filipino-Surnamed	945	1%	Housing Stats	single family	72,519	87%
	NH White est.	47,940	63%		multi-family	10,433	13%
	NH Black	5,869	8%		rented	25,599	35%
		Total	36,762			owned	48,294
Voter Turnout (Nov 2014)	Latino est.	6,424	17%	* Note: these numbers will go down slightly once we input the precise parcel boundaries in the Menifee portion of the District.			
	Spanish-Surnamed	5,772	16%				
	Asian-Surnamed	344	1%				
	Filipino-Surnamed	344	1%				
	NH White est.	27,323	74%				
	NH Black est.	2,192	6%				

# Latino Percent of Total Citizens of Voting Age Population (CVAP)

CVAP is used as the primary measure of voting strength of a “protected class” population. Division borders should not divide a heavily “protected class” neighborhood in a way that dilutes their voting strength.

The primary heavily-Latino CVAP neighborhoods are in San Jacinto, Hemet, Winchester and the west edge of East Hemet.



Note: most of the rural Census Blocks are very sparsely populated.



# Defining Communities of Interest

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## 1<sup>st</sup> 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

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

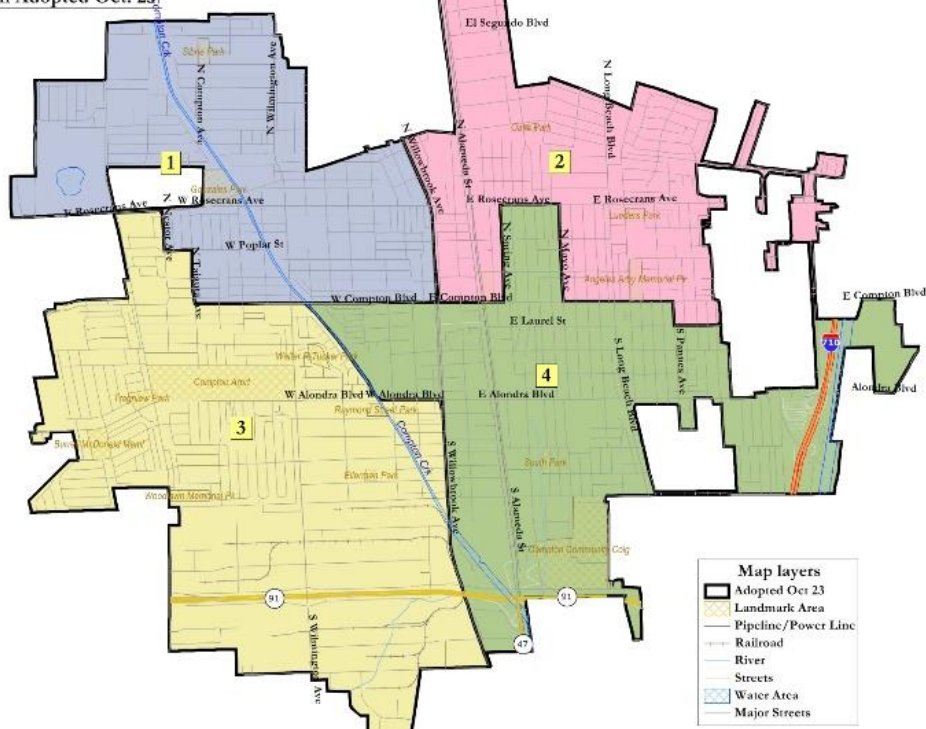




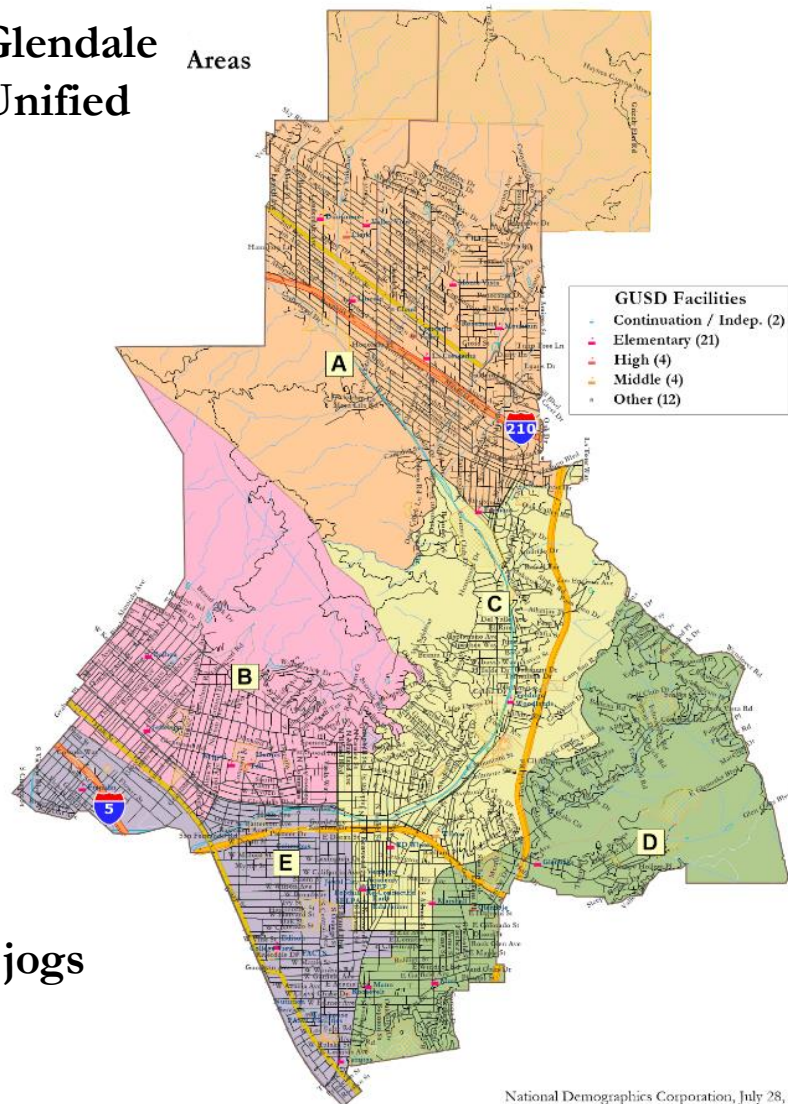
# Sample Compact Maps

City of Compton  
2012 Redistricting  
Plan Adopted Oct. 23

## Compton

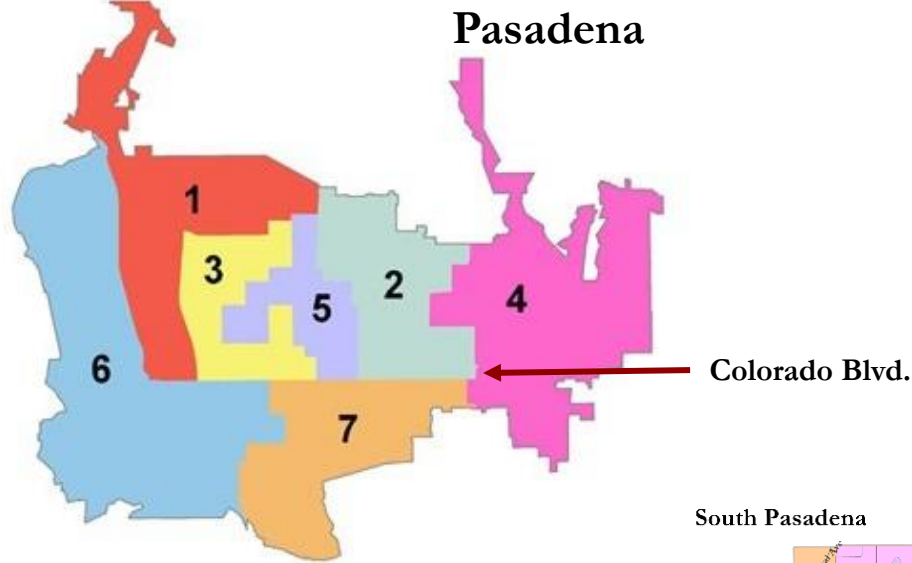


## Glendale Unified Areas

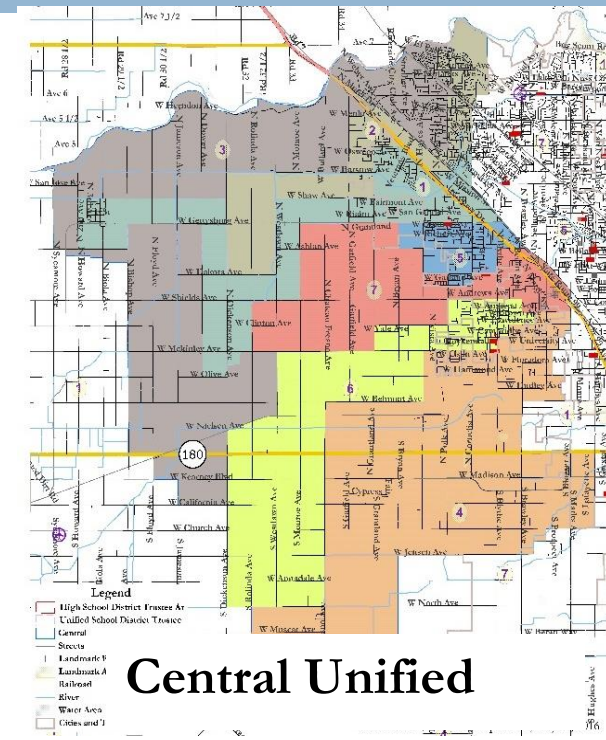
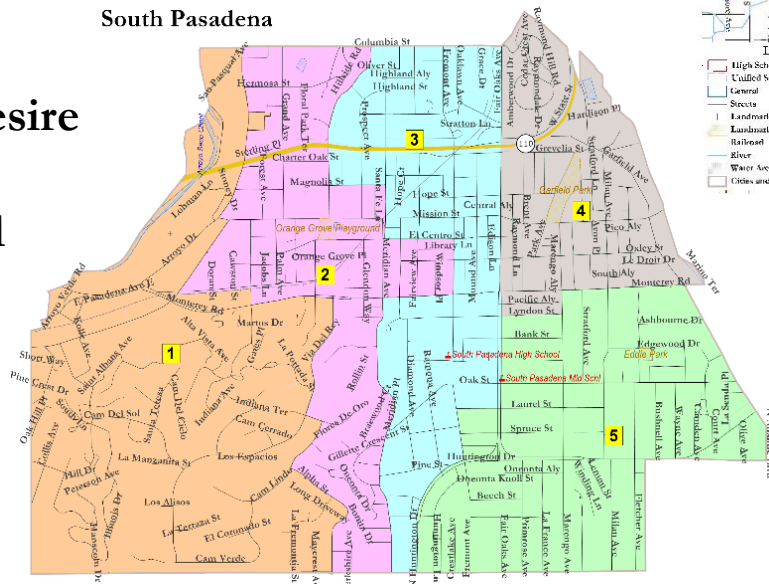


Examples of highly compact maps, with nooks and jogs driven only by equal population requirements.

# 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.