

Linda County Water District Introduction to Districting

March 13, 2023

Election Systems

1. “At Large”
2. “From District” or “Residence” Districts
3. “By District”

The California Voting Rights Act was written to specifically encourage by-district elections.

California Voting Rights Act (CVRA)

- ❑ 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 arguably eliminating two of the US Supreme Court Gingles tests:
 - ~~❑ Can the protected class constitute the majority of a district?~~
 - ❑ Does the protected class vote as a bloc?
 - ❑ Do the voters who are not in the protected class vote in a bloc to defeat the preferred candidates of the protected class?
 - ~~❑ Do the “totality of circumstances” indicate race is a factor in elections?~~
- ❑ Liability is now arguably determined only by the presence of racially polarized voting

CVRA Impact

❑ Switched (or in the process of switching) as a result of CVRA:

- ❑ At least 275 school districts
- ❑ 36 Community College Districts
- ❑ 177 cities
- ❑ 1 County Board of Supervisors
- ❑ 53 water and other special districts.

❑ Cases So Far:

- ❑ Palmdale, Santa Clara and Santa Monica went to trial on the merits. Palmdale and Santa Clara lost. Santa Monica is awaiting a decision.
- ❑ Modesto and Palmdale each spent about \$1.8 million on their defense (in addition to the attorney fee awards in those cases).
- ❑ Santa Monica has spent an estimated \$7 million so far. Plaintiffs in Santa Monica requested \$22 million in legal fees after the original trial.

❑ Key settlements:

- ❑ Palmdale: \$4.7 million
 - ❑ Modesto: \$3 million
 - ❑ Highland: \$1.3 million
 - ❑ Anaheim: \$1.1 million
 - ❑ Whittier: \$1 million
 - ❑ Santa Barbara: \$600,000
 - ❑ Tulare Hospital: \$500,000
 - ❑ Camarillo: \$233,000
 - ❑ Compton Unified: \$200,000
 - ❑ Madera Unified: about \$170,000
 - ❑ Hanford Joint Union Schools: \$118,000
 - ❑ Merced City: \$42,000
- ❑ An estimated \$18 million in total settlements and court awards so far.

Districting Process

Step	Description
Two Initial Hearings _____ & _____	Held prior to release of draft maps. Education and to solicit input on the composition of districts.
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 sequence.
Map adoption _____	Final map must be posted at least 7 days prior to adoption.

Redistricting Rules and Goals

Federal Laws

Equal Population
Federal Voting Rights Act
No Racial Gerrymandering



Traditional Redistricting Principles

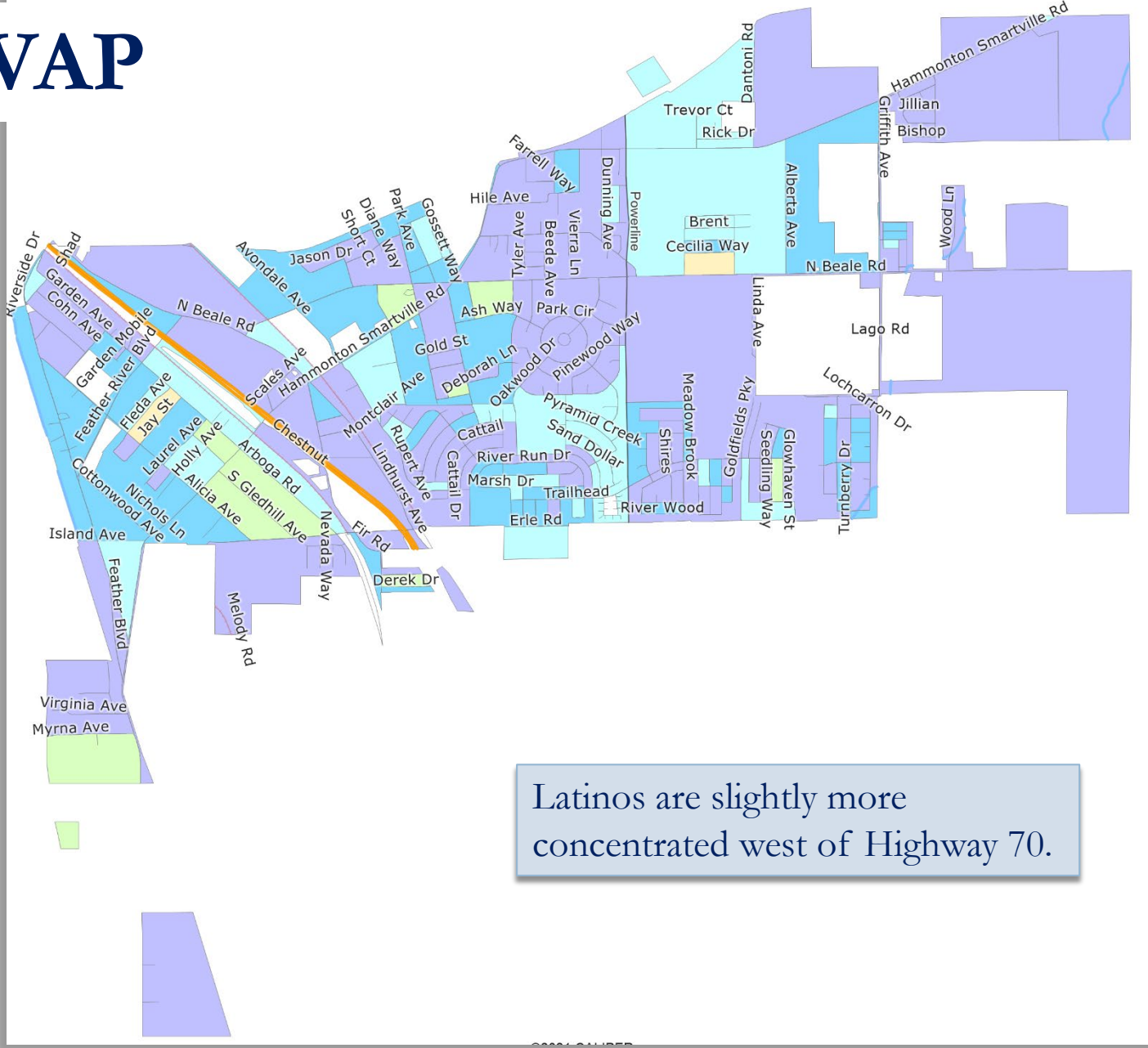
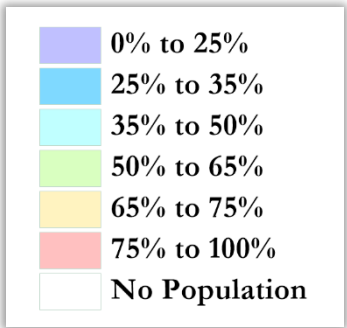
Communities of interest
Compact
Contiguous
Visible (Natural & man-made) boundaries
Respect voters' choices / continuity in office
Planned future growth

Demographic Summary

Each of the five divisions must contain about 4,355 people.

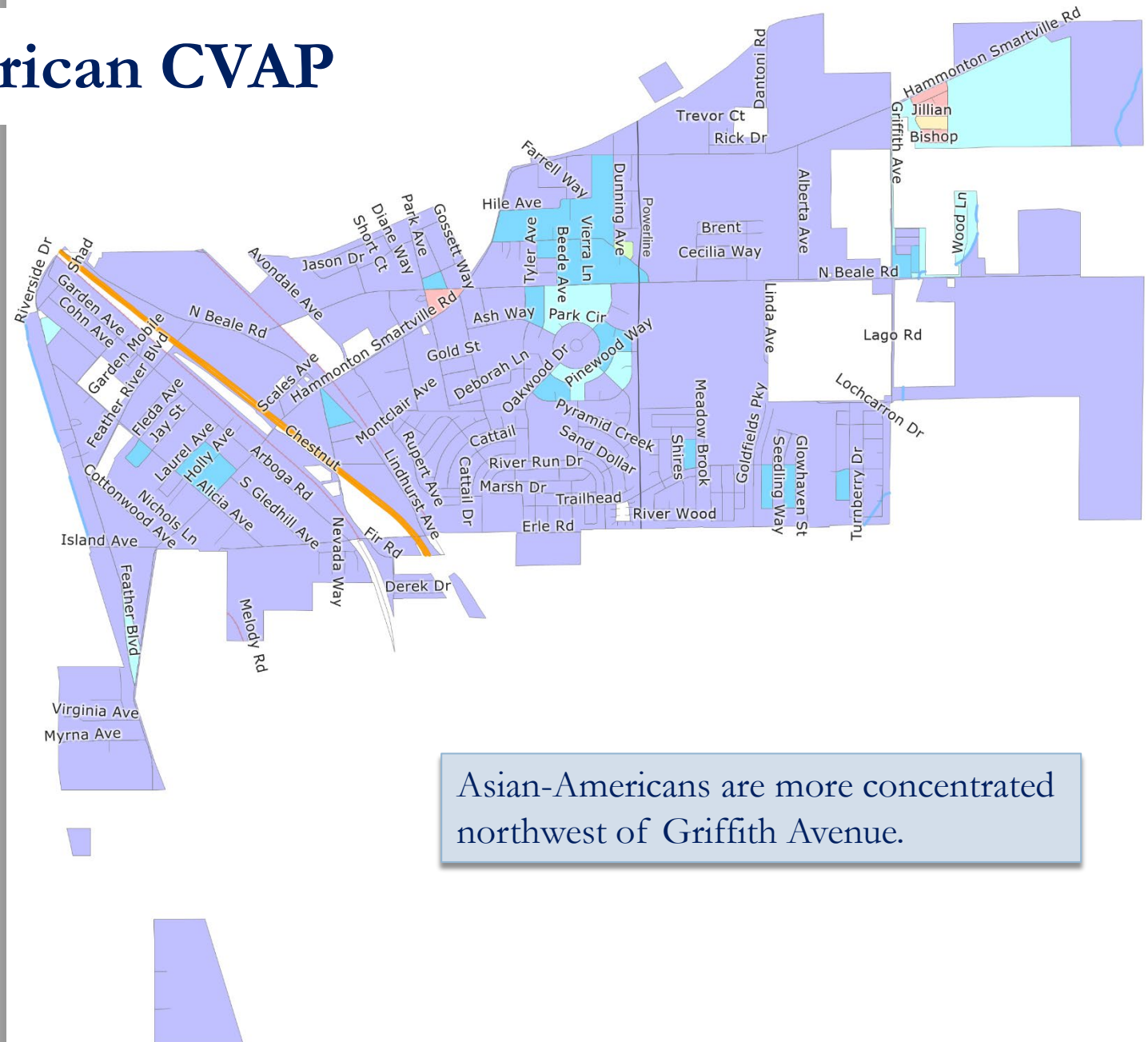
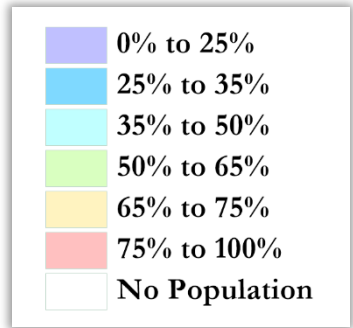
Category	Field	Total	Category	Field	Total
2020 Census	Total Population	21,673	Age	age0-19	34%
Total Pop.	Hispanic/Latino	35%		age20-60	54%
	NH White	39%		age60plus	12%
	NH Black	6%	Immigration	immigrants	17%
	NH Asian/Pac.Isl.	14%		naturalized	55%
	NH Native Amer.	4%	Language spoken at home	english	65%
Citizen Voting Age Pop	Total	13,340		spanish	24%
	Hisp	27%		asian-lang	10%
	NH White	48%		other lang	2%
	NH Black	6%	Language Fluency	Speaks Eng. "Less than Very Well"	13%
	Asian/Pac.Isl.	13%		hs-grad	63%
Voter Registration (Nov 2020)	Native Amer.	4%	Education (among those age 25+)	bachelor	10%
	Total	8,749	graduatedegree	5%	
	Latino est.	25%	Child in Household	child-under18	45%
	Spanish-Surnamed	23%		Pct of Pop. Age 16+	employed
	Asian-Surnamed	4%	Household Income		income 0-25k
	Filipino-Surnamed	1%		income 25-50k	28%
	NH White est.	62%		income 50-75k	15%
NH Black	8%	income 75-200k		31%	
Total	5,709	income 200k-plus		1%	
Voter Turnout (Nov 2020)	Latino est.	23%	Housing Stats	single family	76%
	Spanish-Surnamed	22%		multi-family	24%
	Asian-Surnamed	3%		rented	51%
	Filipino-Surnamed	1%		owned	49%
	NH White est.	63%	Total population data from California's adjusted 2020 Census data. Citizen Voting Age Population, Age, Immigration, and other demographics from the 2016-2020 American Community Survey and Special Tabulation 5-year data. Turnout and Registration data from California Statewide Database. "Latino" figures calculated by NDC using Census Bureau's Latino undercount by surname estimate.		
	NH Black	8%			
Voter Turnout (Nov 2018)	Total	3,350			
	Latino est.	18%			
	Spanish-Surnamed	18%			
	Asian-Surnamed	3%			
	Filipino-Surnamed	1%			
NH White est.	66%				
NH Black est.	8%				

Latino CVAP



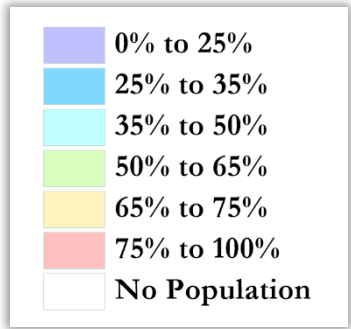
Latinos are slightly more concentrated west of Highway 70.

Asian-American CVAP



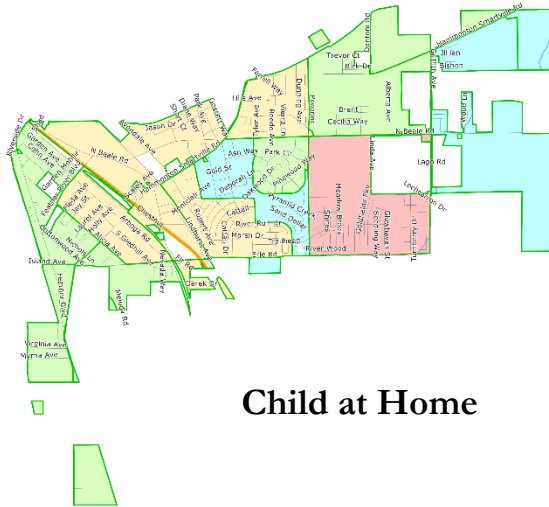
Asian-Americans are more concentrated northwest of Griffith Avenue.

Black / African-American CVAP



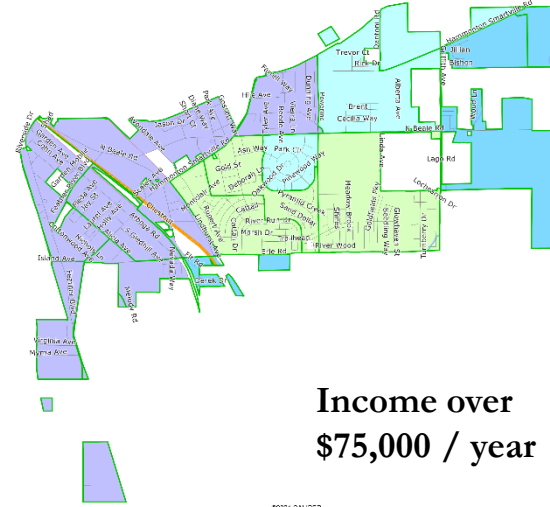
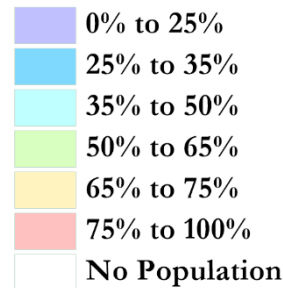
African-Americans are not geographically concentrated in any one part of the District.

Other Socio-Economic Demographics



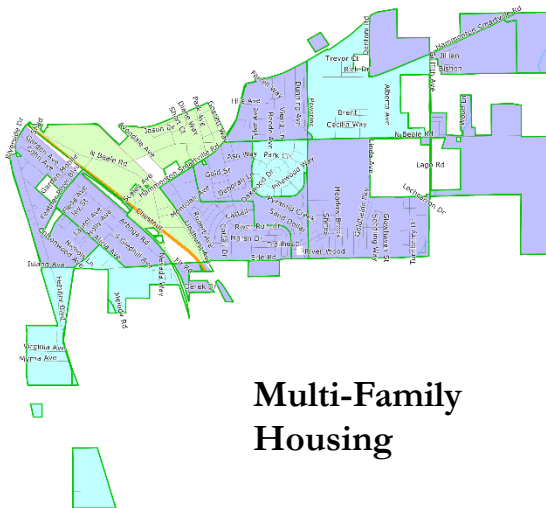
Child at Home

0031-041/058



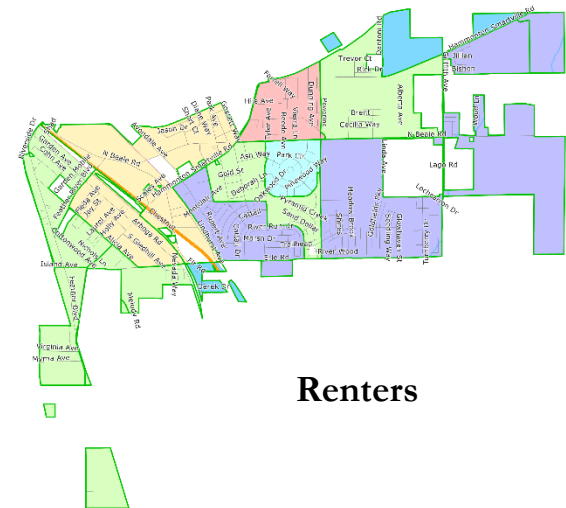
**Income over
\$75,000 / year**

0031-041/058



**Multi-Family
Housing**

0031-041/058



Renters

0031-041/058

Communities of Interest

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

- ❑ Shared issue or characteristic
 - ❑ Shared social or economic interest
 - ❑ Impacted by governing board's policies
- ❑ Tell us “your community’s story”

2nd Question: What are its geographic boundaries?

Examples of physical features defining a neighborhood boundary:

- ❑ Natural neighborhood dividing lines, such as highway or major roads, rivers, canals and/or hills
- ❑ Areas around parks or schools
- ❑ Other neighborhood landmarks

In the absence of public testimony, planning records and other similar documents may provide definition.



Public Hearing & Discussion

What is your community of interest and what are its boundaries?

Would you prefer your community of interest be in one trustee area or that it have multiple representatives on the Board?