

Staff Report

for the Board of Directors Meeting of September 11, 2019

TO: Board of Directors
FROM: Remleh Scherzinger, P.E., MBA, General Manager
Kris Stepanian, MBA, Board Secretary
DATE: September 5, 2019
SUBJECT: Redistricting Project (FATR #2311)

ADMINISTRATION

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive presentation from Redistricting Partners to provide an overview, preliminary findings and an updated timeline.

BACKGROUND:

Redistricting Partners provided a similar presentation to the Board of Directors at the August 28, 2019 Board meeting. Slight variations to this presentation will be discussed, including an update to the time-line for completion. Redistricting Partners is assisting the District in conducting an update to the by-district election system, in order to comply with the California Voting Rights Act (CVRA).

Under California Elections Code Division 21, Chapter 8, Section 22000.c it states "At the time of, or after, any annexation of territory to the district, the board of directors shall designate, by resolution, the division of which the annexed territory shall be a part." As a result of Section 22000, this action will cause an imbalance in representation, resulting in the need for redistricting.

This item is in alignment with Goal No. 2 of the District's Strategic Plan, as it supports stewardship of District resources and requires a collaborative and responsive relationship with our Local and Regional community.

BUDGETARY IMPACT:

There is no budgetary impact at this time. Annexation consulting fees were budgeted in the 2019 Budget (10115-52603).

Attachment: Presentation from Redistricting Partners



Redistricting Overview

Nevada Irrigation District

What is Redistricting

definition

Redistricting is the process of adjusting district lines every 10 years after the release of the US Census. The well known examples are Congress and the legislature.

Within the US, redistricting has become an extremely politicized process and been the subject of more high-profile Supreme Court decisions than any other part of our elections system.

What is Gerrymandering

The Gerrymander

The term Gerrymander came from a cartoon depicting a rather serpentine looking district created by Governor Elbridge Gerry in Massachusetts.

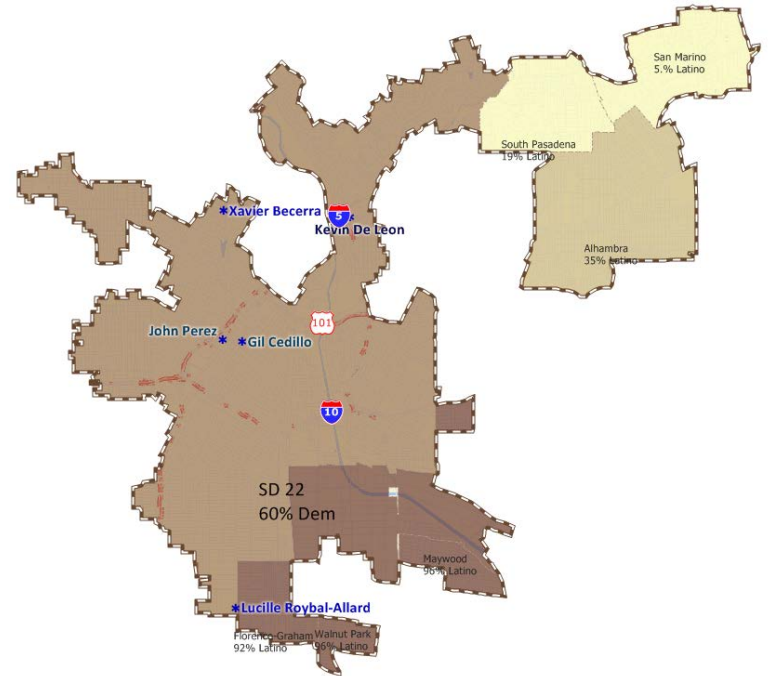


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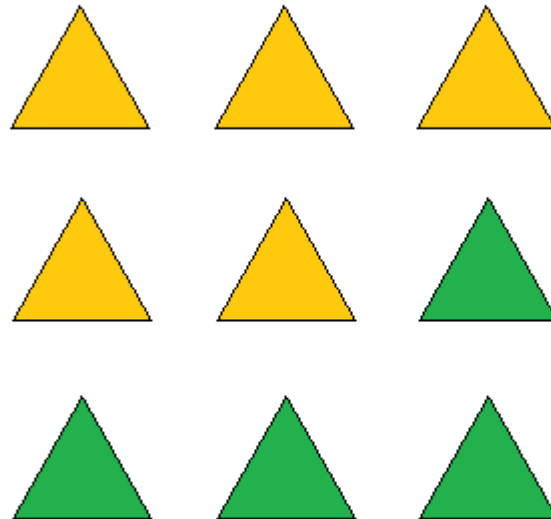
There are more recent examples of gerrymandering, even in California.

This 2001 Senate District is a great example.



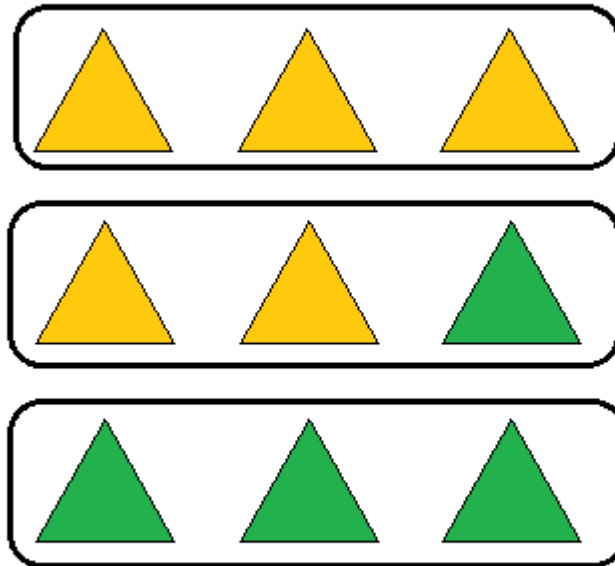
What is Gerrymandering

How does gerrymandering work?



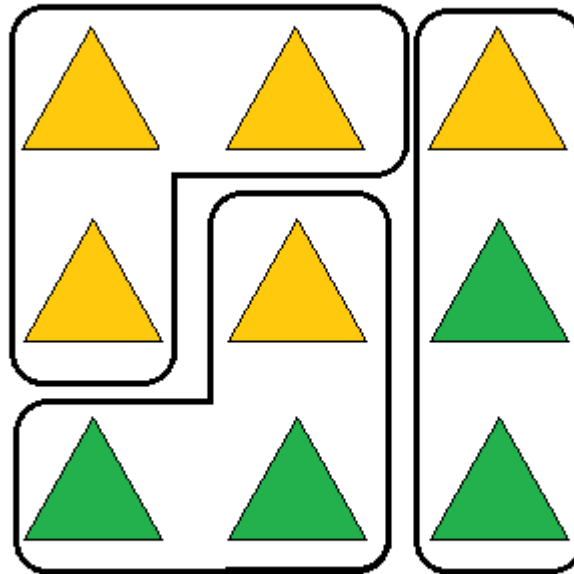
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What is Gerrymandering

How does gerrymandering work?



Traditional Redistricting Principles

Preventing a Districting from becoming a Gerrymander

There are a number of criteria that have been used nationally and upheld by courts.

- Relatively equal size - people, not citizens
- Contiguous – districts should not hop/jump
- Maintain “*communities of interest*”
- Follow city/county/local government lines
- Keep districts compact – appearance/function

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Communities of Interest

Bringing like people together for representation

What is a community of interest includes ethnic and language minorities and other groups.

- Communities covered by the Voting Rights Act
 - Latinos
 - Asians
 - African Americans

While race is a community of interest, it cannot be the *predominant factor* in drawing districts.

Communities of Interest

Bringing like people together for representation

What is a community of interest includes ethnic and language minorities and other groups.

- Other Communities, example are:
 - People living near an industry (farming, higher education, manufacturing)
 - Senior Citizens or Students
 - Downtown / Urban
 - Rural or Agricultural
 - Homeowners or Renters

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Nevada Irrigation District

Preliminary Findings

Based on GIS Files received by from the district the 2010 Census population is 100,366.

This population is used for the determination of the target size of a district, and the “equal population” calculations that should not exceed 10% from the largest to smallest District.

Median Population: 20,073

Nevada Irrigation District

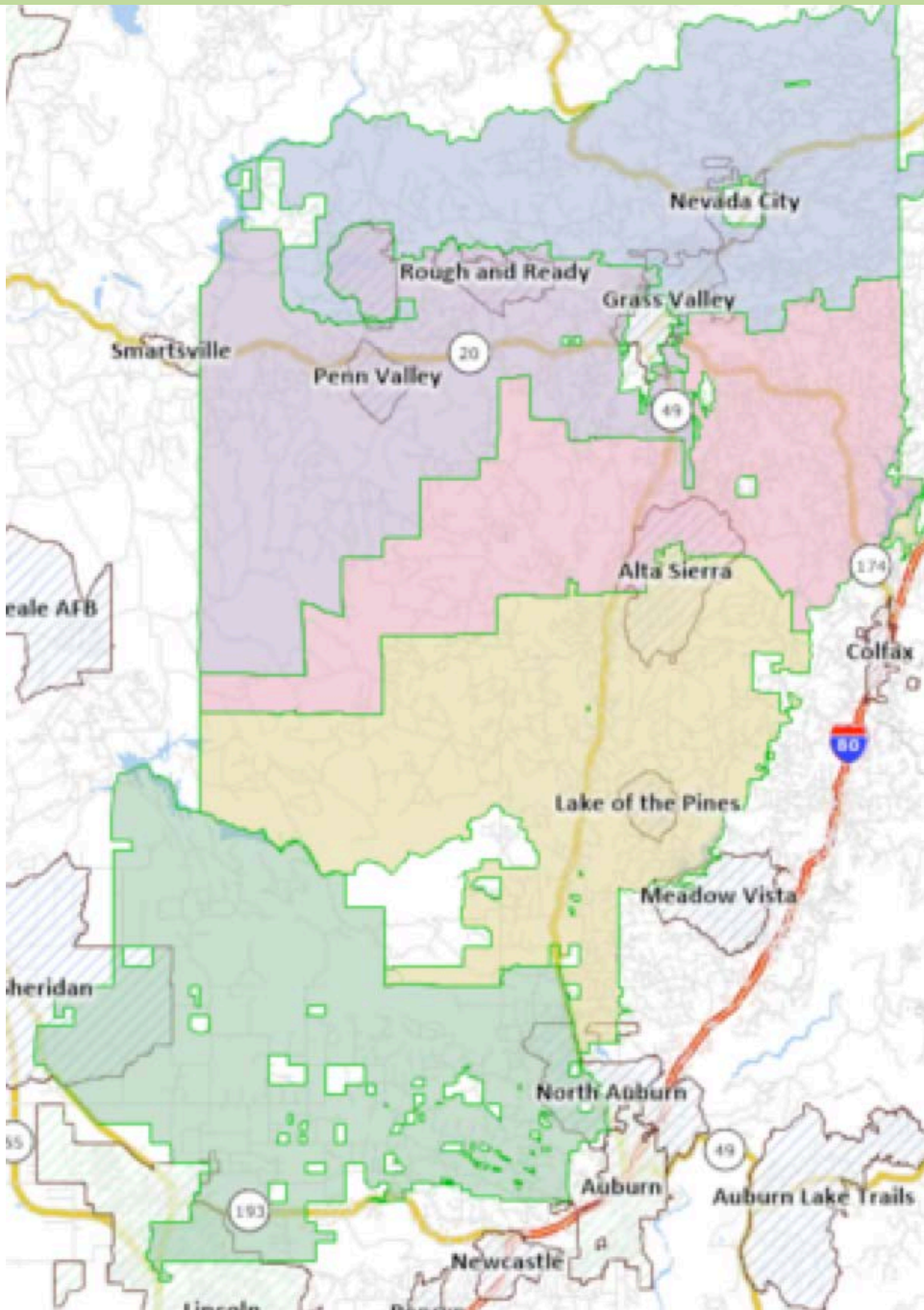
Preliminary Findings

For determining ethnicity of a district we use the American Community Survey calculations of Citizen Voting Age Population or “CVAP” which is also sometimes called “eligible voters population”

- CVAP: 82,684
- Asian CVAP: 1,361
- Latino CVAP: 5,152
- Black CVAP: 518
- White CVAP: 73,713



District Boundaries



Nevada Irrigation District

What's Next

Public meetings will be held to obtain input on communities of interest and receive feedback on potential districting plans prior to board adoption

Input can be provided in public meetings or using our “Community of Interest Worksheet”.



Nevada Irrigation District

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Aug 28	1 st Public Meeting - Completed
Sept 11	2 nd Public Meeting
Sept 18	<i>Initial draft maps published</i>
Oct 9	3 rd Public Meeting. Draft Map Review
Oct 16	<i>Publish amended draft maps (if any)</i>
Oct 23	4 th Public Meeting
Nov 6	<i>Publish final map</i>
Nov 13	Adoption



**REDISTRICTING
PARTNERS**