Redistricting

Alameda-Contra Costa Transit District
Education and Initial Direction

September 14, 2023

Introductions

Today's Schedule

AGENDA: 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Process, Rules and Goals
Neighborhoods/Communities of Interest
Public Mapping and Map Review Tools
Next Steps

You Learn From the Experts

Experts Listen to *You*

You Leave Empowered to Give Effective Feedback

Timeline

Hearing	Purpose	Date
1	• Education • Public input	September 6
2	• Public input • Initial direction	September 13
3	• Review plans (public & draft) • Provide additional direction	October 4
4	• Review or further revise plans • Select final plan	October 25
5	• Introduce ordinance	November 8

Three Phases

Phase I: Before draft plans:
- September 6
- September 13

Input on communities of interest, existing lines, and potential changes

Phase II: After first draft plans:
- October 4
- October 25

Chance for feedback, suggested revisions, and alternate plans.

Phase III: After select final plan:
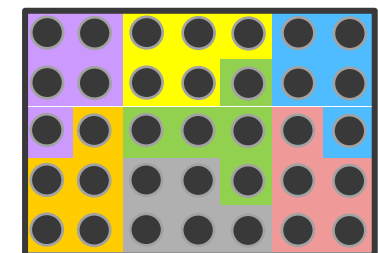- November 8

Introduction of ordinance

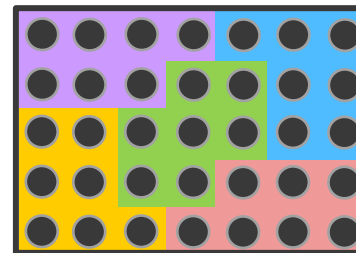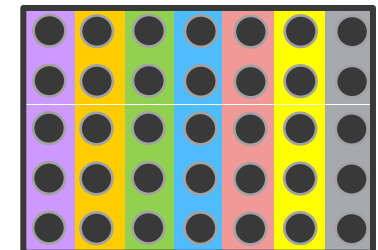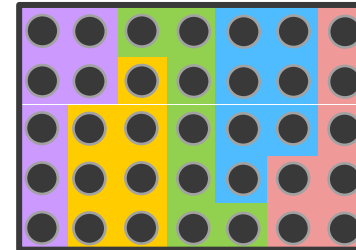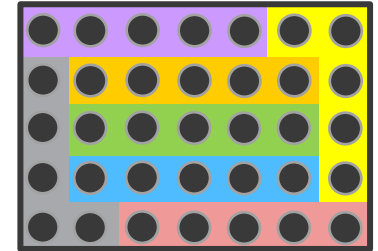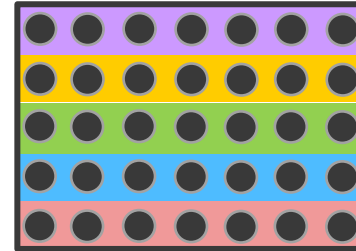5 Directors currently elected from wards. 2 at-large

Redistricting the act of redrawing those lines

Normally done to reflect shifts in populations over time

In this case so all 7 Directors will be elected by wards

How those lines are drawn affects how people are represented

Why Redistrict?

Evolving Rules: Federal/state law continue to change. Both through legislation and the courts. California Voting Rights Act

New Data: While Census conducted once a decade, other data sources updated annually

Public Input: Communities change over time. New opportunities to engage public

Current Lines (5 Wards)

#	Population^	
	Total	Deviation
1	314,635	+0.0%
2	313,701	-0.3%
3	315,567	+0.3%
4	314,801	+0.1%
5	314,278	-0.1%

Total   1,572,982

Ideal   314,596

^ 2020 Census Redistricting Data.
Unadjusted for incarcerated populations
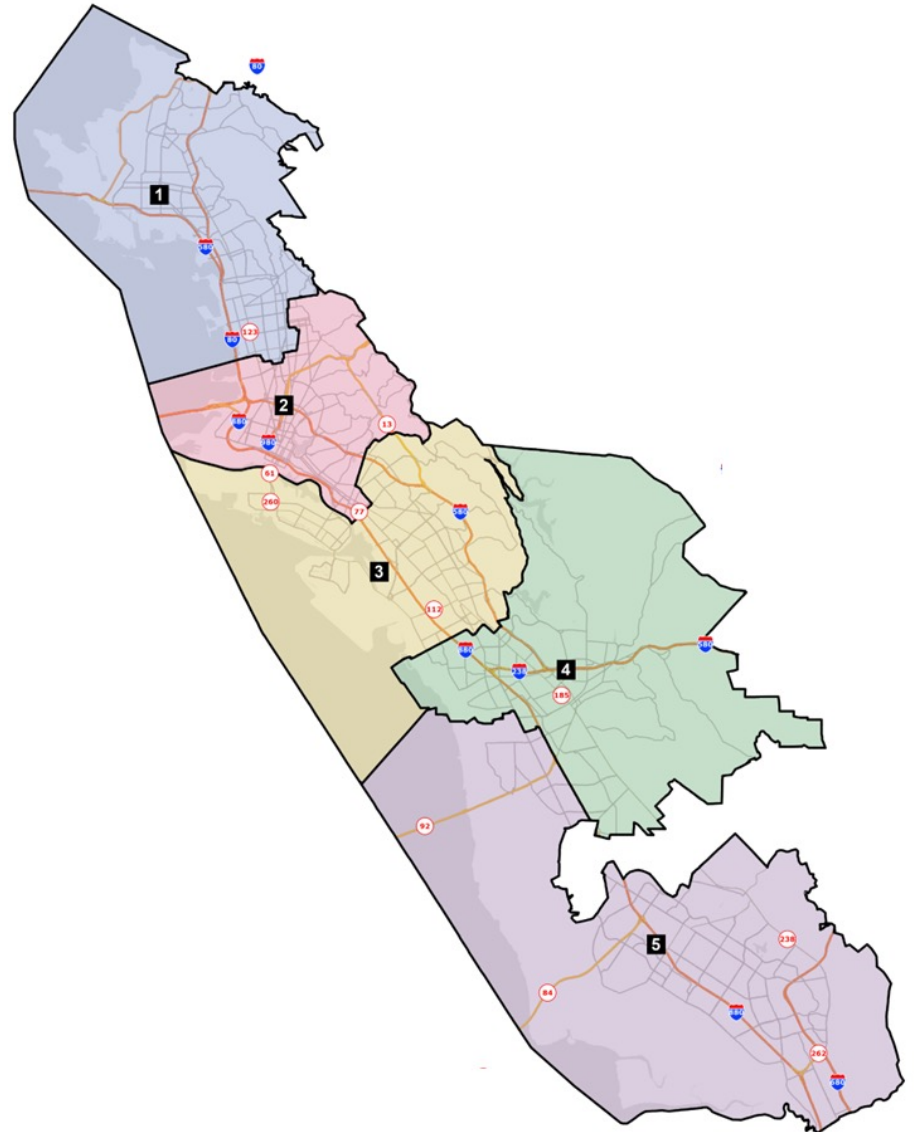
Current Lines (7 Wards)

#	Population^	
	Total	**Deviation**
1	315,268	+40.1%
2	314,269	+39.6%
3	316,393	+40.6%
4	315,168	+40.0%
5	314,500	+39.7%
6	0	-100.0%
7	0	-100.0%
Total	1,575,598	
Ideal	225,085	

^ 2020 Census Redistricting Data.
Adjusted for incarcerated populations
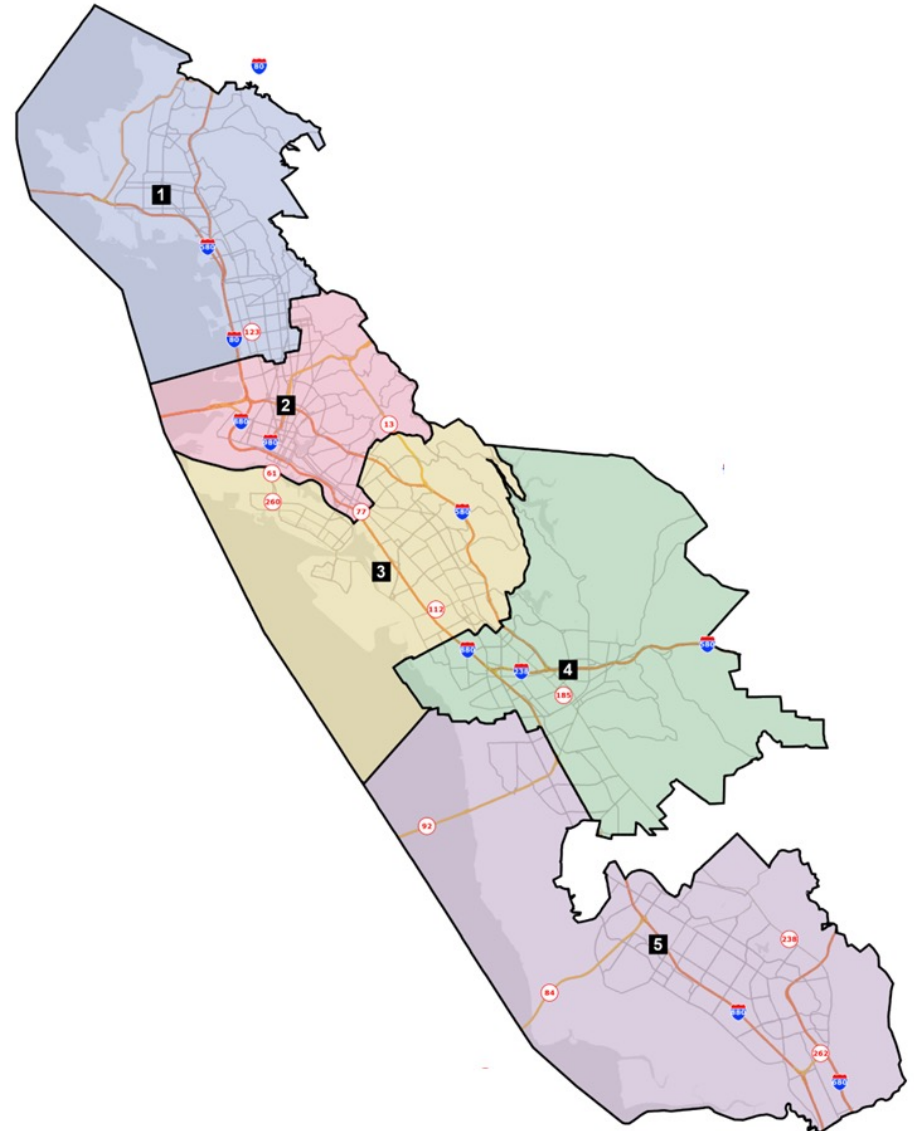
Current Lines

#	Asian Citizen Voting Age Population^			
	2015-2019+		2019-2021*	
	#	%	#	%
1	36,130	18.3%	37,524	18.5%
2	47,817	21.7%	49,801	21.9%
3	41,119	20.6%	43,034	20.9%
4	53,849	27.1%	60,186	29.2%
5	88,315	46.7%	91,033	48.9%
Total	267,230	26.6%	281,578	27.4%

^ Calculated pursuant to OMB BULLETIN NO. 00-02
+ Adjusted 2015-2019 American Community Survey Special Tabulation
* Adjusted 2017-2021 American Community Survey Special Tabulation

Current Lines

#	Population^	Citizen Voting Age Population+				
	Total	Total	Latino*	Asian*	Black*	NH-White
1	315,268	202,891	20.8%	18.5%	16.4%	42.2%
2	314,269	227,386	12.1%	21.9%	16.8%	47.0%
3	316,393	205,553	20.5%	20.9%	25.5%	30.3%
4	315,168	206,253	26.3%	29.2%	11.9%	29.3%
5	314,500	186,113	16.9%	48.9%	4.9%	26.3%
Total	1,575,598	1,028,196	19.2%	27.4%	15.3%	35.4%

^ 2020 Census Redistricting Data. Adjusted for incarcerated populations
+ Adjusted 2015-2019 American Community Survey Special Tabulation
* Calculated pursuant to OMB BULLETIN NO. 00-02

Relevant Laws

U.S. Constitution

Federal Voting Rights Act

State Constitution and Code

Case Law

Defining Neighborhoods

1ˢᵗ Question: What is your neighborhood?

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.
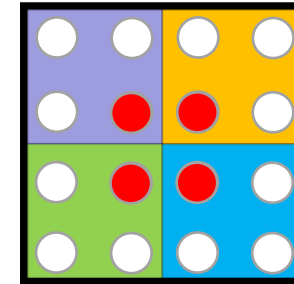
WAGAMAN STRATEGIES

Split Community

Community of Interest:
Sharing common interests.
Bringing like people together
for representation

Minimize splits of communities
of interest into different wards

Law generally does not limit
the kinds of interests that may
bind a community

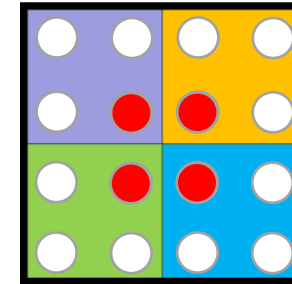**COI Examples:** Common assets like schools and shopping areas, housing, culture and language, and employment

Can consider existing data such as public transit routes

No definitive dataset

Split Community

Beyond Neighborhoods:
Defining Communities of Interest

1st Question: What defines your community?

- Geographic Area, plus
- Shared issue or characteristic
  - Shared social or economic interest
  - Impacted by district policies
- Tell us "your community's story"

2nd Question: Would this community benefit from being "included within a single district for purposes of its effective and fair representation"?

What is your neighborhood and what are its boundaries?

What are other notable areas, and what are their boundaries?

- **Who is a part of your community?**
- **What are some meaningful places your community recognizes or gathers at?**
- **What are some common concerns you share with a group?**
- **What are some common cultural characteristics that unite a community?**
- **What are common work-related traits that bring a community together ?**
- **What is significant about the physical environment?**
- **What areas benefit from staying together in a district?**

Your thoughts and ideas will become part of the record and be recorded / written down

WAGAMAN STRATEGIES

Different tools for different purposes

Different tools for different levels of technical skill and interest

- Community of Interest Tool
- Print Plan Submission Worksheet
- Plan Submission Excel
- Online Mapping Tool

Whether you use the powerful (but complicated) online mapping tool, Excel, the paper kit, or just draw on a napkin, we welcome your maps!

Demo Tools on Website

DistrictR
- Simple online tool that allows you to "paint" your neighborhood, community of interest, or a ward map (No account or login is required to access)
- Follow the **DistrictR User Guide** for instructions on how to draw and save your map
- Once you have drawn your map, click the "Share" button for your map to be saved to the public gallery

Draw Map

Draw a Map with Excel
- Instructions on how to draw population balanced ward map
- Map of AC Transit District service area for you to draw your ward boundaries
- Space on plan creator worksheet tab to describe your map

Draw Map

Draw a Map on Paper
- Instructions on how to draw a population balanced ward map
- Map of AC Transit District service area for you to draw your ward boundaries
- Space to describe your map

Draw Map

Find tools at www.actransit.org/redistricting

Q&A With Your Hosts

Upcoming Workshops

Date & Time	Location
Monday, September 11 6:30 pm	Virtual via Zoom
Thursday, September 14 6:30 pm	AC Transit Boardroom, 2nd Floor, 1600 Franklin Street, Oakland, CA
Saturday, September 30 2 pm	Fremont Family Resource Center, Pacific Room, 39155 Liberty St, Fremont, CA

Workshops – Second Round

Date & Time	Location
Monday, October 12 6:30 pm	Virtual via Zoom
Tuesday, October 17 6:30 pm	Virtual via Zoom

Share Your Thoughts

What is the Process?   **Public Workshops & Hearings**   **Reports & Supporting Documents**

Be Involved   **Contact Us**   **FAQs**

What is Ward Redistricting?

The redistricting process aims to change AC Transit's existing election system. Currently, there are five wards and two at-large seats on the District's Board of Directors. However, this process will shift to a new system with seven wards for elections, and the at-large seats on the Board will be removed. This means that each ward will represent a smaller population within a single ward.

This transition is expected to be phased in over the 2024 and 2026 election cycles. Unlike the 2021 redistricting process, which occurred every ten years to readjust the population distribution among the five wards after the U.S. Census, the present process involves a distinct change. This change includes the addition of two new wards as part of the shift towards a seven-ward election system.

To find out which of the current five wards you live in go **here**.

Website: actransit.org/redistricting

Email: myvoice@actransit.org

Phone: (510) 891-7192
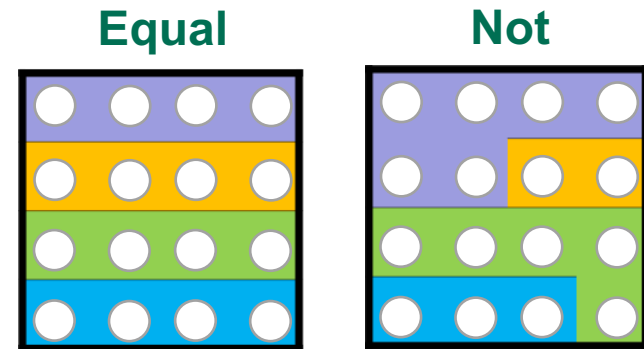
Slides for Reference

Equal Population: "As far as practicable"

Exact: no. Good faith: yes

Deviation: Difference between actual & ideal size

10% no longer clear "safe harbor"

California provides adjusted data for incarcerated populations

Equal　　　**Not**

Race: Must not be the "predominant" factor

Can consider along with traditional, race-neutral, criteria

Traditional criteria must not be subordinate

Vote Dilution: Avoid depriving minority voters of an equal opportunity to elect a candidate of their choice

Discriminatory intent not required, only effect

Gingles Criteria:

1. The minority group must be sufficiently large and geographically compact to constitute a majority in a district

2. The minority group must be politically cohesive

3. The white majority votes sufficiently as a block to enable it to usually defeat the minority's preferred candidate

Cracking
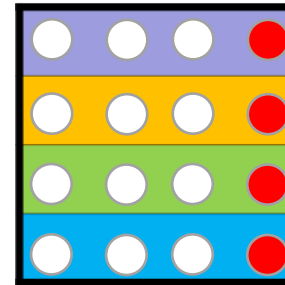
Dispersing into several districts such that a block-voting majority can routinely outvote
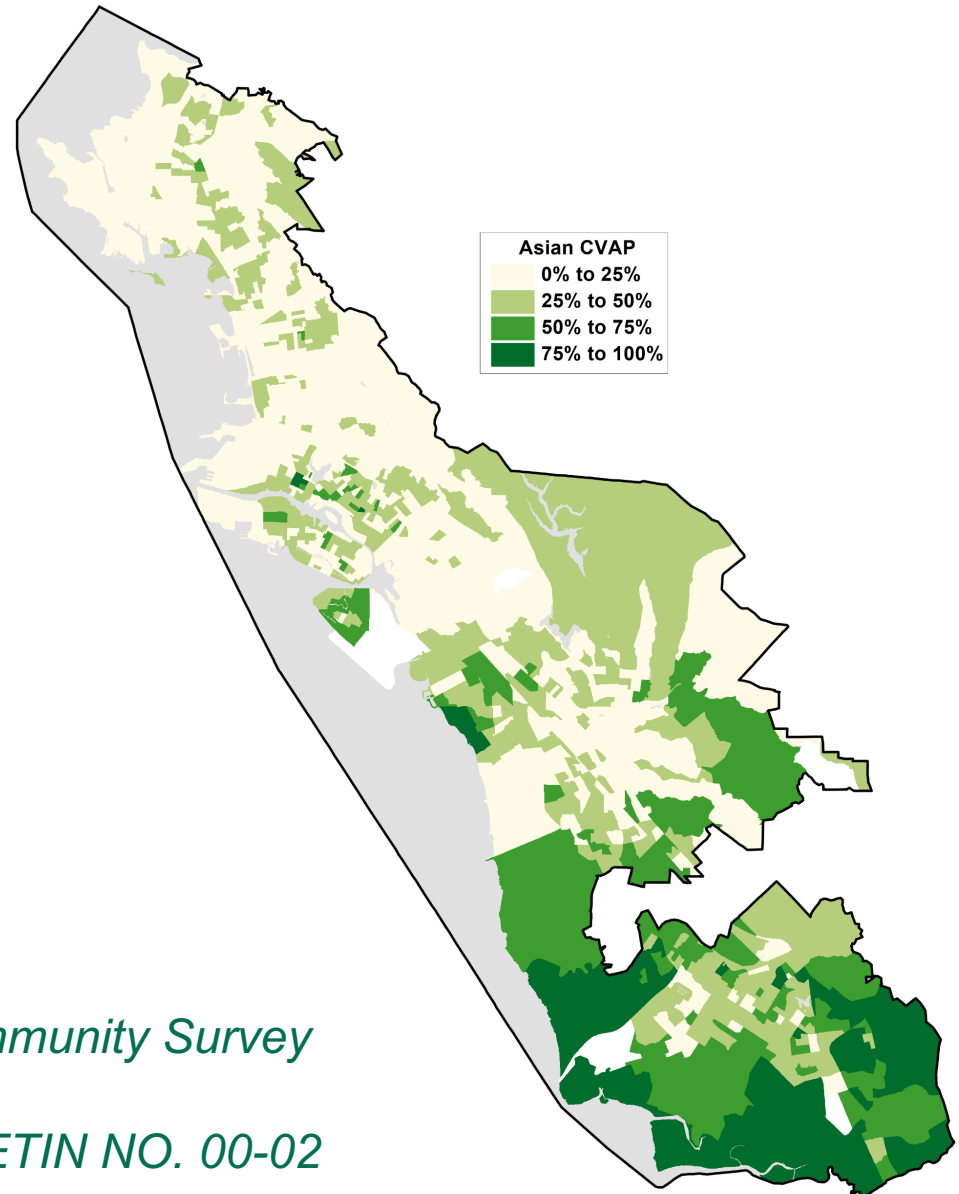
Packing
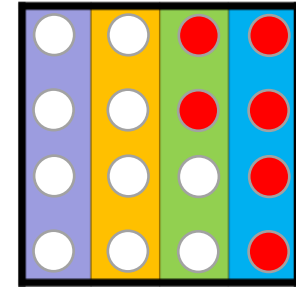
Concentrating to minimize influence in other districts

Voting Rights Act

#	CVAP[+]
	Asian*
1	18.5%
2	21.9%
3	20.9%
4	29.2%
5	48.9%
Total	27.4%

+ Adjusted 2017-2021 American Community Survey Special Tabulation
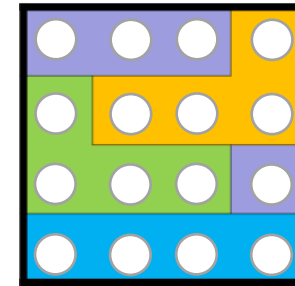** Calculated pursuant to OMB BULLETIN NO. 00-02*

Asian CVAP
0% to 25%
25% to 50%
50% to 75%
75% to 100%

Contiguity: All parts should be connected

Special cases such as islands

Non-Contiguous

Compactness: Be aware of shape and appearance

More   **Less**
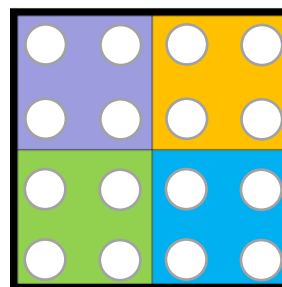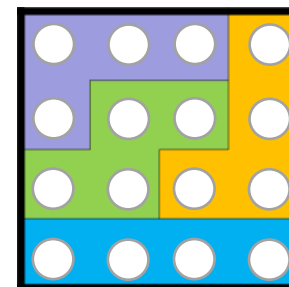
Topography and Geography:
Natural and man-made barriers and boundaries

Not always compact

Compact, But…
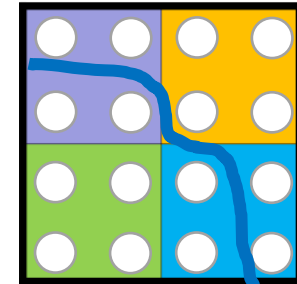
Strive for population equality. Be prepared to justify deviations

Ensure compliance with federal Voting Rights Act. Avoid vote dilution where required

Do not use race as the predominant factor. Only as one of many factors and cannot subordinate other redistricting criteria

Focus on traditional criteria. Draw compact, contiguous divisions, making use of existing topography and geography, while respecting communities of interest

WAGAMAN **S**TRATEGIES

34

Census: Conducted every ten years.

Purpose is to count every person

Used to determine if populations are equal

Reported by census blocks

ACS: Monthly sample averaged over five years

Purpose to estimate a more detailed demographics

Used to determine compliance with Voting Rights Act.

Reported primarily by census block groups or tracts

But California breaks down CVAP data to census block
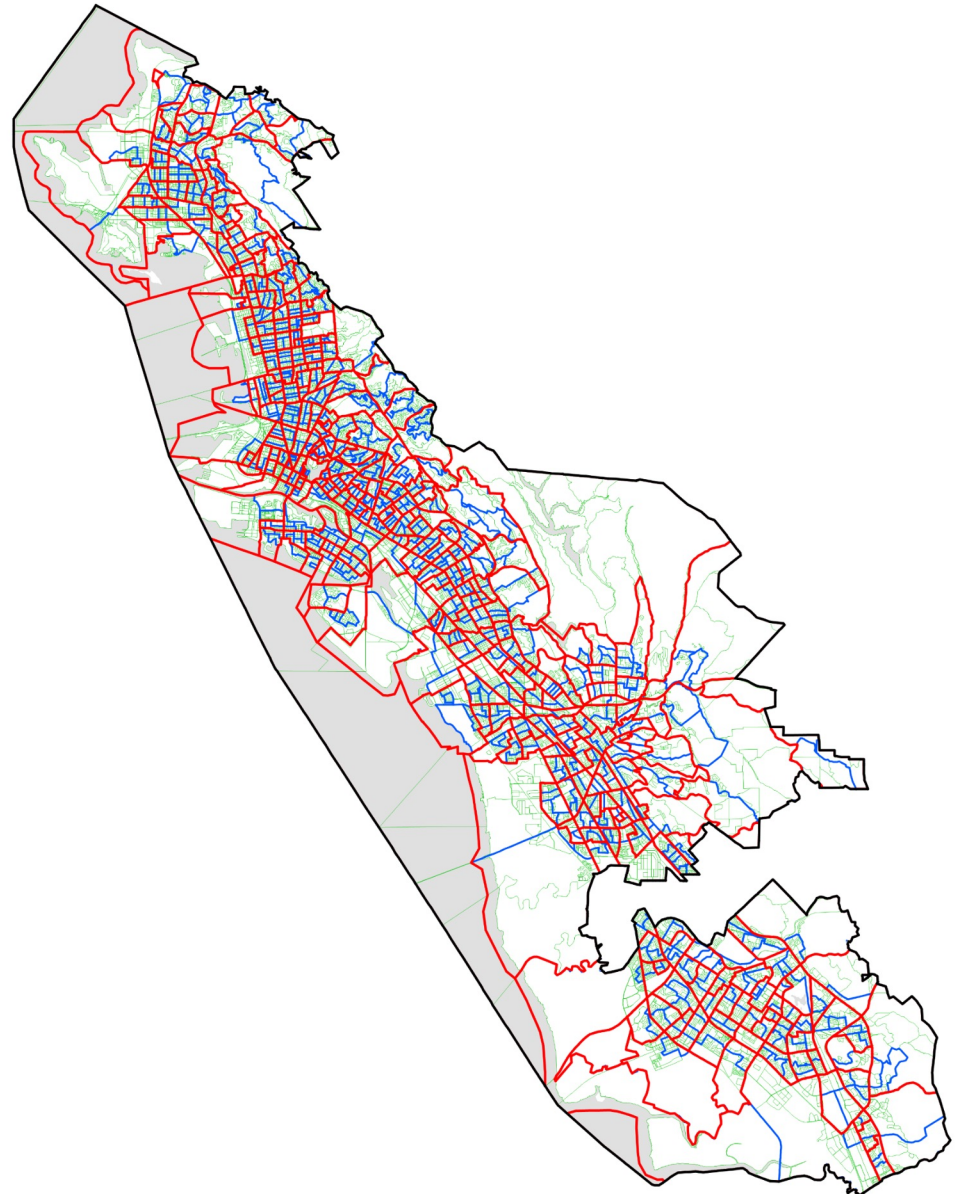
Census Geography

Type[+]	#	Average Pop
Block	16,819	94
Block Group	1,115	1,413
Tract	370	4,258

+ Includes Block Groups and Tracts only partially within the jurisdiction.

Type	#	Average Pop
Slice	150	10,504

Slices: Combination of county, city, census, other understandable boundaries, and existing plan

Used to lower barriers to public redistricting plans
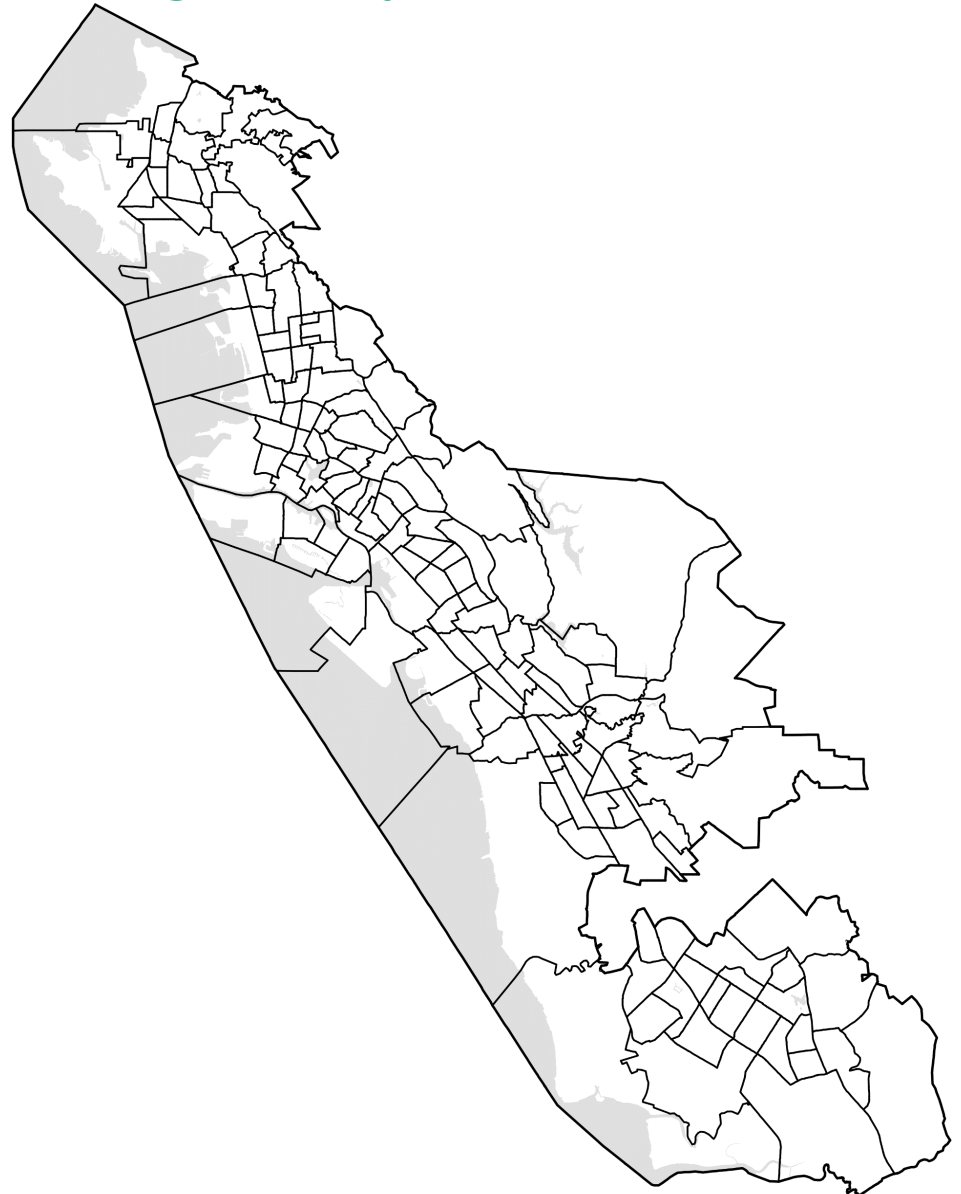
Communities of Interest:
- Where is it located?
- What is the mutual interest of the community?
- Why should it be kept together?

Online interactive and printable worksheet

Plans:
Online interactive using blocks

Printable worksheet and interactive excel using slices

Basic demographics, PDF, interactive map, and GIS files produced for all plans