

# City of Lakewood

## Introduction to Districting

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# 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 four factual tests before it is in violation of the law.
- The California VRA makes it significantly easier for plaintiffs whose ability to elect has been impaired to force jurisdictions into “by-district” election systems by downplaying 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?~~
- When a plaintiff’s ability to elect has been impaired, liability is heavily dependent on racially polarized voting

# CVRA Impact

## □ Cases So Far:

- Palmdale, Santa Clara and Santa Monica went to trial on the merits.
- All three lost at trial. Santa Clara and Santa Monica are appealing.
- 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 \$8 million so far, and plaintiffs requested \$22 million for their trial win.

## □ 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 \$16 million in total settlements and court awards so far.

# CVRA Impact

- Switched (or switching) as a result of CVRA:
  - 144 cities
    - Prior to CVRA, only 29 of the 492 California cities used by-district elections
  - At least 240 school districts
  - 34 Community College Districts
  - 1 County Board of Supervisors
    - The other 57 California counties already elected by-district
  - 35 special districts
    - Health care, airport, water, community service, parks and recreation, etc.

# Districting Process

Step	Description
Two Initial Hearings April 13 & 27	Held prior to release of draft maps. Education and to solicit input on the communities in the District.
May – November	Residents suggest “communities of interest.”
Mid/Late August	Census Bureau releases official redistricting population data.
Census Data Early October, 2021	California Statewide Database releases California’s official ‘prisoner-adjusted’ 2020 Census data.
Release draft maps	Maps must be posted at least 7 days prior to 3 <sup>rd</sup> hearing.
Two hearings on draft maps Nov / Dec, 2021	Two meetings to discuss and revise the draft maps and to discuss the election sequence.
Map adoption By Dec 15, 2021	Map adopted via ordinance. Final map must be posted at least 7 days prior to adoption.

# Districting Rules and Goals

## 1. Federal Laws

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

## 2. California Criteria for Cities

1. **Geographically contiguous**
2. **Undivided neighborhoods and “communities of interest”**  
(Socio-economic geographic areas that should be kept together)
3. **Easily identifiable boundaries**
4. **Compact**  
(Do not bypass one group of people to get to a more distant group of people)

## 3. Other Traditional Redistricting Principles

- **Respect voters’ choices / avoid head to head contests**
- **Future population growth**



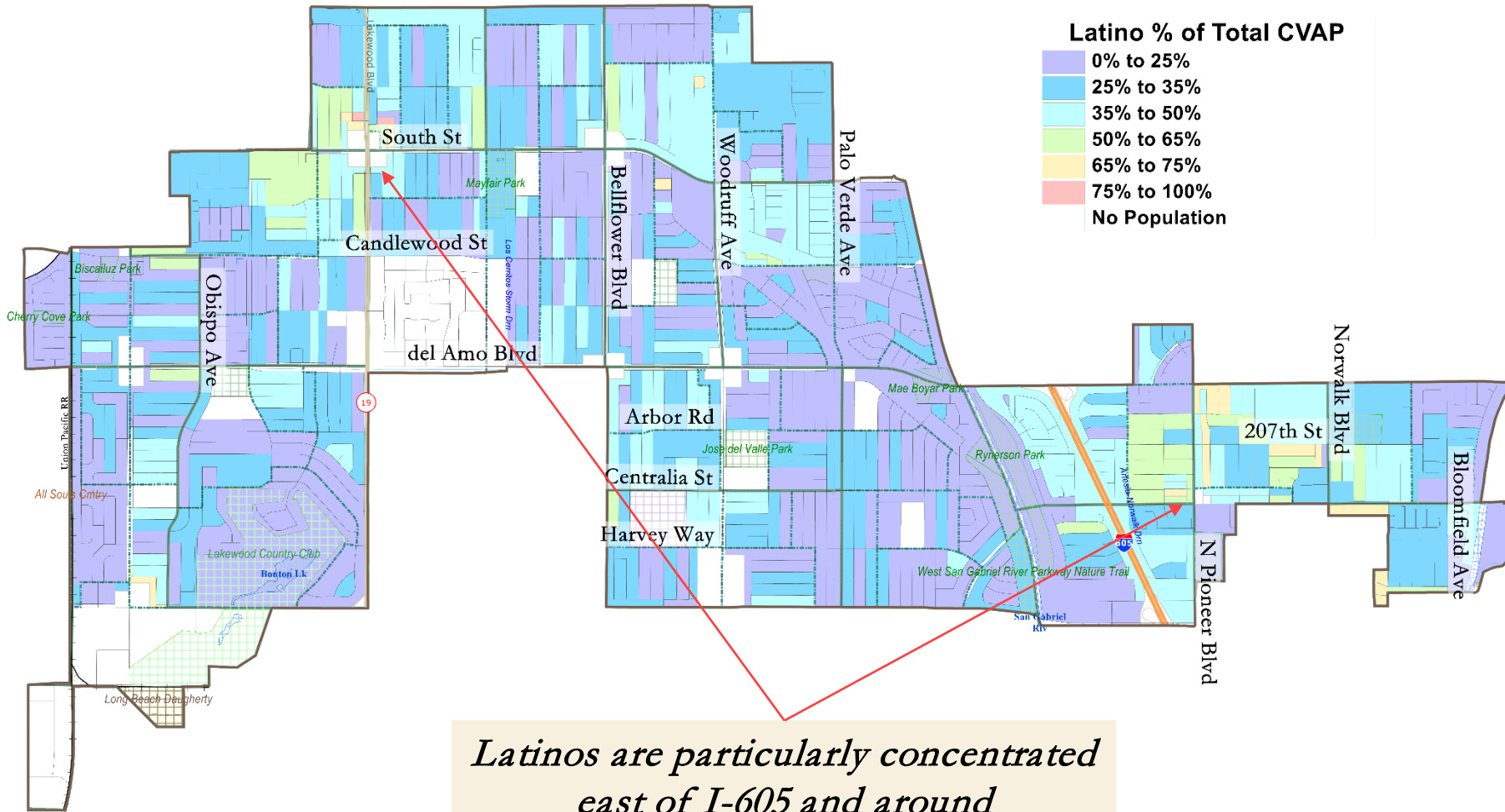
# Demographic Summary

Each of the five districts would contain about 16,010 residents (using 2010 Census numbers)

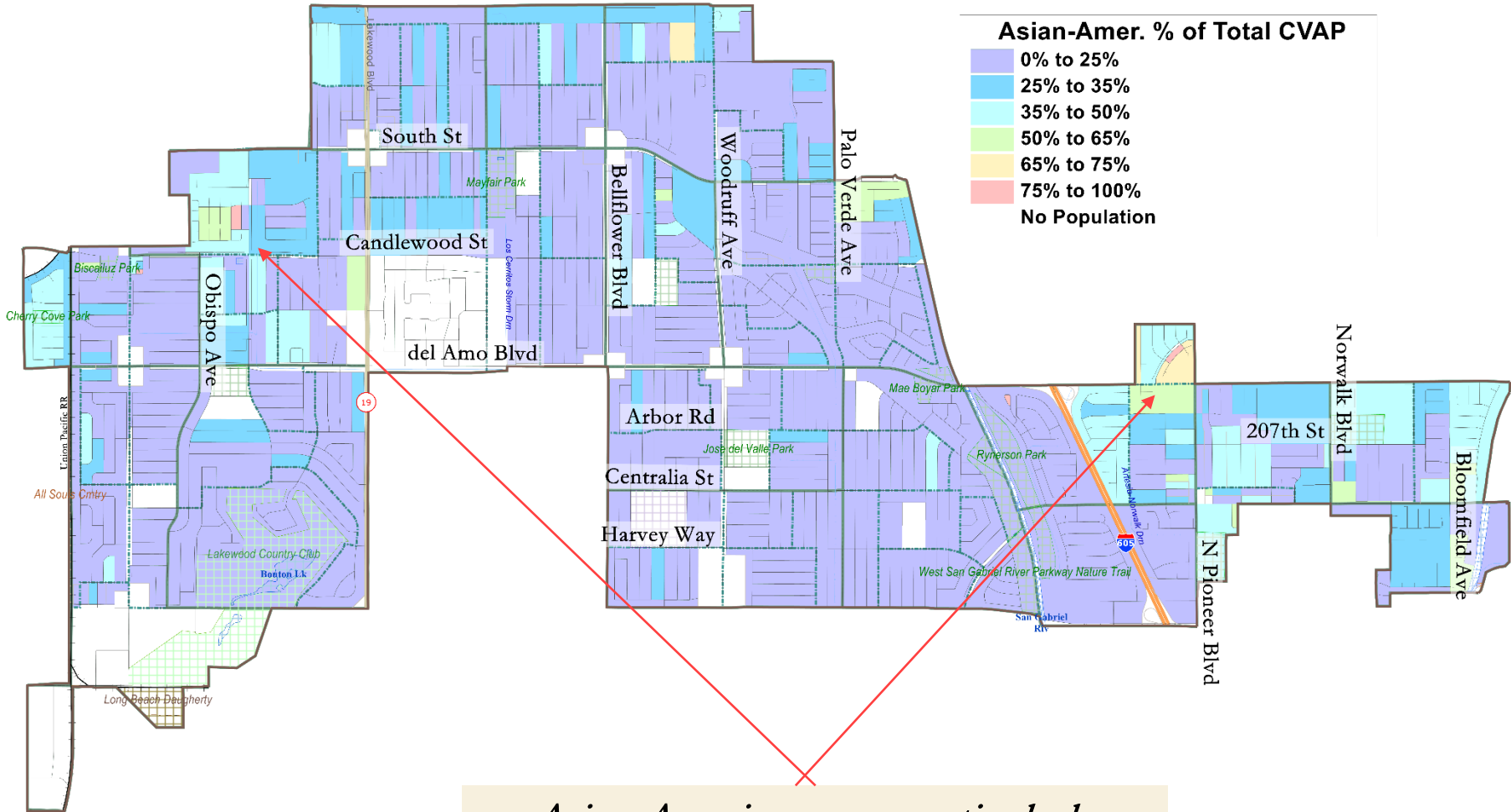
Category	Field	Count	Pct	Category	Field	Count	Pct
	Total Pop	80,048		ACS Pop. Est.	Total	80,401	
Total Pop	Hispanic	24,101	30%	Age	age0-19	19,593	24%
	NH White	32,774	41%		age20-60	44,975	56%
	NH Black	7,086	9%		age60plus	15,833	20%
	Asian-American	13,835	17%	Immigration	immigrants	17,300	22%
Citizen Voting Age Pop	Total	57,704			naturalized	11,744	68%
	Hispanic	16,592	29%	Language spoken at home	english	48,882	65%
	NH White	23,543	41%		spanish	14,873	20%
	NH Black	5,476	9%		asian-lang	9,560	13%
Asian/Pac.Isl.	10,964	19%	other lang		1,864	2%	
Voter Registration (Nov 2018)	Total	50,374		Language Fluency	Speaks Eng. "Less than Very Well"	7,894	11%
	Latino est.	15,425	31%	Education (among those age 25+)	hs-grad	33,492	60%
	Spanish-Surnamed	13,857	28%		bachelor	12,042	22%
	Asian-Surnamed	2,394	5%		graduatedegree	5,131	9%
	Filipino-Surnamed	1,535	3%	Child in Household	child-under18	6,168	24%
	NH White est.	26,763	53%	Pct of Pop. Age 16+	employed	40,394	62%
NH Black	5,163	10%	Household Income	income 0-25k	2,888	11%	
Voter Turnout (Nov 2018)	Total	29,644			income 25-50k	3,589	14%
	Latino est.	8,308		28%	income 50-75k	3,618	14%
	Spanish-Surnamed	7,464		25%	income 75-200k	13,366	52%
	Asian-Surnamed	1,124		4%	income 200k-plus	2,403	9%
	Filipino-Surnamed	777	3%	Housing Stats	single family	22,454	84%
	NH White est.	16,753	57%		multi-family	4,372	16%
NH Black	3,066	10%	rented		7,415	29%	
Voter Turnout (Nov 2016)	Total	35,121			owned	18,450	71%
	Latino est.	10,067	29%	Total population data from the 2010 Decennial Census. Surname-based Voter Registration and Turnout data from the California Statewide Database. Latino voter registration and turnout data are Spanish-surname counts adjusted using Census Population Department undercount estimates. NH White and NH Black registration and turnout counts estimated by NDC. Citizen Voting Age Population, Age, Immigration, and other demographics from the 2014-2018 American Community Survey and Special Tabulation 5-year data.			
	Spanish-Surnamed	9,043	26%				
	Asian-Surnamed	1,359	4%				
	Filipino-Surnamed	970	3%				
	NH White est.	18,835	54%				
NH Black est.	3,438	10%					



# Latino CVAP

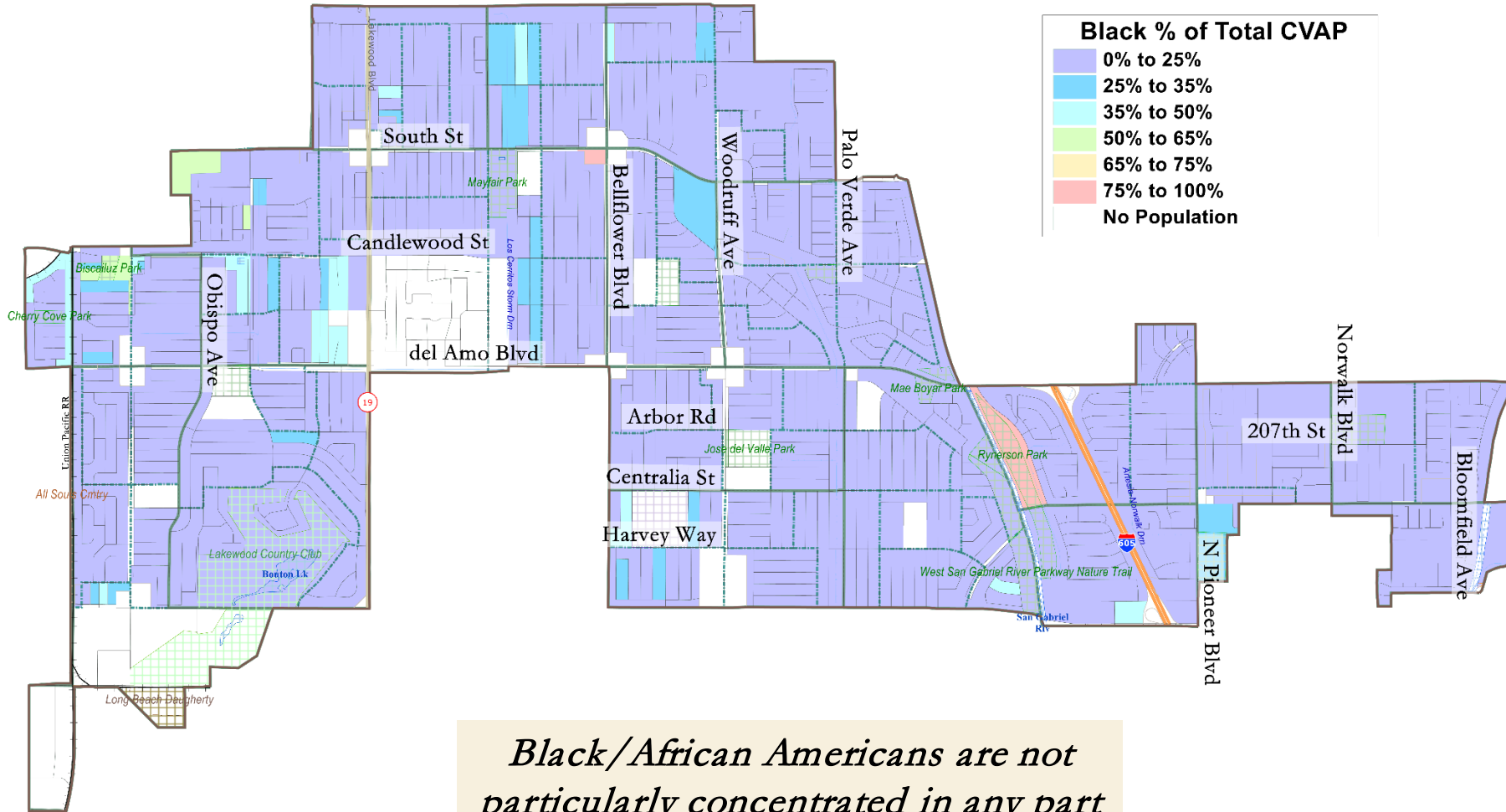


# Asian-American CVAP



*Asian-Americans are particularly concentrated south of Gridley Park along Pioneer, and by Davenport Park.*

# Black / African-American CVAP



*Black/African Americans are not particularly concentrated in any part of the City.*

# More About Neighborhoods

**1<sup>st</sup> Question: what is your neighborhood?**

**2<sup>nd</sup> 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
- ❑ Other neighborhood landmarks

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



# Beyond Neighborhoods: Communities

Under the California Elections Code, “community of interest” has a very specific definition in the context of districting and redistricting cities and counties:

A “community of interest” is a population that shares common social or economic interests that should be included within a single district for purposes of its effective and fair representation. Communities of interest do not include relationships with political parties, incumbents, or political candidates.

(emphasis added)

# Defining Communities

**1<sup>st</sup> Question: what is your community?**

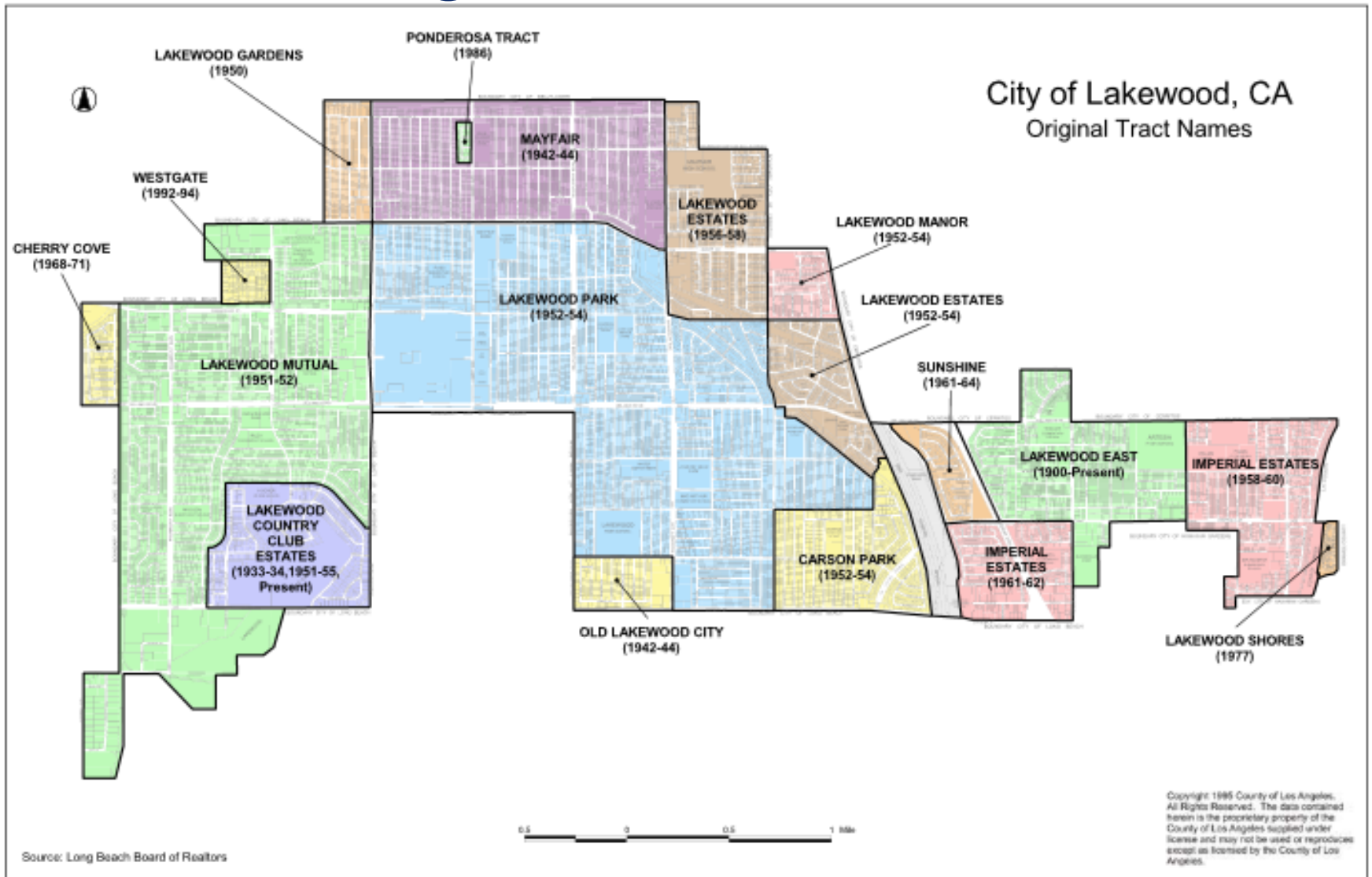
**2<sup>nd</sup> Question: what are its geographic boundaries?**

**Examples of physical features defining a neighborhood boundary:**

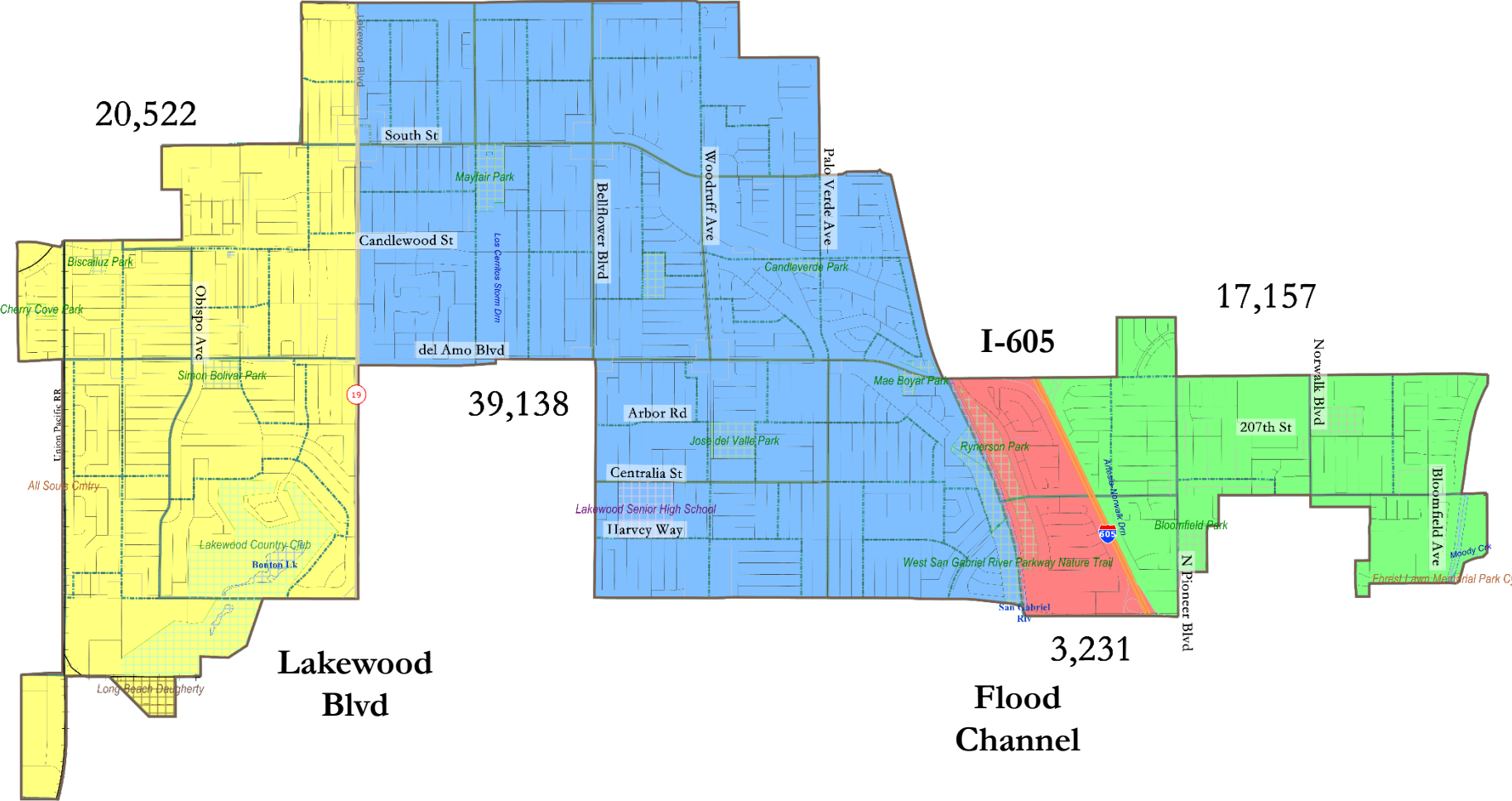
- ❑ School attendance areas
- ❑ Specific housing types: historic, senior, mobile home, single family, multi-family
- ❑ Common issues, neighborhood activities
- ❑ Shared demographic characteristics such as similar levels of income or education
- ❑ Similar business activities

**3<sup>rd</sup> Question: should this area be included within a single district for purposes of its effective and fair representation, or would it benefit from a division giving it influence in multiple districts?**

# Possible Neighborhoods / Communities



# Other Possible Neighborhoods?





# Public Hearing & Discussion

1. What is your neighborhood and what are its boundaries?
2. What geographic communities are in the city, and what are their boundaries?
  - ▣ Which would benefit from being kept together in one district?
  - ▣ Which would benefit from multiple representatives?

