

# CVRA and Districting

## North Coast County Water District



# Overview

This presentation will cover a range of topics to facilitate a process of public education and involvement in a transparent and fair districting process.

- The California Voting Rights Act
- Redistricting vs. Gerrymandering
- Traditional Districting/Redistricting Principles
- Population and Composition
- Mapping of the North Coast County Water District

# What is the CVRA?

The California Voting Rights Act is a state law that prohibits the use of At-Large election systems in local government if there is racially polarized voting.

“At Large” is defined as anything other than a system in which an elected official lives in a district, and is only elected by members of that district.

“Racially Polarized Voting” is determined through an analysis which quantifies the amount of voting which can be shown to be correlated to race.

# What is the CVRA?

The California Voting Rights Act takes the principles of the Federal Voting Rights Act and expands it regarding districted elections in two key ways:

While Federal law uses “majority minority” districts as a standard for vulnerability, the CVRA only requires “ability to influence.”

The CVRA requires that plaintiffs get full reimbursement for legal fees associated with any successful challenge.

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The CVRA requires that plaintiffs get full reimbursement for legal fees associated with any successful challenge. ***These can be lessened if the district follows a strict and prompt process for districting.***

# 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.

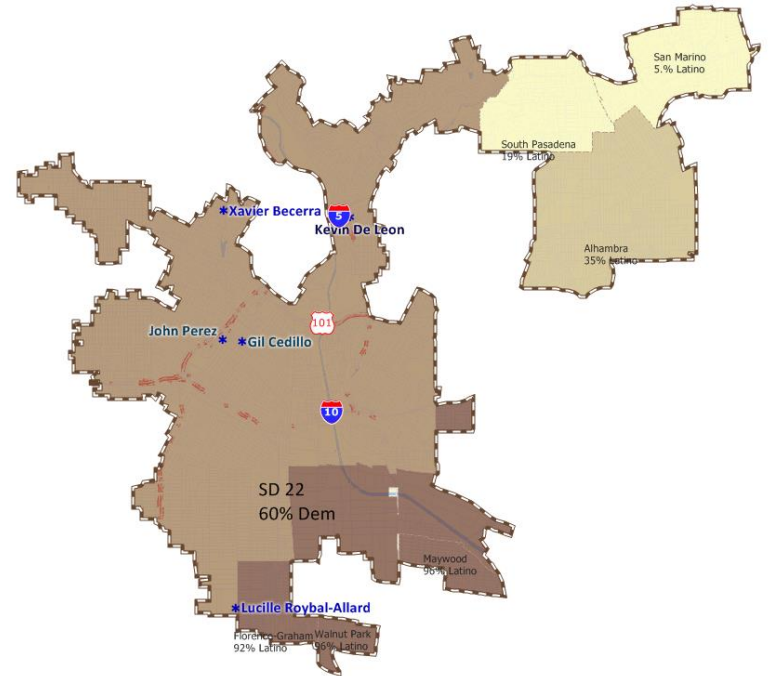


# What is Gerrymandering

## the Gerrymander

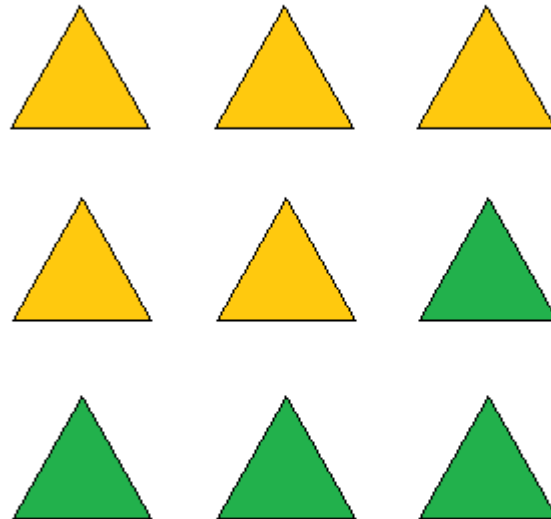
There are more recent examples of gerrymandering, even in California.

This 2001 Senate District is a great example.



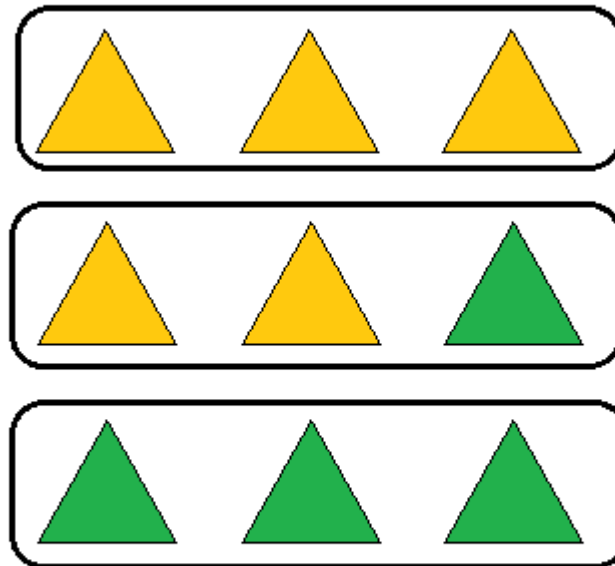
# What is Gerrymandering

How does gerrymandering work?



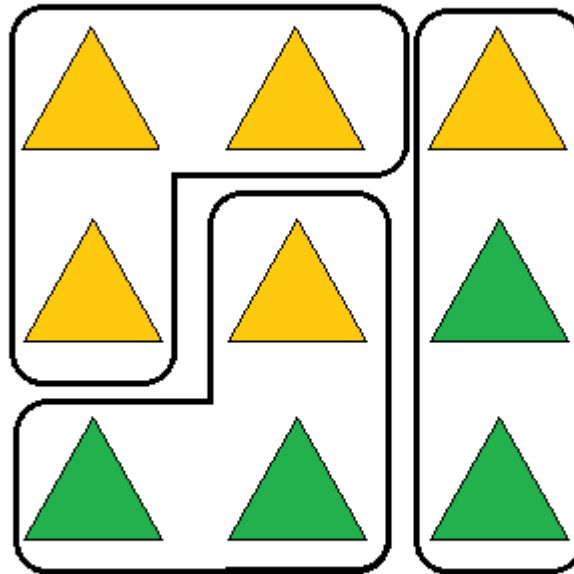
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# Traditional Redistricting Principles

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

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- 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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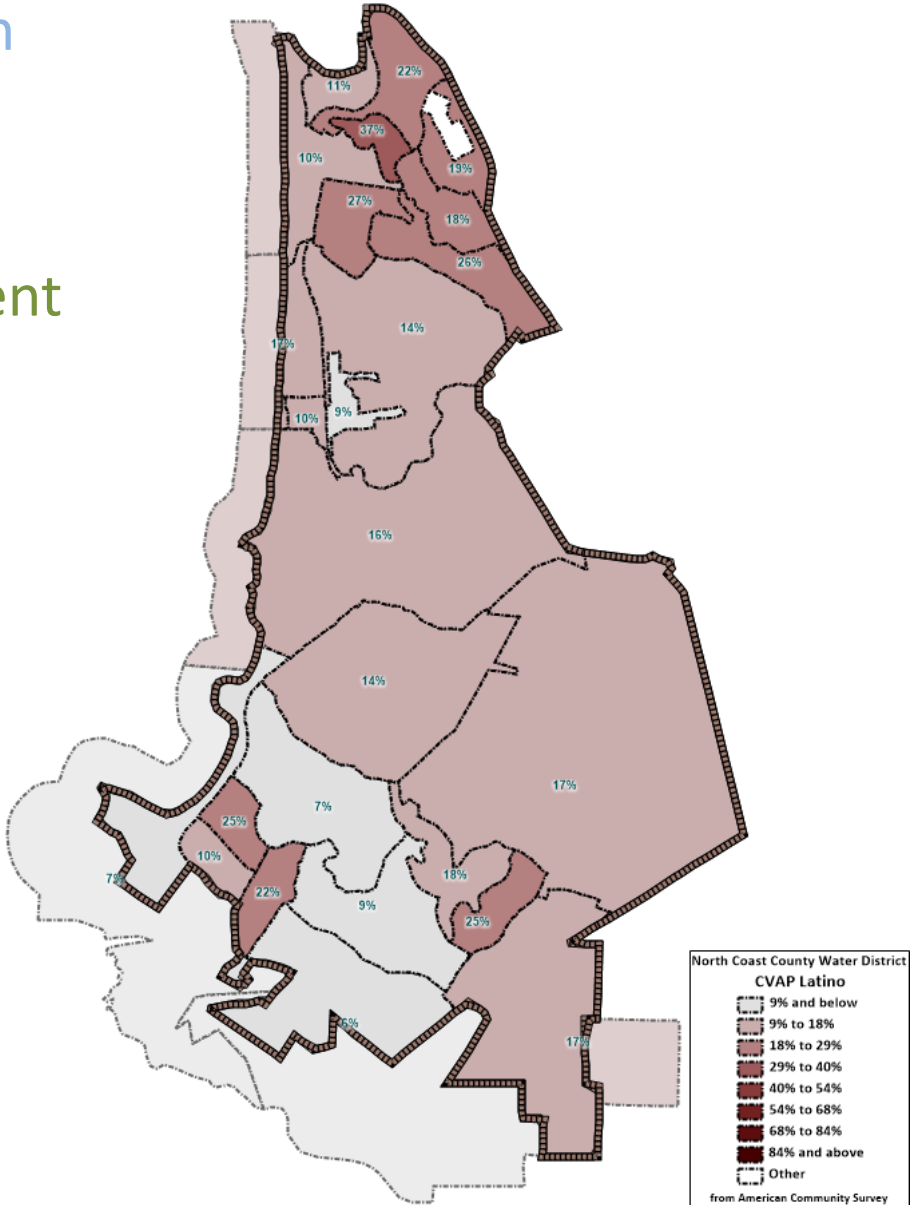
# Latino Citizen Voting Age Population

The Latino population can be calculated a number of different ways.

Total Latino (2010): 6,423

Latino CVAP (2017): 4,883

Latino Voters (2020): 3,249



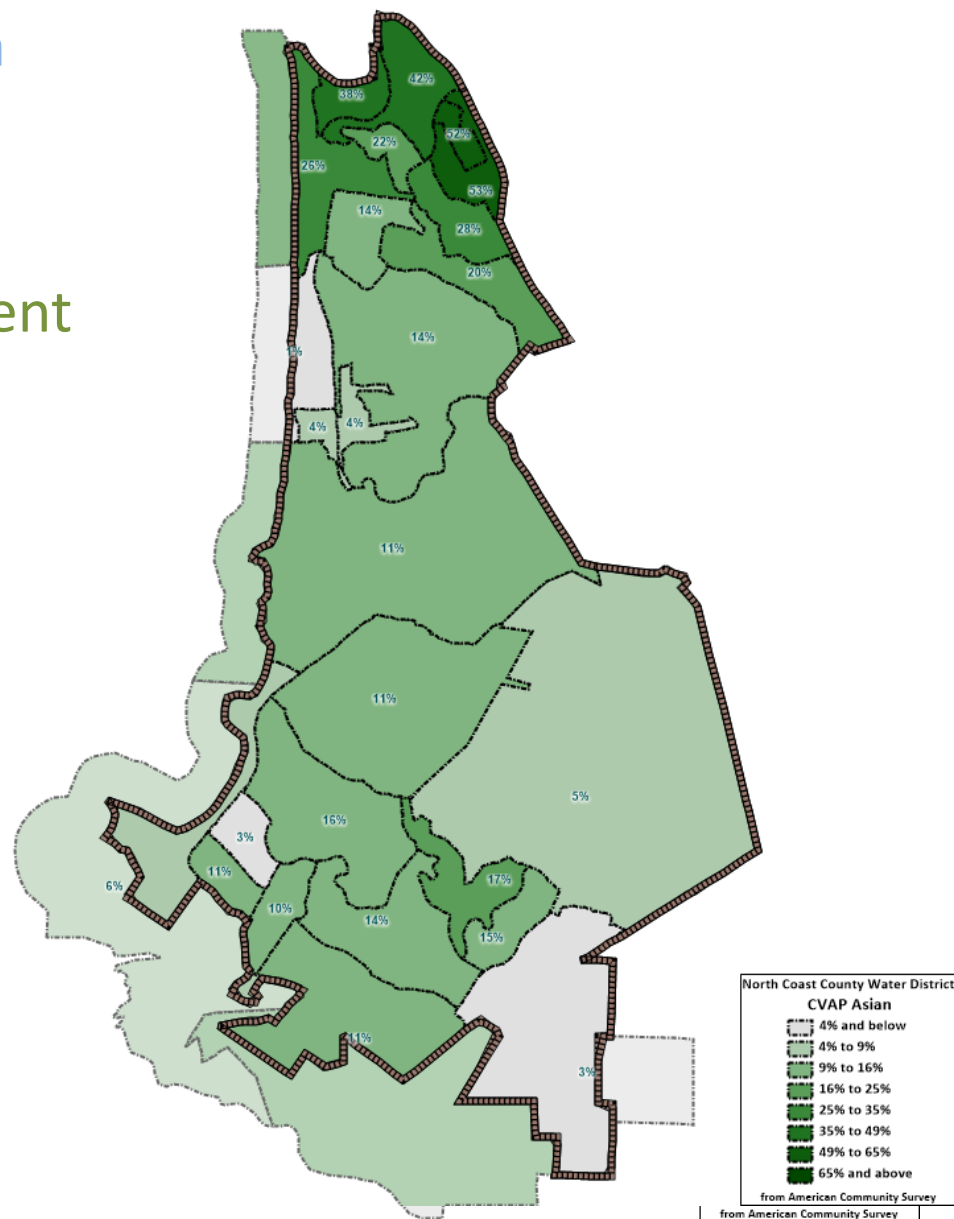
## Asian Citizen Voting Age Population

The Asian population can be calculated a number of different ways.

Total Asian (2010): 7,230

Asian CVAP (2017): 5,553

Asian Voters (2020): 3,316

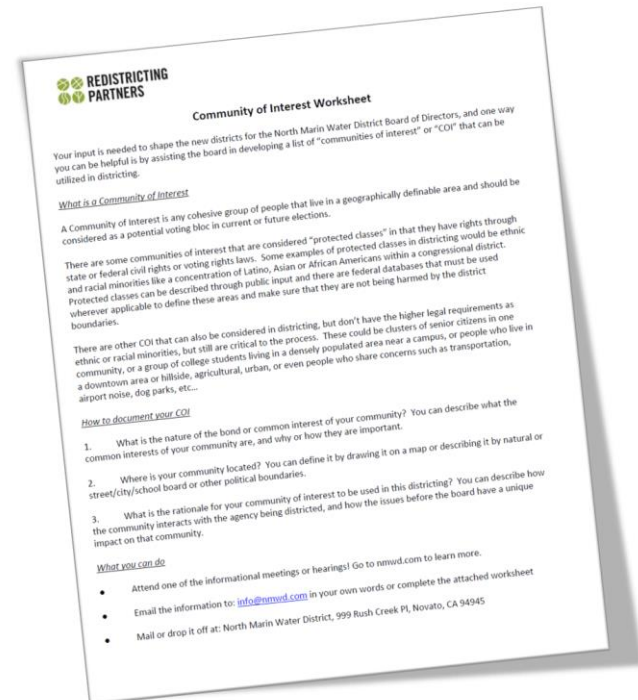


# North Coast County Water District

## What's Next

Public hearings 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 hearings or using our “Community of Interest Worksheet.”



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## What's Next

Public hearings should be scheduled to obtain input on communities of interest and receive feedback on potential districting plans prior to board adoption.

- **First Hearing** – Public Information / Feedback
- **Second Hearing** – Public Information / Feedback  
*Release of maps 7 days before next hearing*
- **Third Hearing** – Discussion of Maps  
*Release of Amended Maps 7 days before next hearing*
- **Fourth Hearing** – Selection of Map  
*Release of final map 7 days before next hearing*  
*Posting of at least one election ordering schedule*
- **Final Vote on plan** – (up or down, no significant changes)



**REDISTRICTING  
PARTNERS**