INFORMATIONAL BRIEF

Commissioner Selection Geography

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Core Question

This brief explores what geographic criteria could or should be used in the selection of commissioners.

Summary of Topline Findings

Maps are presented using different schemes of geographic divisions: fire districts, LAPD divisions, community planning areas, and neighborhood council boundaries. In each scheme, boundaries/divisions can be consolidated to create smaller number of districts most suited for the desired commission size.

Assumptions & Calculations

1. Qualified applications should be drawn from a variety of regions around the City of Los Angeles so that no region – at least the size of the current council districts – should be excluded from inclusion in the commission.
2. A redistricting commission should reflect both the geographic and demographic diversity of the City of Los Angeles.
3. A commission that is too small would reduce the chances of achieving reasonable representation of the geographic diversity of the city and the demographic diversity of the City.
    a. Geography
    b. Ethnicity /Race
    c. Gender
    d. Age
    e. Class (renters vs. homeowners, e.g.)
4. A commission that is too big is one that would be characterized by inefficient decision making.
5. Commissioners will be drawn in a process that has at least two stages, one of which is likely to be random and the other stratified and/or proportional.

Alternative Schemes

Hundreds of alternative schemes for selecting commissioners are possible. Some are more practical, transparent, and easily understood by the public than others. The research group has narrowed down the options for geographic element of the selection process to just a few, and what follows is an analysis of the most likely options favored by the research group in 2023.

Use current City Council District Boundaries

The most popular geographic criterion used to select commissioners are the electoral districts themselves. In the case of Los Angeles' City Council, that would mean the commission would have 15 persons. Currently, the commission uses districts, plus appointees from other offices to round out a commission of 21 persons.
Pros: The infrastructure for this selection is mostly in place.
Cons: If a commission is to be truly independent of the council and other political offices in Los Angeles, yet still representative of the diversity of the City of Los Angeles, then it is logical that the selection of commissioners not only removed from politicians and political operatives, but that the geography determining the selection be independent of the council boundaries. Additionally, since this research group is likely to recommend City Council be expanded from 15 seats to somewhere between 20 and 30 seats, using the current (and perhaps gerrymandered) council map that is sure to change in 2030 anyway, would undermine the ability to build a commission that is truly independent and representative.

Use alternative municipal boundaries

The city has perhaps a dozen different agencies that have created their own service boundaries that would serve well as geographic criteria for the commissioner selection process.

Pros: These boundaries are ostensibly free from political influence or intention. They are drawn largely to delineate service provision to the residents based largely on the efficiency of service delivery. They are for the most part compact and all are contiguous – much like ideal electoral districts.

Almost all citizens of Los Angeles are included within the boundaries of each map, and the rare exceptions are easily accounted for by slight adjustments to the map (e.g., CSUN and UCLA are not included Police Department division map but could be easily included within a division that surrounds them).

The three most logical alternative geographic divisions of the city are below. Maps of each municipal service divisions are below.

a. Fire Districts Battalions (14)
    i. *102 "stations" or districts - these could be easily consolidated to create a number of districts that suited the "most functional" commission size.
b. Los Angeles Police Department Division Boundaries (21)
    *Car patrol boundaries (169)
c. Community Plan Areas – (37)
    *consolidation of several small or unpopulated areas would be necessary to make reasonably evenly sized /populated districts.
d. Neighborhood Council Boundaries (99)
    i. *these could be easily consolidated to create a number of districts that suited the "most functional" commission size.

A logical two-stage system that mimics in part the strategies found in guidelines for selecting redistricting commissions elsewhere might use the more numerous boundaries to solicit and gather the first round of applicants, perhaps two or three from each zone. The second round could use either an entirely different set of boundaries (moving from fire districts to community plan areas) or use divisions in a single hierarchy (fire districts to fire battalions).

The two rounds could also employ a two-stage sampling strategy, with randomization, stratification and/or systematic sampling systems to ensure a demographically representative group. If the first round (geographic) draws a representative random sample from the local population, the second round should stand a very good chance of being balanced and representative of the city as a whole.

An example would be:

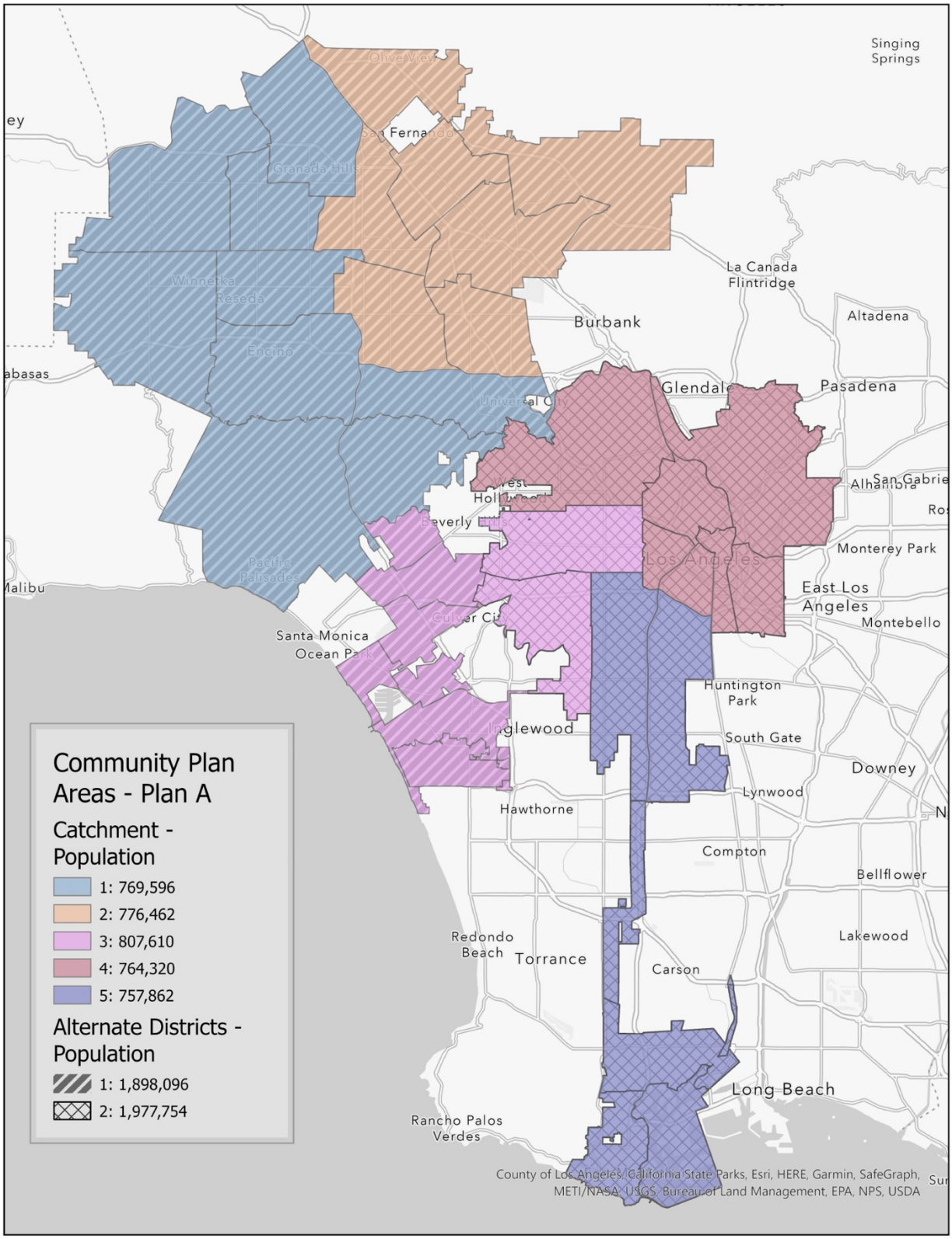
1. Three applicants chosen at random whose residence lies within each of the 107 Fire Districts.
2. From that pool, 37 applicants are chosen from a stratified pool based on ethnicity.
3. From that pool, some smaller group (15?) would be drawn to form the commission.

Elegant Solution to Commissioner Pool Selection Catchment Problem

Here's a second, and in some ways more elegant solution to the commissioner pool selection catchment problem. This map uses Community Plan areas. Although the populations are not as well balanced (still all within 5% of target) the boundaries are more intuitive. The "alternate" map shares the same issues as the fire-division map, but again, the boundaries are a little less messy with this solution.

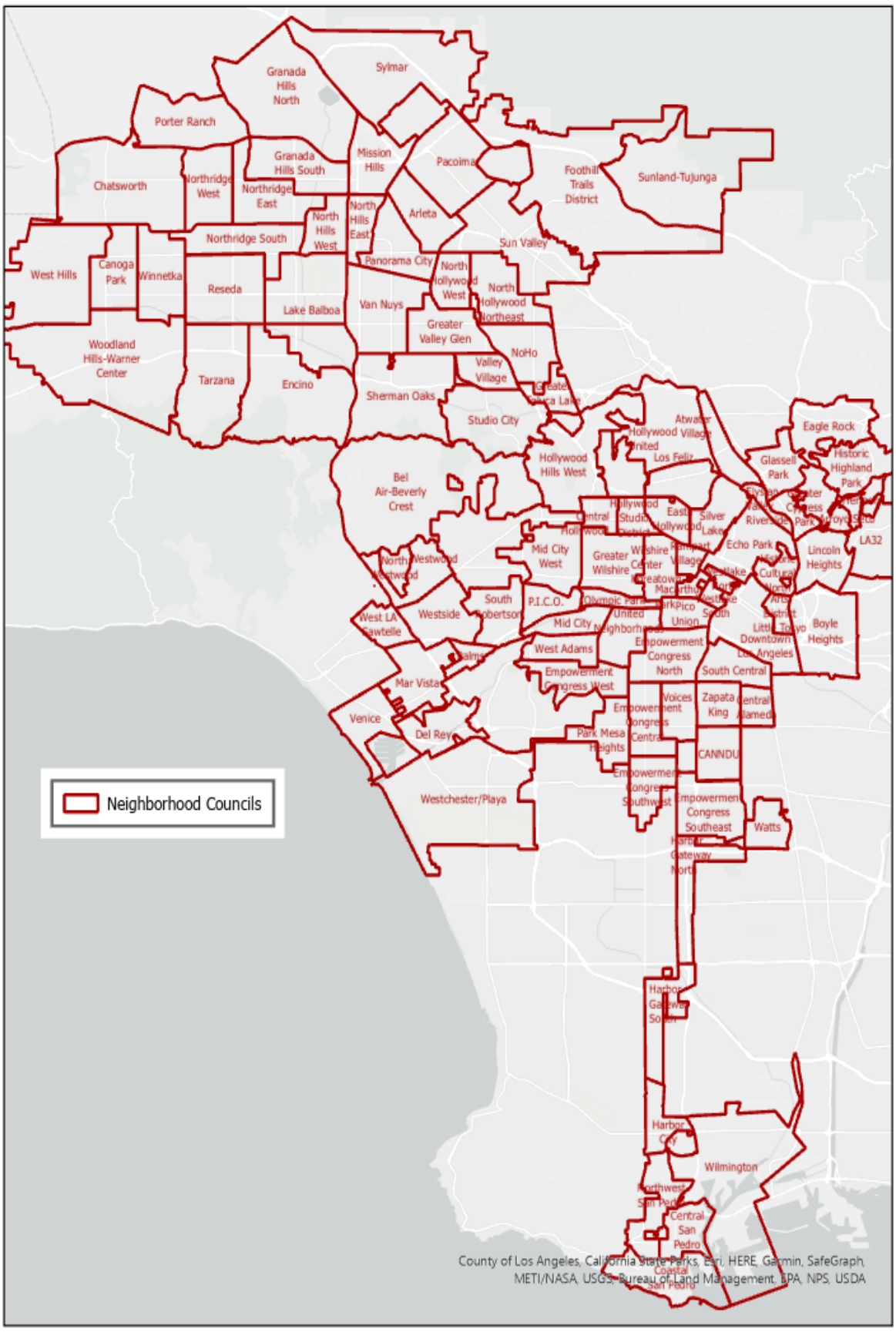
Here are the population calculations by Catchment zone.

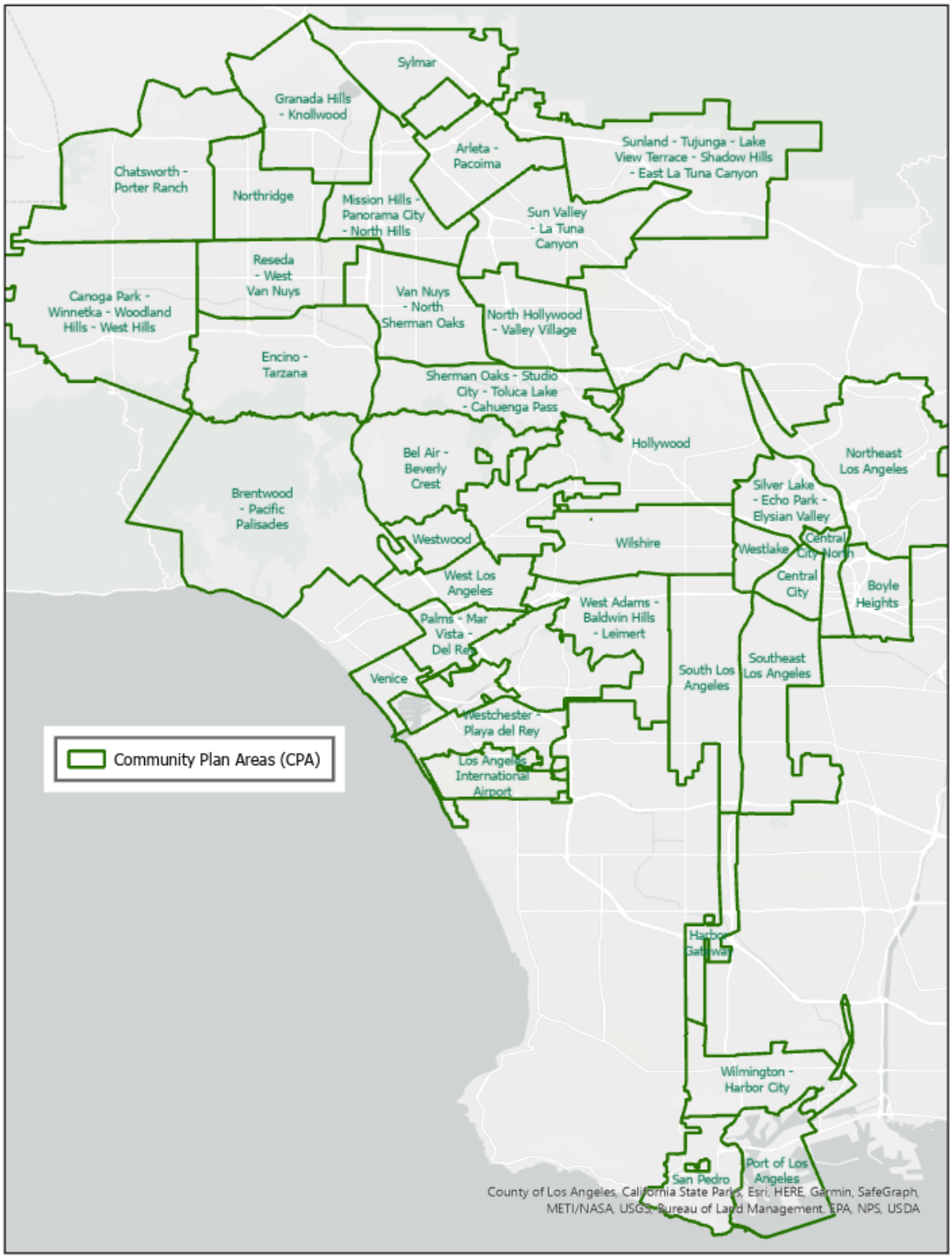
Catchment	Population	DIF	Pct DIF	Abs Diff
1	796596	21426	2.764039	2.764039
2	776462	1292	0.166673	0.166673
3	807610	32440	4.184888	4.184888
4	764320	-10850	-1.39969	1.399693
5	757862	-17308	-2.2328	2.232801
TARGET	775170		Total Dev.	10.74809

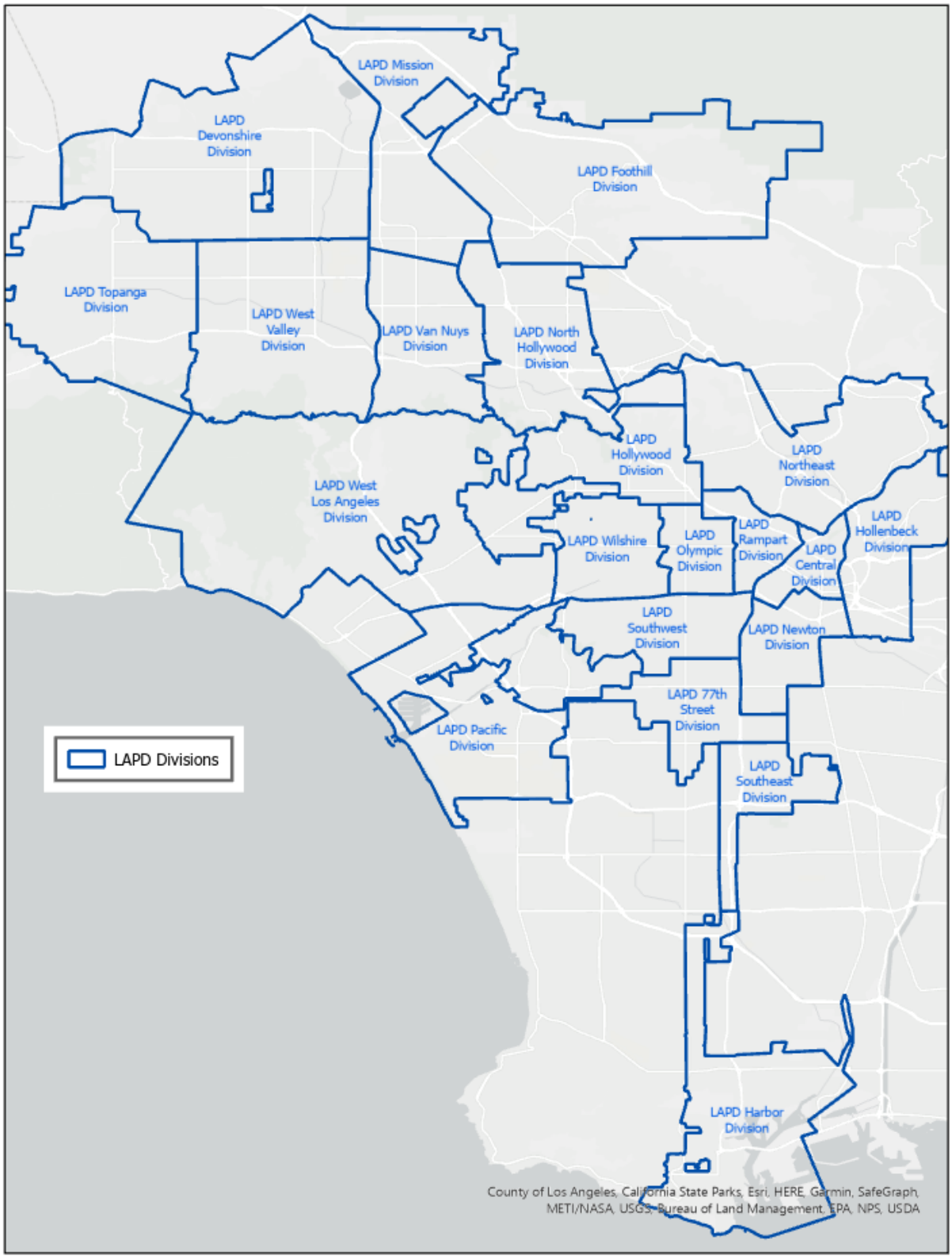

Singing Springs
Olive View
Granada Hills
Winnetka
Reseda
Encino
La Canada Flintridge
Altadena
Burbank
Glendale
Pasadena
Universal City
Alhambra
Monterey Park
Los Angeles
East Los Angeles
Montebello
Pacific Palisades
Santa Monica
Ocean Park
Huntington Park
South Gate
Downey
Lynwood
Hawthorne
Compton
Bellflower
Redondo Beach
Torrance
Carson
Lakewood
Long Beach
Rancho Palos Verdes
Community Plan Areas - Plan A
Catchment - Population
1: 769,596
2: 776,462
3: 807,610
4: 764,320
5: 757,862
Alternate Districts - Population
1: 1,898,096
2: 1,977,754
County of Los Angeles, California State Parks, Esri, HERE, Garmin, SafeGraph, METI/NASA, USGS, Bureau of Land Management, EPA, NPS, USDA

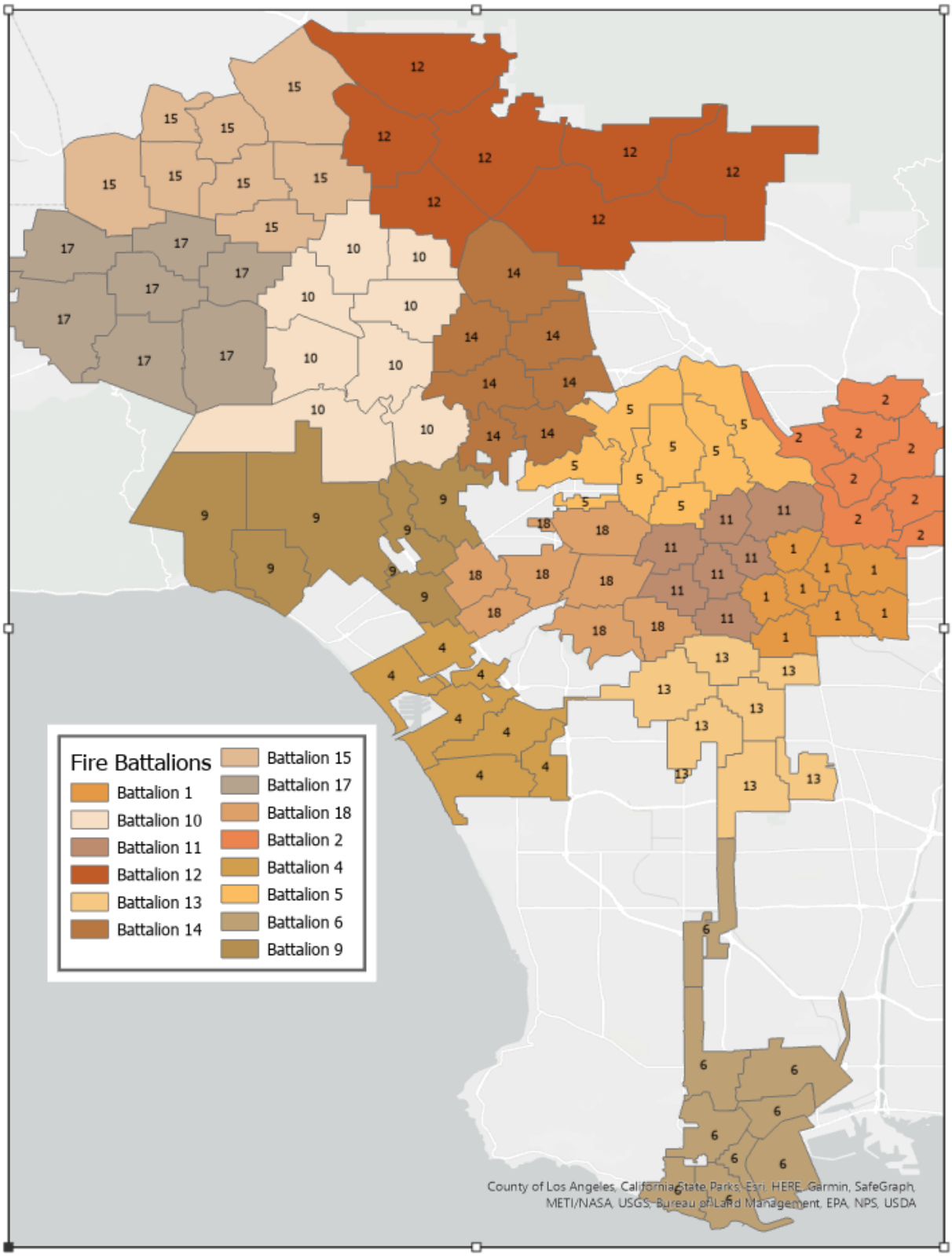
Alternative Maps Using Fire, LAPD, CPA, and Neighborhood Council Boundaries

LAPD	Valley	City	Percent	
	7	21	0.333333	Commissioners
	1467266	3895599	0.376647	Population
Fire				
	37	107	0.345794	Commissioners
	1487387	3895599	0.381812	Population
Planning				
	14	37	0.378378	Commissioners
	1470303	3895599	0.377427	Population
Neighborhood Councils				
	34	99	0.343434	Commissioners
	1466818	3895599	0.376532	Population


Granada Hills North
Sylmar
Porter Ranch
Granada Hills South
Mission Hills
Pacoima
Foothill Trails District
Sunland-Tujunga
Chatsworth
Northridge West
Northridge East
North Hills East
Arleta
North Hills West
Northridge South
Sun Valley
West Hills
Canoga Park
Winnetka
Reseda
Panorama City
North Hollywood West
North Hollywood Northeast
Lake Balboa
Van Nuys
Greater Valley Glen
Woodland Hills-Warner Center
Tarzana
Encino
NoHo
Valley Village
Sherman Oaks
Studio City
Hollywood United
Atwater Village
Eagle Rock
Hollywood Hills West
Los Feliz
Glassell Park
Historic Highland Park
Bel Air-Beverly Crest
Hollywood Central
Hollywood Studio District
East Hollywood
Silver Lake
Echo Park
Lincoln Heights
LA32
Mid City West
Greater Wilshire
Wilshire Center Koreatown
Westlake
Cultural North
North Westwood
Westwood
South Robertson
P.I.C.O.
Olympic Park
Pico Union
Arts District
West LA Sawtelle
Westside
Mid City
United Neighborhoods
Little Tokyo
Boyle Heights
Empowerment Congress North
Downtown Los Angeles
West Adams
Empowerment Congress West
South Central
Mar Vista
Venice
Voices
Zapata King
Central Alameda
Empowerment Congress Central
Del Rey
Park Mesa Heights
CANNDU
Empowerment Congress Southwest
Westchester/Playa
Empowerment Congress Southeast
Watts
Harbor Gateway North
Harbor Gateway South
Harbor City
Wilmington
Northwest San Pedro
Central San Pedro
Coastal San Pedro
Neighborhood Councils
County of Los Angeles, California State Parks, Esri, HERE, Garmin, SafeGraph, METI/NASA, USGS, Bureau of Land Management, EPA, NPS, USDA


Sylmar
Granada Hills - Knollwood
Chatsworth - Porter Ranch
Northridge
Arleta - Pacoima
Sunland - Tujunga - Lake View Terrace - Shadow Hills - East La Tuna Canyon
Mission Hills - Panorama City - North Hills
Sun Valley - La Tuna Canyon
Reseda - West Van Nuys
Canoga Park - Winnetka - Woodland Hills - West Hills
Van Nuys - North Sherman Oaks
North Hollywood - Valley Village
Encino - Tarzana
Sherman Oaks - Studio City - Toluca Lake - Cahuenga Pass
Hollywood
Northeast Los Angeles
Bel Air - Beverly Crest
Brentwood - Pacific Palisades
Silver Lake - Echo Park - Elysian Valley
Westwood
Wilshire
Westlake
Central City North
Central City
Boyle Heights
West Los Angeles
West Adams - Baldwin Hills - Leimert
Palms - Mar Vista - Del Rey
Venice
South Los Angeles
Southeast Los Angeles
Westchester - Playa del Rey
Los Angeles International Airport
Harbor Gateway
Wilmington - Harbor City
San Pedro
Port of Los Angeles
Community Plan Areas (CPA)
County of Los Angeles, California State Parks, Esri, HERE, Garmin, SafeGraph, METI/NASA, USGS, Bureau of Land Management, EPA, NPS, USDA


LAPD Mission Division
LAPD Devonshire Division
LAPD Foothill Division
LAPD Topanga Division
LAPD West Valley Division
LAPD Van Nuys Division
LAPD North Hollywood Division
LAPD Hollywood Division
LAPD Northeast Division
LAPD West Los Angeles Division
LAPD Wilshire Division
LAPD Olympic Division
LAPD Rampart Division
LAPD Central Division
LAPD Hollenbeck Division
LAPD Southwest Division
LAPD Newton Division
LAPD 77th Street Division
LAPD Pacific Division
LAPD Southeast Division
LAPD Harbor Division
LAPD Divisions
County of Los Angeles, California State Parks, Esri, HERE, Garmin, SafeGraph, METI/NASA, USGS, Bureau of Land Management, EPA, NPS, USDA


Fire Battalions
Battalion 1
Battalion 10
Battalion 11
Battalion 12
Battalion 13
Battalion 14
Battalion 15
Battalion 17
Battalion 18
Battalion 2
Battalion 4
Battalion 5
Battalion 6
Battalion 9
County of Los Angeles, California State Parks, Esri, HERE, Garmin, SafeGraph, METI/NASA, USGS, Bureau of Land Management, EPA, NPS, USDA