

Subject: Drawing lawful, functional preliminary CA district maps

Date: Monday, May 23, 2011 1:02 AM

From: Craig Wood <[REDACTED]>

To: <[REDACTED]>

Conversation: Drawing lawful, functional preliminary CA district maps

Craig Wood

[REDACTED]
Rocklin, CA 95677

2011 - 05 - 22

Citizens Redistricting Commission
1130 K St., Suite #101
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Drawing lawful, functional preliminary CA district maps

Dear Commissioners and Fellow Victims of the Current System:

Yes, this is a test of the public input process of the Citizens Redistricting Commission (CRC). In 1789 Benjamin Franklin wrote regarding the certainty of death and taxes; this nation has progressed to add another certainty: litigations. This opportunity to change that which is not working can be **fulfilled, fumbled** with minor changes or become a **farce** with only a cosmetic change to the unrepresentative system.

The CRC and staff have worked the hours to do the job, but it is the vote for the new map(s) that **must produce a real process change which the public can see** – not just different districts. These new maps can and shall be legally challenged, that is a certainty. This commission should, hence, focus on key lawful requirements that will produce the functional changes to make your time and efforts a productive success.

Specified in the California Constitution Article (CCA) 21, Sec. 2, item (e) is the requirement that the map(s) **shall not favor or discriminate** “against an incumbent, political candidate, or political party.” Other key CCA 21, Sec. 2, items (d) are the requirement that districts be/have: (3) “geographically contiguous.”, (4) “access to the same media of communication relevant to the election process.”, (5) “geographical compactness”.

A district creating tool used in Europe, other countries and even to a lesser degree in parts of the United States is the community area **proportional vote** for area districts producing a single elected member for each district – if five districts are in an urban area, then voters should have an area **proportional vote** to allow any 20% of the area’s voters to elect their most wanted candidate. This change would: end urban voter gerrymandering, simplify district boundary decisions, be area self-correcting when population/demographic changes occur, and produce real voter representation – the current district system systematically prevents real representation, it’s a representative farce. The area **proportional vote** solution **significantly**: improves voter choice, provides a real way of

representation for parties with less registered voters, ends district discrimination of new parties/ independent candidates and the two largest parties would have representation in all areas of the state – item (e) noted above would be completely fulfilled.

All candidates now in populated areas have to use the media of that greater area to reach all the area's voters, even voters that are not in their district – item (d 4) the media area is the real campaign boundary, not the district. The only way to really allow populated areas districts to be contiguous, compact and representative of the people is to not partition voters like it is done now, which would be no real change; just a fumbled different, perhaps, less worse gerrymander – items (d: 3 and 5). Metropolitan areas should be kept whole with **proportional vote area districts** and less populated areas could have a one district area to keep their campaign locale compact.

Most voters would see a real difference in their elections: one of the candidates that they see campaigning in their area would be more likely to be elected to best represent them. When there are several candidates running in a **proportional vote area districts**, the TV ads should start to be less negative – candidate can now claim that the one other candidate is the Antichrist -- that ad would not play as well when all of the other candidates are advertized as the Antichrist.

The CRC can make a real functional difference in our elections by following the key specifications noted above with a mapping system that really fulfill those specifications. The CRC can, if there is not a complete map consensus, choose to produce several preliminary maps for further public review before making a final split vote, thus fulfilling the requirement that they “conduct an open and transparent process enabling full public consideration of and comment on the drawing of district lines.” A voter's referendum is allowed, thus voters can approve/reject the final new district mapping system changes – **voters deserve a choice, a well drafted change, and real representation rather than more of the same with different districts.**

Thank you for your consideration

--

Craig Wood

Subject: comment

Date: Monday, May 23, 2011 1:21 PM

From: Ron Merino <[REDACTED]>

To: <[REDACTED]>

Conversation: comment

Try to be impartial, fair and don't stack the deck in any district...that's be done before.

Ron Merino

Subject: Public Comment: difficult to believe

Date: Monday, May 23, 2011 12:38 PM

From: Sue <[REDACTED]>

To: <[REDACTED]>

Conversation: Public Comment: difficult to believe

From: Sue <[REDACTED]>

Subject: difficult to believe

Message Body:

I am surprised but very pleased that our districting will reflect the communities within them rather than the political ambitions of the two parties.

However, it remains very difficult to believe that fairness and equality under the law will return to Calif. We will see and hopefully will not be crushed yet again.

--

This mail is sent via contact form on Citizens Redistricting Commission

WE DO NOT WANT TO BE PUT IN WITH IMPERIAL COUNTY - THEY ARE FAR FROM US AND HAVE THEIR OWN IDENTITY. PLEASE DO NOT DO THIS - IT WOULD NOT BE REPRESENTATIVE OF WHO WE ARE.

SONDRA JASAK



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Click Here!

Subject: Public Comment: Balance in Redistricting

Date: Monday, May 23, 2011 11:18 AM

From: Marian Avila <[REDACTED]>

To: <[REDACTED]>

Conversation: Public Comment: Balance in Redistricting

From: Marian Avila <[REDACTED]>

Subject: Balance in Redistricting

Message Body:

Voting districts in California should represent a balance of citizens from all political parties and not weighted in one direction or another. Any person running for office in California should be able to stand on the merits of their platform or stated direction, clearly stating their objectives and let the voters in their district have a fair opportunity to elect people who most closely represent their beliefs and principles.

A truly representative approach to redistricting our state should avoid weighing any district or region to the advantage of any one party or special interest. We are Americans. Our nation's founding principles state that all men are created equal -- please give an equal opportunity to the voters in each district to have a fair chance to elect people who more closely represents their positions.

As a second generation woman of immigrant grandparents, I follow their goal to emphasize being American -- not a hyphenated anything. I feel that when you hyphenate yourself, you weaken your American identity and indicate a split in your loyalty to our country. There are good reasons why our ancestors migrated to America - for many it was to leave their home country behind in order to absorb the freedoms and opportunities offered by the United States of America.

To divide up our state into anything other than an equal and diverse representation of its voting citizens would be a step back from the "melting pot" ideal, long held in our country that no matter where you came from, you chose to become an "American."

Thank you for your contribution and devotion to this very important commission.

--

This mail is sent via contact form on Citizens Redistricting Commission

Subject: Redistricting

Date: Monday, May 23, 2011 10:38 AM

From: Mitch Epperly <[REDACTED]>

To: <[REDACTED]>

Conversation: Redistricting

California Citizens Redistricting Commission:

I have just read slightly over half of the comments from citizens under General.

It seems the majority of these are only addressing one area and not helping you or guiding you in making the decisions you need to make.

Might I suggest that you use existing County and City boundaries in the following manner:

Counties and Cities should have no more than two districts, with one district encompassing the majority and preferably one hundred percent of the large district within said County or City.

If a city or county needs three or more districts due to population within them then only one district shall not be fully within said city or county.

I believe this is what the majority of the people who voted to set up this system of controlling districts wanted to happen.

Mitch Epperly

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If a city or county needs three or more districts due to population within them then only one district shall not be fully within said city or county.

I believe this is what the majority of the people who voted to set up this system of controlling districts wanted to happen.

Mitch Epperly

Subject: Public Comment: Redistricting

Date: Monday, May 23, 2011 10:14 AM

From: Terry Trombly <[REDACTED]>

To: <[REDACTED]>

Conversation: Public Comment: Redistricting

From: Terry Trombly <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Redistricting

Message Body:

I have a simple question for the panel, why are you listening to any inputs from activists from either side? I voted for an independent commission - you. There should be a formula from which you determine districts based on population not ideology or politics or suggestions from special interest groups.

The state is in trouble and creating a situation where nothing but Democrats can get elected will most assuredly bankrupt and destroy the state. We the people of California will bear the brunt of this decision and our standard of living will decrease to the point that staying in Ca will no longer be sustainable.

Your decisions will most certainly impact the political landscape, but I would hope that they don't stack the deck in favor of the liberal democrats. We've seen what they can do as they've owned the legislature for over 30 years. Do more of the same failed policies that got us into this mess make sense to you?

Please do the right thing. Our future and the future of this state are in your hands.

Sincerely,

Terry

--

This mail is sent via contact form on Citizens Redistricting Commission

Subject: Public Comment: competitive districts

Date: Monday, May 23, 2011 5:17 AM

From: Vaughan Hedges <[REDACTED]>

To: <[REDACTED]>

Conversation: Public Comment: competitive districts

From: Vaughan Hedges <[REDACTED]>

Subject: competitive districts

Message Body:

Competitive districts will force parties to work hard to give us their best candidates and their best ideas, and once in office, the best implementation of those ideas.

I know there are many conflicting considerations for you to weigh as you face the very difficult task before you.

Please keep in mind that competitive districting can give us a government that helps us achieve a greater community, and a greater future.

--

This mail is sent via contact form on Citizens Redistricting Commission

Subject: Congressional Redistricting Plan

Date: Monday, May 23, 2011 4:54 PM

From: [REDACTED]

To: <[REDACTED]>

Conversation: Congressional Redistricting Plan

I am submitting a congressional redistricting plan for twenty-one districts (Congressional District 19 is not complete). While none of the twenty-one districts is sufficiently close to the required population standard, most of the districts are within one percent of 702,905.

While this plan probably has a number of errors, the plan provides an idea for how Northern California's congressional districts could be redistricted.

District numbering follows the current congressional numbering system with a few exceptions. The new Congressional District 16 would be a new Central Valley district. Congressional District 23 is renamed Congressional District 24 and Congressional District 24 is renamed Congressional District 23.

Highlights and Explanations

The northernmost part of the state is divided among coastal, valley, and mountainous districts.

Congressional District 13 would be approximately 52% Asian. Congressional District 17 would be approximately 65% Hispanic.

District 1

Del Norte County (all)
Humboldt County (all)
Mendocino County (all)
Lake County (all)
Sonoma County (partial)
Napa County (partial)
Yolo County (all)
Sacramento County (partial)

Part of Sonoma County is moved to District 6.

American Canyon of Napa County is moved to District 7.

Part of Sacramento County is added.

District 2

Siskiyou County (all)
Trinity County (all)
Shasta County (all)
Tehama County (all)
Glenn County (all)
Butte County (partial)
Colusa County (all)
Sutter County (all)
Yuba County (all)

The portion of Yolo County currently in District 2 is moved to District 1.

Butte County is divided between two congressional districts. This seemed to be a better choice than having perhaps one or more of Trinity County, Glenn County, or Colusa County be moved to District 1.

District 3

Placer County (partial)
Sacramento County (partial)

Alpine, Amador, and Calaveras Counties are moved to District 4.

No part of Solano County would be part of the district.

Part of Placer County is added from District 4.

District 4

Modoc County (all)
Lassen County (all)
Plumas County (all)
Butte County (partial)
Sierra County (all)
Nevada County (all)
Placer County (partial)
El Dorado County (all)
Amador County (all)
Calaveras County (all)
Alpine County (all)
Mono County (all)

Part of Placer County is moved to District 3.

No part of Sacramento County would be in the district.

Amador, Calaveras, and Alpine Counties are added from District 3.

Mono County is added from District 25.

District 5

Sacramento County (partial)

Part of Sacramento (the city) is moved to District 3.

No part of Arden-Arcade or Rancho Cordova would be in the district.

All of Elk Grove and Vineyard CDP would be in the district.

All district boundary modifications are within Sacramento County.

District 6

Sonoma County (partial)
Marin County (all)

Part of Sonoma County is added from District 1.

District 7

Contra Costa County (partial)
Napa County (partial)

Solano County (partial)

American Canyon of Napa County is added from District 1.

All other district modifications are within Contra Costa and Solano Counties.

No part of Clayton, Concord, or Martinez would be in the district.

Antioch, Fairfield, and Suisun City are added from District 10.

District 8

San Francisco County (partial)

Part of San Francisco County is added from District 12.

District 9

Alameda County (partial)

Albany, Berkeley, Emeryville, Piedmont, and parts of Oakland are moved to District 10.

Ashland CDP and Castro Valley are moved to District 11.

Newark, San Leandro, San Lorenzo CDP, and Hayward are added from District 13.

Ashland CDP should be part of this district.

District 10

Alameda County (partial)

Contra Costa County (partial)

Antioch is moved to District 7.

No part of Sacramento or Solano Counties would be in the district.

Albany, Berkeley, Emeryville, Piedmont, and parts of Oakland are added from District 9.

Danville is added from District 11.

District 11

Alameda County (partial)

Contra Costa County (partial)

Sacramento County (partial)

San Joaquin County (partial)

Solano County (partial)

Danville is moved to District 10.

Most of the San Joaquin County areas which are currently part of District 11 are moved out of the district. Tracy, however, remains in the district.

No part of Santa Clara County is in the district.

Adds portions of Sacramento and Solano Counties.

Vacaville is added from District 7.

District 12

San Francisco County (partial)
San Mateo County (partial)

Parts of San Francisco County are moved to District 8.

All of Redwood City, East Palo Alto, and Menlo Park are in the district.

Additional boundaries adjustments with District 14.

District 13

Alameda County (partial)
Santa Clara County (partial)

Alameda, Hayward, Newark, San Leandro, and San Lorenzo CDP are moved to District 9.

Milpitas, Sunnyvale, Cupertino, and parts of San Jose are added to the district.

Approximately 52% Asian.

District 14

San Mateo County (partial)
Santa Clara County (partial)
Santa Cruz County (partial)
Monterey County (partial)

District 15

Santa Clara County (partial)

District 16

Sacramento County (partial)
San Joaquin County (partial)
Stanislaus County (partial)

District 17

Monterey County (partial)
San Benito County (all)
Santa Clara County (partial)
Santa Cruz County (partial)

Approximately 65% Hispanic.

District 18

San Joaquin County (partial)
Stanislaus County (partial)
Merced County (all)
Madera County (partial)
Fresno County (partial)

Hispanic percentage is increased from current district.

District 19

District not completed.

District 20

Fresno County (partial)
Kings County (partial)
Tulare County (partial)
Kern County (partial)

Districts 21-22

Districts 21-22 are not part of this plan.

District 23

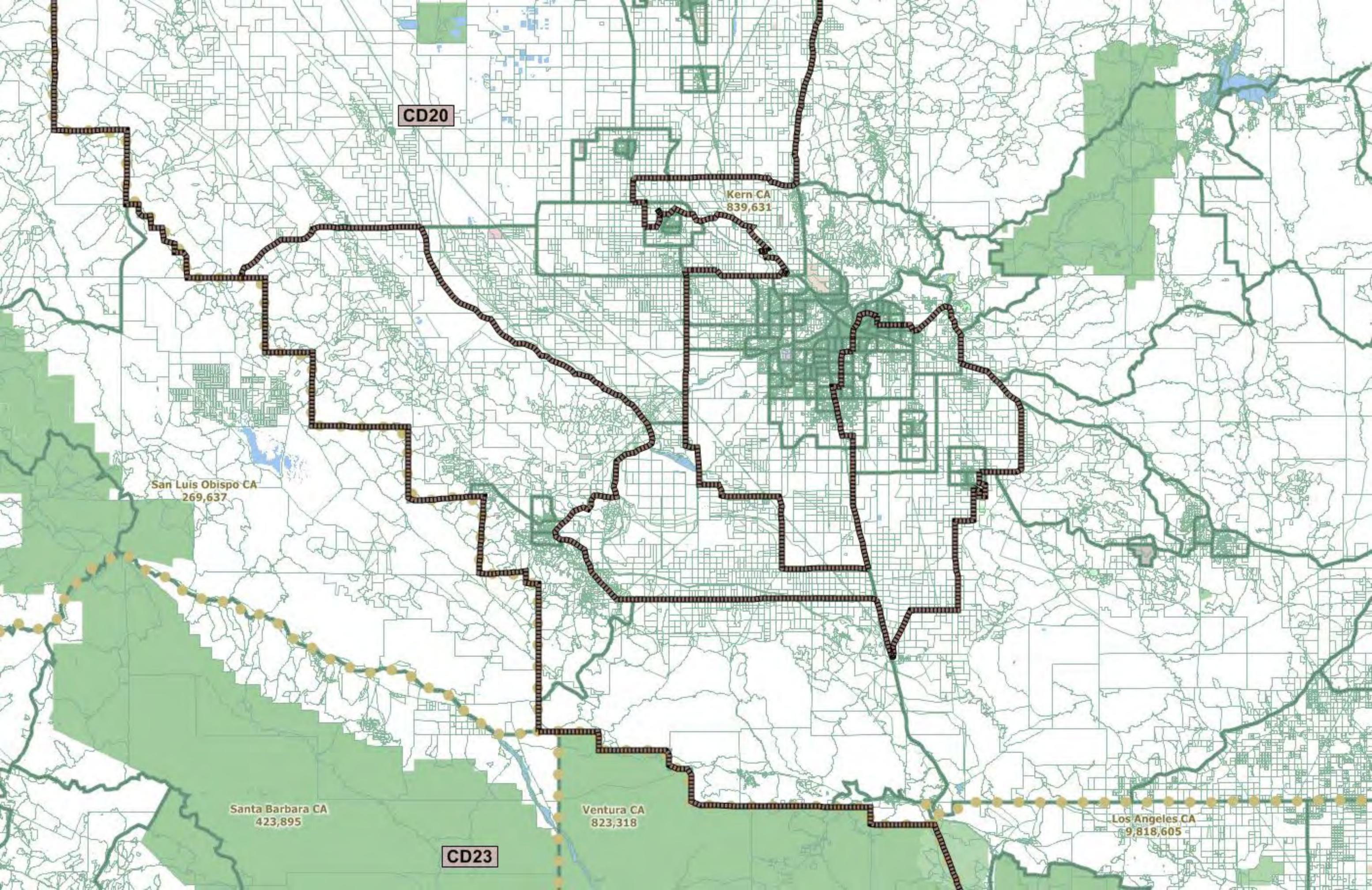
Monterey County (partial)
San Luis Obispo County (all)
Santa Barbara County (partial)
Ventura County (partial)

District 24

Santa Barbara County (partial)
Ventura County (partial)

Santa Paula, Fillmore, and Piru CDP are not part of this district. These communities could be added by subtracting sufficient population from the district.

Presented by J. Nakamura



CD20

Kern CA
839,631

San Luis Obispo CA
269,637

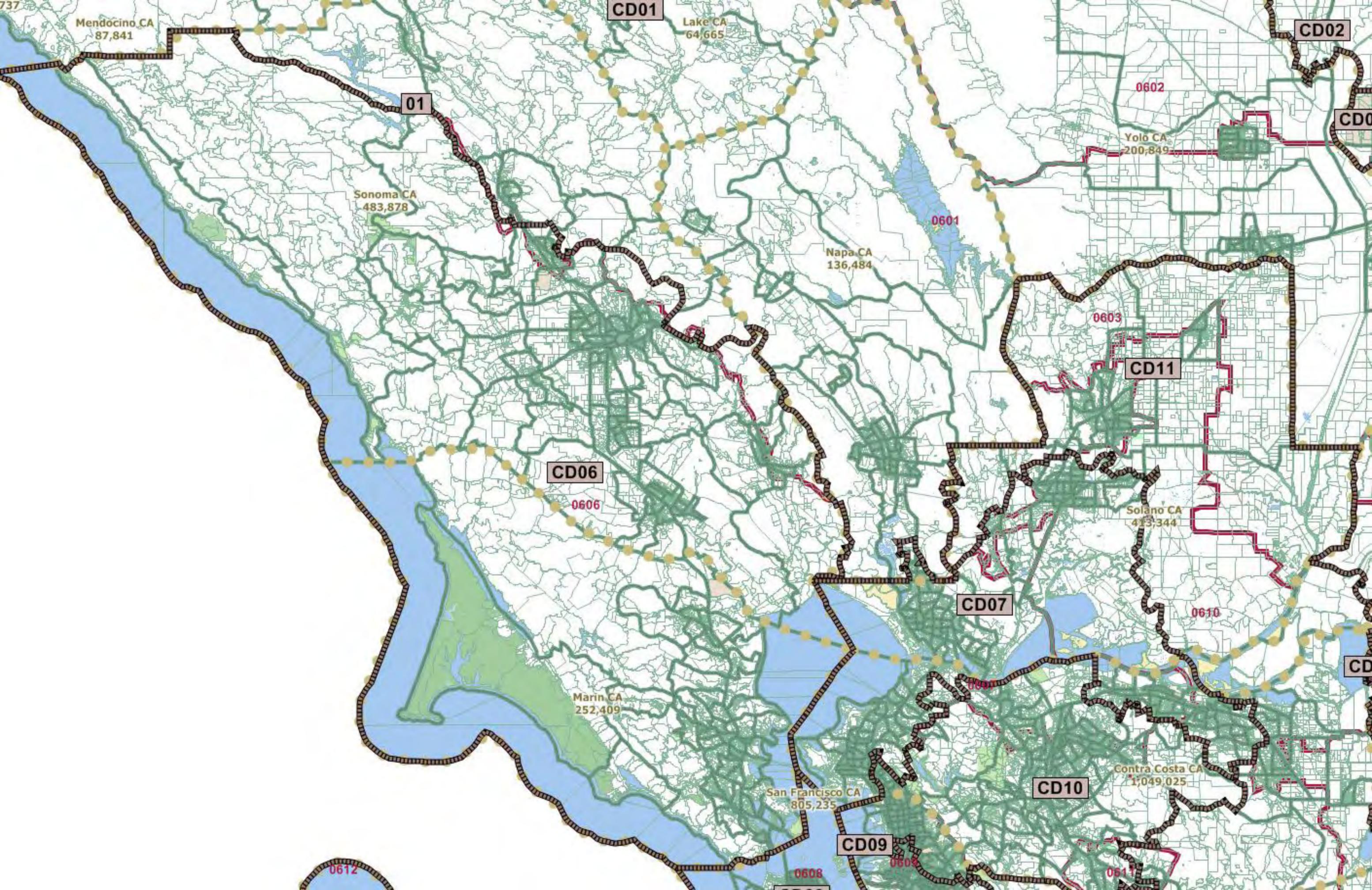
Santa Barbara CA
423,895

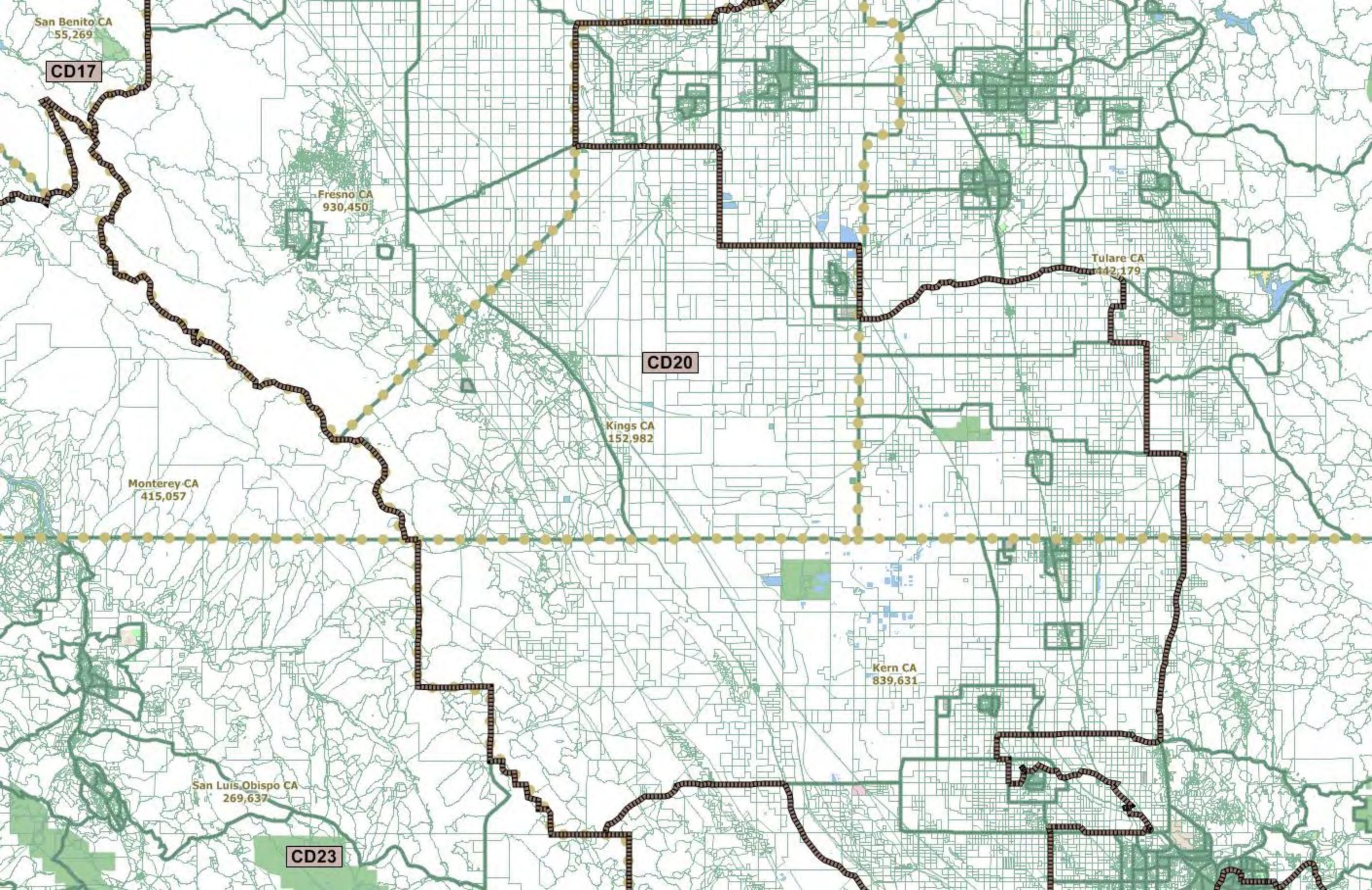
Ventura CA
823,318

Los Angeles CA
9,818,605

CD23





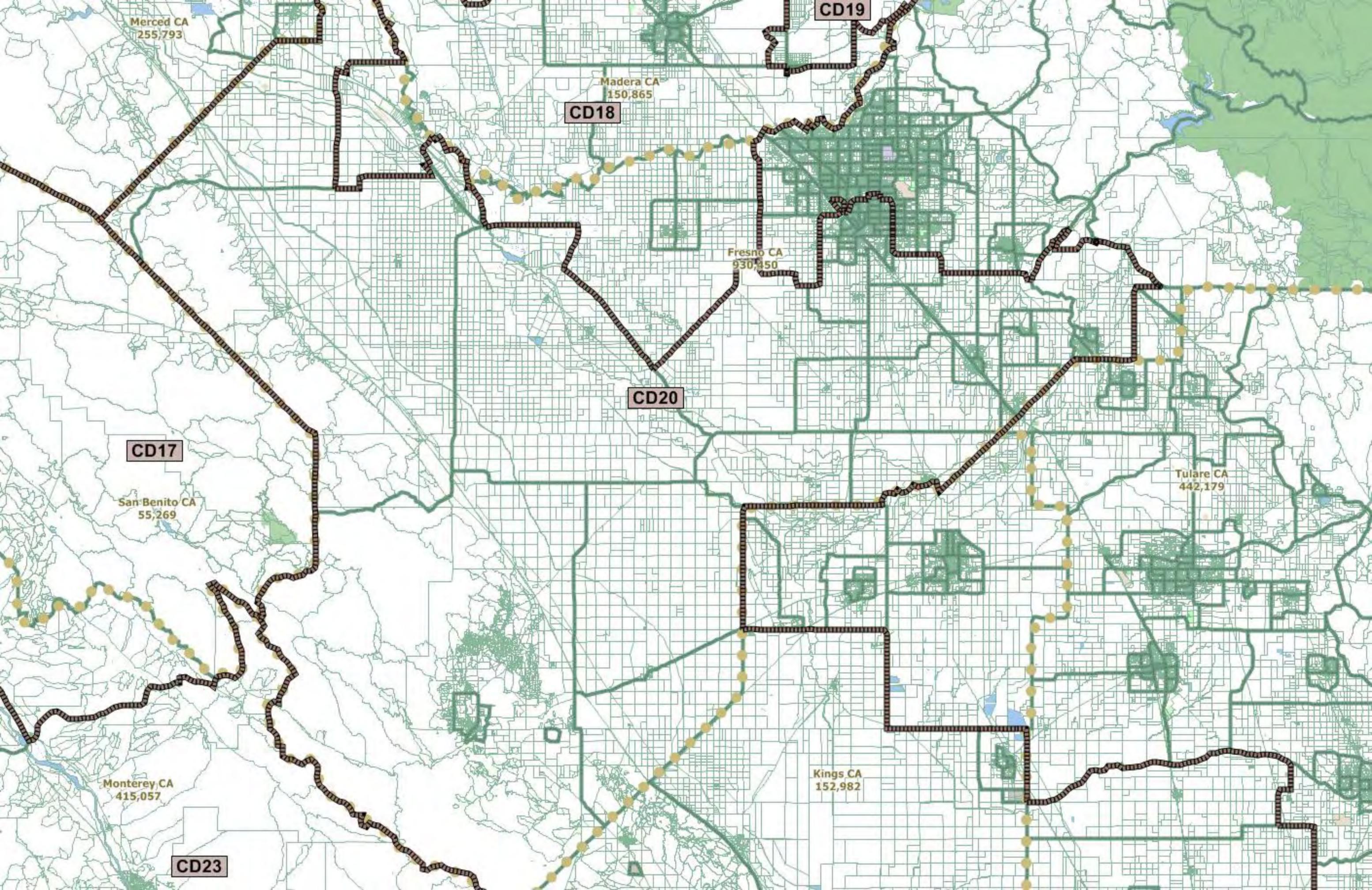


CD17

CD20

CD23





Merced CA
255,793

CD18

Madera CA
150,865

CD19

Fresno CA
930,850

CD20

CD17

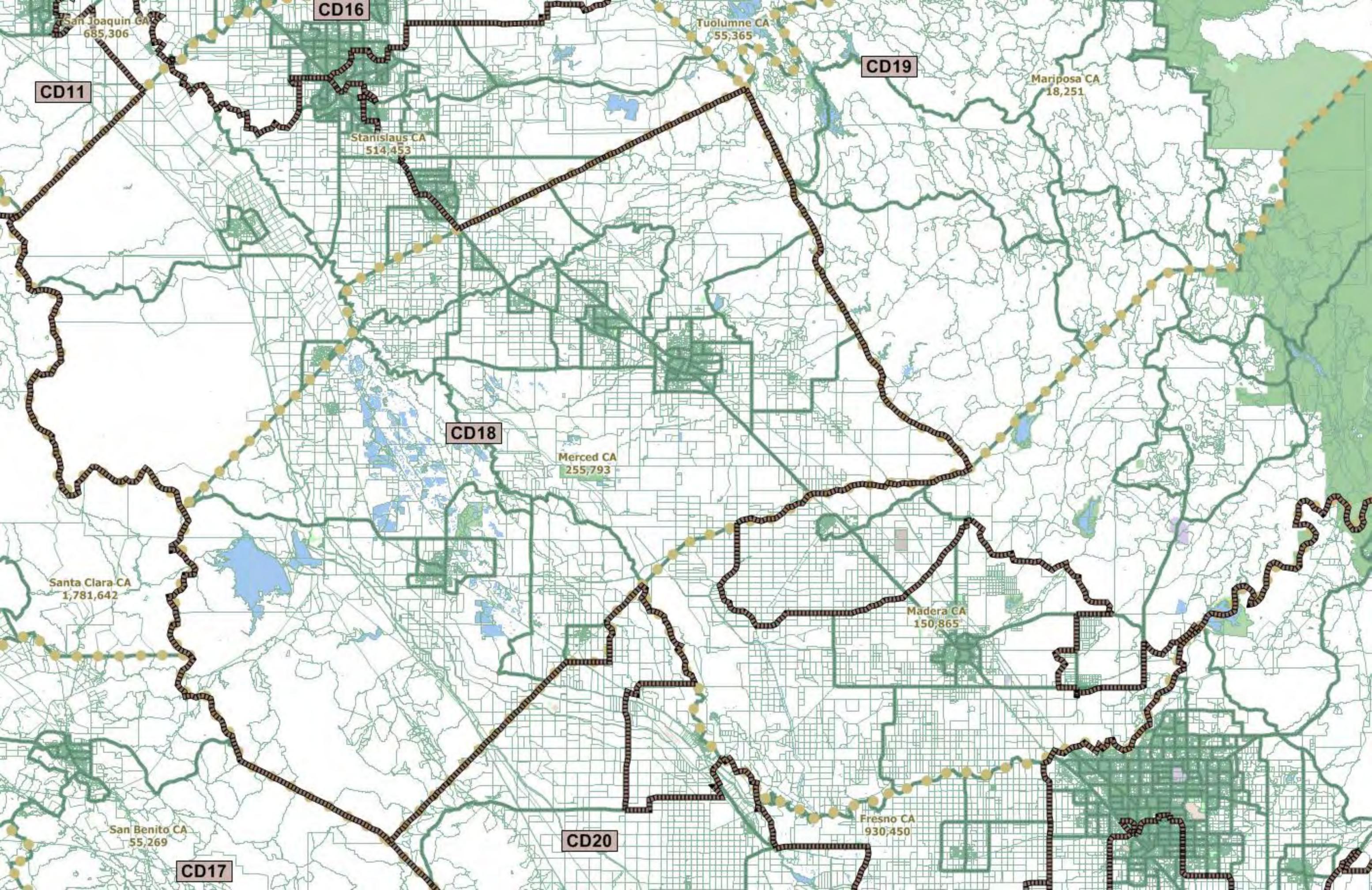
San Benito CA
55,269

Tulare CA
442,179

Monterey CA
415,057

Kings CA
152,982

CD23



CD11

CD16

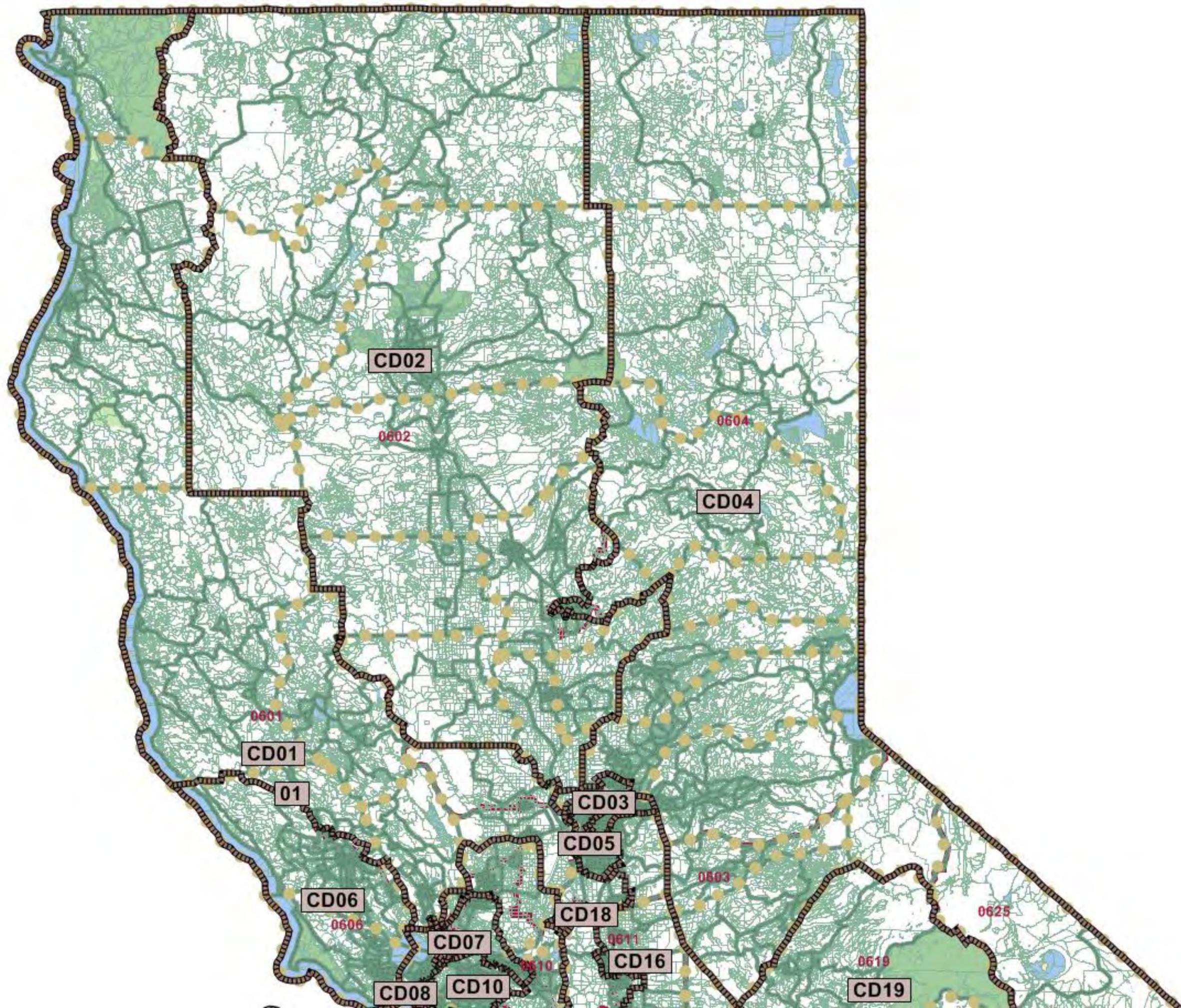
CD19

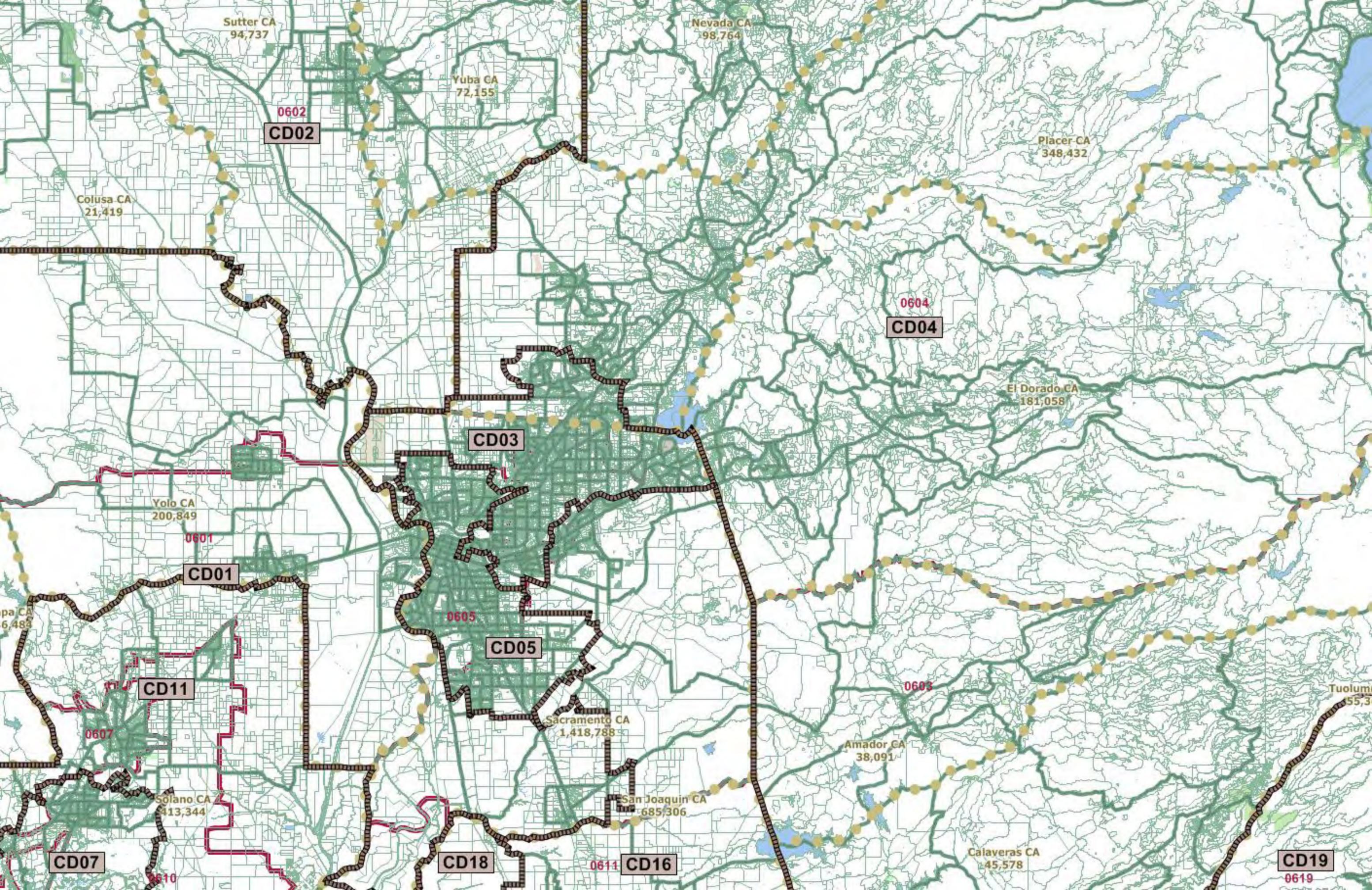
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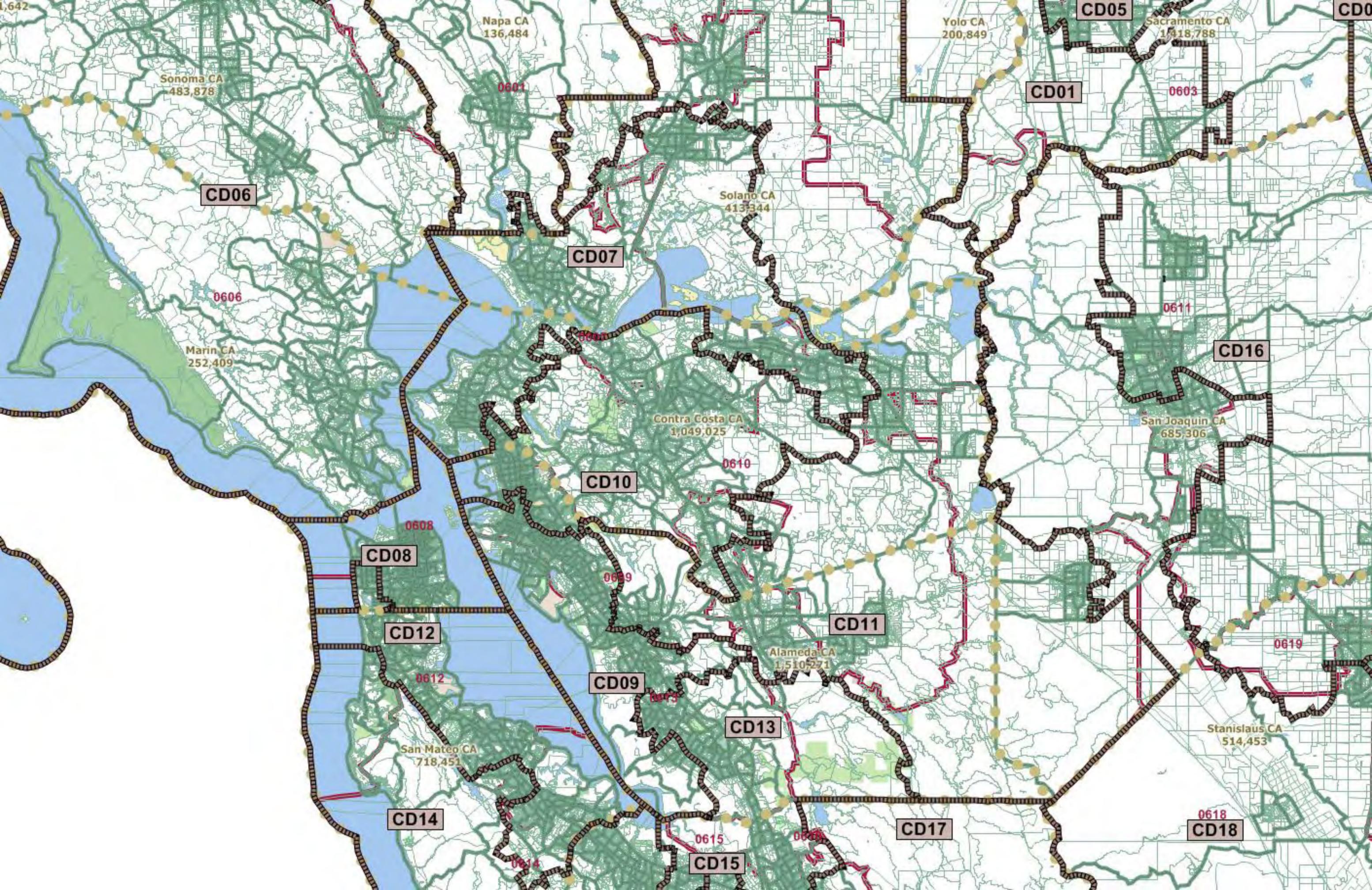
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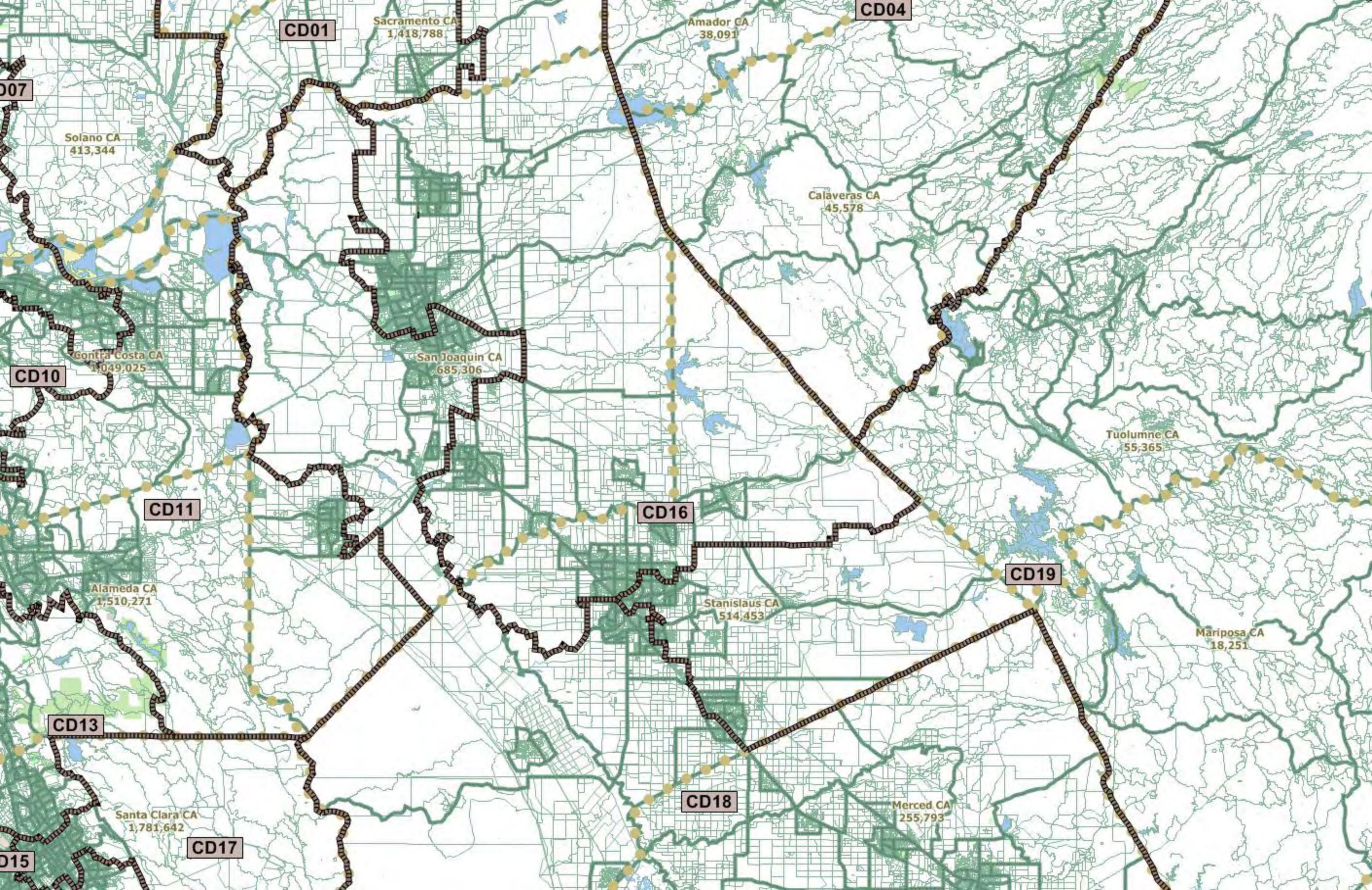
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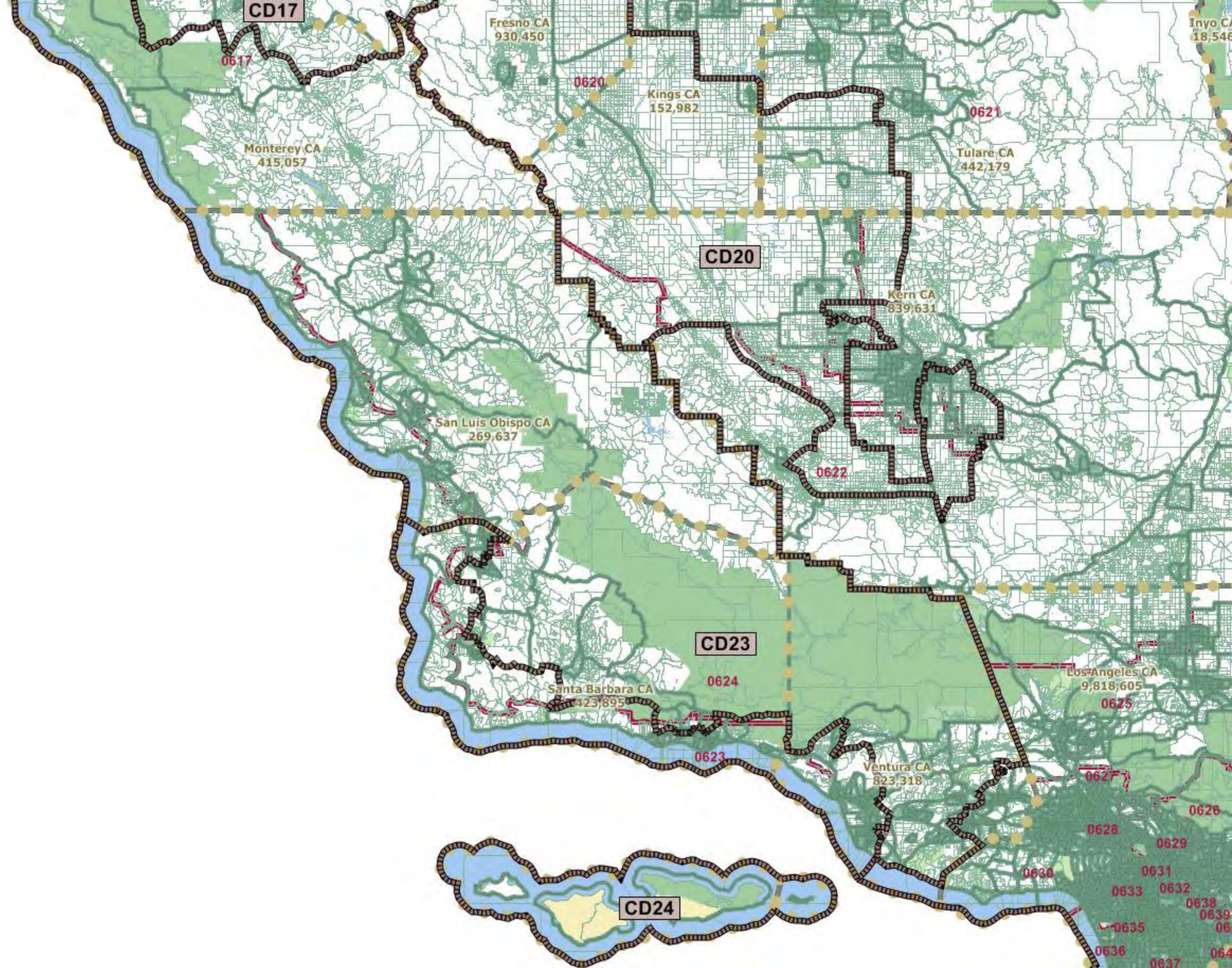


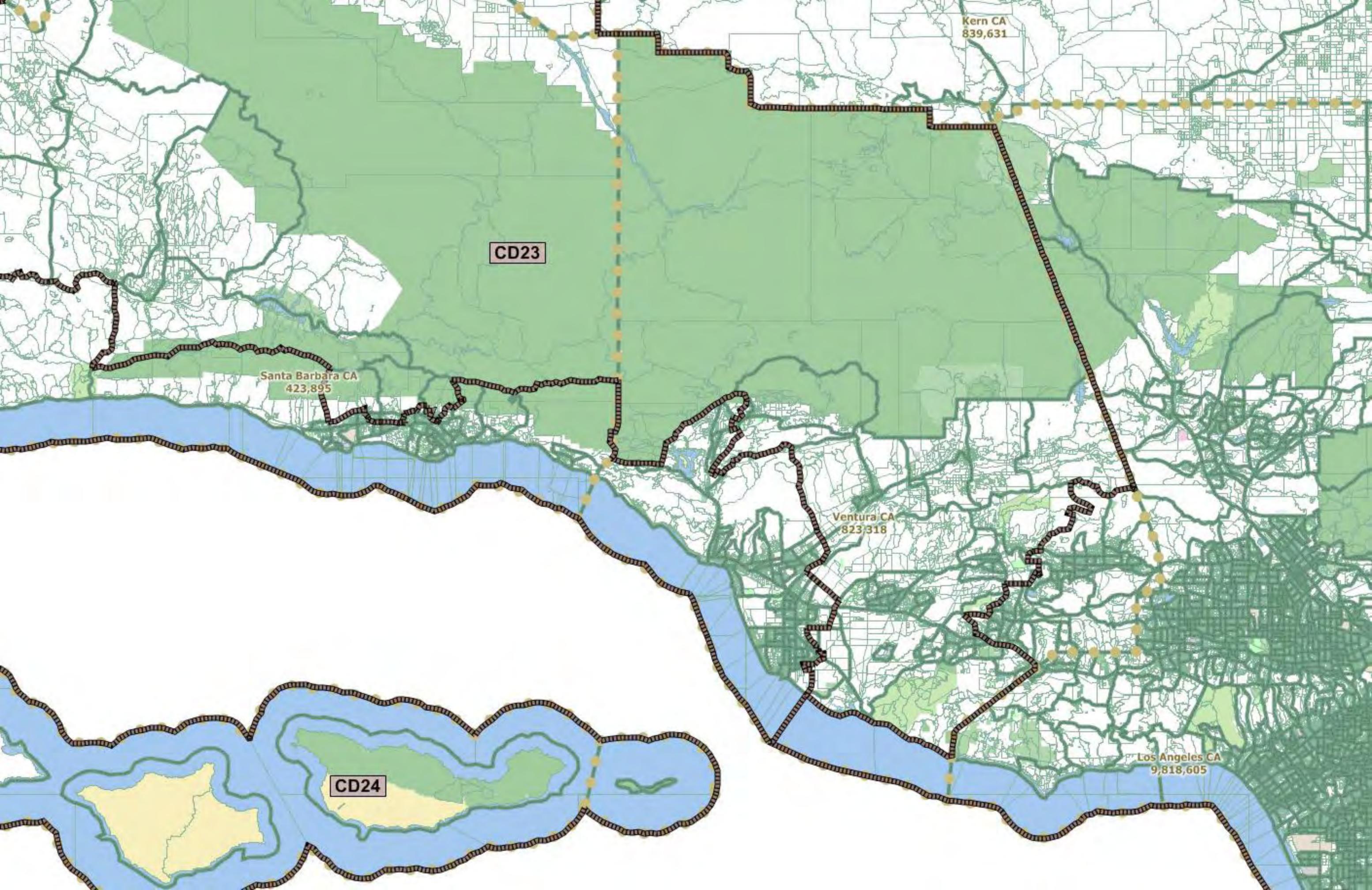












Kern CA
839,631

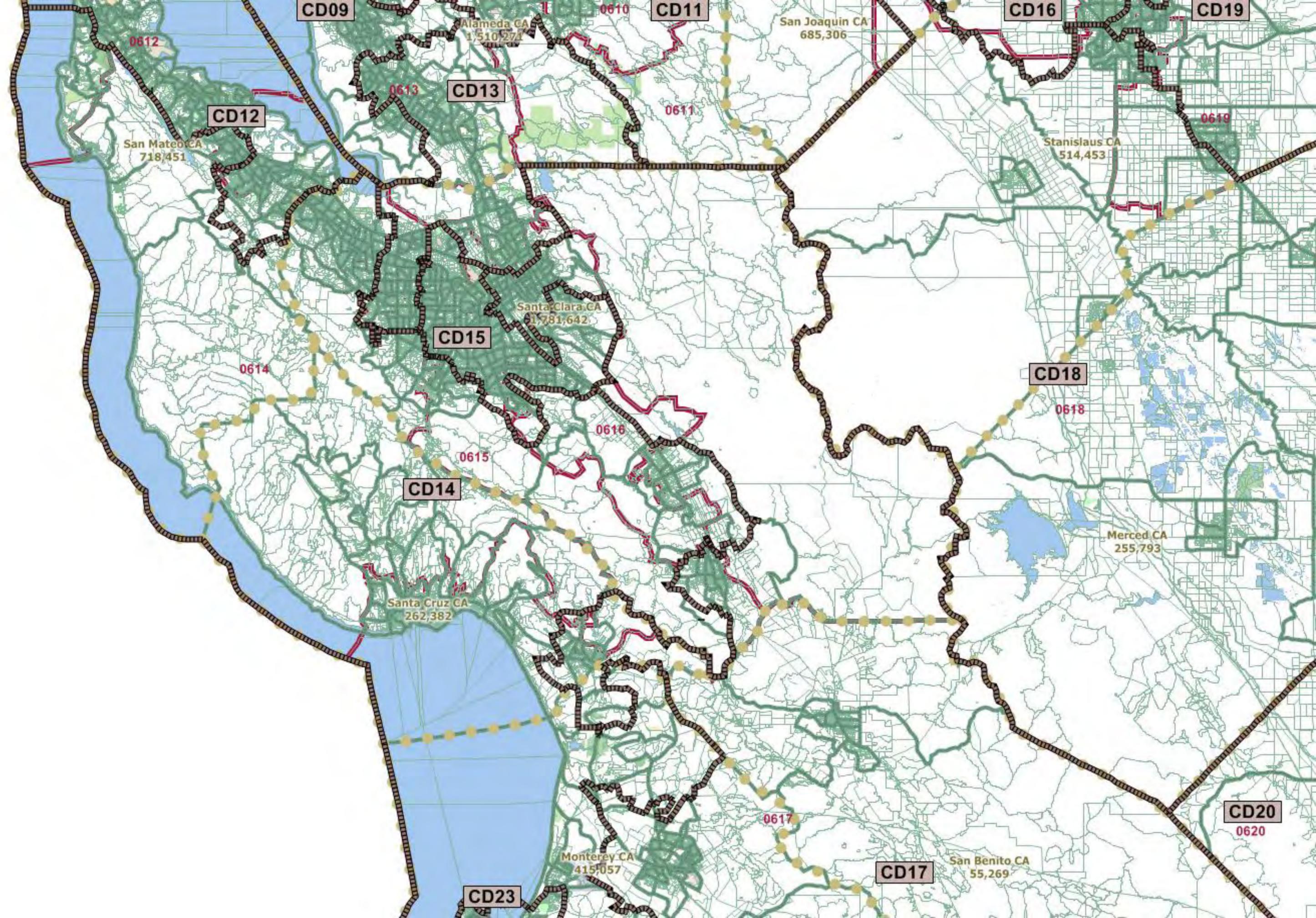
CD23

Santa Barbara CA
423,895

Ventura CA
823,318

Los Angeles CA
9,818,605

CD24





PROTECTING **E**ARTH & **A**NIMALS **W**ITH **C**OMPASSION & **E**DUICATION

P.O. Box 846 • Newcastle, CA 95658 • [REDACTED]

May 23, 2011

Sent via email and fax

Citizens Redistricting Commission
1130 K Street, Suite 101
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Drawing District Boundaries

Although there may be some merit in “grouping” and “Community of Interest,” we believe those approaches can lead to the very gerrymandering that the voters of California soundly rejected. Where there is merit in “grouping” is with the common areas in which people share the same facilities and services—transportation, police/fire, local government boundaries, etc., but in general, neither “grouping” nor “interest” should drive redistricting and new boundaries.

We urge the commission to consider **watershed boundaries** as the most impartial and just criteria or standard in which to set district boundaries. Of course, watershed boundaries do not always conveniently follow population trends or development. Thus, some leeway will have to be given. However, whenever and to the fullest extent possible, we urge the commission to use watershed boundaries as guiding elements.

If there is a “jagged” district boundary line caused by a waterway, the public will accept that much more readily than a jagged line as currently found in gerrymandering and artificial political manipulations we are hoping to end.

We fully appreciate your tough job and, hopefully, your good work.

Sincerely,

Randall Cleveland

Randall Cleveland for the PEACE Team

Subject: Fwd: Submittal of Testimony for Citizens Redistricting Commission meeting Tuesday, May 24, 2011

Date: Monday, May 23, 2011 4:31 PM

From: Office, Communications <[REDACTED]>

To: Christina Shupe <[REDACTED]>

Conversation: Submittal of Testimony for Citizens Redistricting Commission meeting Tuesday, May 24, 2011

----- Forwarded message -----

From: <[REDACTED]>

Date: Mon, May 23, 2011 at 3:58 PM

Subject: Submittal of Testimony for Citizens Redistricting Commission meeting Tuesday, May 24, 2011

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: William Boyer <[REDACTED]>

Submitted herewith is testimony for presentation by Boyer and Associates on behalf of the California Black Farmers and Agriculturalist to the Citizens Redistricting Commission on Tuesday, May 24, 2011.

Testimony for California Citizens Redistricting Commission

May 24, 2011

Laney College

Oakland, California

Presented by William Boyer, Boyer and Associates
Representing the California Black Farmers and Agriculturalist

**TESTIMONY AND SUBMITTAL OF STATEWIDE MULTIPLE DISTRICT
PLANS FOR CALIFORNIA STATE SENATE AND ASSEMBLY
PRESENTED TO THE
CALIFORNIA REDISTRICTING COMMISSION
Tuesday, May 24, 2011**

My name is William Boyer and I am here this morning to present the Statewide Multiple Redistricting Plan for the State Senate and Assembly to the California Redistricting Commission.

In 2001, I collaborated with the African American Redistricting Project for the City of Sacramento. We coalesced with two other community groups and submitted a map that was used by the City for the final approved plan. In 2002, I worked with community members in Elk Grove, California for the city's first redistricting process. Our proposed map was recommended by the City's consultant and adopted by the Elk Grove City Council. In 2004, I worked with local Sacramento teachers to assist them in the analysis of alternative proposals for seven area trustee districts for the Sacramento City Unified School District. All trustees had to live in the area they sought to represent. I have more than 50 years of experience as a community organizer. I have worked as labor union organizer and organized and recruited workers in Washington, D.C., New York City, Detroit Michigan, Florida and California. I currently own and operate two internet radio stations called www.realblackradio.com.

My associate is Helen Hewitt, former District Director for Sacramento City Council District 5. Ms. Hewitt has over 25 years of professional management experience and support in a fast paced environment demanding strong analytical, organizational, management, prioritization, and interpersonal skills. She has expert knowledge of the principles and practices of government operations, organizations, and public administration. In 2001 Ms. Hewitt worked with the coalition and council staff to finalize the community drawn map for council approval and has acquired a working knowledge of GIS systems.

I would like to give you a very short history of African Americans in California. The Conquistadors with their Native American and Black slaves and freemen founded the Pueblo De Los Angeles in 1781. We have been in this state for 320 years.

In 1855 the Democratic State Journal printed and reported the proceedings of the first State Convention of the Colored People of California which was held in Sacramento

from November 20-22. The Colored Methodist Bethel A.M.E. Church was the host. The purpose of the convention was taking into consideration the propriety of petitioning the California State Legislature for a change in the law relating to testimony of Colored people in the courts of Justice in this state. And, adopt plans for the general improvement of the condition of Colored people throughout the State. The delegates included representatives from Sierra, Nevada, Yuba, Eldorado, Sacramento, San Joaquin, Tuolumne, San Francisco, Contra Costa, and Santa Clara counties.

Democratic State Journal (1855)

My reason for telling you these facts is to make it clear to you that Sacramento's Black citizens have been at the forefront of assuring the general improvement of the political condition throughout the State of California for centuries. In 1832 William A. Leidesdorff, a man whose mother was African and Father was a Danish Jew, who developed San Francisco, built its first school, was Treasurer of its government, and also the U.S. Consul to Mexico. He secured for himself a land grant from Mexico of 35,000 acres that we know today as the City of Folsom, Negro Bar State Recreation Area, and also the City of Rancho Cordova. Another important Californian was James Beckwourth, an African descended trader, mountain guide, U.S. Army Scout who discovered the Beckwourth Pass through the Sierra Nevada Mountains and with Kit Carson accepted the surrender of Mexican General Vallejo, and the territory of California to the United States.

California, over the last decade, has experienced a seismic shift in population growth and migration. The demographics are punctuated by recent immigrants truly from around the globe. This new reality of demographic makeup can, but must not threaten the legacy, contribution, achievements, and stability of the Negro political improvement. The shift is so great that every elected official is worried that every political boundary may be changed.

Just before her death in 1955, Dr. Mary McCloud Bethune, a Black educator and founder of the National Council of Negro Women, left us these words to guide our civic improvement. "I leave you love, injuries quickly forgotten quickly pass away. Personally and racially our enemies must be forgiven. Our aim must be to create a world of fellowship and justice where no man's color or religion is held against him. Love thy neighbor is a precept which could transform the world if it were universally practiced... Loving your neighbor means being interracial, interreligious, and international... Yesterday, our ancestors endured the degradation of slavery, yet they retained their dignity... Tomorrow, a new Negro unhindered by race taboos and shackles will benefit from this striving and struggling." ***Crisis Magazine, (October 1999)***

And today, Barack Obama is President of these United States.

The seats now held by African Americans in the State Senate and Congress all transect in State Assembly Districts 47, 48, 51, and 52. None of these seats exceeded 30% Black population when drawn in 2001. Yet they reflect the communities in core areas where Black people have lived for centuries. Assembly District 62, which has a 14% Black population, has an African-descended incumbent. Black people have persistently won seats in jurisdictions with less than 20% Black populations. As constituents and candidates, we must organize these potential districts while we build coalitions with recent immigrants and our friends and neighbors.

We hereby submit two Statewide Multiple Redistricting plans drawing your attention to Assembly Districts 9, 16, 47, 48, 51, 52, 62, and Senate Districts 6, 9, 25, and 26. These districts are as near zero deviation as practical. In drawing these districts we took into consideration the raw population numbers, congruity, and the intent of the law as outlined in the following court cases.

In *Baker v Carr* the Supreme Court created the one man, one vote rule. This required greater equality among district populations. In *Wesberry v Sanders* the Supreme Court extended the equal population of districts to congressional seats and required states to make a good faith effort to achieve mathematical equality for each district, hence the phrase “ideal” population. ***Baker v Carr, 369 U.S. 186 (1962), Wesberry v Sanders 376 U.S. 1 (1964)***

In *Thornburg v Gingles* the Supreme Court created the Gingles Threshold Test.

1. Is the minority population geographically compact?
2. Does the minority population vote in a cohesive fashion?
3. Would the majority population be able to defeat the preferred candidate of the minority population if it were not protected?

The Gingles Test was created to eliminate multi member districts in southern states where Black populations could vote in their candidate of choice, but for the way the district was drawn. Today, in California the majority population is language protected minorities. The language protected minorities are now the majority population in California. For Black voters that means the exception has eaten up the rule.

Thornburg v Gingles, 478 U.S. 30 (1986)

In *Cox v Larios* the Supreme Court hired their own demographer who redrew the Georgia state districts with +/- 1% deviation. ***Cox v Larios 542 U.S. 947 (2004)***

We petition you, the California Redistricting Commission and your demographer, to accept and approve these submissions. Your favorable consideration and approval of these proposed plans will ensure that congruent political communities truly exist. We

humbly submit this recommendation in the hope that it will assist in ensuring freedom and justice for all and equal representation under the law.

Thank you.

Subject: Redistricting

Date: Monday, May 23, 2011 4:29 PM

From: Susan Cullen <[REDACTED]>

To: "[REDACTED]" <[REDACTED]>

Conversation: Redistricting

Redraw the lines of District 3.

Subject: Public Comment: DVC Scores

Date: Monday, May 23, 2011 4:26 PM

From: Marge Nichols <[REDACTED]>

To: <[REDACTED]>

Conversation: Public Comment: DVC Scores

From: Marge Nichols <[REDACTED]>

Subject: DVC Scores

Message Body:

I would like to support Brent Langellier's comment about DVC scores for the Commission's draft maps. Access to the scores would contribute to full understanding of the underpinnings of the proposed districts, and would enhance transparency and confidence in the Commission's process.

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This mail is sent via contact form on Citizens Redistricting Commission

**Subject: Submittal of Testimony for Citizens Redistricting Commission meeting
Tuesday, May 24, 2011**

Date: Monday, May 23, 2011 3:58 PM

From: [REDACTED]

To: <[REDACTED]>

Cc: William Boyer <[REDACTED]>

Conversation: Submittal of Testimony for Citizens Redistricting Commission meeting
Tuesday, May 24, 2011

Submitted herewith is testimony for presentation by Boyer and Associates on behalf of the California Black Farmers and Agriculturalist to the Citizens Redistricting Commission on Tuesday, May 24, 2011.

Testimony for California Citizens Redistricting Commission

May 24, 2011

Laney College

Oakland, California

Presented by William Boyer, Boyer and Associates
Representing the California Black Farmers and Agriculturalist

**TESTIMONY AND SUBMITTAL OF STATEWIDE MULTIPLE DISTRICT
PLANS FOR CALIFORNIA STATE SENATE AND ASSEMBLY
PRESENTED TO THE
CALIFORNIA REDISTRICTING COMMISSION
Tuesday, May 24, 2011**

My name is William Boyer and I am here this morning to present the Statewide Multiple Redistricting Plan for the State Senate and Assembly to the California Redistricting Commission.

In 2001, I collaborated with the African American Redistricting Project for the City of Sacramento. We coalesced with two other community groups and submitted a map that was used by the City for the final approved plan. In 2002, I worked with community members in Elk Grove, California for the city's first redistricting process. Our proposed map was recommended by the City's consultant and adopted by the Elk Grove City Council. In 2004, I worked with local Sacramento teachers to assist them in the analysis of alternative proposals for seven area trustee districts for the Sacramento City Unified School District. All trustees had to live in the area they sought to represent. I have more than 50 years of experience as a community organizer. I have worked as labor union organizer and organized and recruited workers in Washington, D.C., New York City, Detroit Michigan, Florida and California. I currently own and operate two internet radio stations called www.realblackradio.com.

My associate is Helen Hewitt, former District Director for Sacramento City Council District 5. Ms. Hewitt has over 25 years of professional management experience and support in a fast paced environment demanding strong analytical, organizational, management, prioritization, and interpersonal skills. She has expert knowledge of the principles and practices of government operations, organizations, and public administration. In 2001 Ms. Hewitt worked with the coalition and council staff to finalize the community drawn map for council approval and has acquired a working knowledge of GIS systems.

I would like to give you a very short history of African Americans in California. The Conquistadors with their Native American and Black slaves and freemen founded the Pueblo De Los Angeles in 1781. We have been in this state for 320 years.

In 1855 the Democratic State Journal printed and reported the proceedings of the first State Convention of the Colored People of California which was held in Sacramento

from November 20-22. The Colored Methodist Bethel A.M.E. Church was the host. The purpose of the convention was taking into consideration the propriety of petitioning the California State Legislature for a change in the law relating to testimony of Colored people in the courts of Justice in this state. And, adopt plans for the general improvement of the condition of Colored people throughout the State. The delegates included representatives from Sierra, Nevada, Yuba, Eldorado, Sacramento, San Joaquin, Tuolumne, San Francisco, Contra Costa, and Santa Clara counties.

Democratic State Journal (1855)

My reason for telling you these facts is to make it clear to you that Sacramento's Black citizens have been at the forefront of assuring the general improvement of the political condition throughout the State of California for centuries. In 1832 William A. Leidesdorff, a man whose mother was African and Father was a Danish Jew, who developed San Francisco, built its first school, was Treasurer of its government, and also the U.S. Consul to Mexico. He secured for himself a land grant from Mexico of 35,000 acres that we know today as the City of Folsom, Negro Bar State Recreation Area, and also the City of Rancho Cordova. Another important Californian was James Beckwourth, an African descended trader, mountain guide, U.S. Army Scout who discovered the Beckwourth Pass through the Sierra Nevada Mountains and with Kit Carson accepted the surrender of Mexican General Vallejo, and the territory of California to the United States.

California, over the last decade, has experienced a seismic shift in population growth and migration. The demographics are punctuated by recent immigrants truly from around the globe. This new reality of demographic makeup can, but must not threaten the legacy, contribution, achievements, and stability of the Negro political improvement. The shift is so great that every elected official is worried that every political boundary may be changed.

Just before her death in 1955, Dr. Mary McCloud Bethune, a Black educator and founder of the National Council of Negro Women, left us these words to guide our civic improvement. "I leave you love, injuries quickly forgotten quickly pass away. Personally and racially our enemies must be forgiven. Our aim must be to create a world of fellowship and justice where no man's color or religion is held against him. Love thy neighbor is a precept which could transform the world if it were universally practiced... Loving your neighbor means being interracial, interreligious, and international... Yesterday, our ancestors endured the degradation of slavery, yet they retained their dignity... Tomorrow, a new Negro unhindered by race taboos and shackles will benefit from this striving and struggling." ***Crisis Magazine, (October 1999)***

And today, Barack Obama is President of these United States.

The seats now held by African Americans in the State Senate and Congress all transect in State Assembly Districts 47, 48, 51, and 52. None of these seats exceeded 30% Black population when drawn in 2001. Yet they reflect the communities in core areas where Black people have lived for centuries. Assembly District 62, which has a 14% Black population, has an African-descended incumbent. Black people have persistently won seats in jurisdictions with less than 20% Black populations. As constituents and candidates, we must organize these potential districts while we build coalitions with recent immigrants and our friends and neighbors.

We hereby submit two Statewide Multiple Redistricting plans drawing your attention to Assembly Districts 9, 16, 47, 48, 51, 52, 62, and Senate Districts 6, 9, 25, and 26. These districts are as near zero deviation as practical. In drawing these districts we took into consideration the raw population numbers, congruity, and the intent of the law as outlined in the following court cases.

In *Baker v Carr* the Supreme Court created the one man, one vote rule. This required greater equality among district populations. In *Wesberry v Sanders* the Supreme Court extended the equal population of districts to congressional seats and required states to make a good faith effort to achieve mathematical equality for each district, hence the phrase “ideal” population. ***Baker v Carr*, 369 U.S. 186 (1962), *Wesberry v Sanders* 376 U.S. 1 (1964)**

In *Thornburg v Gingles* the Supreme Court created the Gingles Threshold Test.

1. Is the minority population geographically compact?
2. Does the minority population vote in a cohesive fashion?
3. Would the majority population be able to defeat the preferred candidate of the minority population if it were not protected?

The Gingles Test was created to eliminate multi member districts in southern states where Black populations could vote in their candidate of choice, but for the way the district was drawn. Today, in California the majority population is language protected minorities. The language protected minorities are now the majority population in California. For Black voters that means the exception has eaten up the rule.

***Thornburg v Gingles*, 478 U.S. 30 (1986)**

In *Cox v Larios* the Supreme Court hired their own demographer who redrew the Georgia state districts with +/- 1% deviation. ***Cox v Larios* 542 U.S. 947 (2004)**

We petition you, the California Redistricting Commission and your demographer, to accept and approve these submissions. Your favorable consideration and approval of these proposed plans will ensure that congruent political communities truly exist. We

humbly submit this recommendation in the hope that it will assist in ensuring freedom and justice for all and equal representation under the law.

Thank you.

Subject: Support for the redistricting testimonies

Date: Monday, May 23, 2011 3:22 PM

From: OFELIA DIRIGE <[REDACTED]>

To: <[REDACTED]>

Conversation: Support for the redistricting testimonies

I would like to support the testimonies of the ff persons:

Ley Ebrada
Rita Andrews
Ofelia Dirige
Edward Aparia
Ivan Penetrante
Virgil Yalong
Marita Ferrer.

Many thanks

Dr. Ofelia Dirige
President & CEO
Kalusugan Community Services
FilAm Wellness Center

Subject: Public Comment: Use watersheds and bioregions in redistricting

Date: Monday, May 23, 2011 1:27 PM

From: Kevin Wolf <[REDACTED]>

To: <[REDACTED]>

Conversation: Public Comment: Use watersheds and bioregions in redistricting

From: Kevin Wolf <[REDACTED]>

Subject: Use watersheds and bioregions in redistricting

Message Body:

Dear Redistricting Commission,

Water quality, water supply, flood control, species habitat and associated growth and transportation issues should compel you to consider bioregions and watersheds as a key criteria in how you redistrict the state.

I will use Yolo and Solano County as the example. These counties share Putah Creek as part of their watershed. The other major tributary is Cache Creek and the salmon and steelhead that have returned to Putah Creek will make take a similar route up from the Delta to Cache Creek when that stream's native fisheries are restored.

These two counties have very similar water rights both in area of origin and Sacramento River rights. They both use similar ground water supplies. They both deal with similar pollution problems that threaten their groundwater supplies.

These two counties face similar flood threats. They are not so much threatened by Sacramento Valley and River floods as local flooding created by creeks and streams that flow through their common counties.

Both these counties have a stake in the Delta. They should be combined to have a strong say in the delta's preservation and restoration. Counties in the northern part of the valley have little at stake with the Delta except in how they might be able to export more or less water through the Delta to buyers in the south.

These two counties face growth pressures along the I80 corridor yet both are trying to preserve prime ag land and habitat. They would benefit being linked together politically to help them better deal with and make the best land use decisions this growth pressure creates. As growth continues, they have a more pressing common need to preserve land and habitat and densify their housing and improve mass transit.

Splitting these counties apart will weaken each in their ability to advance their common agendas and protect their citizens and natural assets.

Thank you for considering this.

Sincerely,

Kevin Wolf
[REDACTED]

P.S. I have been a volunteer (unpaid) environmental (with a specialty in water) and political activist for many years as well as an entrepreneur with a wind energy start up business. I was the chair of the City of Davis' Housing Element Committee for the General Plan and have served on the boards of a number of local organizations.

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