

No Speaker #
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— 05.12.11. A

[REDACTED]
Rancho Mirage, Ca. 92270

May 12, 2011

Citizens Redistricting Commission
1130 K Street, Suite 101
Sacramento, Ca. 95814

Dear Commissioners:

My name is George Garcia, and I live in Rancho Mirage, California, in the 80th California Assembly district and in the 45th U.S. Congressional district. I have lived in Rancho Mirage for 7 years. I am a retired high school teacher with a BA Degree from the University of Southern California and an MS Degree from San Jose State University. I was born in Oxnard, California, in Ventura County, and I have lived in California all my life.

I grew up speaking mostly Spanish, and I worked as a young adult in the fields in Ventura County and in the Coachella Valley, mostly picking fruit along with my family. We worked also at times in the Imperial Valley in the farming industry in Imperial County.

Since moving to this area, and because I am a concerned and active voter, I have been perplexed by my voting districts' complicated, complex, confusing configuration. They simply do not make sense.

I am asking that you consider the geographical limitations that the San Jacinto mountain range puts on the voting district areas of Coachella cities—from cities like Palm Springs south and east to Indio and Coachella and those west of the mountain range, including cities the cities of Hemet, Temecula, Moreno Valley and parts of the city of Riverside in Riverside County. I am proposing that you consider combining the voting districts so that the Coachella Valley area and the Imperial County areas be merged into one district, or that a totally separate district be formed. I am proposing that cities west of the mountain range be part of a different and separate voting district.

I have family and friends living in Hemet, Menifee, Temecula, Perris and Moreno Valley areas, which are in my current voting districts. We have almost no common areas of interest with each other. They are employed, they shop and they go to school in the Hemet, San Jacinto and Moreno Valley areas. They spend most of their time there. They use different roads and interstates that I use, and they use public air transportation from the Ontario airport, not the Palm Springs International Airport, which I use. Their jobs, friends and co-workers live close to them, a far distance from the Coachella Valley.

Agriculture is huge in the Coachella Valley and Imperial Valleys, and industries around that industry share common interests apart from the areas of Hemet, Temecula, and Moreno Valley. The interests, community problems, and challenges facing voters in the combined Coachella Valley/Imperial Valley areas, as well as cities nearby me like Desert Hot Springs (a city merely 5 miles from me but in a different voting district altogether) are much more integrated and common than with the communities on the opposite side of the San Jacinto mountains. Distances, common interests, shopping, access to jobs, educational institutions, and opportunities for community members to need, seek out, and use more localized, common and centralized government and private services speak volumes for why voting districts should be re-districted as separate than what we currently have. Access to elected officials is crucial when considering that the two areas are separate and need to be re-constructed as two different voting districts/areas.

From what I read about population numbers from the last census and from your website (which has been very helpful, by the way), an adjustment should be and must be made to accommodate re-districting in Riverside and Imperial counties.

Additionally, I am a proud and out gay Mexican-American, and the large gay and lesbian population in the Palm Springs/Coachella Valley area gives me access to health, social services, entertainment/social venues and access to other out gay people that simply does not exist as openly in the areas of Hemet, Perris, Temecula and Moreno Valley. I have gay friends who live in Desert Hot Springs and Indio and Coachella and even further south and east who travel to Palm Springs for the open and accepting environment for gays and lesbians.

Please consider my thoughts and ideas when making your re-districting considerations. I can be reached at [REDACTED], if you would like additional information from me. I was unable to testify to you in person on May 14, 2011, in Palm Springs, and I regret that, but I am asking that you take into consideration this written testimony to you.

Sincerely,

George Garcia

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- 05.12.11.B

To: California State Citizens Redistricting Commission

From: John W. Kopp, ██████████, Eastvale, CA 92880-3584

Date: Thursday, May 12, 2011

Re: Citizens Redistricting Commission Public Input Meeting, Palm Springs, CA

**A 2nd Presentation
On Behalf of
Riverside County**

Commission Members, VRA Counsel, Q2 Data Staff, Commission Staff and Members of the Public:

My name is John Kopp. I live in Eastvale, CA. I spoke to you one week ago this evening at your Public Input Hearing in Norco, CA.

At that time, after reciting a tale of woe for **Riverside County** that came at the hands of self-interested state legislators in the 2001 redistricting process, I said "... that, after a decade of metaphorically wandering in the desert, and for simple fairness' sake, this Commission be **Riverside County's** Moses and deliver us to the Promised Land of full and fair representation. ..." I then asked you to give very serious consideration to making *Riverside County* a new starting point when redistricting SoCal.

I appear before you this 2nd time for two general reasons and one personal reason.

First, while a week ago I delivered a message that urged you to keep **Riverside County** together as one unit, and to "deliver us" from the desert and take us to "the Promised Land of full and fair representation", tonight I wish to refine that message. Where we meet tonight is a desert, and though not much like Moses' Sinai, the **Riverside County** residents who live East of the North-South mountain range that divides the populated parts of Riverside County from East to West, consider themselves ONE COMMUNITY and, in fact, refer to themselves as the **Desert Communities**. I urge that you hear what I expect will be many witnesses tonight who urge you to consider all of the **Desert Communities** as a SINGLE COI and who will likely be asking you to not break them up. Also, when considering districts that might have to cross boundaries, you seriously consider requests for Imperial County to be perhaps more similar to the **Riverside County Desert Communities** than to the Western reaches of **Riverside County**.

My *second* point is that, last week, as a loose supplement to my bound written comments and exhibits, I handed in some maps that showed demographic differences in the Western part of the county. These maps were heavily reliant on their color coding. At the end of the Norco meeting, I asked staff if your recently acquired high-speed scanner copied documents in color. A firm answer was not able to be given. That being the case, and since I'm not certain if last week's submission has been scanned with the original pages having then been destroyed, I re-submit these 10 color-keyed maps and ask this Commission to direct that these color-keyed versions go to both Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher, your VRA counsel, and Q2 Data and Research, your technical expert for line drawing, for review. (It is the color of these maps that make the variously identified COIs of these Western Riverside County maps 'pop'; they make no sense at all if they are reduced to black & white, or even to finely differentiated gray-scale.)

I now admit to a third, much more personal motive for appearing before you only one week later, and that is to admit that I am not an autodidact, but that the great deal of my self-learning that has taken place over the last year has been because of the existence of this bipartisan Commission and the good government that it represents. My interest in this Commission has caused me to do research all in all sorts of areas and that, in turn, has given something of a rebirth to my concern for good governance. I thank you and the voters of California who passed Propositions 11 and 20 for that.

Respectfully submitted,

John Kopp

Demographic Maps of Western Riverside County

Preview Maps

- Major Roads and Streets
- Assembly Districts - Western Border to Coachella Valley Communities

Riverside Area

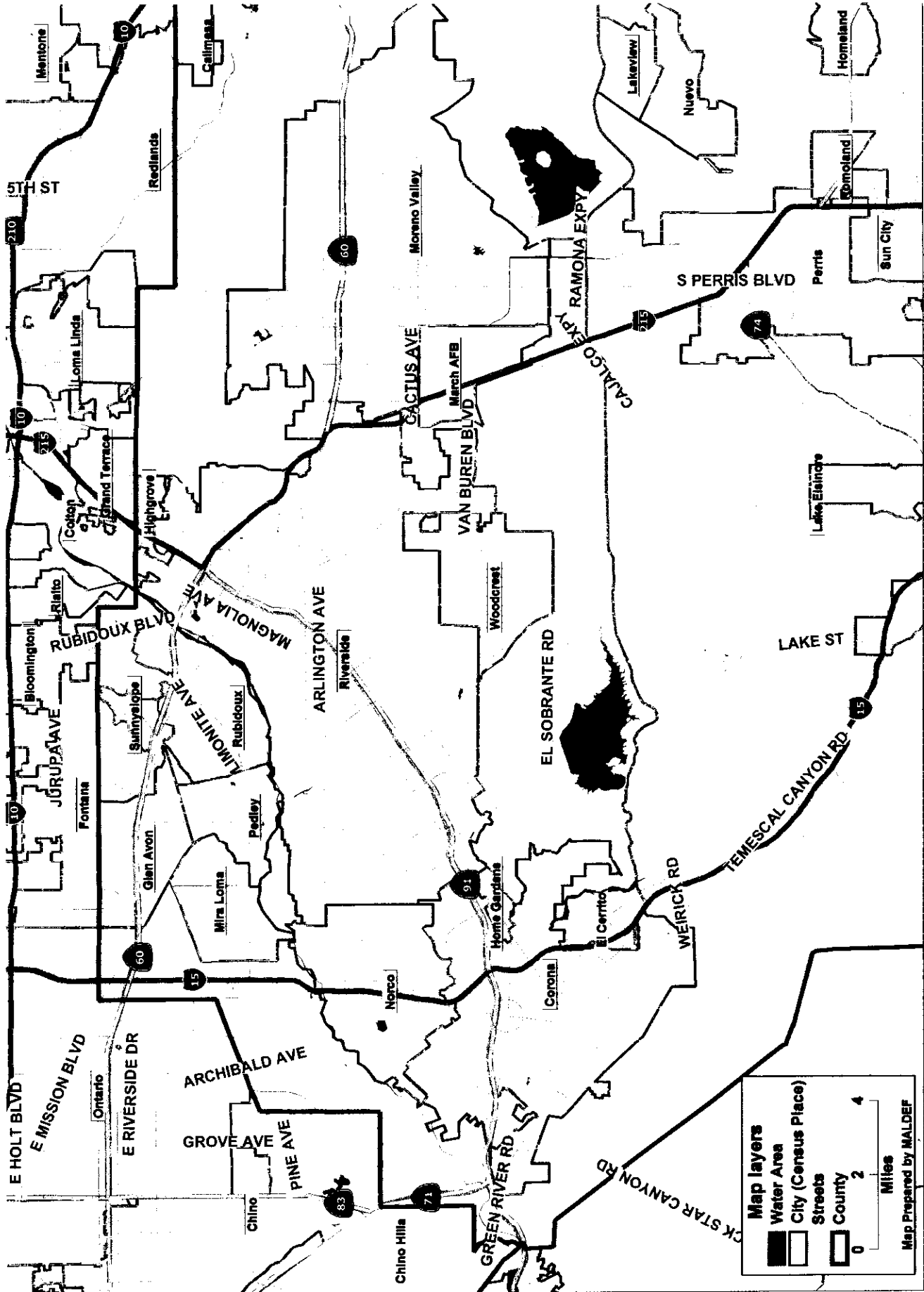
- Assembly Districts - Detail of Western County
- Majority Citizen Voting Age Population (CVAP) by Race/Ethnicity
- Majority Citizen Population by Race/Ethnicity

Maps by Riverside County Assembly District

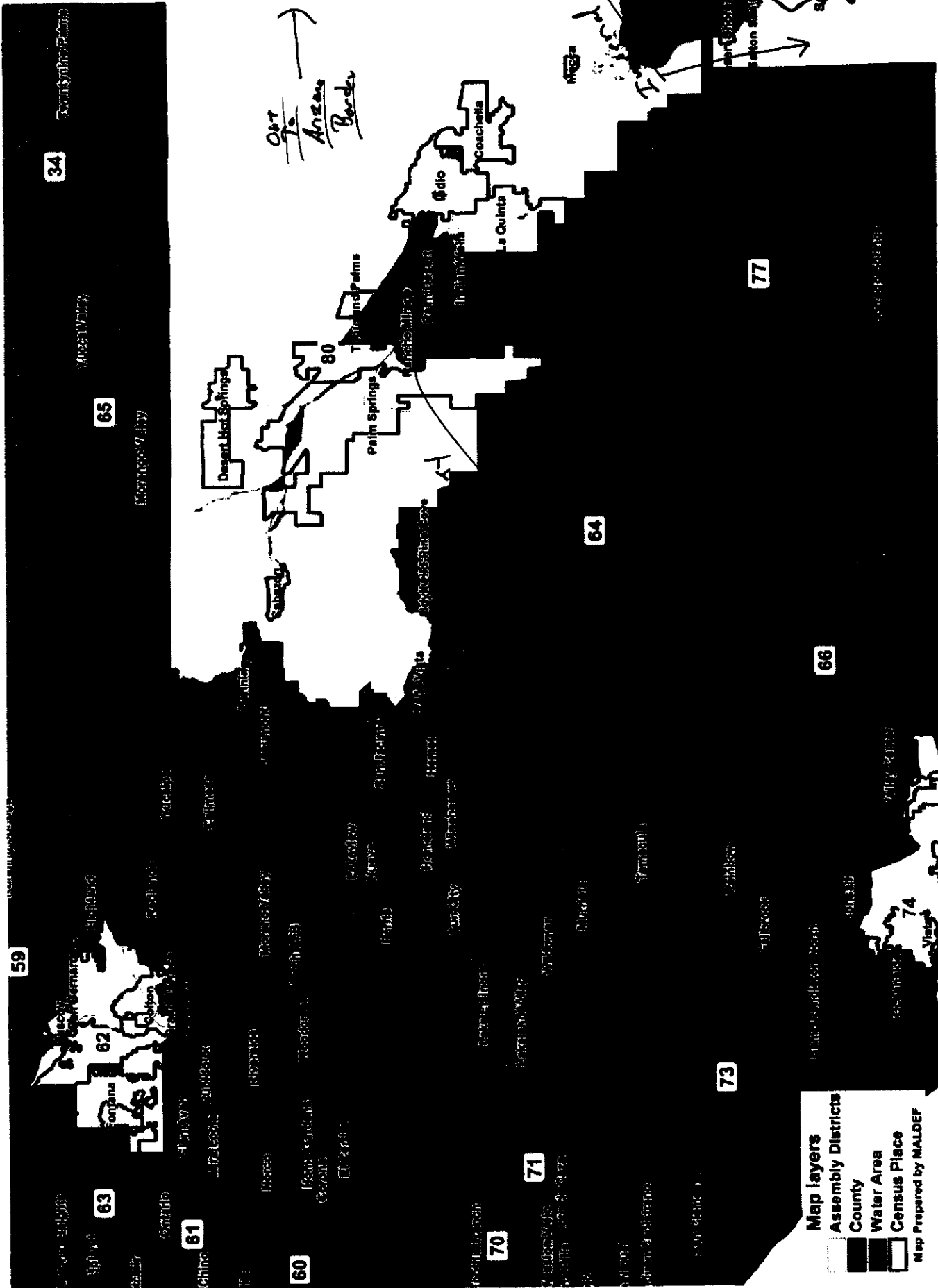
- High School Diploma Attainment of Adults 25 and Over Percentage
- English Isolated Household Percentage
- Per Capita Income in 2009
- Percent Rented of Owner Occupied Housing Units
- Unemployment by Assembly District

By courtesy of the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF)

Riverside Area - Major Roads And Streets



Riverside Area Assembly Districts

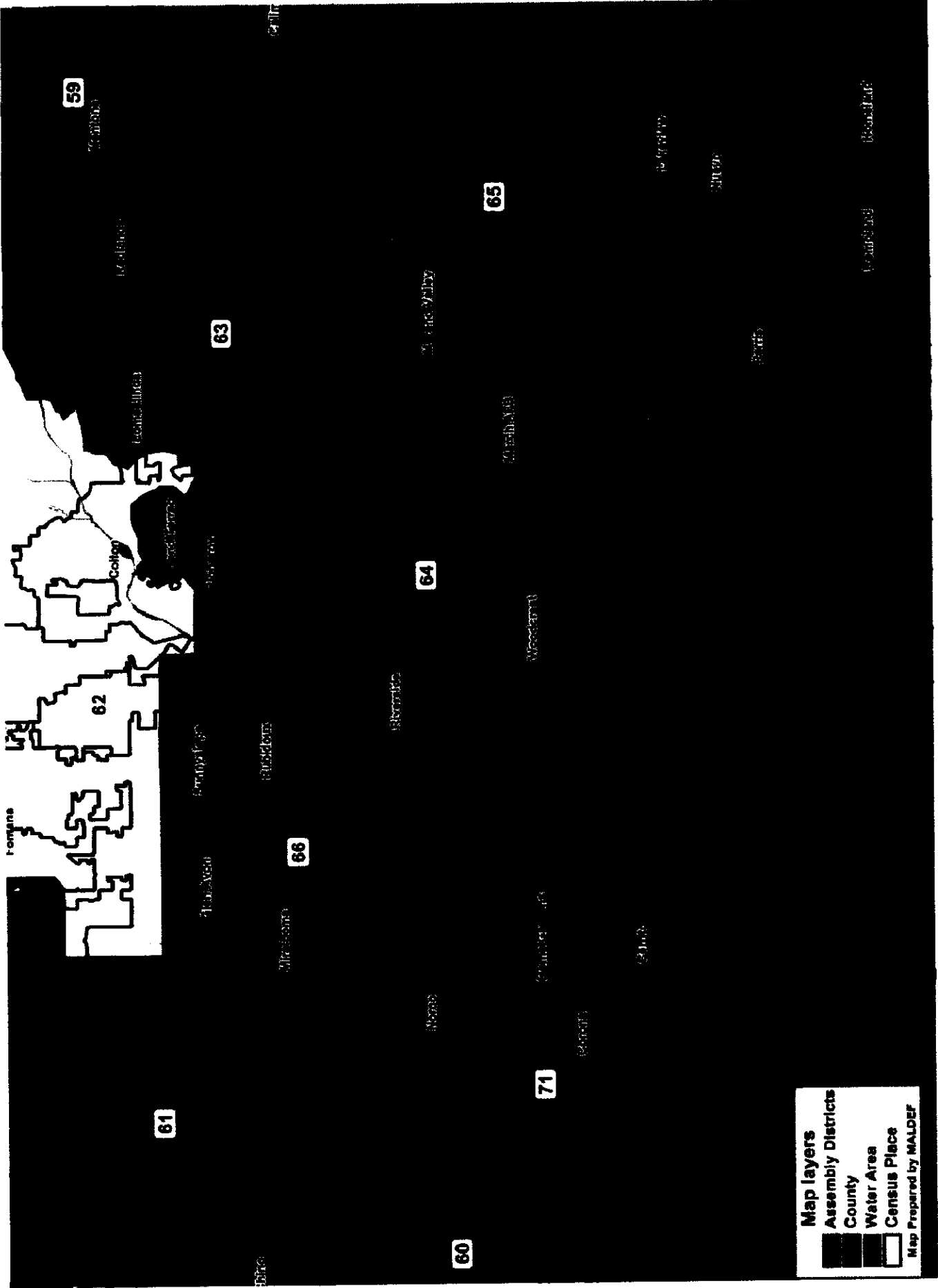


Map layers

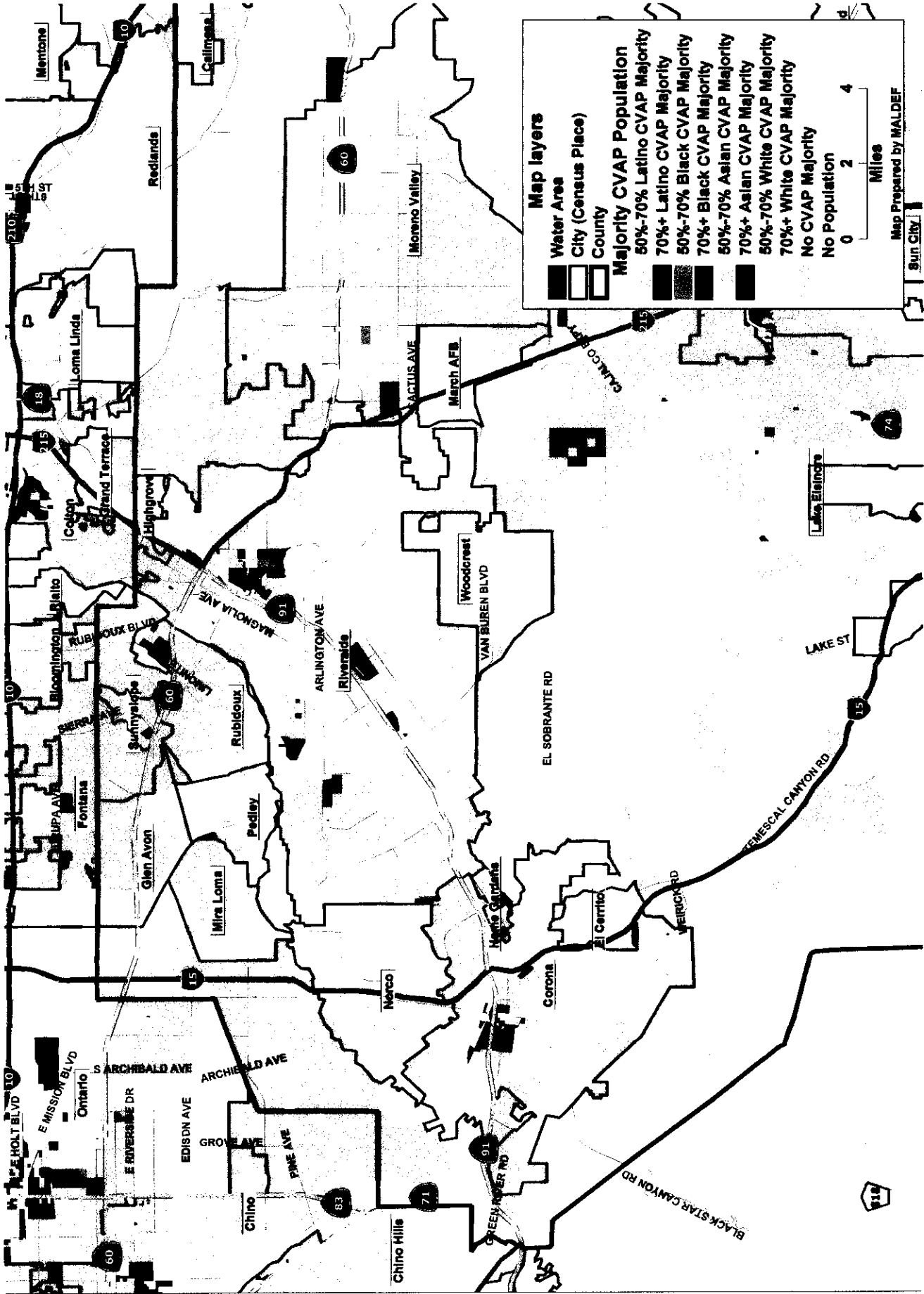
- Assembly Districts
- County
- Water Area
- Census Place

Map Prepared by MALDEF

Riverside Area Assembly Districts



Riverside Area - Majority Citizen Voting Age Population

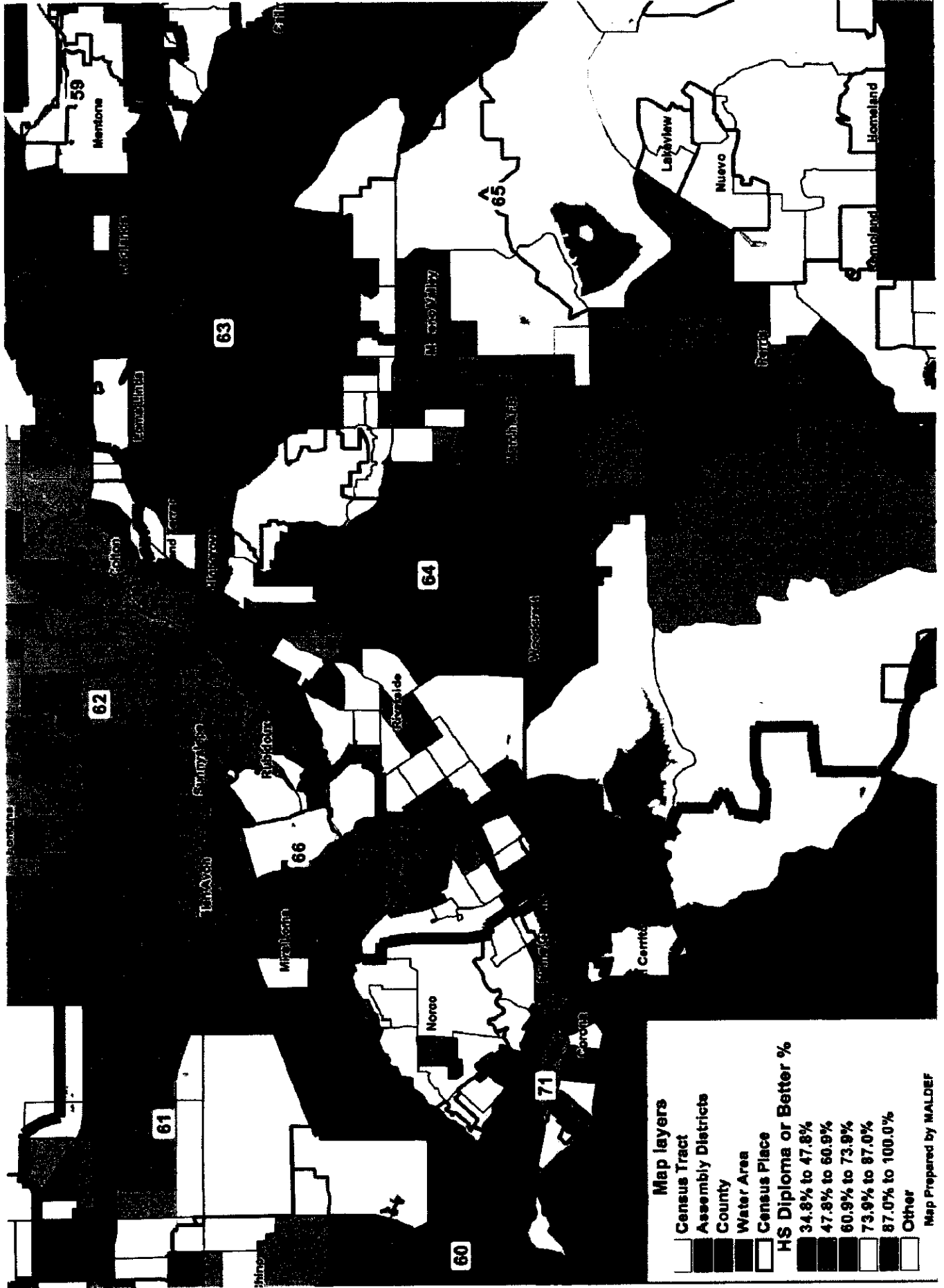


Riverside Area - Majority Citizen Population



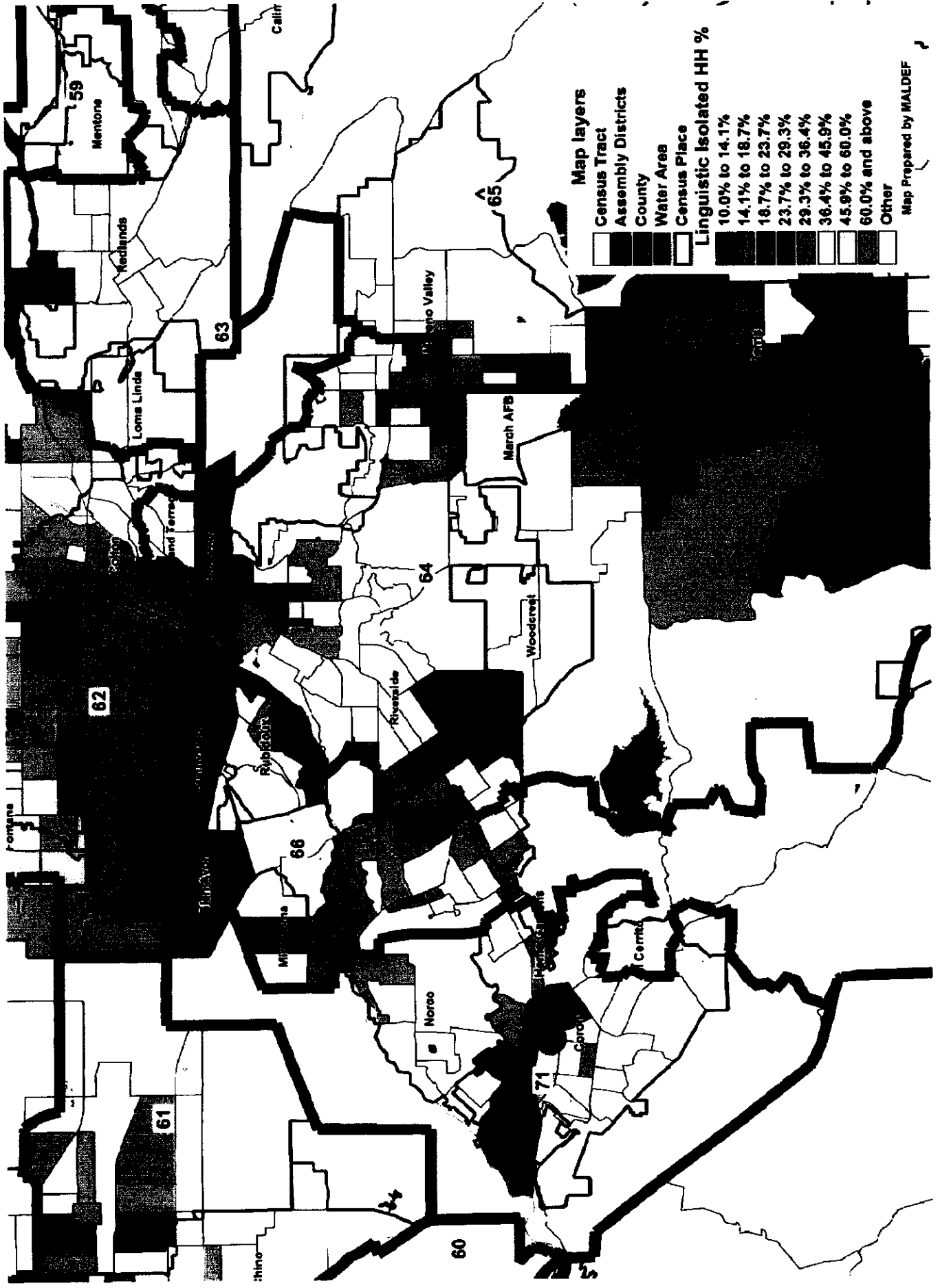
Data Source: 2010 Census, PL94-171

Riverside Area Assembly Districts - High School Diploma Attainment of Adults 25 and Over Percentage

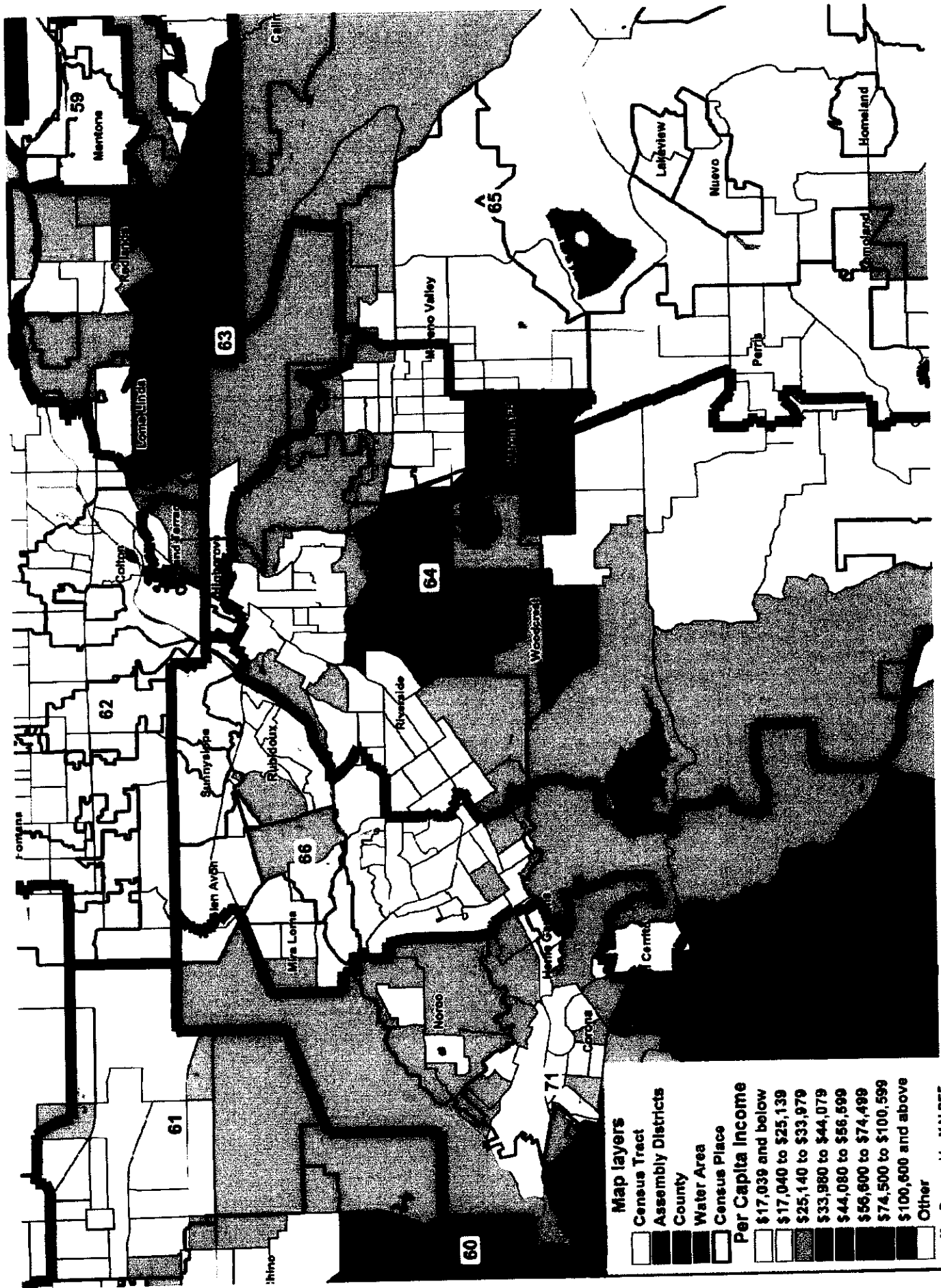


Map Prepared by MALDEF

Riverside Area Assembly Districts - English Isolated Household Percentage



Riverside Area Assembly Districts - Per Capita Income in 2009



Map Prepared by MAI DFF

Riverside Area Assembly Districts - Percentage Rented of Owner Occupied Housing Units

