



# DEVELOPING BOUNDARIES FOR A DISTRICT-BASED ELECTORAL SYSTEM

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City Council Meeting of September 6, 2017

Presented by,  
Anthony J. Mejia, Chief City Clerk

# Public Hearing No. 2

- Purpose:
  - Inform the public about the districting process and to hear from the community on what factors should be considered while creating district boundaries.



# How Did We Get Here?

- June 5, 2017
  - The City received a letter alleging violations of the California Voting Rights Act (CVRA).
- July 19, 2017
  - The City Council adopted Resolution No. 7524, declaring its intention to transition to district-based elections.
  - Provides for 90-day safe harbor period in which to conduct four (4) Public Hearings to develop District Maps and adopt an Ordinance.

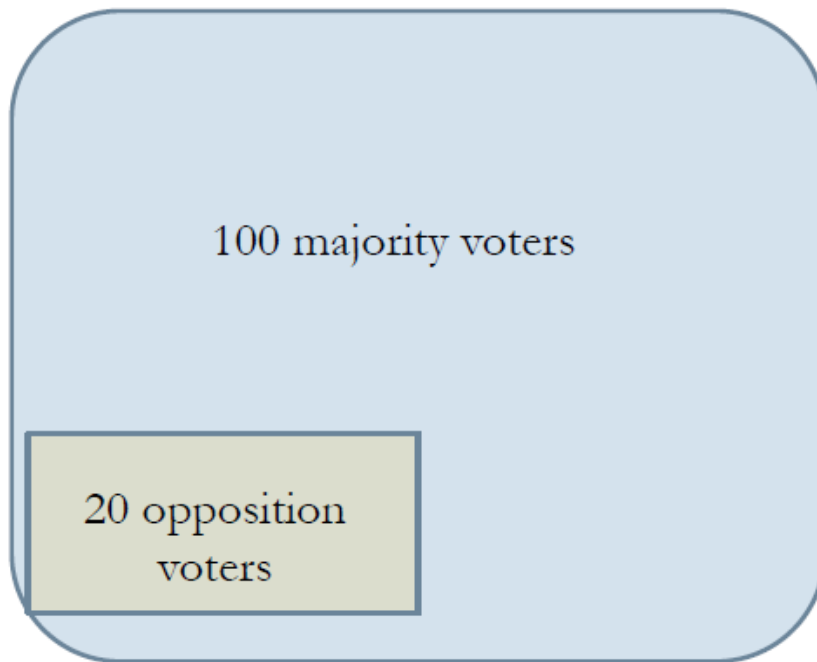


# Community Outreach and Notice

- New Webpage: [www.southpasadenaca.gov/districts](http://www.southpasadenaca.gov/districts)  
(Updated Daily) [www.southpasadenaca.gov/districtsfaq](http://www.southpasadenaca.gov/districtsfaq)
- Legal Noticing 10 days prior to each Public Hearing
  - La Opinión (Spanish)
  - World Journal (Chinese)
  - Korea Times (Korean)
  - South Pasadena Review (Multi-Language Instructions)
- Multiple articles in South Pasadena Review and Star News
- Facebook
- National Night Out
- E-Neighbors
- Community Groups
  - Meetings of Chamber of Commerce, Rotary, & Exchange
  - Notified to Chinese American Club and Vecinos Representatives

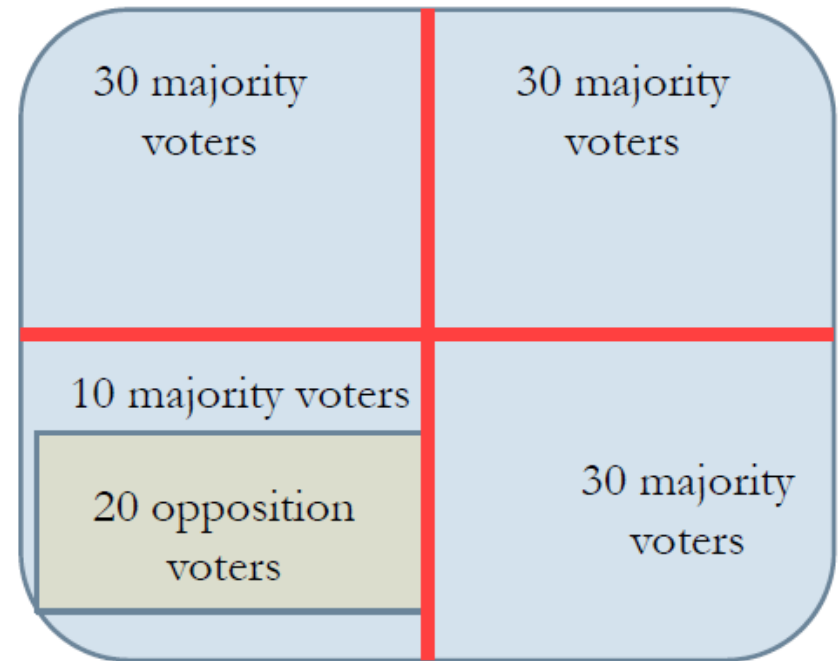
# How Are District Elections Designed To Work?

## At-Large Election



When one voting bloc significantly outnumbers another, the majority wins every at-large seat.

## By-District Election



But if the smaller group is geographically concentrated, it can elect someone who shares their views to the Council or Board.



# Meeting and Hearing Schedule

- September 16, 2017: Saturday Community Workshop to seek input on the content of the draft maps and sequencing of elections. (**Day 59**)
- September 20, 2017: City Council Meeting to seek community input and to provide direction on the content of the draft maps and sequence of elections. Public Hearing #3 (**Day 63**)
- October 4, 2017: City Council Meeting to select a preferred district map and to adopt an ordinance to transition to district-based elections (Govt. Code 36937[a]).  
Public Hearing #4 (**Day 77**)



# Criteria for District Boundaries

## Mandatory Criteria

- Equal Population Based on Census Data.
  - Not voter registration or eligible voting age population.
- Compliance with Federal Voting Rights Act.
- No Racial Gerrymandering

## Traditional Criteria

- Topography
- Geography
- Cohesiveness, contiguity, integrity, and compactness
- Respect for voters' wishes and continuity of office.
  - Avoidance of incumbent head-to-head contests.
  - Leaves the decision of re-election to the voters.



# Criteria for District Boundaries (Cont.)

- Communities of Interest – A neighborhood or community of shared interest, views, or characteristics.
- Possible community feature/boundary definitions include:
  - School Attendance Areas;
  - Natural dividing lines such as major roads, hills, or highways;
  - Areas around parks and other neighborhood landmarks;
  - Common issues, neighborhood activities, or legislative/election concerns; and
  - Shared demographic characteristics, such as:
    - Similar levels of income, education, or linguistic insolation;
    - Languages spoken at home; and
    - Single-family and multi-family housing unit areas.

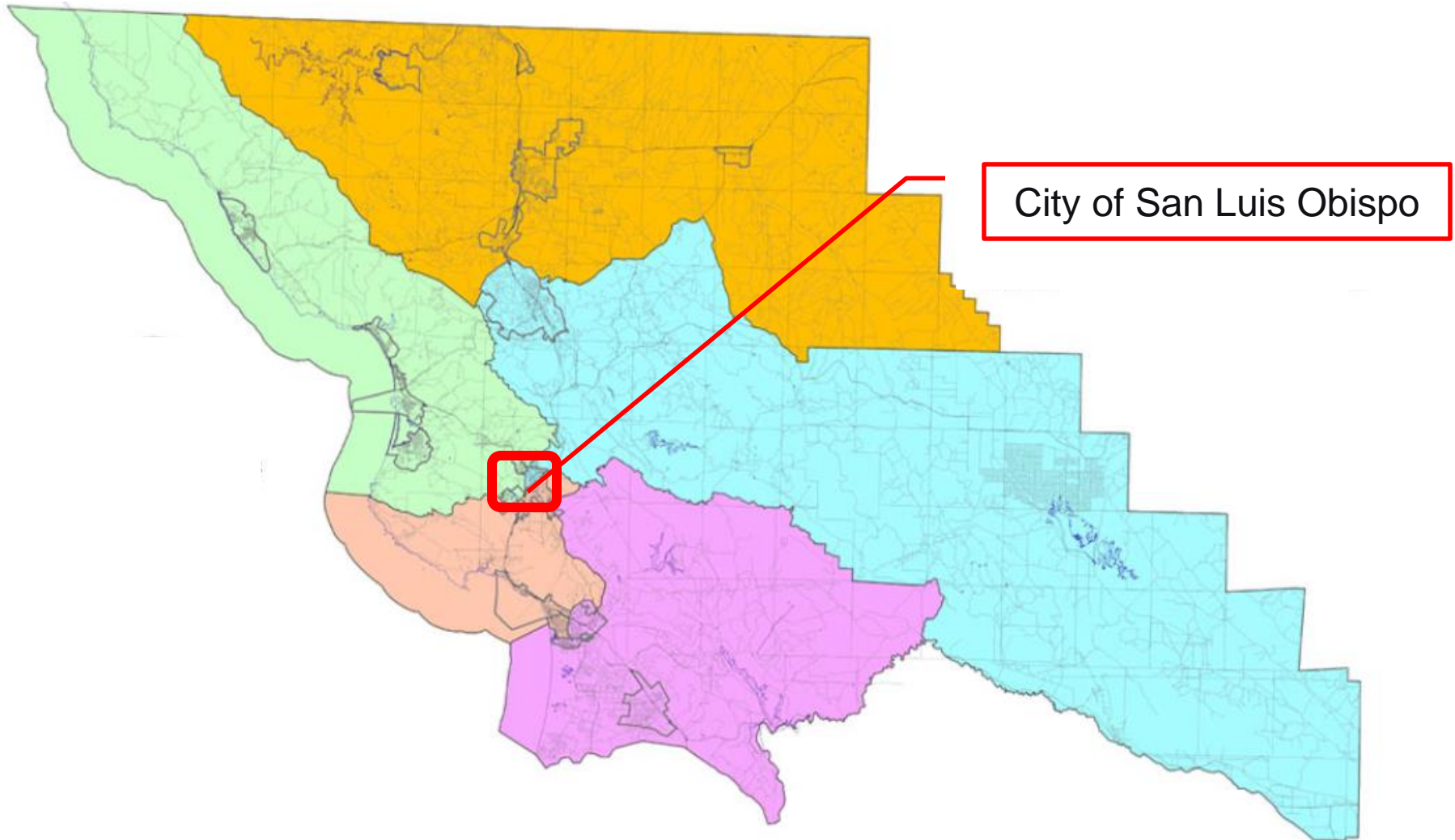




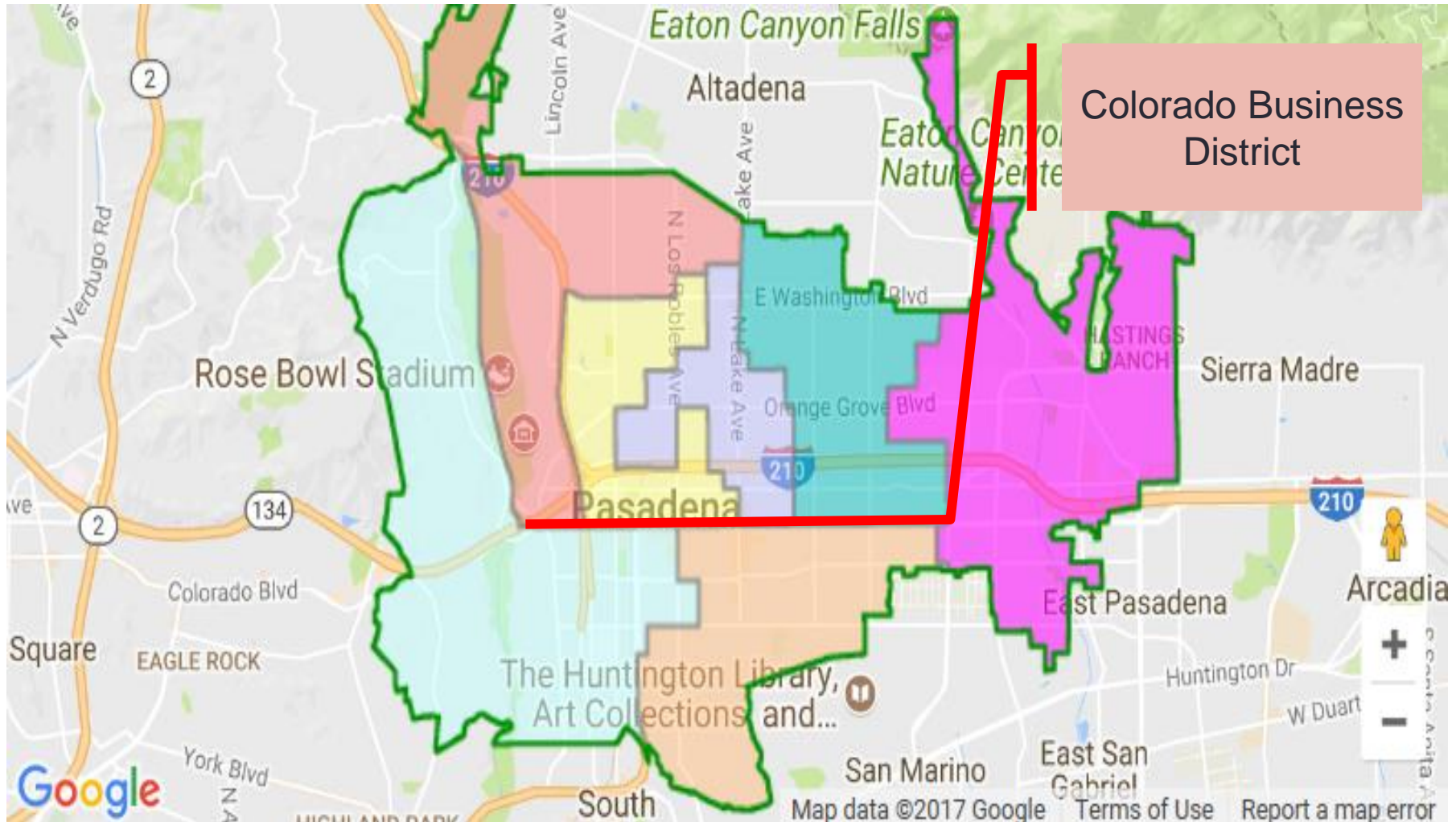
# Overlooked Question

- Is it more beneficial to have the “Community of Interest” represented by one Councilmember or more than one?
  - For instance, some cities attempt to have Districts intersect at a singular point of interest, such as a major business district.
  - For instance, some cities have school attendance areas split between two or more Councilmembers so that each has an interest in representing the population within the area.

# Example: San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors



# Example: City of Pasadena

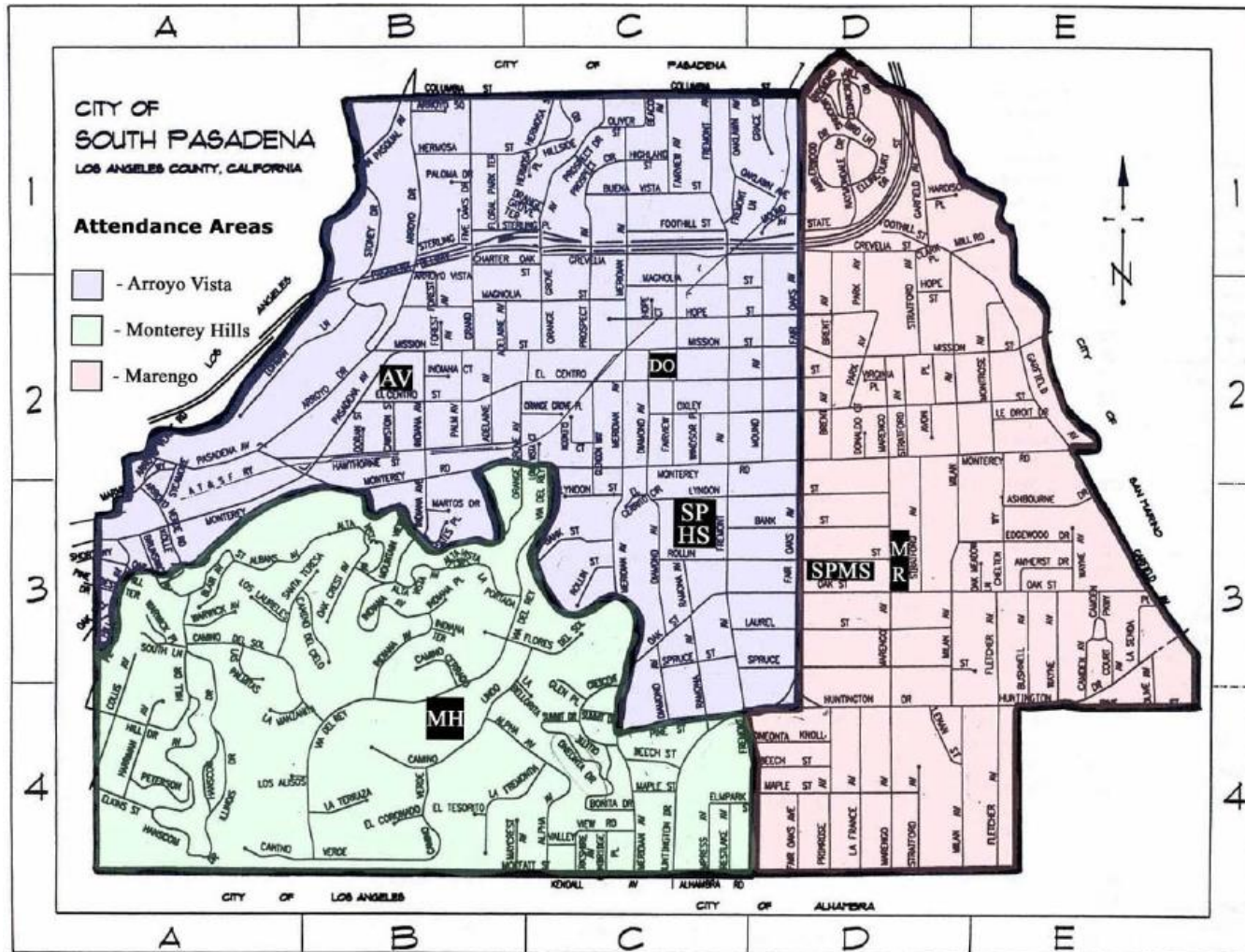


# Example: City of Riverside



(Click a ward number to view or print a detailed map)

# South Pasadena School Attendance Areas





# Next Steps

## Next Steps

- Between now and September 12<sup>th</sup>; NDC will prepare draft District Maps.
  - On September 12<sup>th</sup> draft Maps will be posted online at: [www.southpasadenaca.gov/districts](http://www.southpasadenaca.gov/districts)
  - On September 13<sup>th</sup> draft Maps will be published in the Pasadena Star-News.
- Community Workshop  
Council Chamber  
Saturday, September 16<sup>th</sup>  
10:00 a.m. – Noon
  - A Community Workshop to present and seek community input on the draft District Maps and sequence of elections.



# Criteria Suggested by the Community

- **Colin Swank:**
  - Single family or multi-family residences and zoning location.
  - Taxation levels, parcel taxes, rent control and other items related to maintaining a home.
  - Commercial corridors, multi-family corridors, and residences abutting commercial zoning areas.
  - Opposed to using school attendance areas or racial considerations.
- **Susan Sulsky:**
  - Elementary school attendance areas.
- **Bianca Richards:**
  - Each district should converge at Mission Street.



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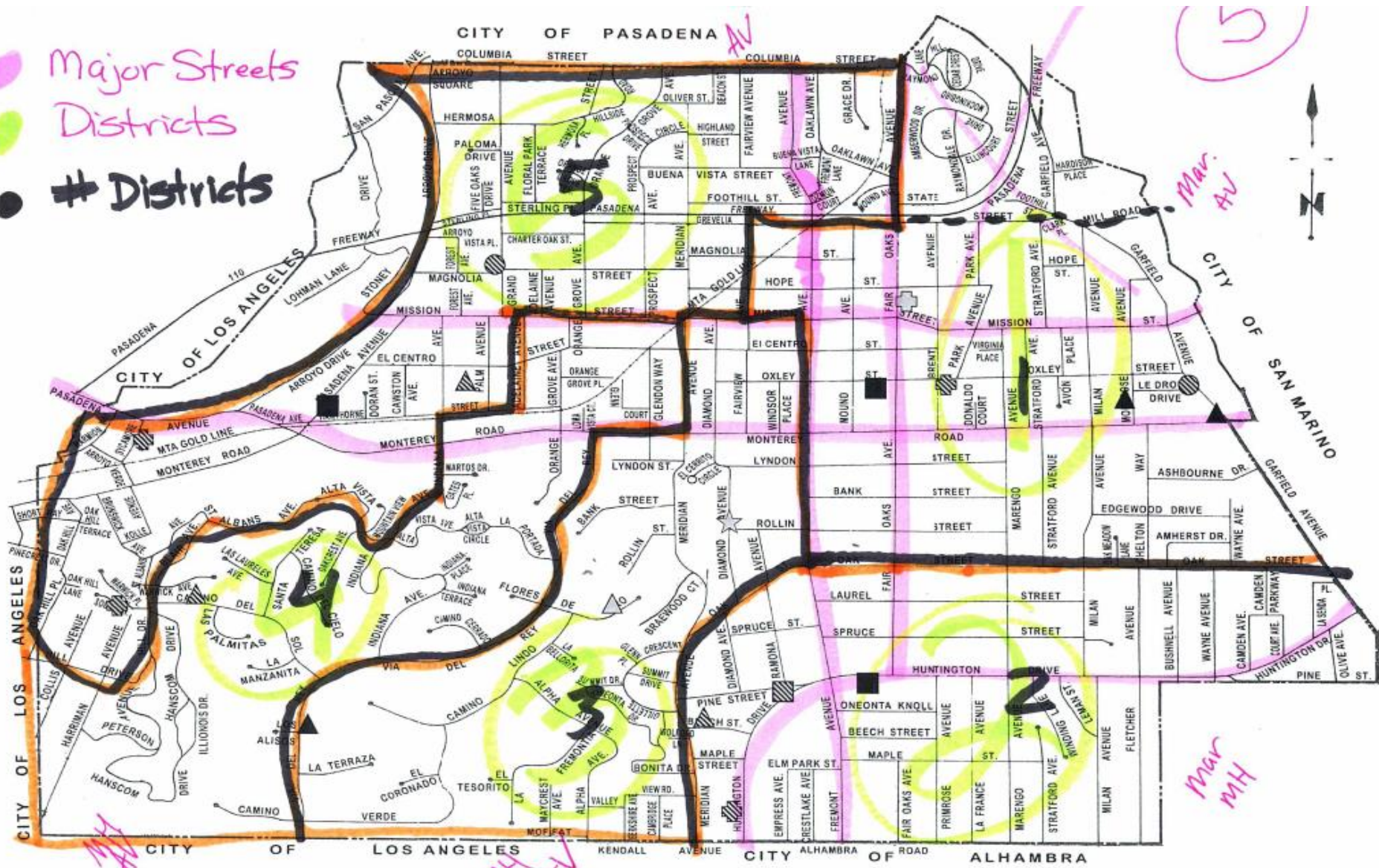
- **John Srebalus:**
  - Concentrated areas of multi-family housing.
- **Shlomo Nitzani:**
  - Monterey Hills neighborhood.
- **Jane Schirmeister:**
  - Districts should be a mix of renters and non-renters.
- **Linda Krausen:**
  - Between Mission Street to Grevelia Street and Fair Oaks Avenue to Meridian Avenue should be a neighborhood.
- **SP Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors**
  - Mix of retail, professional, and other businesses as well as residential properties.





# SP Chamber of Commerce

- Major Streets
- Districts
- # Districts



# Recommendations

- Open the public hearing, asking the community to focus on:
  - How do you define your neighborhood or community of interest?
  - What other surrounding neighborhoods share similar interests?
- Provide direction to the City's demographer regarding the composition of districts for a district-based electoral system.