



County of Santa Cruz

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COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

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SUSAN A. MAURIELLO, J.D., COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

June 19, 2001

Agenda: June 26, 2001

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
County of Santa Cruz
701 Ocean Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Redistricting of Supervisorial Boundaries - Preliminary Plans

Dear Members of the Board:

On March 27, 2001 your Board took action to direct the County Administrative Officer's ad hoc Redistricting committee to receive public input on the redistricting of supervisorial boundaries, with each Board member nominating one person, other than themselves, to **serve** on the committee to represent the interests of each district, for the limited purpose of preparing a proposed redistricting map(s) for consideration by the Board of Supervisors and the public.

The purpose of this letter is to:

- provide your Board with information on the redistricting process to date,
- present the proposed redistricting plans that have been submitted by the ad hoc committee's Board representatives for your consideration, and
- seek your Board's direction to staff to prepare a preferred redistricting plan or plans for which your Board would set a period for public comment, culminating in a public hearing on any proposal to adjust the boundaries of a district, prior to a public hearing at which your Board would vote to adopt a final redistricting plan.

Redistricting Process to Date

Pursuant to your Board's direction, our office received nominations of one person from each of your offices to join an existing in-house Redistricting Working Group, which was formed to address the technical tasks associated with the project. The following representatives were designated: First District, David Reetz; Second District, Terry Hancock; Third District, Tim Jenkins; Fourth District, Raquel Mariscal; and Fifth District, Les Gardner.

In addition to your Board's representatives, the ad hoc committee consisted of the County Administrative Officer, County Counsel, the County Clerk Recorder, the Planning Department's GIS Coordinator and GIS staff, the Information Services Director, and support staff. Beginning on April 6, 2001, the group met five times, and representatives or their designates also attended a day-long technical training to prepare to use the County's GIS-based redistricting computer application. A number of other meetings were held between Board representatives to

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attempt to achieve your Board's direction.

Board members and their representatives have been provided with a significant amount of detailed information relating to the census and to the redistricting of Supervisorial boundaries, including:

- a map of the County and each supervisorial district showing existing supervisorial district lines, major streets, city, precinct and census block boundaries,
- databases providing the number of persons in each supervisorial district, including race, ethnicity, and population over the age of 18, by precinct,
- voter registration information by precinct, including the number of registered voters and party affiliation, and
- election information for contests your Board requested from the Board designated master list of elections contests from 1992 through 2000.

The information listed above was provided not only to Board members and the ad hoc committee in databases in the GIS-based redistricting computer program and/or in hard copy, but to members of the public as well, by way of documents placed on file with the Clerk of the Board, and on a computer available for public use, which was placed in the lobby of the County Elections Department.

At your Board's direction, two public meetings were held during your Board's regular agendas to solicit public review and comment. The first was held in Santa Cruz on May 22, 2001 at 9:00 a.m., and the second was held in Watsonville on June 5, 2001 at 7:30 p.m. Both meetings were advertised in the Santa Cruz County Sentinel, Register Pajaronian, and the Valley Press/Scotts Valley Banner.

At the first meeting, speakers advocated for the protection of the Live Oak/Twin Lakes community of interest. At the second meeting in Watsonville, the predominant sentiment expressed was support for including all of the city limits of Watsonville in a single district. The League of Women Voters expressed their support for three specific standards: 1) substantially equal population, geographic contiguity, and protection from diluting the voting strength of a racial or linguistic minority; 2) that a plan not have as a goal the protection of incumbents, or preferential treatment of one political perspective; and 3) to the extent possible, respect be given for boundaries of cities, and preservation of communities of interest. Public comments were reviewed by the ad hoc committee at meetings subsequent to the hearings.

Proposed Redistricting Plans

As your Board will recall, the statutes governing redistricting direct that in establishing the boundaries of the districts, the Board may give consideration to the factors of a) topography, b) geography, c) cohesiveness, contiguity, integrity and compactness of territory, and d) community of interests of the districts. In addition, districts 'shall be as nearly equal in population as may be and shall comply with the applicable provisions of (the Voting Rights Act

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of 1965) Section 1973 of Title 42 of the United States Code, as amended.” Staff review of cases and articles on this issue indicates that race is to be given consideration in the redistricting process so as to assure that sufficiently large minority populations in geographically compact areas which have similar communities of interest are kept together without being overly compacted.

In addition, your Board agreed on a set of principles to guide the process:

- to the extent possible, the current district boundaries will be preserved;
- the public will have all the opportunities provided by law to participate in the redistricting process, and provide input to the Board;
- communities of interest will be preserved to the extent possible; and
- each Supervisor would have the opportunity to suggest changes to his or her district's boundaries to the extent that such changes are necessary, prior to the public hearings to be held on the redistricting plan.

Towards that end, your Board's representatives on the **ad hoc** committee have advanced two plans for your Board's consideration. The two plans propose the same boundaries for the First, Third and Fifth Districts, but differ in their treatment of the proposed boundaries for the Second and Fourth Districts. The following provides a narrative description of the plans, which for the purposes of this report have been titled Plan 1 and Plan 2. Maps demonstrating precinct shifts for each plan are attached, and have been placed on file with the Clerk of the Board.

Both plans recommend that Precinct 5116 be transferred from the Fifth District to the Third District, and that Precinct 3009 be transferred from the Third to the First District. The transfer of Precinct 5116 responds to the population discrepancy that exists currently between the Third and Fifth districts, and its location, essentially the top of Ocean Street area, retains a community of interest for the Third District in the City of Santa Cruz, **and** of the majority of the UCSC campus and campus housing, now given the student population housed at the former Holiday Inn. Precinct 3009 is located in the Twin Lakes area, and a proposed transfer from the Third District to First District reunites the unincorporated Twin Lakes neighborhood with the rest of unincorporated Live Oak, and establishes 7th Avenue as the line of demarcation **between the** Third and First Districts.

Plan 1, proposed by the Fourth District representative, suggests that City of Watsonville Precinct 4333, and unincorporated Precincts 4010, 4011, 4013, 4015, 4024, 4027, 4028, 4029, and the eastern portion of 4030, bounded by Green Valley Road be transferred from the Fourth District to the Second District.

The Fourth District representative suggests that the plan ensures that the Fourth District is compact and contiguous, and respects geographical communities that share common interests, and that the plan mitigates the division of communities of interest between the Second and Fourth District.

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Plan 2, proposed by the Second District representative, suggests that City of Watsonville Precinct 4332, and unincorporated Precincts 4010, 4011, 4013, 4015, 4024, 4028, 4029, and the upper third of 4018, bounded by Green Valley Road, be transferred from the Fourth District to the Second District.

The Second district representative suggests that the plan retains a favorable balance of residents in the unincorporated and incorporated areas, addresses the community of interest that the City of Watsonville precincts largely remain in the Fourth District, and protects the voting rights and community of interests demonstrated by voting patterns among the Precincts that are recommended be transferred to the Second District.

Members of the committee addressed the deviations from the target population contained in both plans. Members believe that the proposed plan(s) are responsive to your Board's direction to move the supervisorial district lines as little as possible, and noted that the extent of deviation represented no more than 2.7%, and that the deviation was largely consistent among the districts.

Plan 1 provides for the following population schedule:

District	Target Population	Proposed Population	Over/Under Target	Percent Deviation from Target
First	51,120	49,741	(1,379)	-2.7%
Second	51,120	52,187	1,067	2.1%
Third	51,120	49,893	(1,227)	-2.4%
Fourth	51,120	52,334	1,214	2.4%
Fifth	51,120	51,447	327	0.6%

Plan 2 provides for the following population schedule:

District	Target Population	Proposed Population	Over/Under Target	Percent Deviation from Target
First	51,120	49,741	(1,379)	-2.7%
Second	51,120	52,448	1,328	2.6%
Third	51,120	49,893	(1,227)	-2.4%
Fourth	51,120	52,073	953	1.9%
Fifth	51,120	51,447	327	0.6%

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Direction to Staff from the Board

Your Board directed that your representatives on the ad hoc redistricting committee return with a proposed redistricting plan(s) in order that each Supervisor have an opportunity to suggest changes to his or her district's boundaries prior to the public hearings to be held on the redistricting plan. At this point staff seeks your review of the proposed plans, and asks that your Board provide staff the necessary direction to prepare a redistricting plan or plans that will move forward for public review and comment.

As your Board will recall, the Elections Code requires the Board to hold at least one public hearing on any proposal to adjust the boundaries of a district, prior to the public hearing at which the Board votes to approve or defeat the proposal. In addition to these two public hearings, the process must also allow sufficient time for two readings of the ordinance enacting the new district boundaries and sufficient time for staff to redraw the supervisorial and precinct lines adopted by your Board, and any changes to the State Assembly and Senate, and Congressional boundaries that may be adopted by the State legislature and Congress, in order to meet the deadlines prescribed by the Special Districts elections in November, and the March Primary election.

Staff also advised that your Board adopt a schedule for public hearings that would allow for two opportunities to present a final plan for adoption, in order to address any issues that may arise. Therefore, the timeline adopted by your Board on March 27, 2001 set the first public hearing for August 7, 2001 to receive public input, and consider a plan for adoption, and set the second public hearing for adoption of the plan for August 14th, with subsequent opportunities for additional hearings, and for adopting an ordinance that would enact the new boundaries on August 21st and August 28th, as may be required.

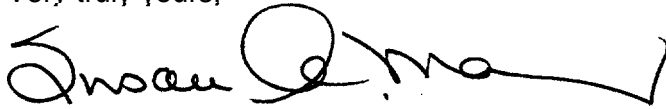
It is therefore RECOMMENDED that your Board:

1. Accept and file this report on the Redistricting of Supervisorial boundaries;
2. Consider the proposed redistricting plans submitted by your Board's representatives on the ad hoc redistricting committee;
3. Provide direction to staff on the preferred redistricting plan(s) that would go forward for public review and comment; and
4. Open a period for public comment on the proposed plan(s), that would culminate in a first public hearing on August 7, 2001, and a second public hearing on August 14, 2001.

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Very truly yours,

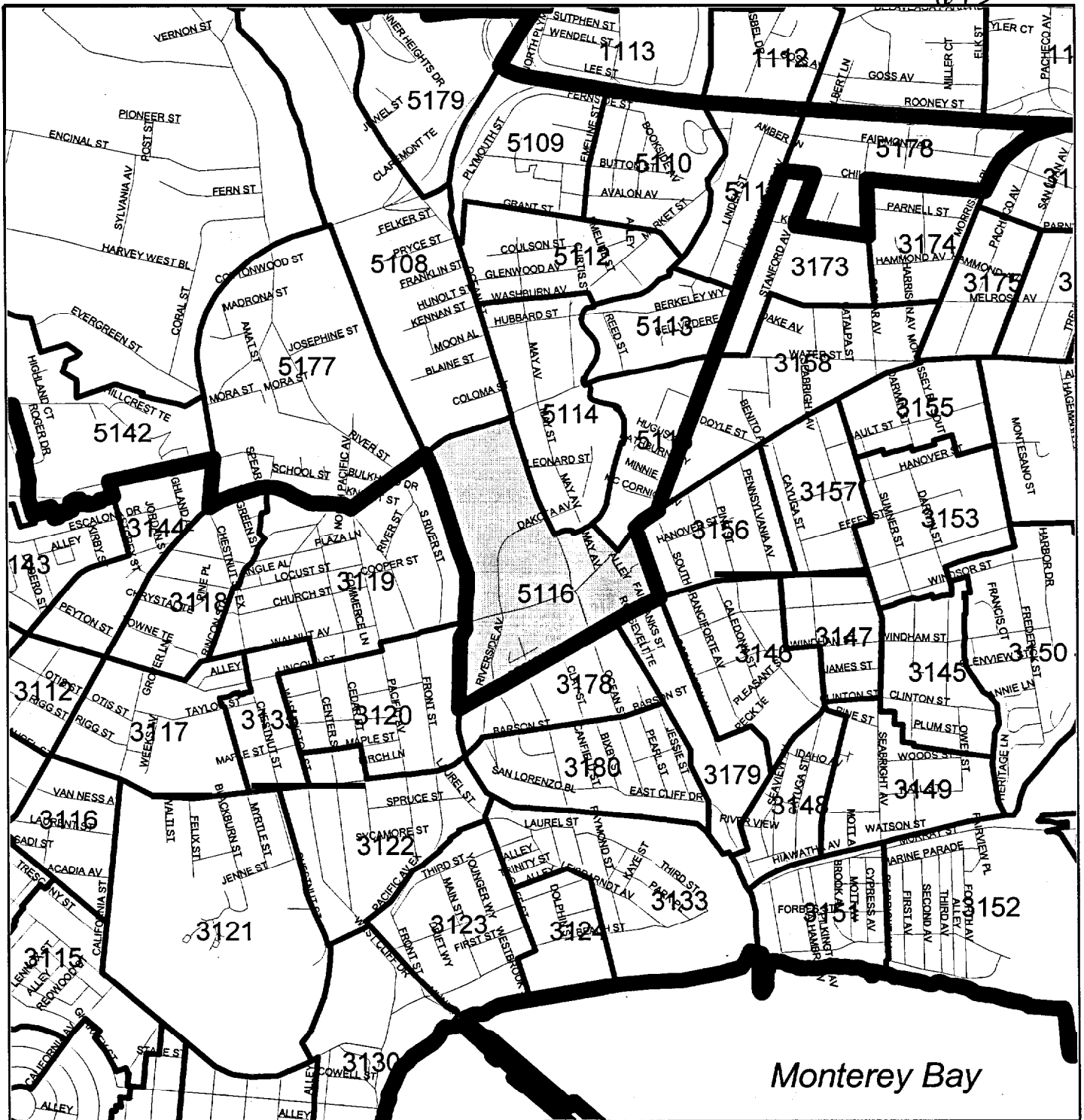


SUSAN A. MAURIELLO
County Administrative Officer

cc: Clerk Recorder
Planning Director
Information Services Director
County Counsel
Ad Hoc Redistricting Committee Board Representatives

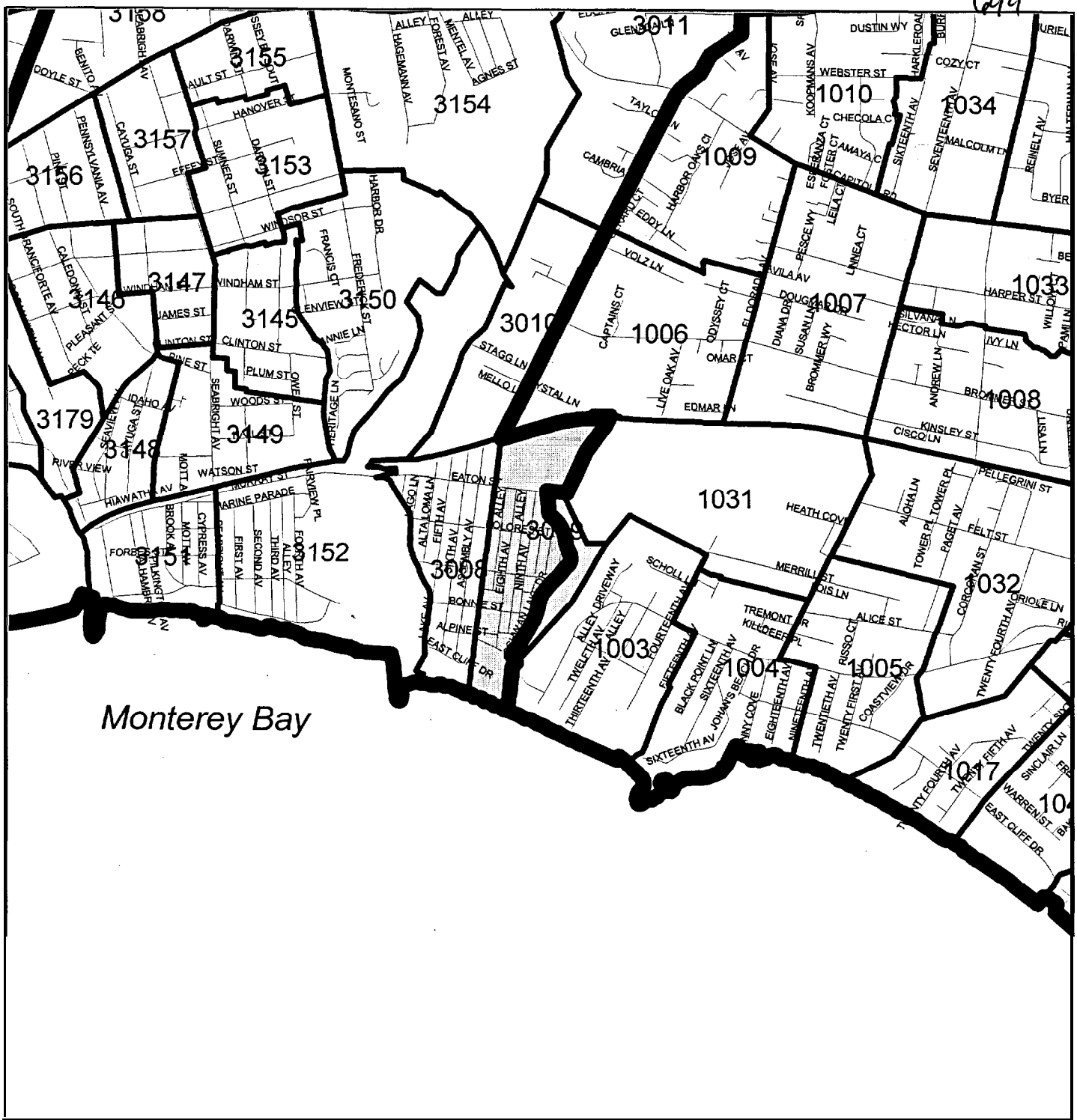
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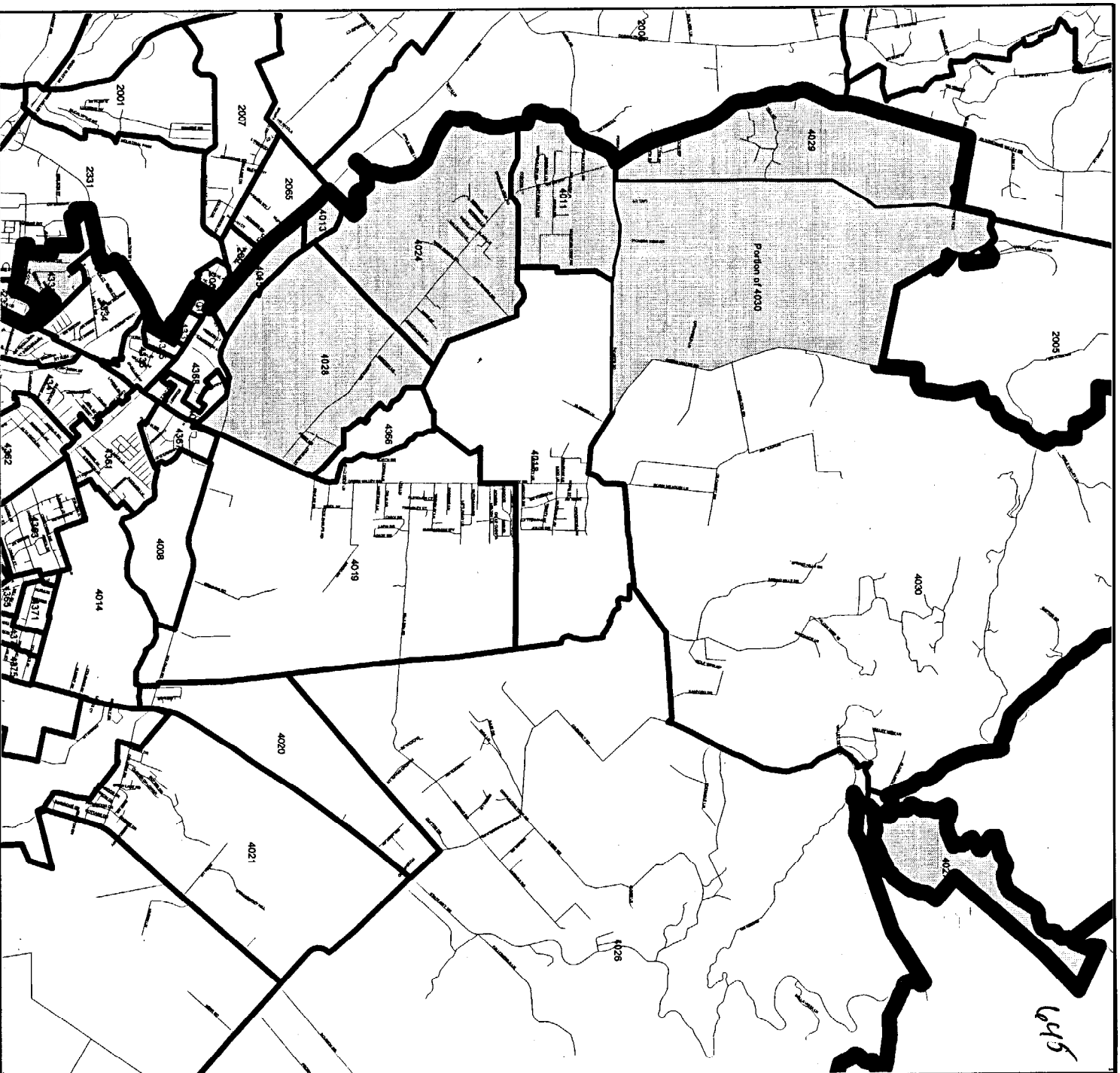
Proposed Boundary Change for 3rd and 5th Districts

District	Target	Current Pop.	Precinct	From/To	Precinct Pop.	Revised Pop
5 th	51,120	52,228	5116	From	781	51,447
3 rd	51,120	49,556	5116	To	781	50,337



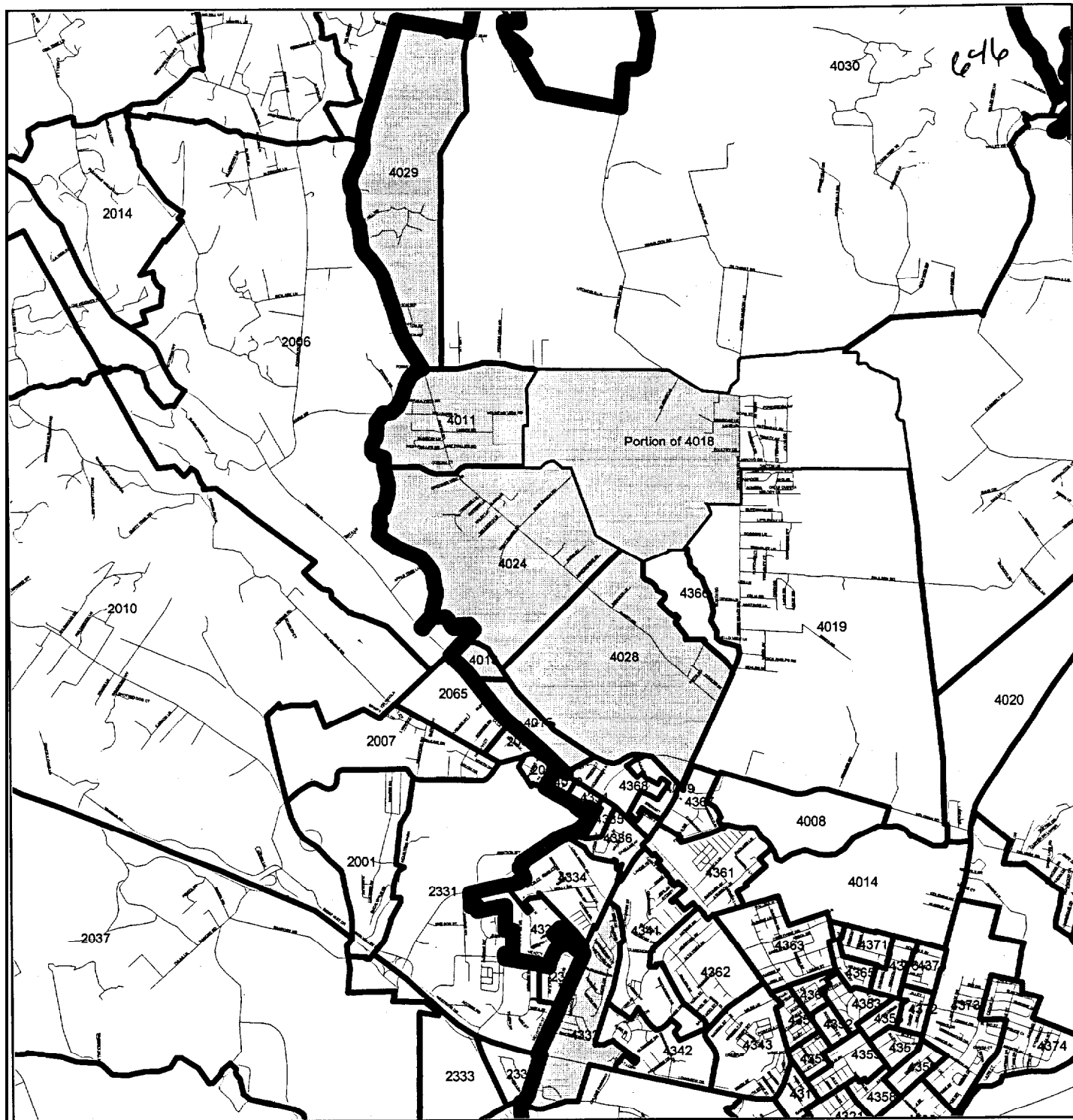
Proposed Boundary Change for 1st and 3rd Districts

District	Target	Current Pop.	Precinct	From/To	Precinct Pop.	Revised Pop
3 rd	51,120	50,337	3009	From	444	49,893
1 st	51,120	49,297	3009	To	444	49,741



Plan 1 - Proposed Boundary Changes for 2nd & 4th Districts

District	Target	Current	Precinct	From/To	Precinct Pop.	Revised Pop
4 th	51,120	57,196	4333	From	1,950	
			4010		187	
			4011		444	
			4013		67	
			4015		225	
			4024		551	
			4027		20	
			4029		312	
			4028		684	
4 th			4030*	From	422	52,334
2 nd	51,120	47,325	As Above	To	4,862	52,187



Plan 2 - Proposed Boundary Changes for 2nd & 4th Districts

District	Target	Current	Precinct	From/To	Precinct Pop.	Revised Pop
4 th	51,120	57,196	4332	From	1,900	
			4010	From	187	
			4011	From	444	
			4013	From	67	
			4015	From	225	
			4024	From	551	
			4028	From	684	
			4079	From	117	
4 th			4018*	From	753	57,073
2 nd	51,120	47,325	As Above	To	5,123	52,448