

## REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL

Approved by: *Alicia Gonzales*  
Alicia Gonzales, City Clerk

Council Meeting of: February 2, 2022

Agenda Number: C-1

*Arnoldo Rodriguez*  
Arnoldo Rodriguez, City Manager

### SUBJECT:

Redrawing of Council Member District Boundaries (Redistricting)

### RECOMMENDATION:

1. Receive a report on the redistricting process, initial draft maps, and permissible criteria to be considered to redraw district boundaries; and
2. Conduct Public Hearing #3 on redistricting and receive public input; and
3. Provide feedback on preferred map or maps, and/or desired changes to draft maps

### SUMMARY:

Pursuant to Election Code section 21601, cities with by-district election systems are required to redraw their district boundary maps to ensure compliance with the California and federal Voting Rights Acts. The process to complete the redistricting requires a minimum of four public hearings and dedicated public outreach to ensure minority populations and communities of interest are aware of the redistricting effort and are provided with options to participate. The City:

- Held its first public hearing on October 20, 2021
- Its second public hearing on November 10, 2021
- This is the third public hearing

The purpose of this public hearing is to review the initial draft maps prepared by the City's consultant, inform the public about the districting process, and to hear from the community on factors to be taken into consideration for district boundaries. The public is requested to provide input regarding communities of interest and other local factors that should be considered for district maps. A community of interest under the relevant Elections Code for cities (Section 21621(c) is, "a population that shares common social or economic interests that should be included within a single district for purposes of its effective and fair representation." Council is

asked to provide feedback on the preferred map or maps and/or desired changes to the draft maps which will then be presented at the fourth public hearing.

## **DISCUSSION:**

Every 10 years, cities with by-district election systems must use new census data to review and, if needed, redraw district lines to reflect how local populations have changed. This process, called redistricting, ensures all districts have a nearly equal population. The redistricting process for the City of Madera must be completed by April 17, 2022.

The City adopted its current district boundaries in 2011. The approved boundary map was drawn based on 2010 census data as required by law. The districts must now be redrawn using the 2020 census data and in compliance with the Fair Maps Act (the “Act”), which was adopted by the California legislature as AB 849 and took effect January 1, 2020.

### ***Requirements for Redrawing District Boundaries***

Under the Act, the City Council shall draw and adopt boundaries using the following criteria in the listed order of priority (Elections Code 21621(c)):

1. Comply with the federal requirements of equal population and the Voting Rights Act.
2. Be geographically contiguous.
3. Undivided neighborhoods and “communities of interest” (socio-economic geographic areas that should be kept together).
4. Display easily identifiable boundaries.
5. Be compact (do not bypass one group of people to get to a more distant group of people).
6. Shall not favor or discriminate against a political party.

Once the prioritized criteria are met, other traditional districting principles can be considered, such as:

1. Minimize the number of voters delayed from voting in 2022 to 2024.
2. Respect voters’ choices/continuity in office.
3. Future population growth.

By law, the City must hold at least four public hearings that enable community members to provide input on the drawing of district maps:

- At least one hearing must occur before the city draws draft maps.
- At least two hearings must happen after the drawing of draft maps.
- The fourth hearing can happen either before or after the drawing of draft maps.

To increase the accessibility of these hearings, the City has complied with the following steps:

- At least one hearing must occur on a Saturday, Sunday, or after 6:00 p.m. on a weekday.

- The City held a workshop on Saturday, December 4, 2021 at the John Wells Youth Center.
- A second Redistricting Workshop will be held on Sunday, February 6, 2022 at 1:30 – 3:00p.m. at the Pan Am Community Center.
- If a redistricting hearing is consolidated with another local government meeting, the redistricting hearing must begin at a pre-designated time.
- Local public redistricting hearings must be made accessible with people with disabilities.

Determining population balance is typically done by measuring the spread, or deviation, between the least populated district and the greatest populated district. Deviations of 10 percent or less are generally considered acceptable under U.S. Supreme Court rulings on equal protection. The City's population is 65,954. The ideal population of a Council district is one-sixth of that population, or 10,992.

### ***Current District Boundaries***

Analysis of the City's current district boundaries, adjusted for the 2020 Census data, shows the districts are no longer population balanced as required by law. District 6 is significantly overpopulated by 17.3 percent and District 5 is significantly under populated at -14.6 percent for a combined total deviation of 31.9 percent. For these reasons, the district boundaries must be adjusted to achieve a population balance of 10 percent or less.

### ***Minority Voters***

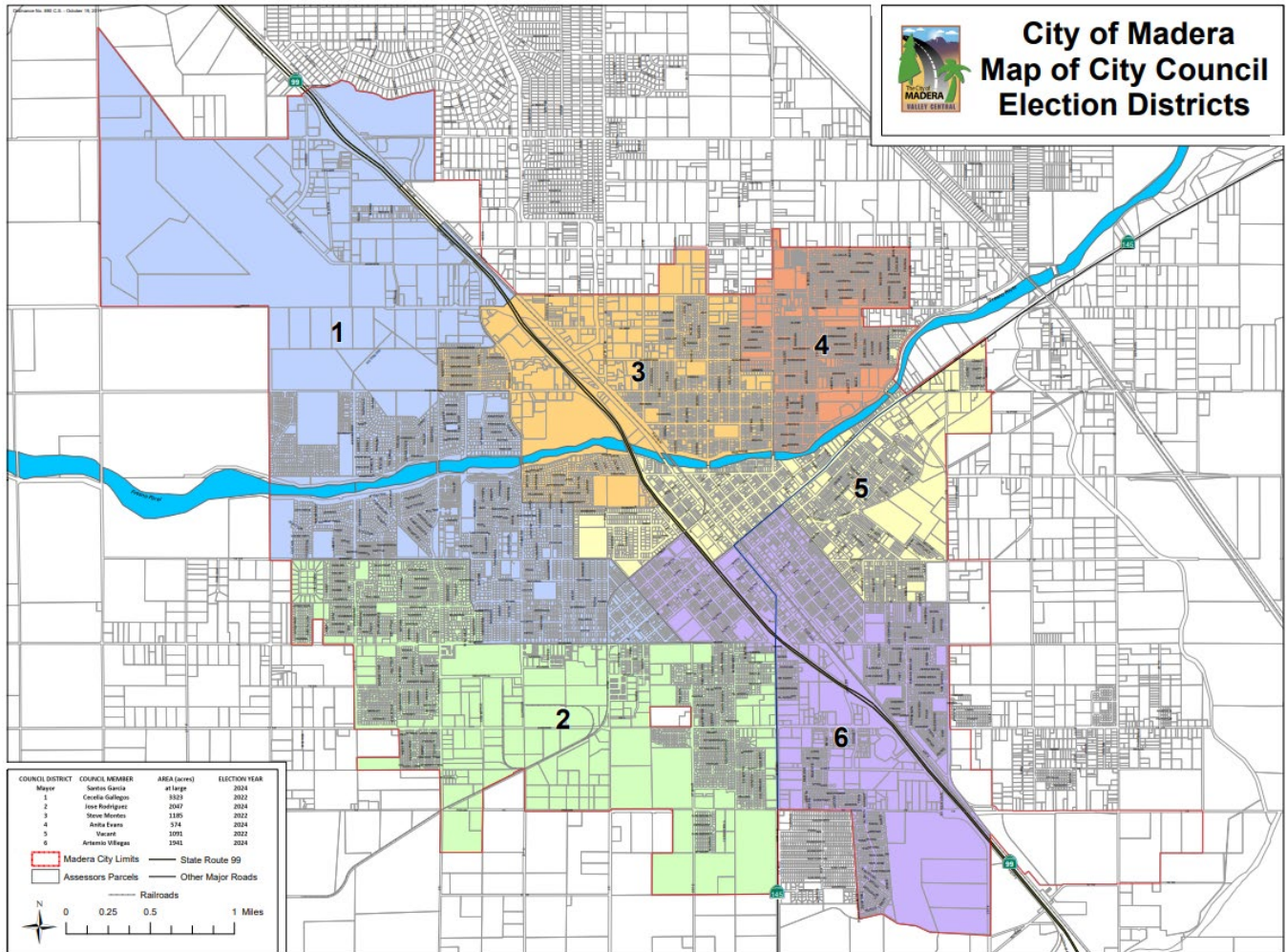
Another consideration in the drawing of district boundaries is the distribution of minority voters throughout the City and whether there is a possibility of creating a majority/minority voting district as required under the federal Voting Rights Act. It is important that the analysis of the 2020 Census Data review the ethnicity demographics, specifically voting age populations (VAP) and Citizen Voting Age Populations (CVAP).

Upon review of the City's VAP and CVAP data, all six districts are currently majority/minority Hispanic voting districts. Upon rebalancing the populations, care will be taken to preserve those demographic characteristics

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### ***Maps***

The map and accompanying demographic information of the City's current districts is attached to this report (Attachment 1). The current district boundary map is highlighted below:



The City’s Redistricting consultant has prepared three draft map options for Council’s consideration. In addition, a member of the public submitted a draft map option. Each map is summarized below and accompanying demographic information may be found attached to this report (Attachment 2). Further, an online tool for closely examining the boundaries, with zoom and search capabilities, will be available at the public hearing and posted on the City’s dedicated redistricting website for continued use.

**Map Option 1**

- Map Option 1 attempts to balance the population while retaining the general core of the existing districts.
- There is some similarity to the existing configuration, particularly with regard to Districts 2 and 4
- The map is population balanced, exhibiting a deviation of 3.56%, down significantly from the current deviation of 31.9%
- Preserves all six districts as majority/minority Hispanic voting districts
- A complete demographic analysis is attached at Attachment 2

### ***Map Option 2***

- Option 2 is population balanced, with a deviation of 6.96%
- Is a more substantive change from the current boundary map
- District's 4 and 5 share similarities to the existing configuration
- Districts 1, 2, and 6 see changes to the core of the districts and in their shape
- Preserves all six districts as majority/minority Hispanic voting districts

### ***Map Option 3***

- Option 3 resembles the City's current configuration, particularly with regard to Districts 2 and 4.
- It is population balanced, with a deviation of 7.12%.
- Preserves all six districts as majority/minority Hispanic voting districts.

### ***Map Option 4***

- Option 4 was received from a member of the public using the online mapping tool
- Significantly changes the configuration of the current districts
- It is population balanced with a deviation of 1.27%
- The districts are compact and contiguous, in compliance with the Fair Maps Act
- All six districts represent a majority/minority Hispanic voting district

### ***Next Steps***

Following this public hearing and continued demographic review of the recently released 2020 Census data, the City's redistricting consultant will revise any maps as directed by the Council, as well as evaluate any maps submitted by the public. The City has launched an online mapping tool which allows the public to draw and submit their own district maps for consideration. Any additional maps submitted by the public by February 7, 2022, will be evaluated and included with any revised maps considered at the fourth public hearing scheduled for February 16, 2022.

If at this public hearing the Council requests additional revisions, those revisions will be presented at the fourth public hearing. The Council may, at this public hearing, narrow their focus and identify a preferred map. In that instance, staff will also include an introduction of an Ordinance approving a final map at the fourth public hearing. Should additional public hearings be necessary to identify and select a preferred map, they will be scheduled accordingly. As noted above, the deadline for the City of Madera to complete the redistricting process is April 17, 2022.

### **FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

Costs associated with redistricting-related work includes the following:

- Contract with BB&K totaling \$50,000
- Various staff time and City Attorney fees

**CONSISTENCY WITH THE VISION MADERA 2025 PLAN:**

The requested action is not addressed in the vision or action plans; the requested action is also not in conflict with any of the actions or goals contained in that plan.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

The Council may direct staff to return with additional information or provide an alternative action.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

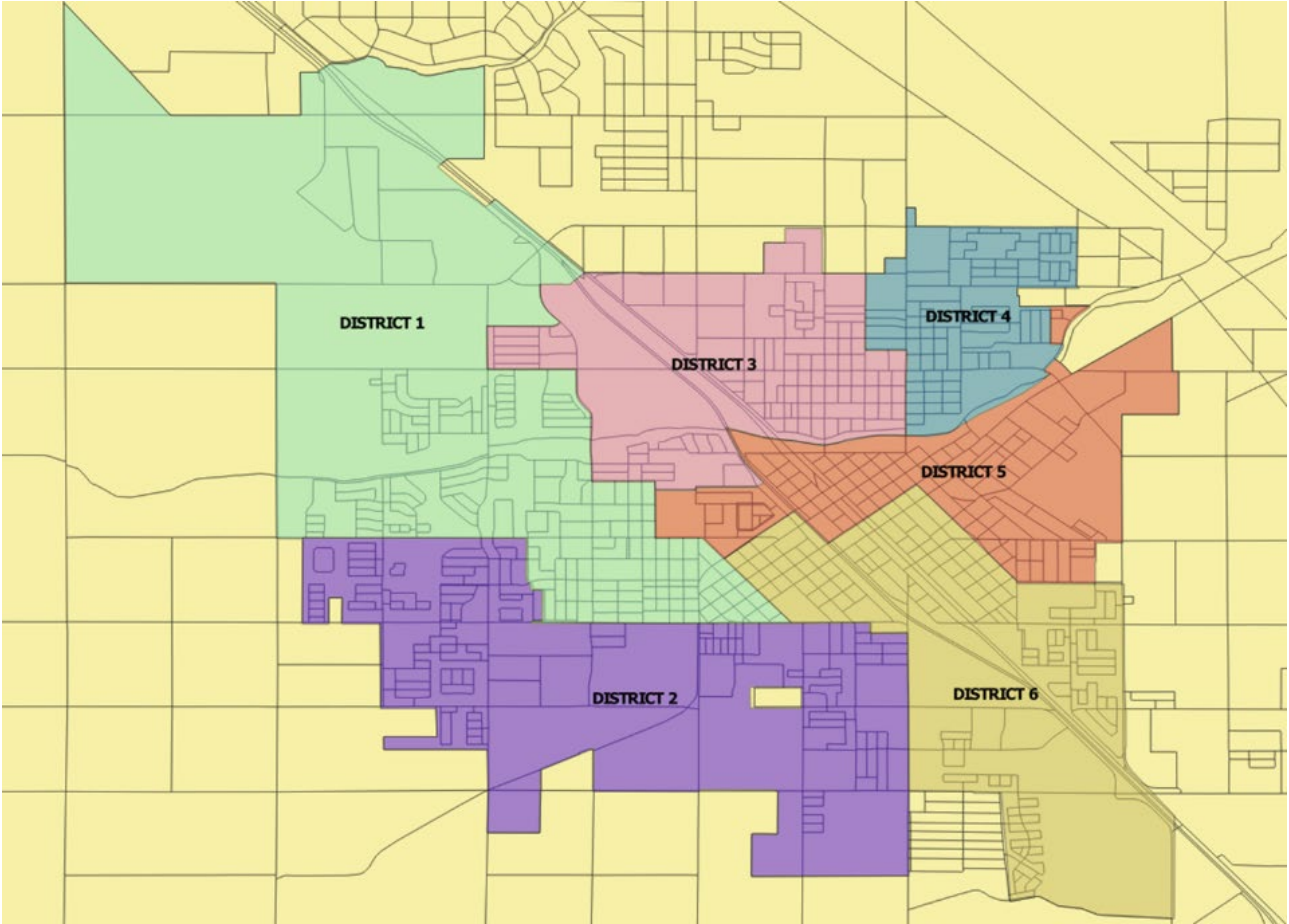
1. Attachment 1: Existing boundaries with demographic analysis
2. Attachment 2: Proposed map options with demographic analysis

Attachment 1:

Attachment 1: Existing boundaries with demographic analysis

# Attachment 1

## Existing Districts with 2020 Census Data Analysis



District	Total Population	Raw Deviation	% Population	CVAP19								
				CVAP*19 Total	NL** White	CVAP19 NL Black	CVAP Hispanic	CVAP19 Not Hispanic	CVAP19 NL AIAN***	CVAP19 NL ASIAN	CVAP19 NL Hawaiian	CVAP19 NL Other
DISTRICT 1	11371	379	3.4%	6642	2729	72	3382	3320	23	446	0	32
DISTRICT 2	11964	972	8.8%	6429	2054	472	3625	2758	42	18	1	31
DISTRICT 3	9700	-1292	-11.8%	3879	800	109	2804	1065	15	87	0	13
DISTRICT 4	10640	-352	-3.2%	4135	928	160	2834	1262	49	0	0	16
DISTRICT 5	9382	-1610	-14.6%	3501	544	590	2283	1240	3	26	0	33
DISTRICT 6	12897	1905	17.3%	5522	1017	407	3957	1540	1	61	0	1
Total Populatio	65954											
Ideal Population	10992.3											
Total deviation	31.90%											
*CVAP =	Citizen Voting Age Population											
**NL =	Non-Latino											
***AIAN =	American Indian Alaskan Native											



Attachment 2:  
Proposed map options with demographic analysis







