



Northern Los Angeles Antelope Valley

The entire Antelope Valley desert region runs in both eastern Kern County and northern Los Angeles County. After the Commission's recent public hearing in the Antelope Valley, there was discussion of not only dividing the two counties, but also splitting Lancaster and Palmdale into different districts. We respectfully urge the Commission to reject this idea. Lancaster and Palmdale have been within the same state legislative districts since at least the 1970s. As bad politician-driven redistricting has been, even they kept these two cities together.

Lancaster and Palmdale share a sixteen-mile border, as well as several special districts that cover both cities, including the Antelope Valley Hospital District, Antelope Valley College District, Antelope Valley High School District, Antelope-Valley East Kern Water Agency, Antelope Valley Transportation Agency providing bus service throughout the two cities and surrounding communities, Antelope Valley Air Quality Management District and regional LA County Sanitation District. Most regional associations cover both cities as opposed to one or the other. These include the Greater Antelope Valley Association of Realtors, the Antelope Valley Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, the Antelope Valley Black Chamber of Commerce, the Antelope Valley Board of Trade and the Greater Antelope Valley Economic Alliance. The state has also recognized the area's economic ties by designating Lancaster and Palmdale in the same Antelope Valley Enterprise Zone. The federal government has done the same by recognizing them in the same Antelope Valley Foreign Trade Zone.

Together, the two cities and the surrounding desert communities in just LA County make up approximately 80% of an Assembly District and 40% of a Senate District.

This Map denotes the Los Angeles County portion of the Antelope Valley. Whichever direction Legislative, Equalization or Congressional Districts go, this area should be preserved together.



Population

Total Population: 377,215

Universe: Total Population
 Datasource: U.S. Census Bureau Decennial Census
 Data Year: 2010
 Data Level: Census Block

Total Population	377,215
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Citizen Voting Age Population

Universe: Total Population
 Datasource: Statewide Database at the University of California Berkeley
 Data Year: 2010
 Data Level: Census Block



Citizen Voting Age Population	197,329
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Ethnicity / Race

44.73% Hispanic or Latino
 33.22% White alone
 14.98% Black or African American alone
 3.86% Asian
 0.71% Some Other Race
 2.50% Two or More Races

Universe: Total Population
 Datasource: U.S. Census Bureau Decennial Census
 Data Year: 2010
 Data Level: Census Block

Original District = Blue line

Hispanic or Latino	44.73% 168,746
White alone	33.22% 125,316
Black or African American alone	14.98% 56,499
Asian	3.86%

	14,570
Some Other Race	0.71% 2,667
Two or More Races	2.50% 9,417

Additional Information

The unemployment rate is approximately 18% throughout the district, with a housing cost of \$50-\$80 per square foot. This differs greatly from Bakersfield and Central Valley communities, some with even higher unemployment as well as the Santa Clarita/Ventura County areas with unemployment around 8% and housing costs nearing \$250 per square foot.

Aerospace has historically been one of the booming businesses in the Antelope Valley. Edwards Air Force Base, USAF Plant 42, and the China Lake Naval Weapons facility and Virgin Galactic at Mojave Spaceport are major economic engines.

Recently, the Antelope Valley has become the green energy capital of North America. Wind and solar resources are better here than anywhere else in the country with dozens of wind and solar energy production facilities being developed throughout east Kern and northern Los Angeles County.

Educationally, the entire High Desert, including northern Los Angeles, eastern Kern and northern San Bernardino counties have joined forces to promote a comprehensive four year university as the next California State University campus. The nearest CSU is over sixty miles from almost any point in the High Desert.

Several government agency boundaries already cross the Kern/Los Angeles County line in order to provide local services. These include the Antelope Valley-East Kern Water Agency and the Antelope Valley Community College District.

Demographically, we have a fast growing Hispanic Community. Splitting us outside of the High Desert would dilute the influence of our Hispanic community.

Conclusion

In every sense, the Antelope Valley is a community of interest that transcends artificial county lines. Environmentally, demographically, geologically, socially and economically we are distinct from areas outside of our mountain boundaries. If there must be a division of the two-county Antelope Valley, at a minimum the LA County portion ought to remain together with Lancaster and Palmdale in the same district. This idea is endorsed by:

- The City of Lancaster**
- Antelope Valley High School District**
- Antelope Valley College District**
- Antelope Valley Board of Trade**
- Greater Antelope Valley Economic Alliance**

The mission of the Antelope Valley Board of Trade is to engage in maintaining and promoting diverse business and industry, quality infrastructures, and a strong legislative voice for the benefit of its members and the greater Antelope Valley.