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Committee Report/Analysis

Census Bureau Publishes the First Official Data for the San Fernando Valley

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After many years of effort by San Fernando Valley leaders, the US Census Bureau has released the first data for the geographically defined San Fernando Valley. Formally identified as a *Census County Division* this geographic designation allows the Valley to be treated as a *place* for purposes of all future decennial censuses.

The data show what news reports call a “racially diverse population spanning from the very rich to the very poor;” 72,000 households have income under \$15,000; more than 40% of the population is foreign born; and a foreign language is spoken in 59% of Valley homes. With a population of 1.74 million, the Valley ranks behind only four U.S. cities in size: New York, Los Angeles, Chicago and Houston. The data is expected to increase the Valley’s political clout, and help to meet the needs of Valley communities.

The Census Bureau has a number of different geographic information system (GIS) overlays used to designate areas: *Places*, *Incorporated Places*, *Census Designated Places* (CDPs), *Minor Civil Divisions* (MCDs), *Unorganized Territories*, and *Census County Divisions* (CCDs).

The San Fernando Valley Census County Division includes the entire cities (*incorporated places*) of Burbank, Calabasas, Glendale, Hidden Hills and San Fernando, as well as designated portions (*census tracts*) of the City of Los Angeles and unincorporated Los Angeles County.

This year’s release of 2005 data is part of the American Community Survey (ACS). The ACS is a new program for the bureau, providing up-to-date annual data using a *Continuous Measurement System*. The survey will replace the long form in the 2010 Census. For the Valley, the annual 2005 data

is intended to be a one-time event until after the release of the 2010 data.

Policy Implementation

- Continue work to establish the Southern California Association of Governments, San Fernando Valley Planning Subregion through the establishment of a San Fernando Valley Council of Governments (Scott).
- Seek to have intervening years’ data (2006-2009) made available through the efforts of the local congressional and county supervisorial offices.
- Meet with State Controller John Chiang at a future event to discuss accessing state bond infrastructure funds for Valley projects (Healey).
- Convene panel of experts to assist in visioning, seeking housing dollars and resources, including an increase in allowable floor area ratios (FAR) for enlightened planning (Krieger-Hoffman).
- Solicit input on how various organizations and agencies use census data (Blake).

Use of Data: planning, transportation and infrastructure; governance and understanding communities; assessing strengths and weaknesses; public policy and cultural considerations; economic development, status and progress; marketing reports and strategies; site selection, market and real estate trends, social services and charities, civic initiatives and outreach; grant applications and reports.

Access data at: www.valleyofthestars.net or www.csun.edu/sfverc/.

Mayor’s Office Reaching Out on LAUSD Reform

Marcella Ayala, Office of the Mayor of Los Angeles

The Mulholland/Alliance report *Reforming Schools* was distributed and discussed in response to requests from the office of Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa for community input on public school reform. Whether all students should be college bound is in controversy with the notion that vocational careers are more important for some.