

# VS population change explained

**By Sharon Romano**

**The Valley Springs News, Wednesday, November 7, 2018**

Population signs posted as you enter Valley Springs have recently been changed by Caltrans to reflect a population of 3,553. Wait! Before the change, the population was shown as more than 7,000. What happened?

According to Warren Alford, a Caltrans spokesperson, “Caltrans received an inquiry from a citizen who felt like the sign overstated the population of Valley Springs. When we pulled the latest census data, it showed a lower population number, so we ordered a new sign to be responsive to the inquiry and provide more accurate information to the public.”

Caltrans typically uses the most current U.S. Census data to obtain the population of both incorporated cities and unincorporated towns such as Valley Springs. If a town’s population isn’t given in the census data they contact the local agency directly to get their number for a population. Alford did not know how the previous population number was determined.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, there is one birth every eight seconds, and one death every 12 seconds in the United States. You can check out the population clock and more interesting U.S. and world data at [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov).