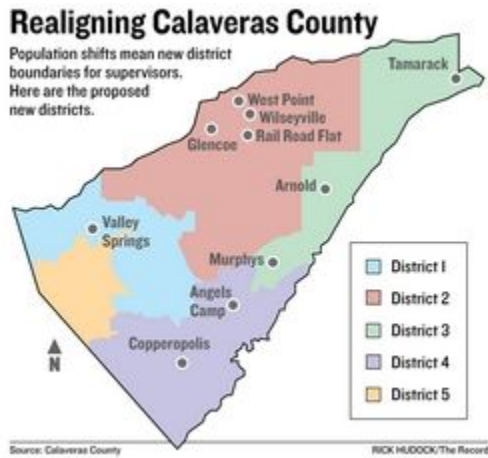


POPULATION CHANGES SHIFT LOBE LANDSCAPE



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SAN ANDREAS - Calaveras County Supervisors appear to be leaning toward a redistricting plan that would for the first time in many decades create three supervisorial districts along the north side of the county and only two along Highway 4 on the south side.

Supervisors reviewed a proposed redistricting map during a study session Tuesday.

Board of Supervisors Chairman Tom Tryon praised the plan, saying it would "keep the Highway 4 corridor intact for the first time in 30 years."

Highway 4 has long been the county's tourism powerhouse, combining the ski cabins in Arnold with the Murphys wine country and golf and lake resorts in Angels Camp and Copperopolis.

In the past decade, however, population growth in the Valley Springs area and a decline in Arnold shifted population north. Instead of the 20 percent of population each current district should have in a perfect division, District 3 in the Arnold area now has only 14.6 percent of county population, according to an estimate by county technical staff, while District 5, which includes Copperopolis, Milton and the Rancho Calaveras portion of Valley Springs, had grown to almost 26 percent of county population.

Under the proposed plan, District 5 would shrink geographically to the relatively densely populated housing tracts in Jenny Lind and Rancho Calaveras as well as more rural areas stretching west along Highway 26 toward the San Joaquin County line.

The proposal also shows Districts 3 and 4 on Highway 4 spreading downhill. The tourist town of Murphys would shift into District 3, and District 4, which is currently Angels Camp and Murphys, would shift west to take in Copperopolis.

Tuesday was the first formal opportunity for the Board of Supervisors to hear public comment on the plan, which is still expected to undergo revisions.

The public, however, had little to say because almost no one had studied the map, since Calaveras County Technical Services staff had not yet posted it online.

Technical Service Director Howard Stohlman assured those present at Tuesday's meeting that the proposed map will be posted online "almost immediately."

The map is available at
co.calaveras.ca.us/cc/Departments/Supervisors/ProposedSupervisorialDistricts.aspx.

Stohlman said the map will allow viewers to zoom in on various parts of the county to see addresses and streets.

The Board of Supervisors will hold another study session on the proposed redistricting map next week and then a formal public hearing before any new map is adopted. The map needs to be revised promptly based on 2010 census data to comply with state law.

Supervisor Darren Spellman said he's pleased that the controversial Trinitas golf resort on Ospital Road would be shifted out of Supervisor Gary Tofanelli's District 1 and into Spellman's District 5 under the proposed redistricting plan.

"I am eager and excited to put this to rest," Spellman said over disputes between the resort and neighbors who objected to it being constructed without permits in an agricultural preserve. "I want to work through this with the parties involved."

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