

***MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF  
BIG BEAR MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT  
HELD ON THURSDAY, APRIL 5, 2012***

**CALL TO ORDER**

President Eminger called the Open Session to order at 1:00 PM. Those in attendance included Director Murphy, Director Fashempour, Director Suhay, Director Smith, District Counsel Wayne Lemieux (via Skype), General Manager Scott Heule, Lake Manager Mike Stephenson, and Board Secretary Vicki Sheppard.

**REPORTS**

General Manager Scott Heule reported that he and Mike Stephenson starred in a video presentation for the Big Bear Antique Car Club meeting last night. He explained that he made the presentation on the District's Quagga Initiative that was originally recorded on the Nancy Kennedy show. He commented that there were about 25 people present. He added that they asked good questions and were very appreciative of the presentation. Mr. Heule explained that he met with David Lawrence, Pavolova Vitale, and Gia Kim, of San Bernardino County this past Tuesday to discuss progress on the nutrient TMDL activities. He reported that they asked for a proposal to expand our harvesting and carp reduction programs that Mr. Stephenson is working on. He explained that more details will be shared and discussed with the Watershed Committee as they coalesce in the near future. Mr. Heule reported that we have completed one round of TMDL Lake sampling on behalf of the City and County. He explained that the District is being reimbursed for our costs associated with this effort and they are getting samples to the lab and paying for all laboratory charges. He added that, at this point in time, the USFS and Caltrans are not participating in this effort. He reported that he received an e-mail message from Ray Stokes at Caltrans yesterday. He explained that Mr. Stokes asked about outstanding issues related to their work at the dam. Mr. Heule responded to Mr. Stokes with a long list and now is waiting on him to set up a time and date for a face to face meeting to discuss details of how to proceed. He explained that Mr. Stokes asked if the District had any plans to pursue a maintenance bridge on the dam after all of the Caltrans work is done. Mr. Heule responded that the District has spent all the money that we are going to spend on this and that we had no plans to spend any more. Mr. Heule added that he will keep the Facilities Committee up to date as this issue develops. He reported that the 2012 edition of Mountain Waters Dispatch is being distributed. He commented that staff did a great job as usual. He explained that it is four pages longer than in the past, with more content, commenting that the advertising is still paying full freight on the printing costs. Mr. Heule reported that the new software is doing a great job for us on permit sales and RV Park reservations. He explained that there are some differences in how the various tasks are carried out and it appears that it will simplify the auditing and accounting functions moving forward. He added that now as a permit is sold at the ramps it is automatically recorded and updated on the server here in the District office. He reported that last Monday he went with Adam Williams on the first boat tow of the season. He explained that the fisherman's motor quit and would not start adding that smoke from the engine indicated an electrical problem.

Lake Manager, Mike Stephenson reported that he attended the (WAPMS) Western Aquatic Plant Management Society Conference earlier in the week. He added that he will make a full report in the near future. He reported that the herbicide arrived today and they will begin application soon. He stated that since Tyler Cockrell is leaving the District some staff changes had to be made. He

explained that Mark Hopkins is going to be on Lake Patrol and Chris Jackson will be Ramp Crew-leader. He commented that the East Ramp is now open and fishing is good. President Eminger reported that he had a conversation with the Big Bear helicopter company explaining that they can do aerial photography and we might be able to save some money by using their services.

#### **APPROVAL OF CONSENT CALENDAR**

Upon a motion by Director Murphy, seconded by Director Fashempour, the following consent items were unanimously approved:

- Minutes of a Regular Meeting of March 15, 2012
- Warrant List Dated March 28, 2012 for \$48,486.37
- Approval of a concession permit to Ruth Fawley for Big Kahuna Hot Dog concession at the East Ramp
- Approval of Special Districts Selection Election for the Regular LAFCO Member
- Approval of a Resolution of the Board of Directors Adopting the Accumulation Program (Apple Plan) for Part-time and Limited-service employees

#### **PRESENTATION BY SOUTH COAST AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT REGARDING ATMOSPHERIC MERCURY SAMPLING**

Mr. Heule introduced Todd Warden of the South Coast Air Quality Management District who introduced Dr. Philip Fine PhD who made a PowerPoint presentation regarding Atmospheric Mercury in the Big Bear Lake area (see summary attached). Dr. Fine commented on mercury in fish (bass) and covered the differences in particulate and reactive mercury. He also covered the studies they did on the Mitsubishi Cement Plant concluding that the plant is not a significant source of mercury. He commented that while the atmosphere may be a source of mercury to Big Bear Lake the ambient levels are already quite low and trying to reduce them would not make a dent in the atmospheric levels. Dr. Fine now asked for questions. President Eminger asked if much of the mercury in the US is coming from China. Dr. Fine stated that China is a major source worldwide. Director Smith asked about the affects of eating bass from Big Bear Lake. Dr. Fine stated that he is not an authority on that subject explaining that his was an atmospheric study and what mercury flows into the lake was not studied. He commented that atmospheric levels were insignificant adding that even if atmospheric levels were cut in half it probably would not make a difference. Mr. Heule thanked Dr. Fine for his informative presentation. He introduced Hope Smythe, David Lawrence, and Pavolova Vitale and asked if anyone in the audience wanted to comment. Hope Smythe, CA Regional Water Quality Control Board, stated that the "water world" and the "air world" were finally coming together and this information fills a large data gap and will help with statewide mercury monitoring. She reported that the Water Quality Control Board will continue to do studies. David Lawrence, City of Big Bear Lake, commented that now that we know there are not elevated mercury levels in the atmosphere, why are bass gathering mercury. Mr. Stephenson stated that it seems to only be found in larger, older bass. Ms. Smyth reported that as long as we see levels decreasing it is a good thing. Director Fashempour asked how old the fish are that have elevated mercury levels. Mr. Stephenson stated that since Big Bear Lake is cold, a large bass is most likely considerably older than bass in other lakes. He added that they grow more slowly and may have been in the lake for years. Director Fashempour asked how many large bass are in the lake. Mr. Stephenson reported that he believes there are very few bass over 3 lbs. Ms. Smythe stated that she doesn't want to do TMDL if not necessary adding that the District should develop an appropriate policy to address

this issue. Mr. Lawrence stated that something like a catch and release policy for any bass over 3 pounds would probably work. Mr. Heule stated that we don't know the fish census regarding bass in the lake and perhaps we should solicit the help of Fish & Game to try and determine the bass population.

### **PUBLIC HEARING: CONSIDER APPROVAL OF DIVISION BOUNDARY REDISTRICITING**

Mr. Heule made a PowerPoint presentation (see attached) explaining that District Board members are elected by geographic Divisions based on population. He added that the District is required to consider adjusting Division boundaries based on changing populations within the District after every census. He explained that the current Division boundaries were assigned based on the 2000 census when the population in the District was 20,055 persons. He commented that the recent 2010 census reports a population within the District of only 17,988 and a considerable variation between individual Division populations exists. Mr. Heule reported that the current population by Division is as follows: Division 1 (Murphy) = 3286, Division 2 (Fashempour) = 3308, Division 3 (Suhay) = 3672, Division 4 (Eminger) = 3724, and Division 5 (Smith) = 4008. He explained that the Administrative Committee previously recommended that Division boundaries be adjusted to reflect a more uniform distribution of population for each of the Districts' five divisions and a draft proposal was presented at the March 15, 2012 meeting. He reported that at that meeting it was determined to proceed with the new Division boundaries and schedule this Public Hearing to consider public comment. He explained that if the Board approves the proposed new division boundaries today, Staff will then have an engineer prepare legal descriptions of each for submittal to the County Registrar of Voters and a Resolution formally adopting the new division boundaries will be considered for approval at a future meeting. The public made no comments on the proposed new Division Boundaries.

Director Smith moved approval of Division Boundary Redistricting as shown on the new proposed division boundaries map. Director Fashempour seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

### **PUBLIC FORUM**

No comments were made

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mr. Heule reported that he will be sharing his educational and professional history with a senior English class at the high school next Friday commenting that it should prove to be interesting to hear their reactions. He explained that there will be one more round of interviews tomorrow for Ramp Attendants. He commented that the quality we have seen so far is a bit lacking adding that we have had to reach deeper into the pool of applicants than we had hoped.

### **DIRECTOR COMMENTS**

Director Smith commented that the information we received today regarding mercury TMDL is a big breakthrough adding that the data we were using before was out of line. He stated that we need to address the TMDL issue that Hope Smythe commented on. Director Murphy stated that we need to jump on this quickly and provide Ms. Smythe with what she needs. Mr. Heule stated that we need to know the bass size and population before we can address this. Mr. Stephenson stated that we could work with Fish & Game for this information adding that more and more people are coming to Big Bear Lake to fish for bass.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:17 P.M.

**NEXT MEETING**

Open Session at 1:00 P.M.  
Thursday, April 19, 2012  
Big Bear Municipal Water District  
40524 Lakeview Drive, Big Bear Lake, CA

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Vicki Sheppard  
Secretary to the Board  
Big Bear Municipal Water District

(SEAL)





# **ATMOSPHERIC MERCURY IN THE BIG BEAR LAKE AREA**

*Philip M. Fine, Ph.D.*

*Planning and Rules Manager  
South Coast Air Quality Management District*



**April 05, 2012**

[pfine@aqmd.gov](mailto:pfine@aqmd.gov)



## ***Study Summary***

- Sources of Hg in the basin exist, but are not major sources relative to other parts of the country
- Monitored Hg concentrations consistent with expected background levels and those found worldwide
- Total Hg contribution from Mitsubishi plant generally not discernable in monitoring data, even during favorable wind conditions. Modeled concentrations confirm this result
- While the atmosphere may be a source of Hg to Big Bear Lake, the ambient levels are already low and close to background levels.



# Big Bear Municipal Water District

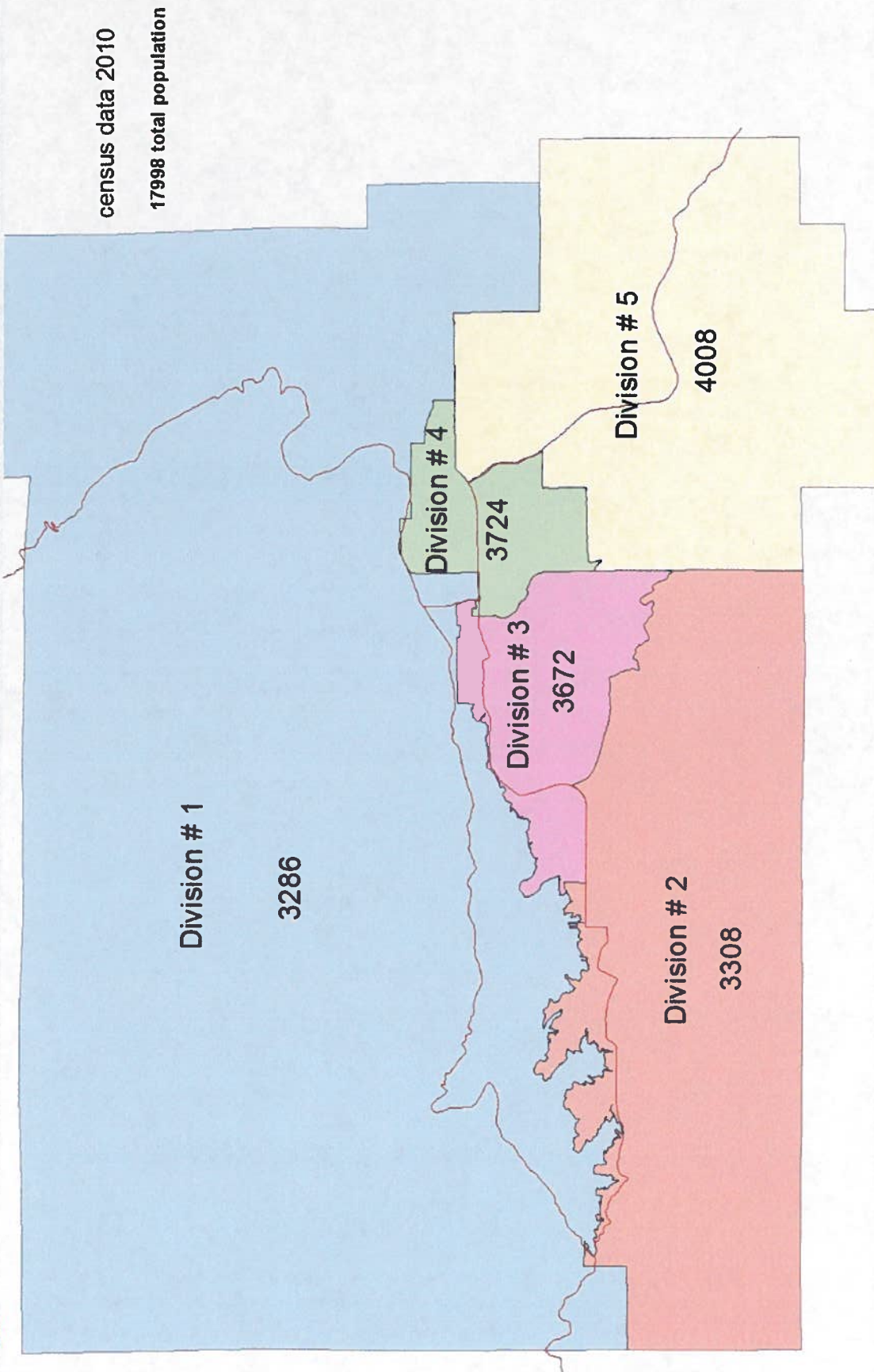
Proposed Division Redistricting based on 2010 Census  
April 5, 2012 Public Hearing



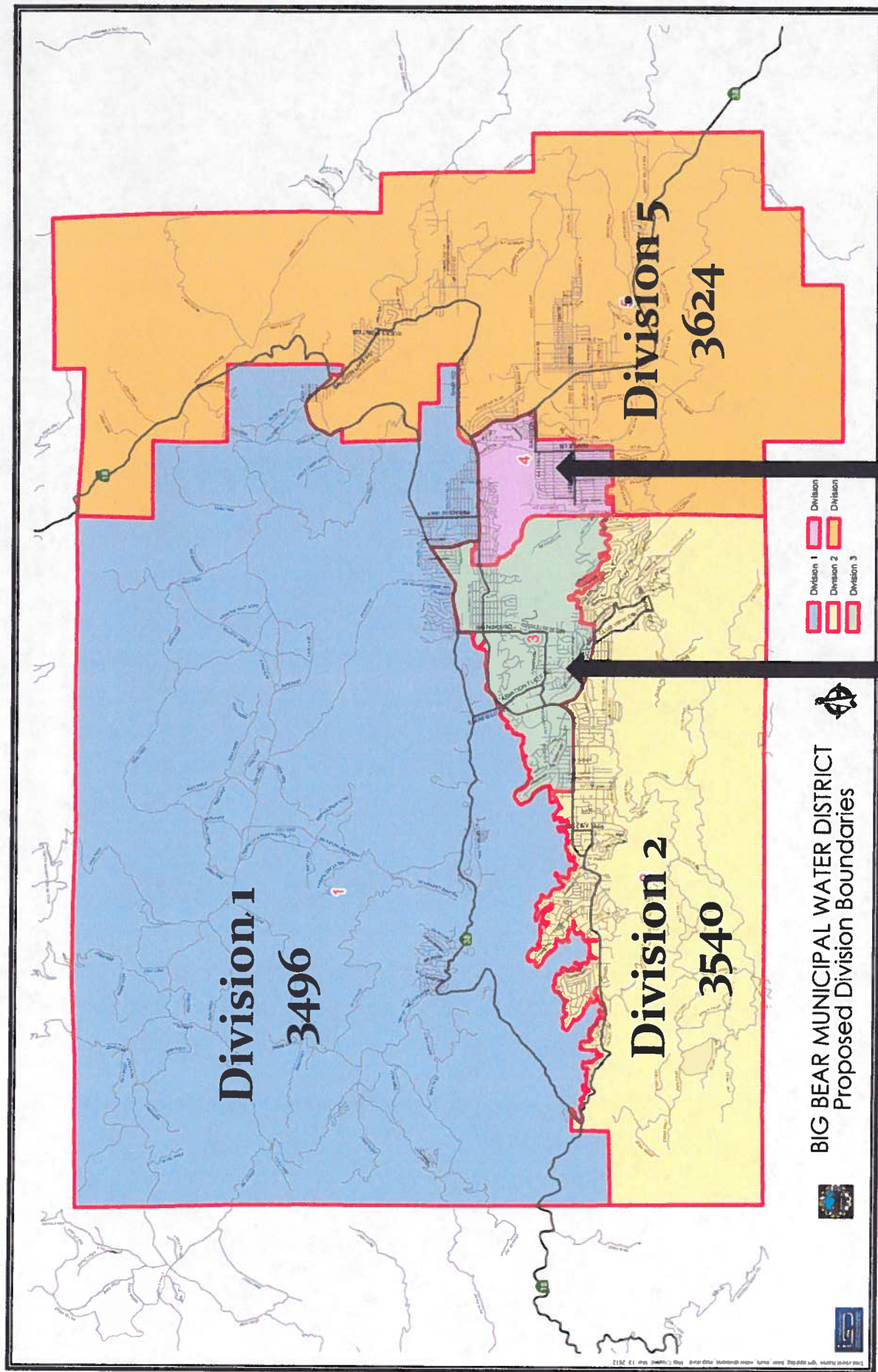
# Census Results

- 2000 Census District Population = 20,055
  - Target for each Division = 4,011
- 2010 Census District Population = 17,998
  - Target for each Division = 3,599
- Current Division Populations
  - Div. 1 = 3,286
  - Div. 2 = 3,308
  - Div. 3 = 3,672
  - Div. 4 = 3,724
  - Div. 5 = 4,008





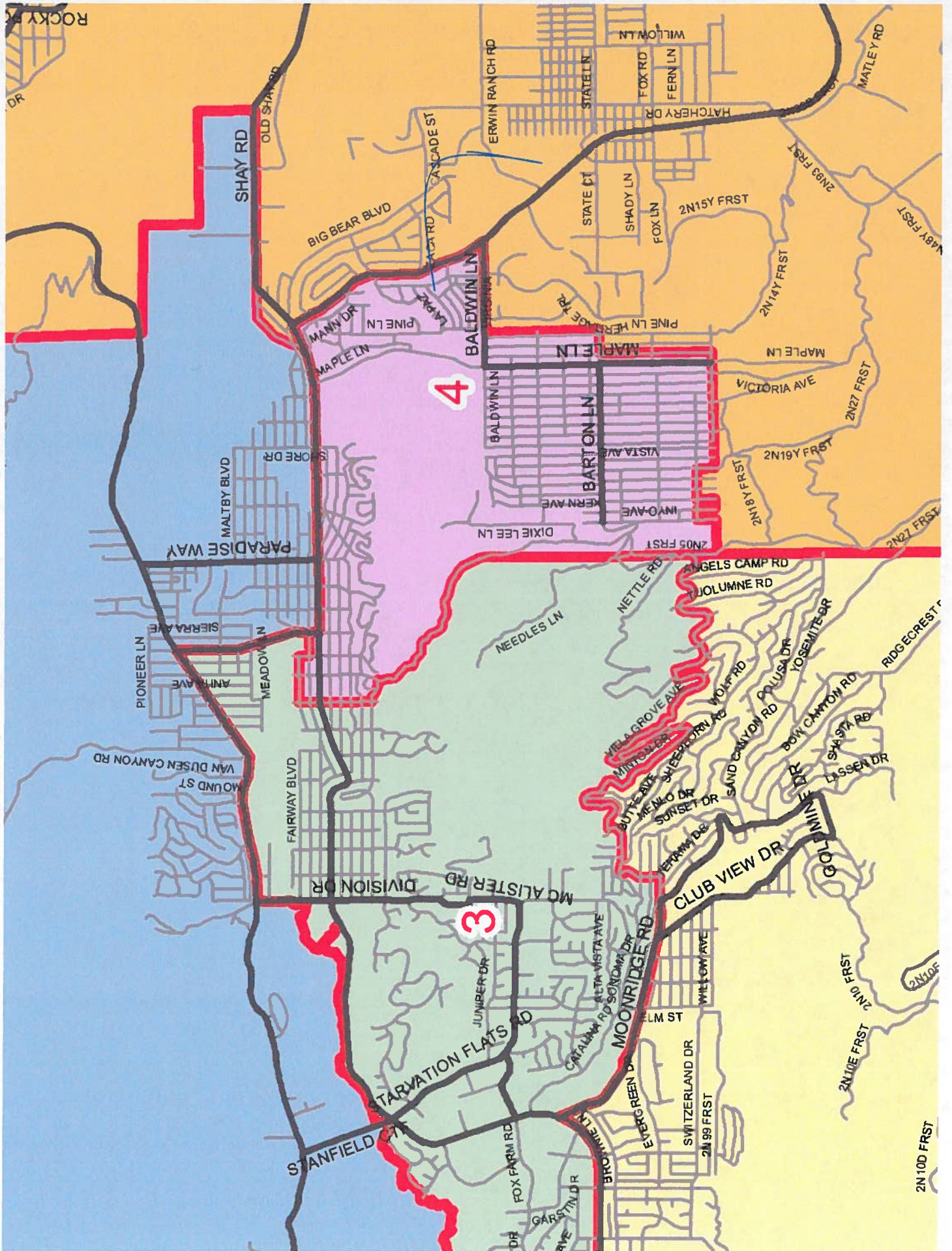
Current Division Boundaries, March 2012



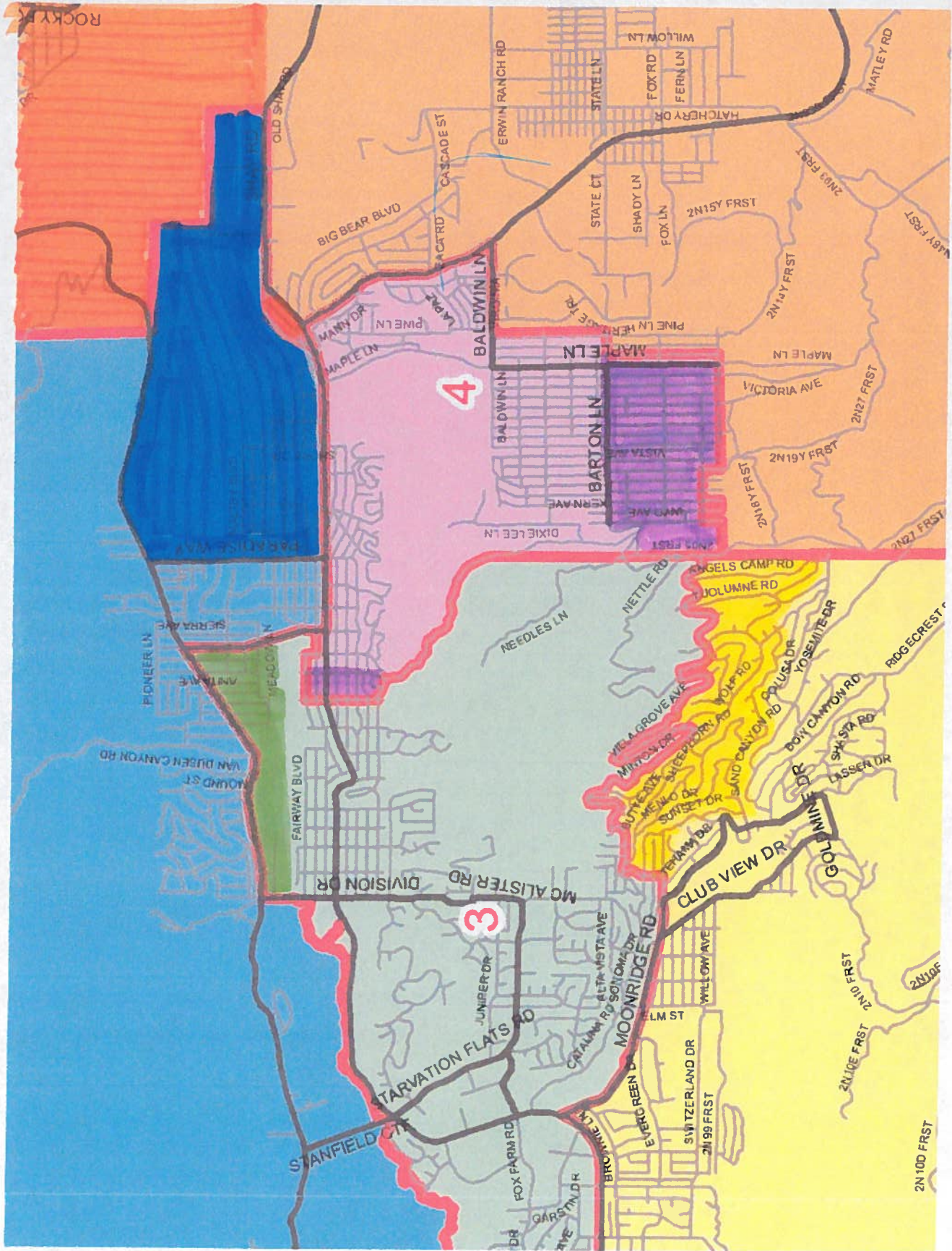
**Division 3**   **Division 4**

3669   3669













# Next Steps

- Public Hearing April 5, 2012
- Award contract to prepare legal description
- Adopt resolution defining new Division boundaries
- Forward mapping to San Bernardino County Registrar of Voters