



CALIFORNIA BLACK CENSUS
AND REDISTRICTING HUB

Communities of Interest Maps and Narrative

- The following are maps and narrative summaries collected by CA Black Census and Redistricting Hub coalition members from over 50 conversations with over 400 Black community residents and leaders across the State of California.
- Community residents and leaders identified important historic and emerging Black communities in 13 counties: Alameda, Contra Costa, Fresno, Kern, Kings, Los Angeles, Riverside, Sacramento, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Joaquin, Solano, and Tulare.
- COI Conversations took place between May 2021 and July 2021
- Black CVAP is based on 2020 pre-adjusted census data

Maps provided by the USC Equity Research Institute

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BAY AREA

Bay Area Regional Overview

Overview of Communities of Interest

- Oakland, particularly East & West Oakland
- Richmond
- San Pablo
- Rodeo
- Antioch
- Pittsburg
- Baypoint
- Vallejo

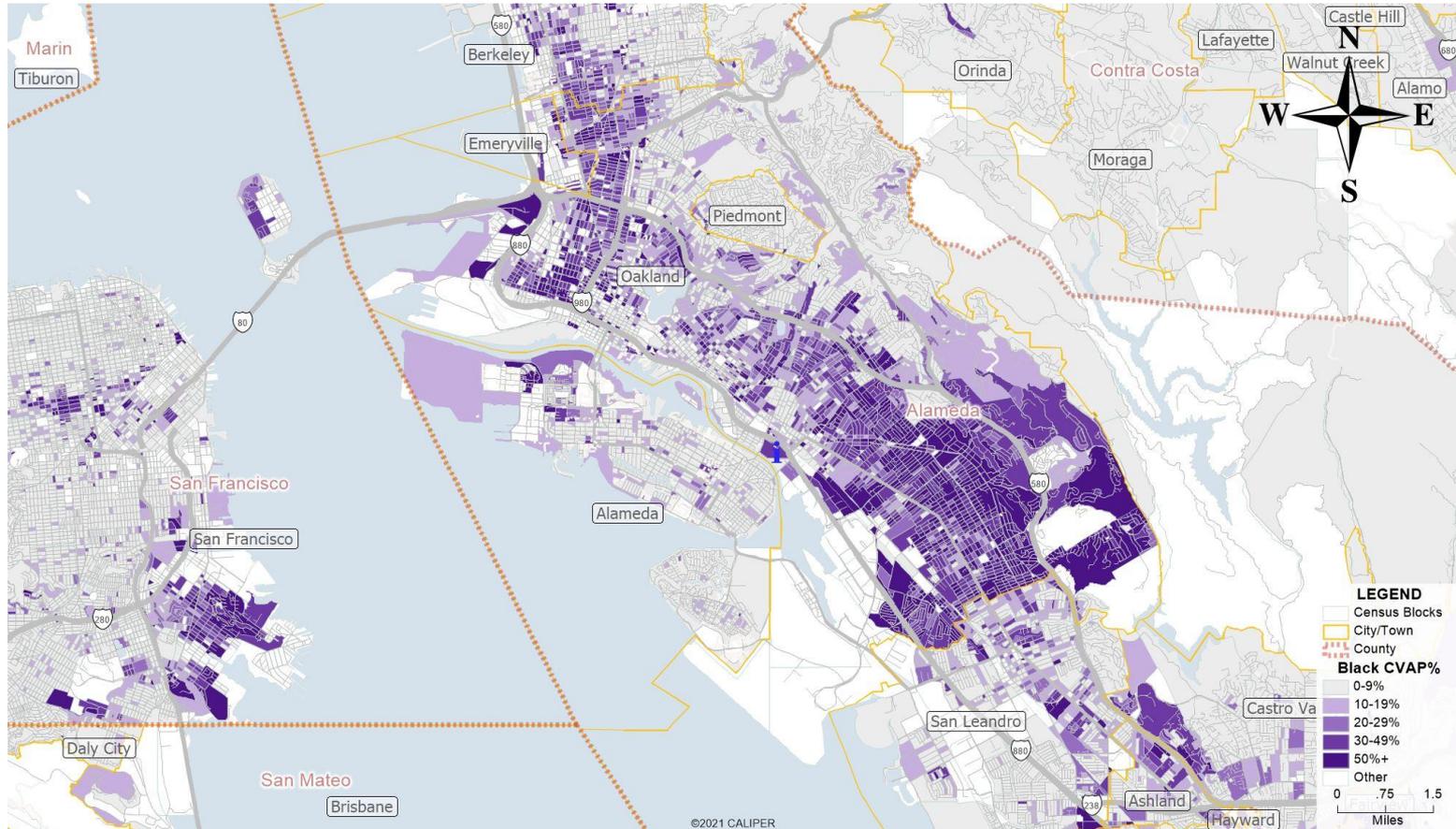
Key Unifying Trends

- There were concerns raised around environmental hazards, lack of quality education, criminalization and over policing, and access to adequate healthcare.
- The impact of the tech boom over the past two decades has also intensified gentrification and has drastically impacted the cost of living throughout the region
- Gentrification and rapid changes in housing costs has pushed Black people out of historic Black neighborhoods in Oakland and Richmond and into emerging communities in East Contra Costa County

District Preferences

- We heard a strong desire to protect the political voice of historic Black neighborhoods like Oakland, Richmond and Vallejo
- There was also much interest in keeping emerging Black communities in East Contra Costa whole and together, and paired with other historic Black neighborhoods where possible.

Oakland / Emeryville

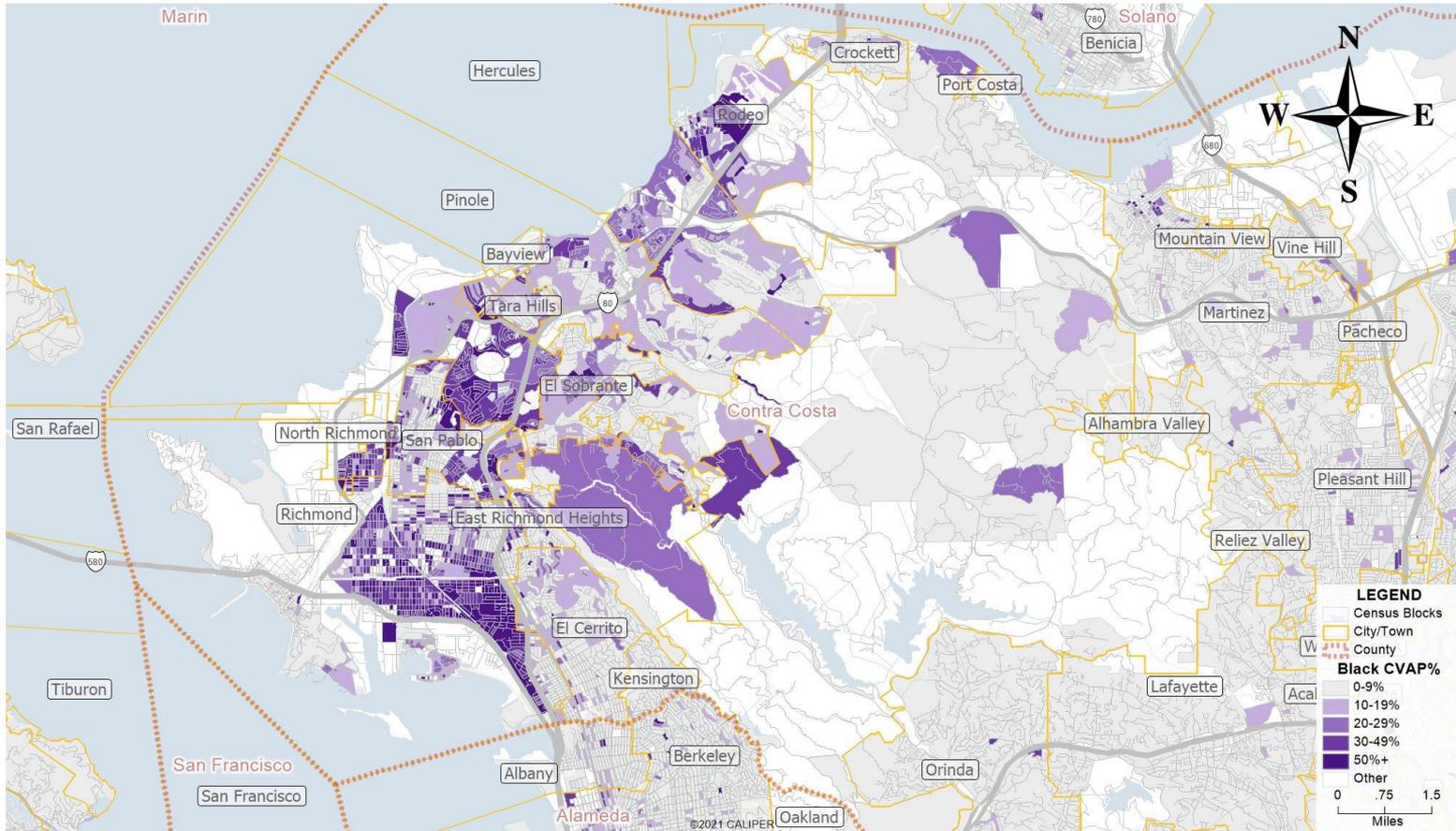


See COI Tool Reference #082520211069 for detailed COI boundaries.

Oakland / Emeryville

- Oakland's historically Black community is being displaced by gentrification leaving the remaining Black community underserved, disenfranchised, and left out of the decision-making process.
- Oakland hopes to stay as whole as possible, but Black communities have especially highlighted the need to keep East and West Oakland together. They do not want to be in district with Piedmont, a more affluent and predominantly white community. .
- Both these communities share similar demographics as well as a need for more affordable housing, increased funding to keep schools open, accessible food markets and more shared economical support to increase and sustain Black owned businesses.

Richmond / Hercules / Rodeo

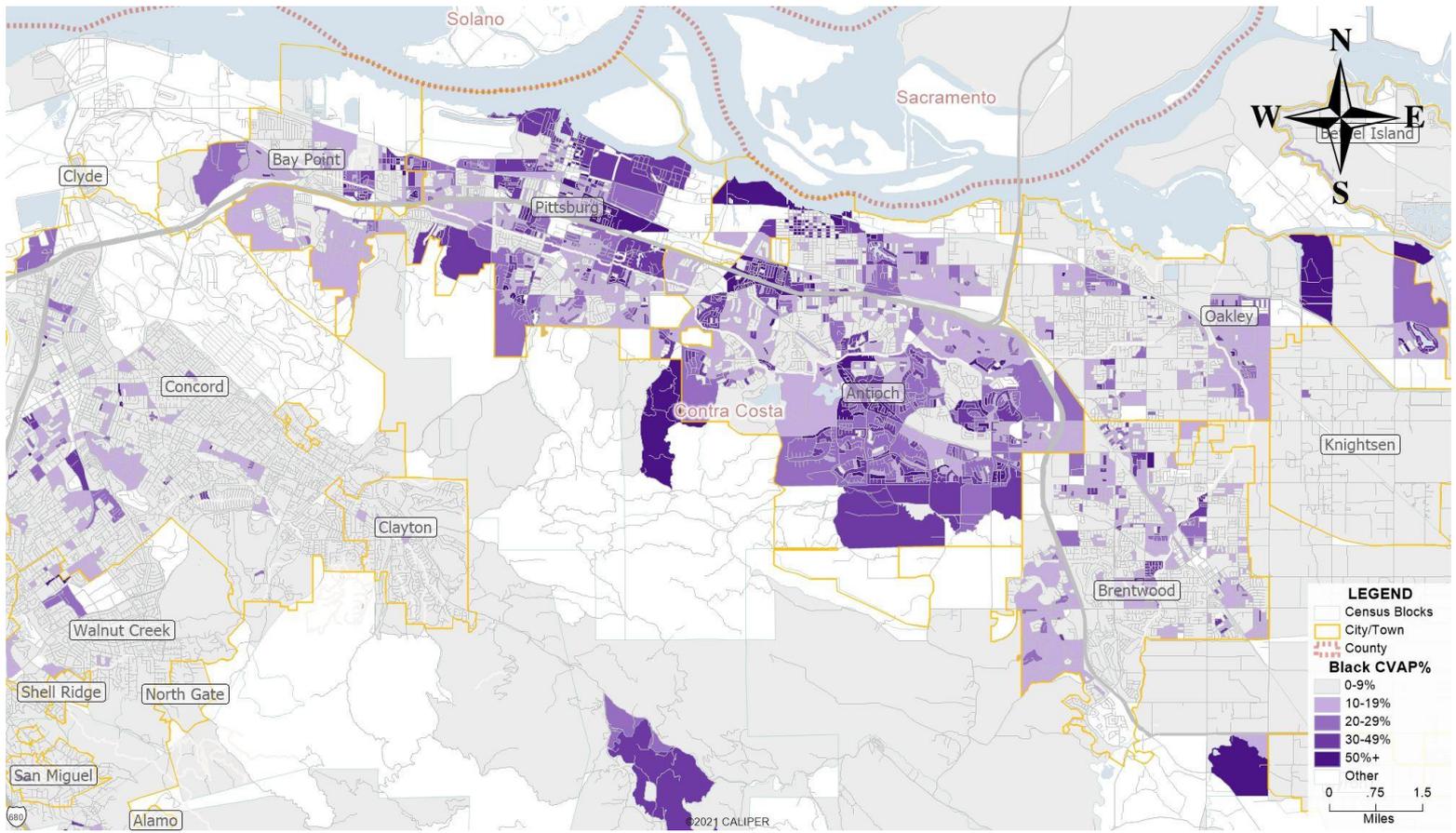


See COI Tool Reference #082520211227 for detailed COI boundaries.

Richmond / Hercules / Rodeo

- It's important to this community that there is greater investment in violence prevention through the funding of youth and mental health programs, education equity for public schools, programs and support for the unhoused that doesn't criminalize houselessness. There is also a need to address public works issues like flood prevention, littering and illegal dumping.
- This community faces multiple systemic inequities that result in disproportionately high rates of homicide, gun violence, high school drop-out rates, poverty and unemployment which is exacerbated by historical disinvestment. There are job, food and transportation deserts, as well as escalating displacement and lack of affordable housing similar to other Bay Area communities,

Antioch / Bay Point / Pittsburg / Brentwood

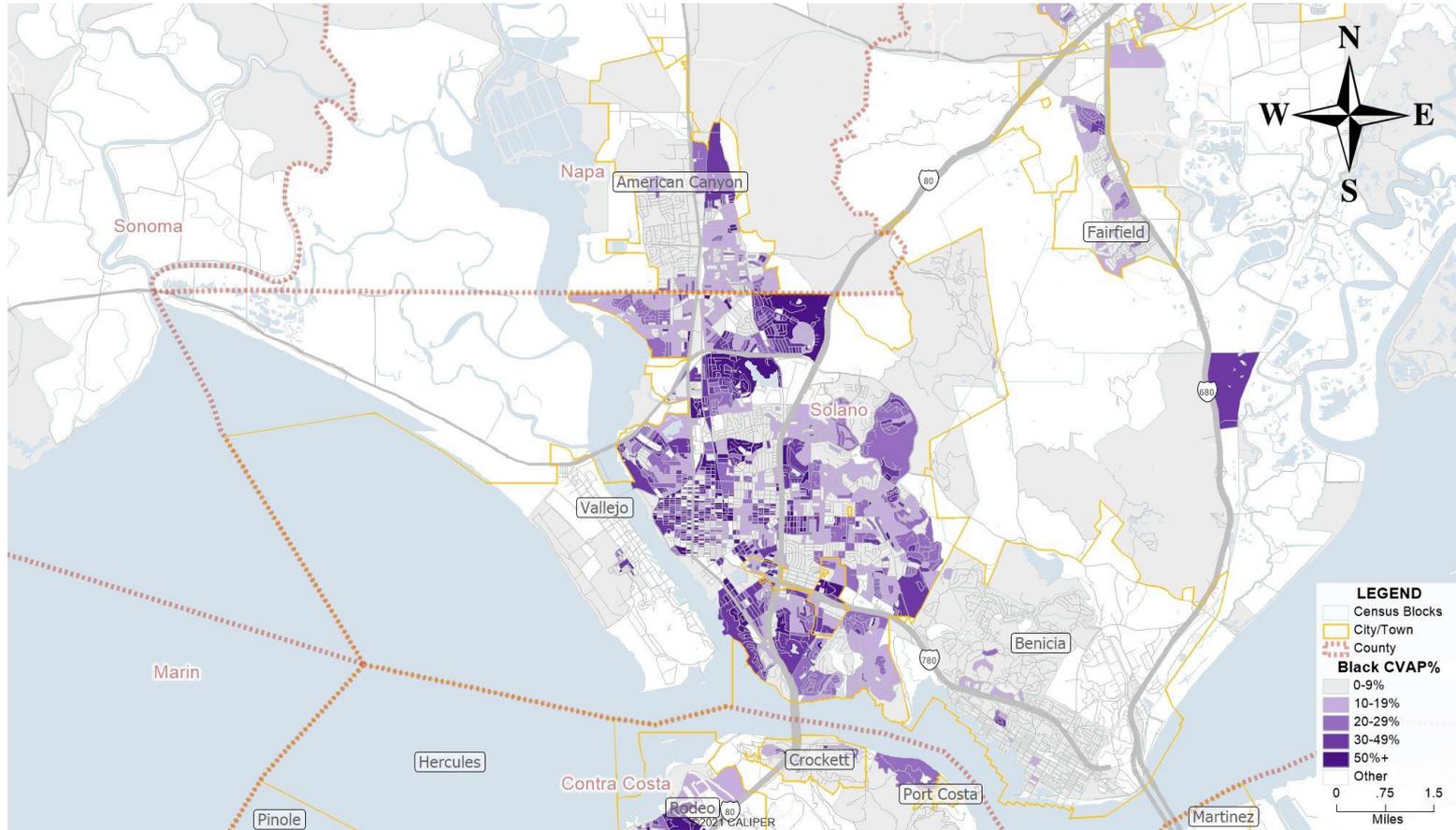


See COI Tool Reference #082520211371 for detailed COI boundaries.

Antioch / Bay Point / Pittsburg / Brentwood

- This area is predominantly low-income, Black, Indigenous, and People of Color and is often underserved and lacking resources. It's difficult for communities in this area to access basic amenities like grocery stores as well as other resources like restaurants or entertainment.
- Historically, Bay Point was once part of Pittsburg but city boundaries were redrawn in a way that now excludes Bay Point from Pittsburg. Despite shifts in the city lines, community members are still connected to this area and feel it is more in alignment with Pittsburg than it is with the Concord area. There are many similarities between the two communities, they share schools, local amenities and resources, and have similar demographics.

Vallejo



See COI Tool Reference #092420213373 for detailed COI boundaries.

Vallejo

- Much of the Black community in Solano county lives in the Vallejo area. There is significant poverty in the area, and similar to other areas in the Bay there is a shared interest in more affordable housing, greater investment in community infrastructure and resources, as well as increased funding for inner city schools. There is also a shared interest in addressing environmental issues caused by factories, abandoned factories and the naval shipyard that is no longer in use.
- This community would like to be in a district with East Contra Costa COIs (Antioch/Bay Point/Pittsburg) that share similar demographics, and community issues.

CENTRAL VALLEY & SACRAMENTO

Central Valley & Sacramento Regional Overview

Overview of Communities of Interest

- Sacramento
- Stockton
- Fresno
- Madera
- Hanford
- Lemoore
- Tulare
- Bakersfield
- California City

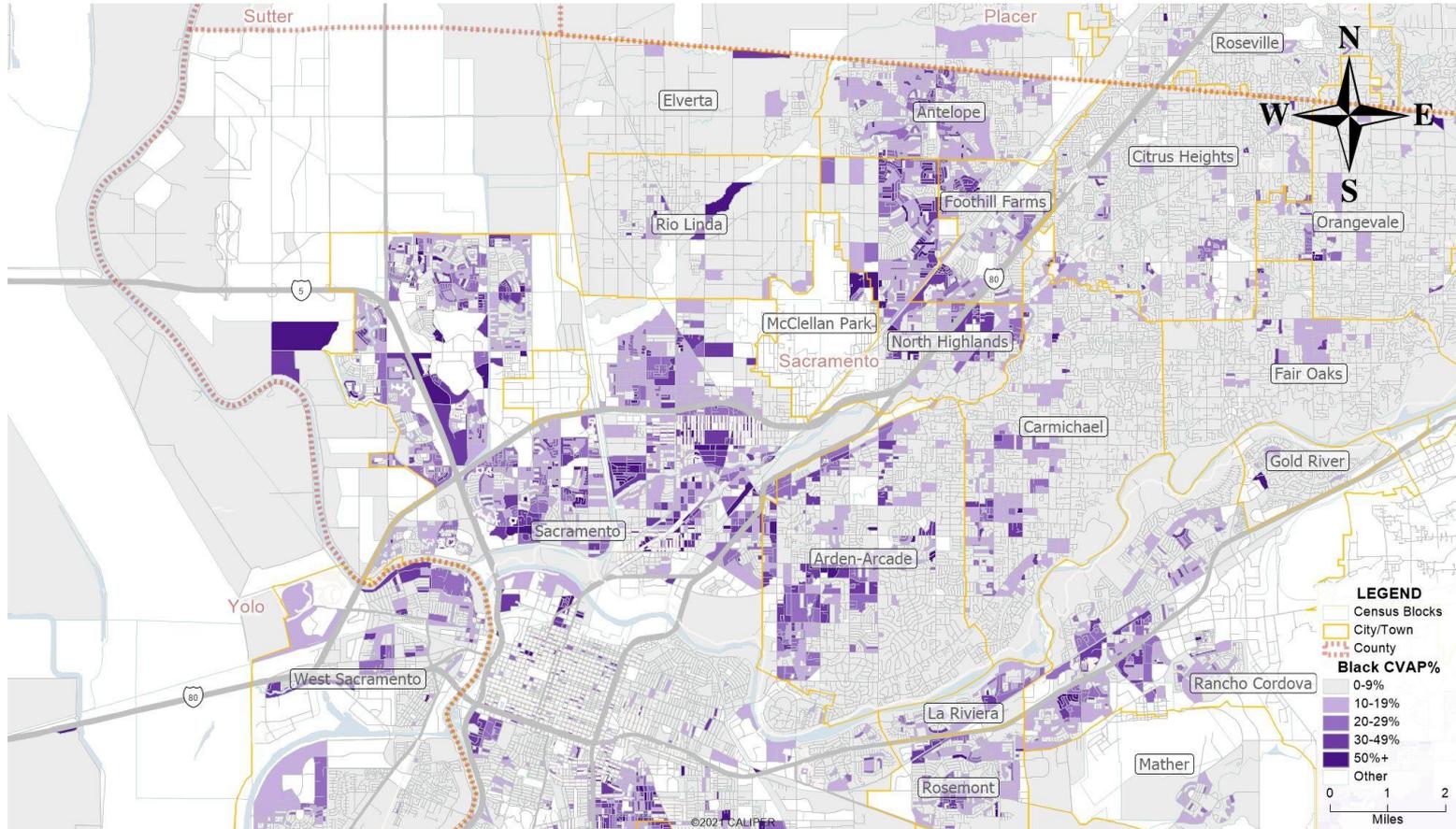
Key Unifying Trends

- There has been a lot of construction of physical boundaries breaking up Black communities in the central valley
- There were also concerns about inconsistent public transit to Black neighborhoods, racially restrictive housing, as well as a lack of development and employment opportunities in rural and low-income neighborhoods

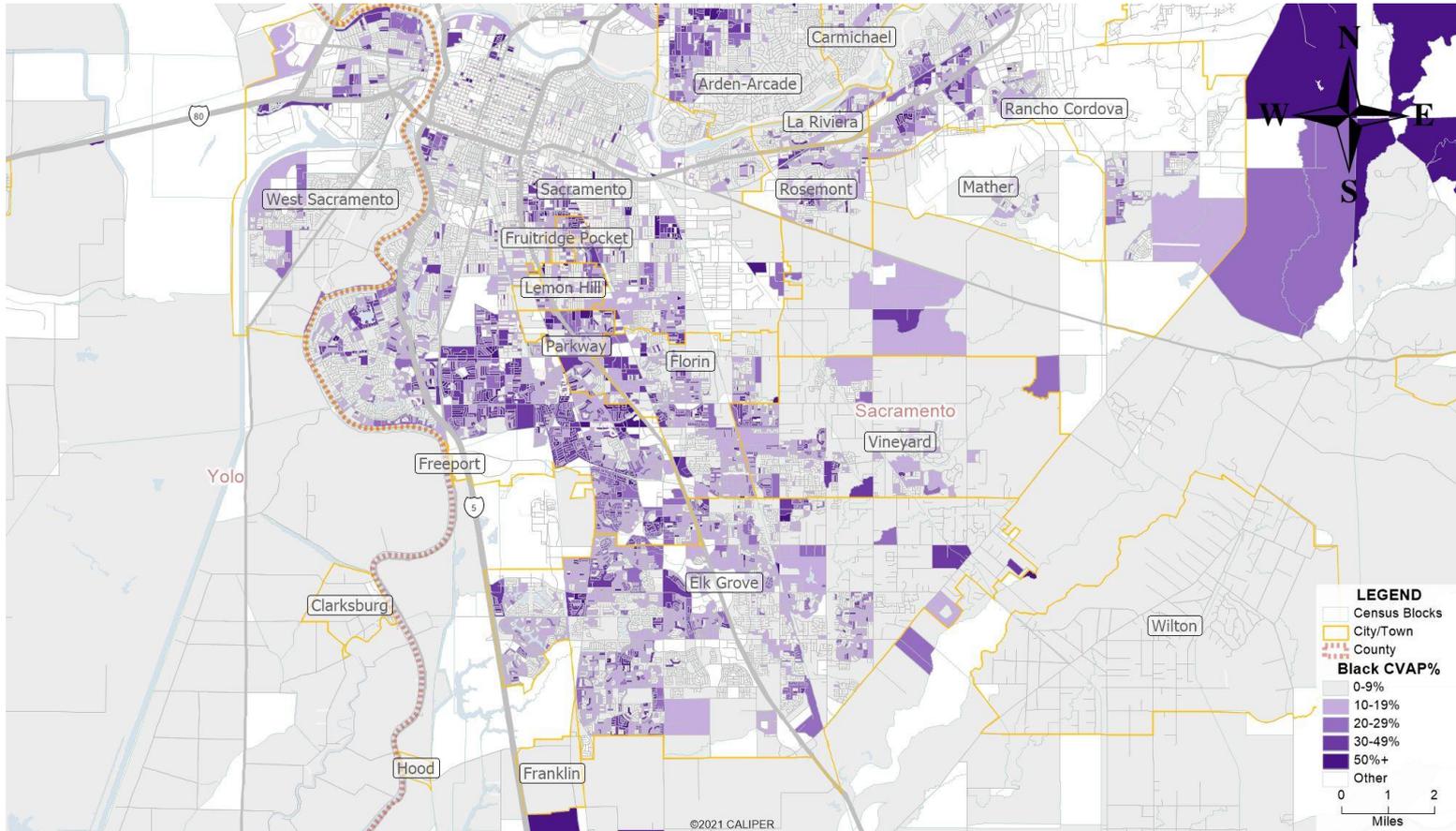
District Preferences

- Black communities throughout the central valley often feel that agricultural needs are prioritized over the needs of urban communities and hope for representation and districts that recognize the distinctions between the needs of those communities, and the importance of providing for both.
- We heard a desire to keep Black communities in Sacramento within districts that are similar to current lines
- We heard a strong interest in protecting Stockton, particularly south Stockton, and not districting Stockton with Lodi
- In Fresno, we consistently heard the desire to keep Black communities of interest in an urban core district that includes other similar communities of color in the metropolitan area. Residents were also adamant about not wanting to be paired with Clovis.
- In Kern County, we heard requests to protect Bakersfield, particularly communities in Southeast Bakersfield, and emerging Black communities in California City.

North Sacramento



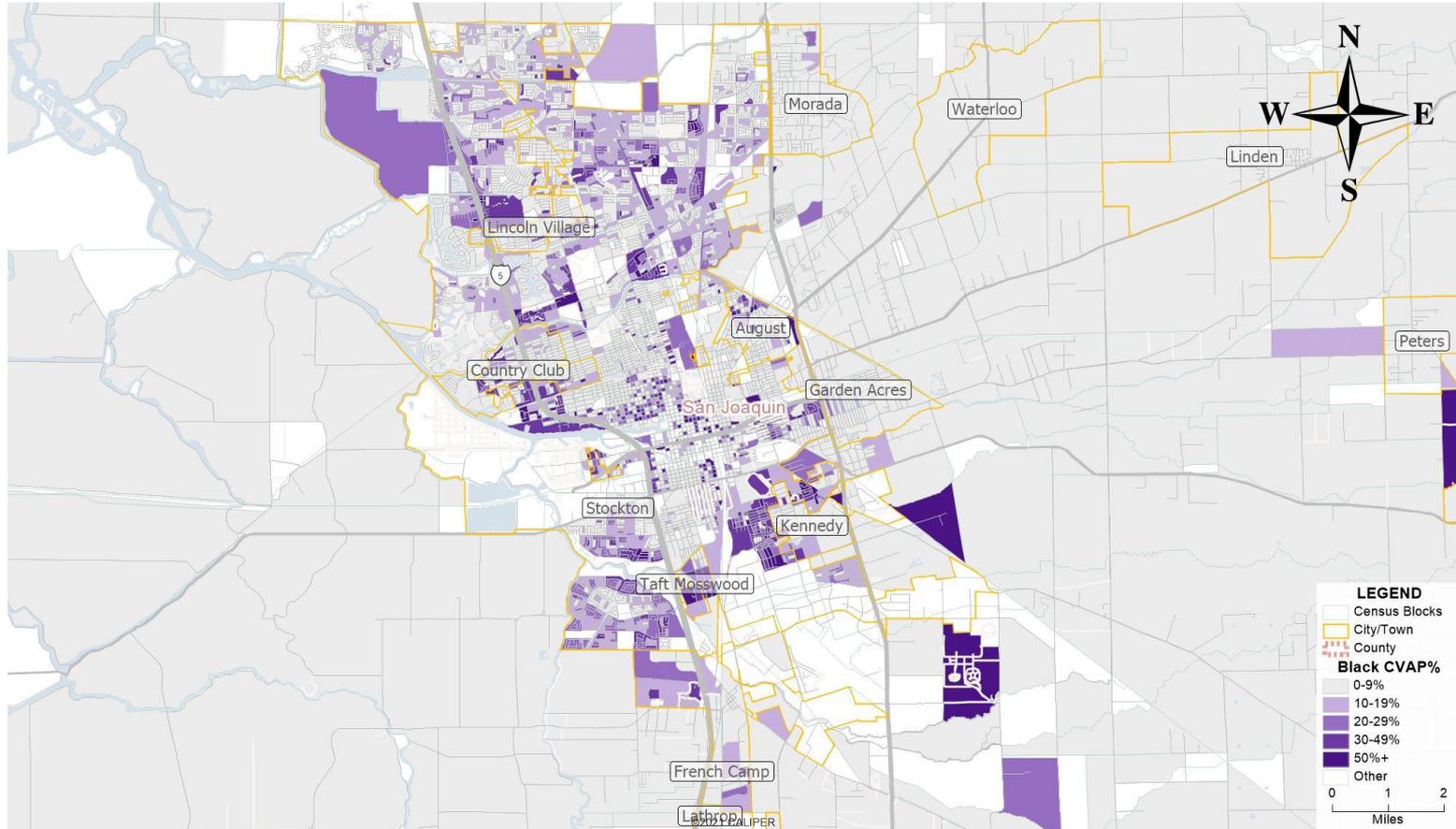
South Sacramento



Sacramento

- In North Sacramento significant Black communities live in the Natomas, North Highlands, Foothill, and Arden-Arcade areas. There are also significant Black communities in Southwest Sacramento as well as the Fruitridge, Lemon Hill, Florin, and Elk Grove areas.
- Communities here don't want significant change to current districts. Particularly, Black communities currently in Assembly District 7 would like to continue to be paired together since they currently organize together on similar issues.
- Similar to other Central Valley communities there is a shared interest for greater investment in schools, youth programs, mental health resources and affordable housing.

Stockton

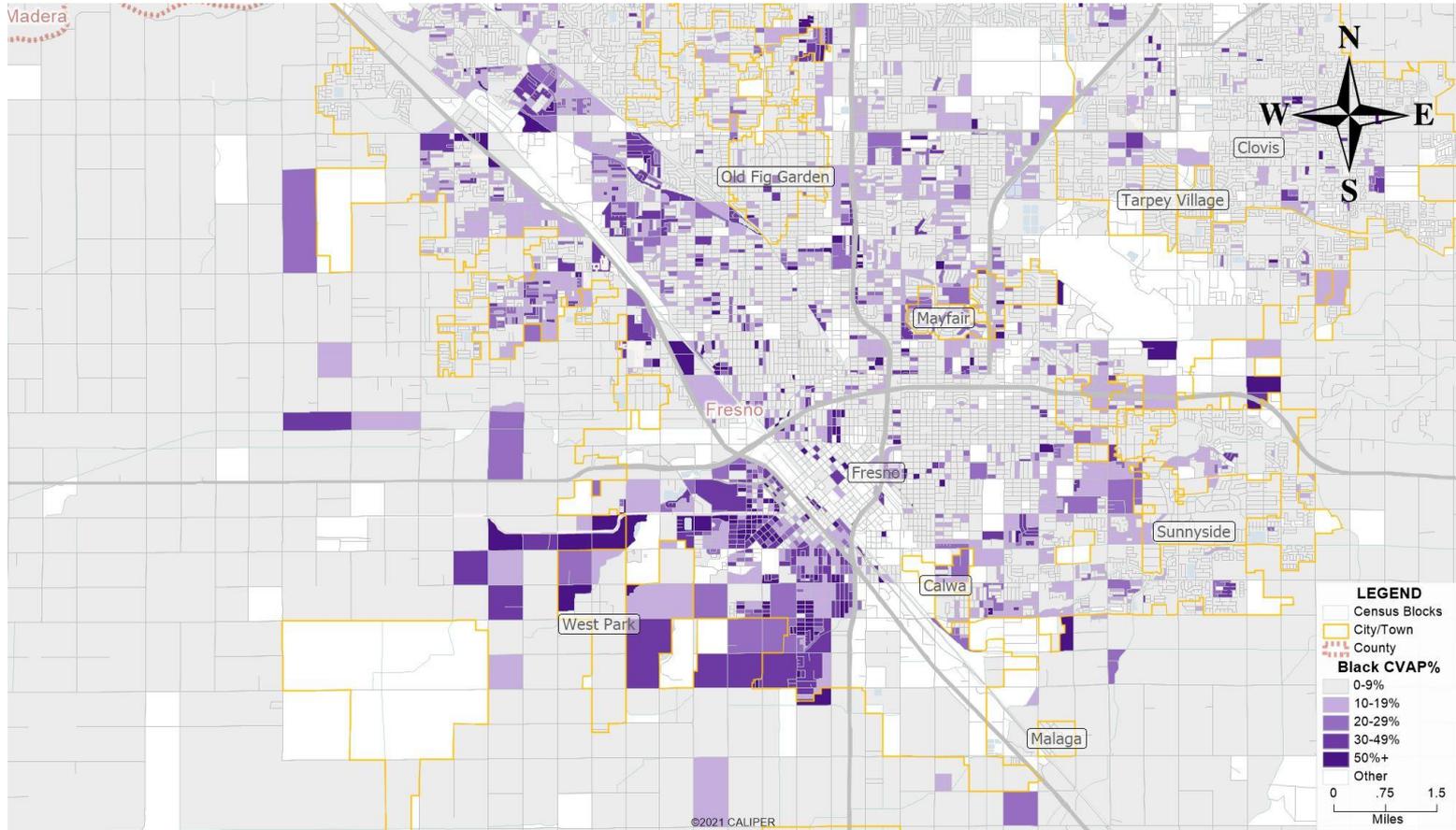


See COI Tool Reference #07212021612 & #07212021547 for detailed COI boundaries.

Stockton

- This community is predominately Black and Latino low-income community members. Many of the community members live in HUD-subsidized housing, and share resources, schools and community amenities like parks and hospitals.
- The neighborhoods in this community are historically underfunded, disproportionately impacted by environmental issues and over policed. There are low life-expectancy rates, underfunded schools and high levels of gun violence.
- The community would like to keep Stockton as whole as possible, especially South and Southeast Stockton. They would not like to be in district with Lodi, a predominantly affluent white community that does not share the same issues as low-income minority communities in Stockton.

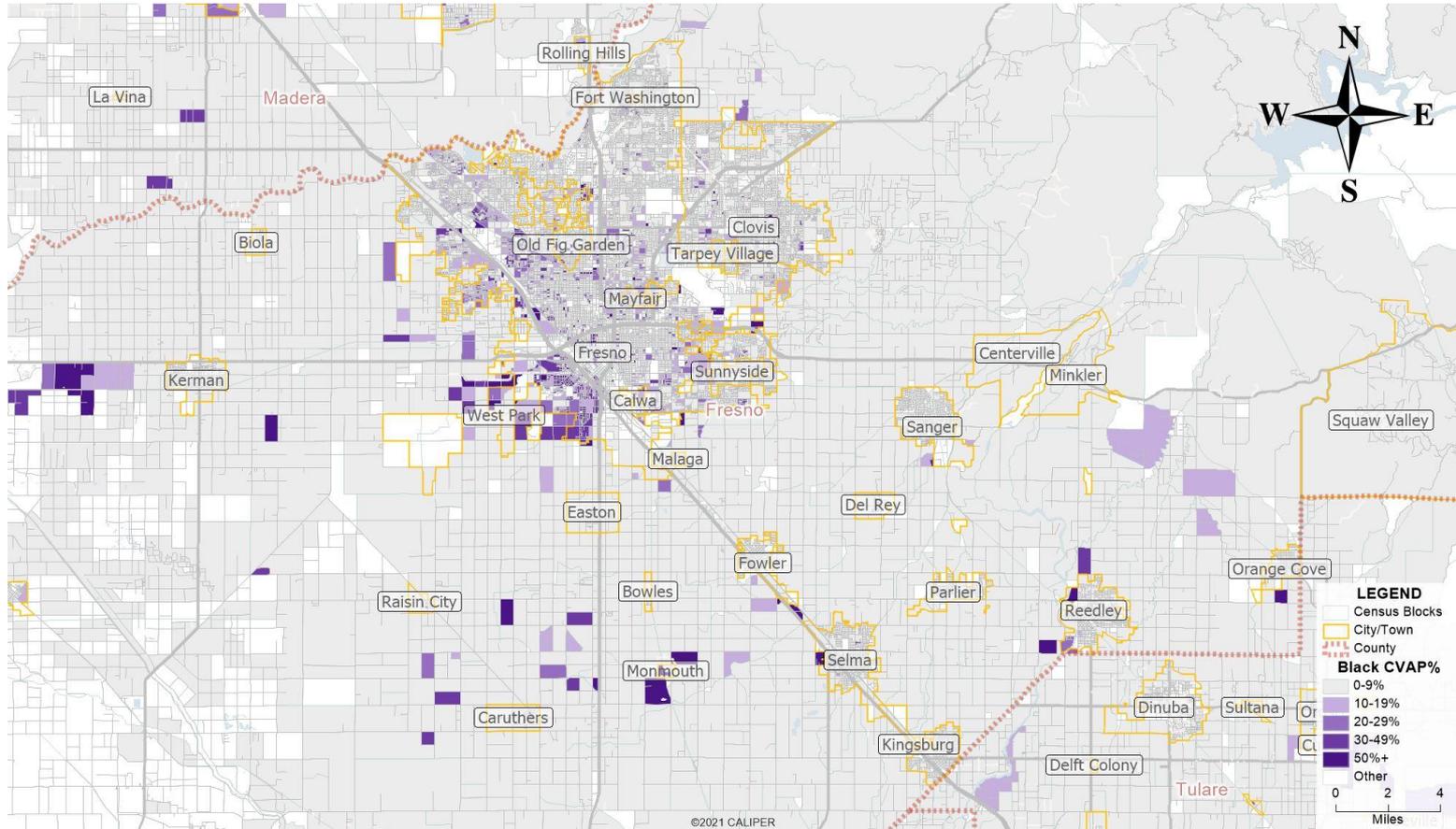
Fresno



See COI Tool Reference #07212021576 & #07212021578 for detailed COI boundaries.

Not pictured, Madera COI; see COI Tool Reference #082420211342.

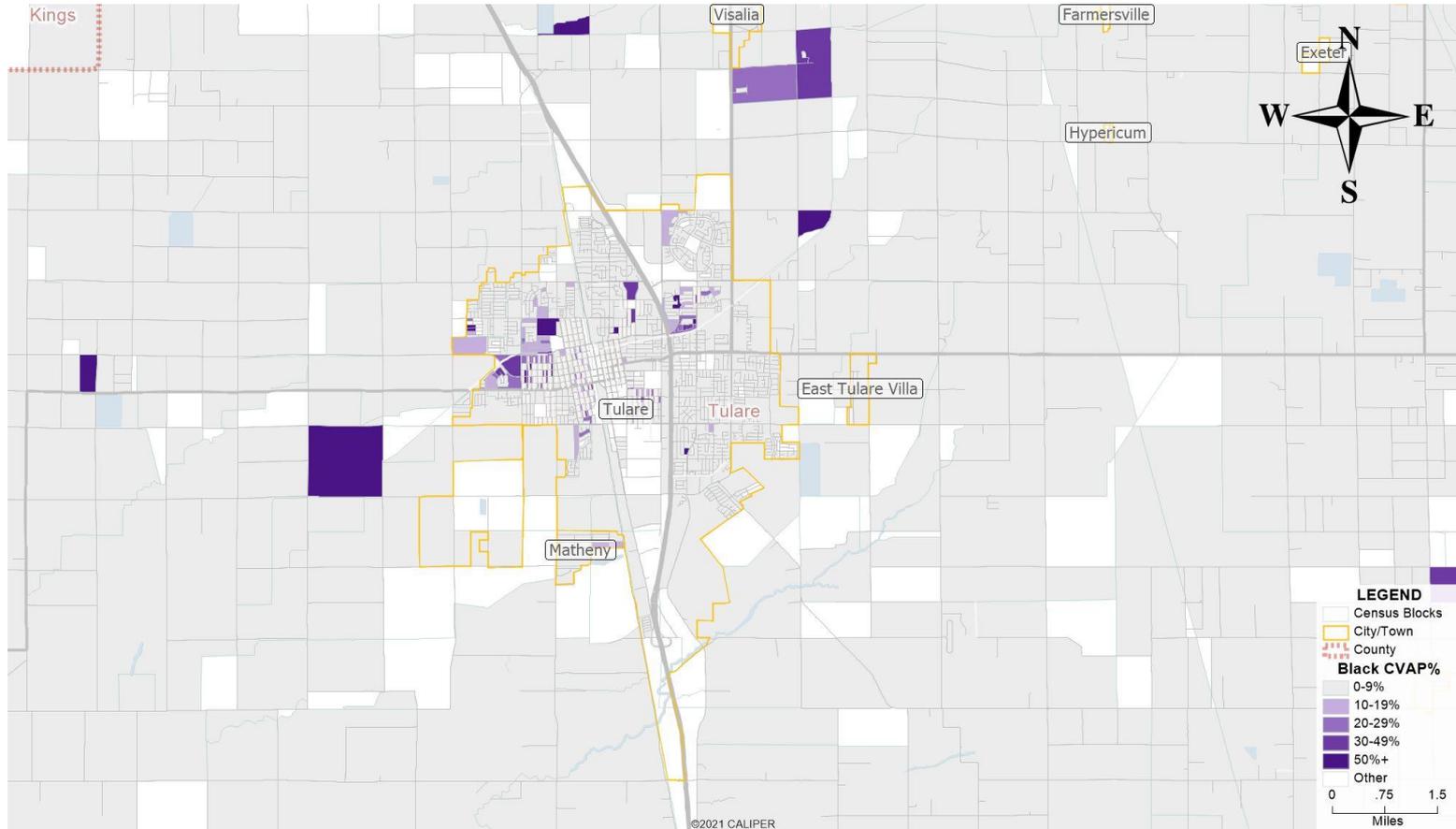
Fresno / Selma



Fresno

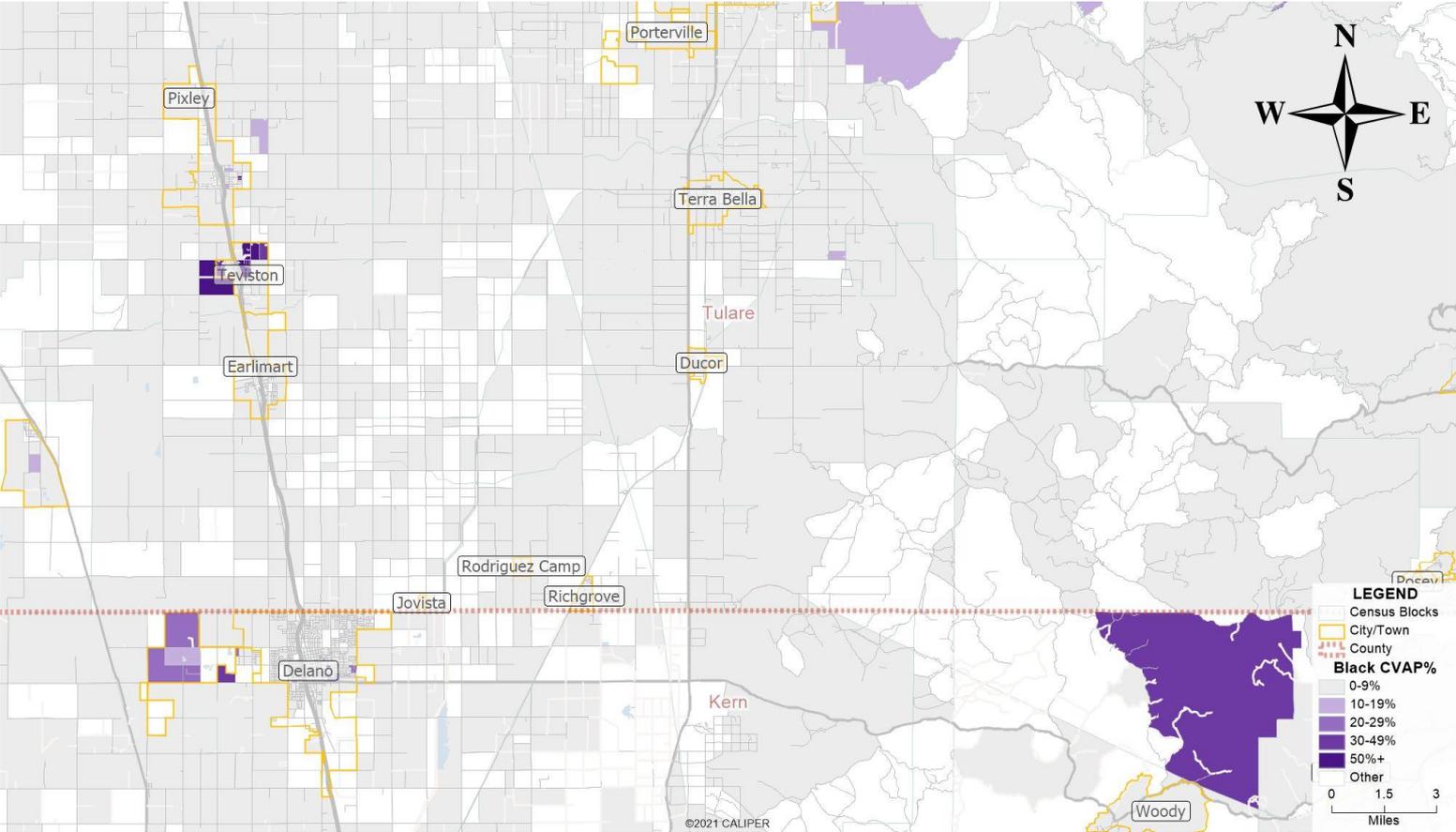
- Fresno would like to be kept as whole as possible, particularly keeping historically Black communities in West and Southwest Fresno in mind, as well as emerging communities in the Old Fig communities area. They would not like to be in district with Clovis.
- Most of the community in West and Southwest Fresno live in poverty. There has been a historic lack of investment in the development of infrastructure, community amenities like grocery stores, as well as a concentrated lack of affordable housing, and resources for schools.
- The Old Fig area is one of the only areas where there are Black homeowners, and it has the highest concentration of Black people outside of historically Black communities in West/Southwest Fresno who share similar interests.
- There are similar demographics and community issues in the Selma area as well, and they would benefit from being districted with Fresno.

Tulare



See COI Tool Reference #072320211329 for detailed COI boundaries.
Not pictured, Hanford and Lemoore COIs; see COI Tool Reference #082420211341.

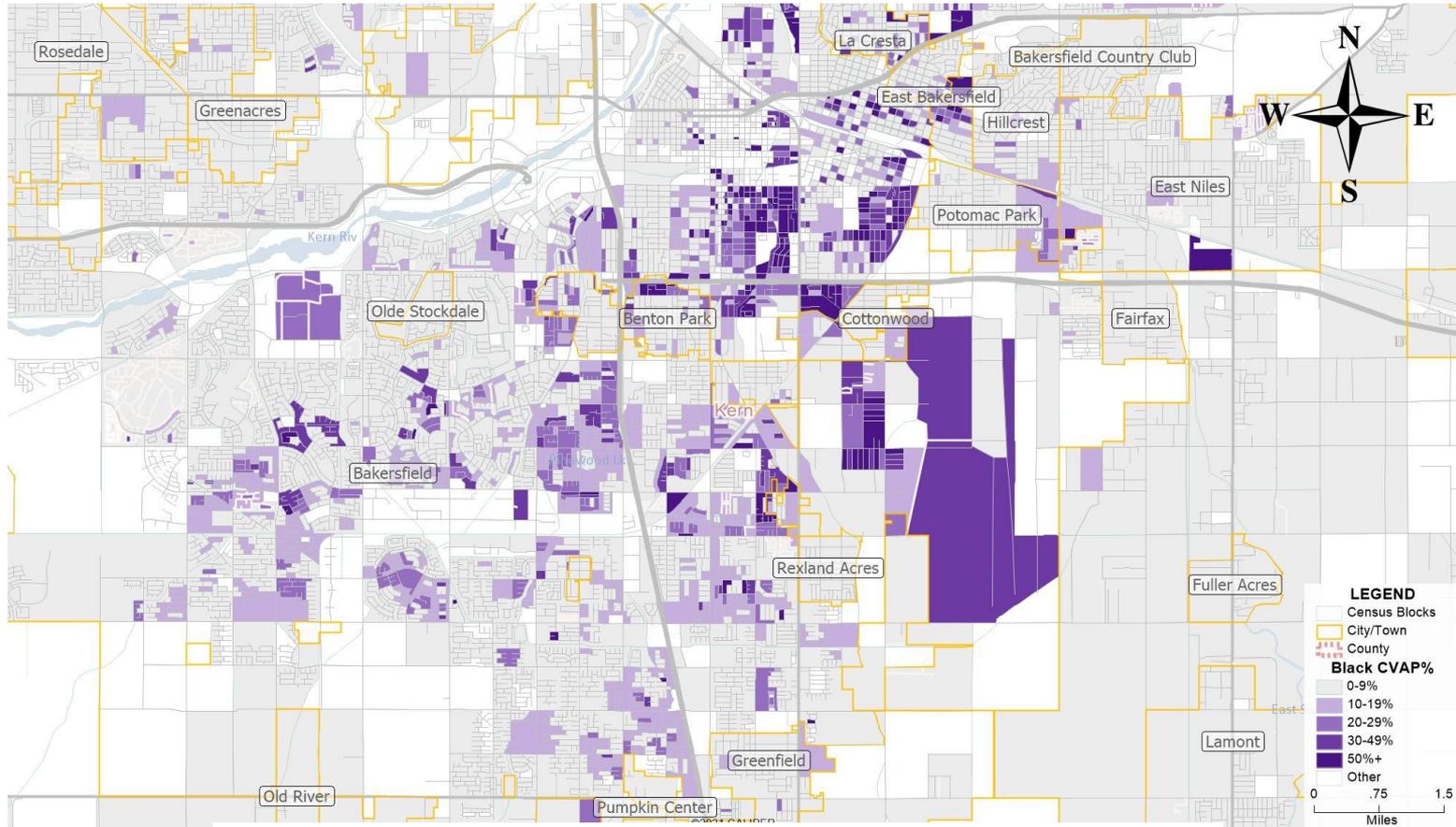
Terra Bella



Tulare / Terra Bella

- There is a lot of disinvestment in this community creating barriers to prosperity, homeownership and employment opportunities. There is a shared interest in affordable housing, greater investment in community development and infrastructure, as well as increased access to community amenities like banking, stores, and medical services.
- There is also a divide in the interest of agricultural communities which are predominantly white, and urban areas with greater populations of minorities. There is a feeling that agricultural interests are often protected over the interest of ethnic and inner city communities in the area.

Bakersfield



See COI Tool Reference #072120211011 for detailed COI boundaries.

Bakersfield

- The majority of the Black community in Bakersfield is low to moderate income families who share an interest the development and investment in city infrastructure, schools, and small businesses in the community.
- They are mainly concentrated in Southeast Bakersfield, Benton, Cottonwood, and La Cresta. As a result of the small population of Black people in this area, it is important that these communities remain in a district together to be represented by a single candidate and have a voice in the process.

INLAND EMPIRE

Inland Empire Regional Overview

Overview of Communities of Interest

- City of San Bernardino
- Rialto
- Fontana
- Rancho Cucamonga
- Ontario
- Adelanto/Victorville
- Moreno Valley
- Hemet
- Corona
- Riverside
- Desert Hot Springs
- Palm Springs

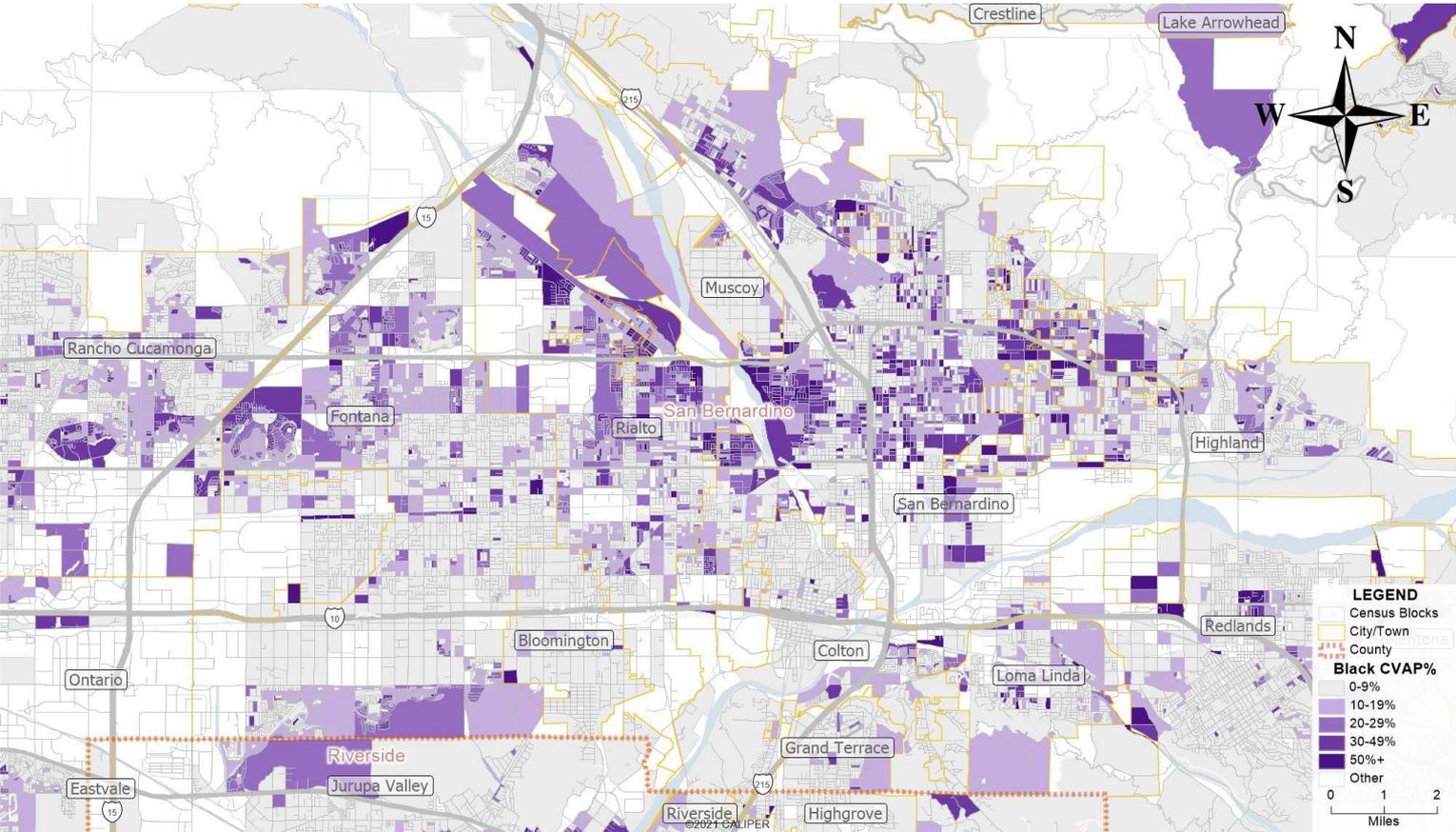
Key Unifying Trends

- Communities of hard working, blue collar people who care deeply about their environment and community, but have been struggling economically
- The region has experienced rapid growth as it has become home to many of those who have left South LA in search of more affordable housing.
- There has also been increased movement within the region, creating new and emerging Black communities
- The communities identified in the region suffer from decay in the local infrastructure, mass closing of community and commercial businesses, high rates of homelessness and poverty, and vast food deserts
- Residents here raised that they have felt forgotten, not taken into consideration, and have received little to no assistance from their representatives

District Preferences

- There is a strong interest in keeping San Bernardino and Rialto whole and together, along with parts of Fontana, and keeping Adelanto and Victorville whole and together, along with other similar communities of the High Desert.
- There was also an interest in keeping Moreno Valley whole and districted with emerging Black communities in Hemet & San Jacinto. There was also interest in protecting other smaller and emerging Black communities in places such as Corona, Eastvale, Beaumont, Banning, Desert Hot Springs and Palm Springs.

San Bernardino / Rialto / Fontana

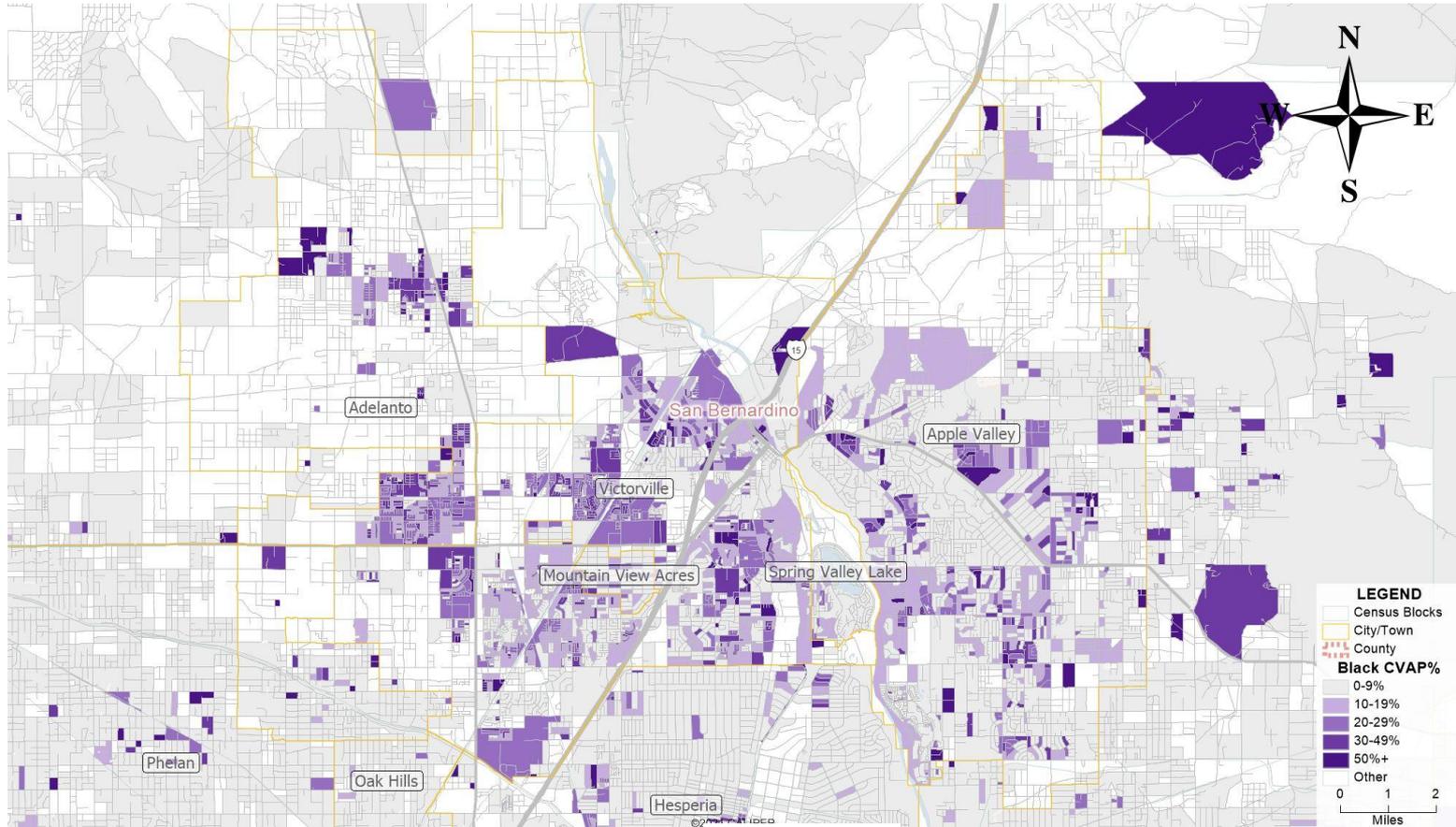


See COI Tool Reference #82020211244, 82120211324 for detailed COI boundaries.

San Bernardino / Rialto / Fontana

- Community members described these areas as being full of inspiring, hard working people who would like increased support and action from their local representatives.
- The residents of Rialto expressed an interest in keeping their city whole along with San Bernardino. They also expressed the need for opportunities for their young people, in regards to better schooling and jobs.

Victorville/Adelanto

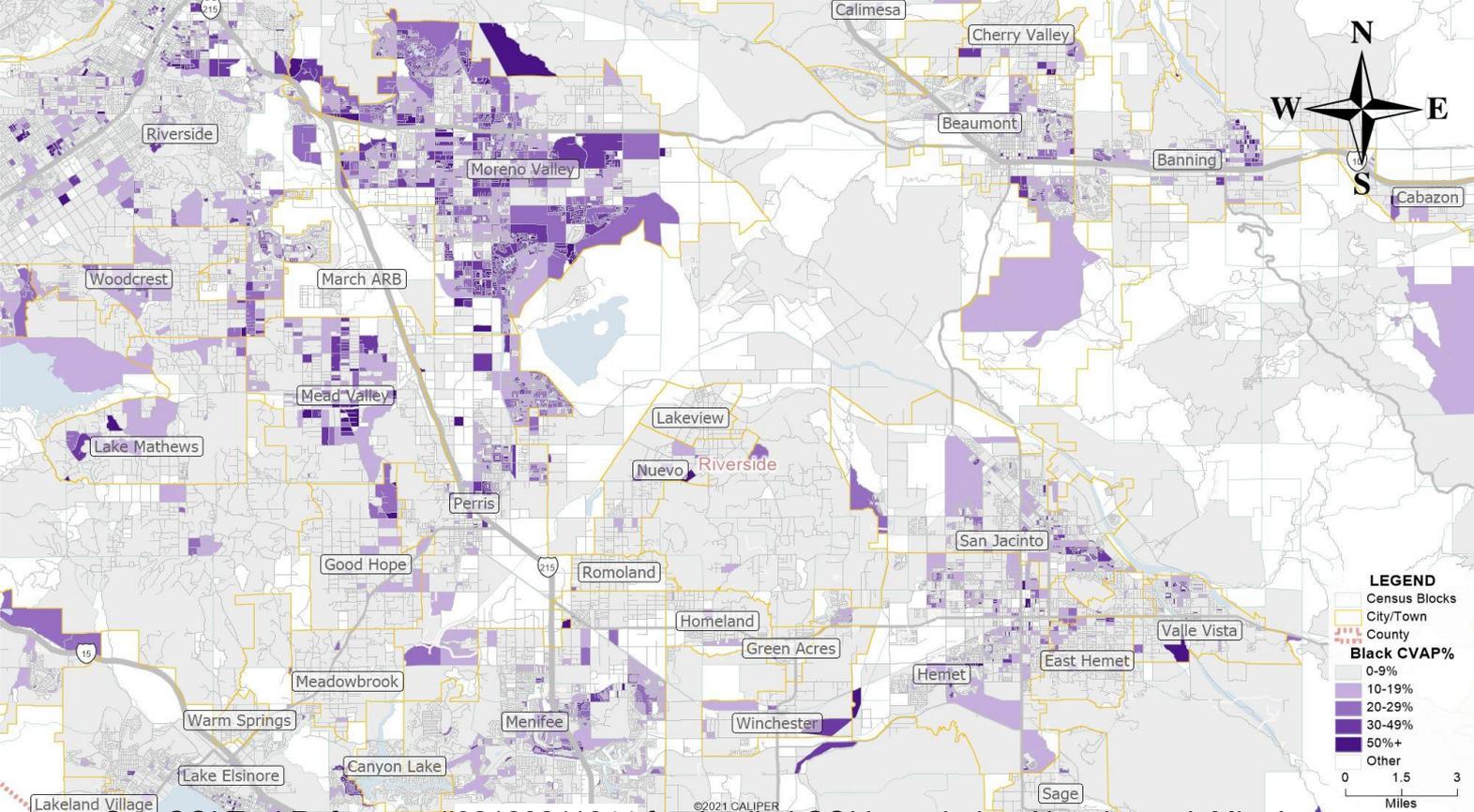


See COI Tool Reference #82120211260 for detailed COI boundaries.

Victorville / Adelanto

- Victorville and Adelanto were identified as areas of newer and emerging Black communities. There has been growth here as many people in the Inland Empire venture towards the high desert in search of housing and opportunities.
- The residents of Victorville and Adelanto would like to be kept whole. Due to the fact that these are newer and growing communities, it is imperative that they are kept together in order to build political power, allowing for the residents to advocate for themselves.

Moreno Valley / Hemet / East Hemet / San Jacinto

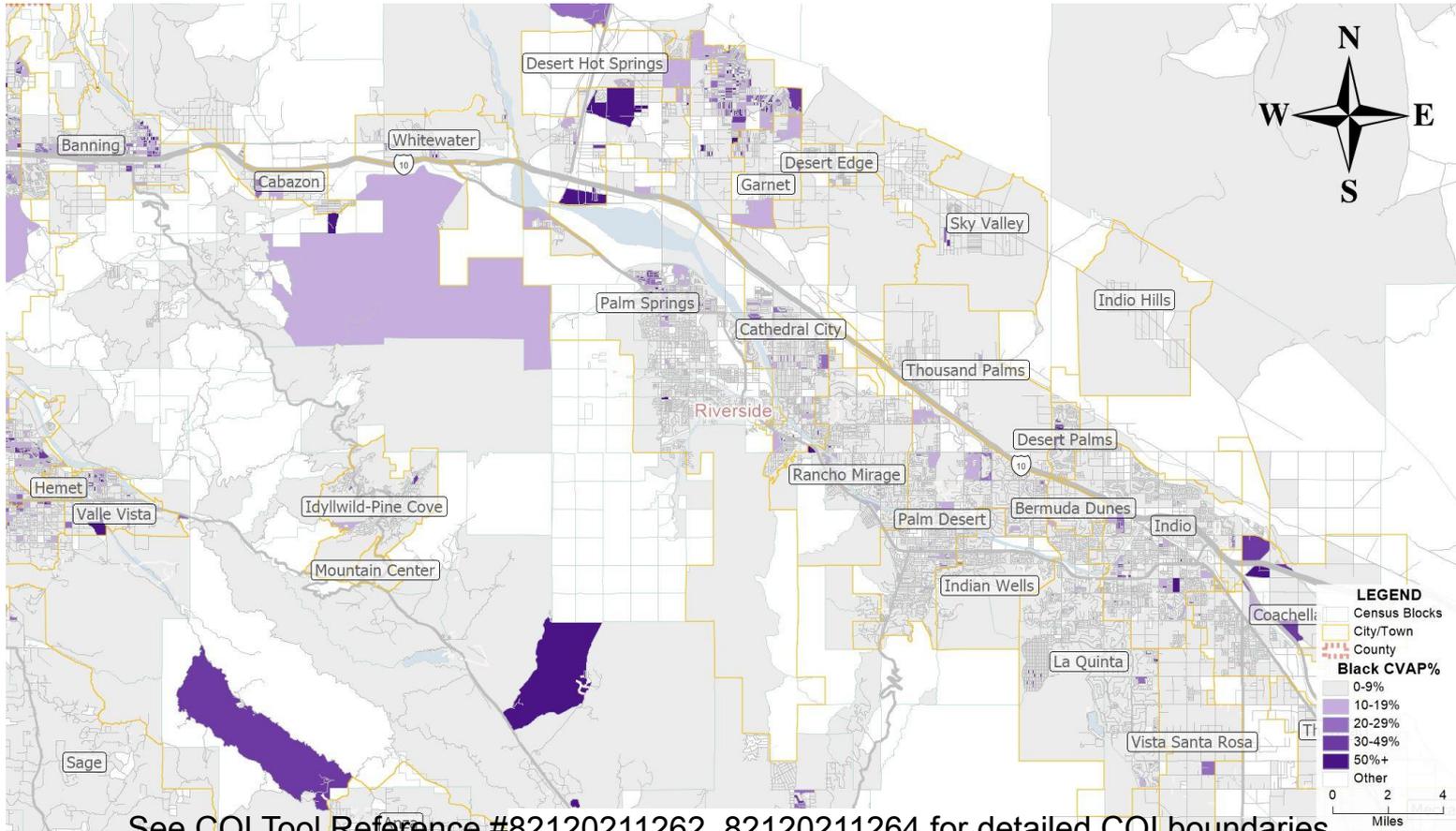


See COI Tool Reference #82120211844 for detailed COI boundaries. Not pictured, Mira Loma and Corona COIs; see COI Tool Reference #82120211844, 82120211840, 82120211842.

Moreno Valley / Hemet / East Hemet / San Jacinto

- These communities are tied together due to their shared interests, a desire to see improvements in the infrastructure of their cities, access to resources and funding, as well as affordable housing.
- The COIs of Hemet, East Hemet and San Jacinto would like to be in district with Moreno Valley due to migration and shift in demographics. These areas are considered to be emerging Black communities that would like to make sure their voices are heard despite the still growing population.

Desert Hot Springs / Palm Springs



See COI Tool Reference #82120211262, 82120211264 for detailed COI boundaries.

Desert Hot Springs / Palm Springs

- Desert Hot Springs is the the most affordable place to live in the region however, crime rates are on the rise and have been magnified by the effects of the pandemic. This area of Palm Springs is not well maintained and the residents feel ostracized from the rest of Palm Springs.
- This area of Desert Hot Springs and Palm Springs would like to be in district with the majority of the city to ensure access to proper funding and resources.

LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Los Angeles County Regional Overview

Overview of the Communities of Interest

- South Los Angeles
- Skid Row
- Inglewood
- Compton
- Gardena
- Hawthorne
- Carson
- Long Beach
- Palmdale/Lancaster
- North Hollywood
- Altadena
- Northwest Pasadena

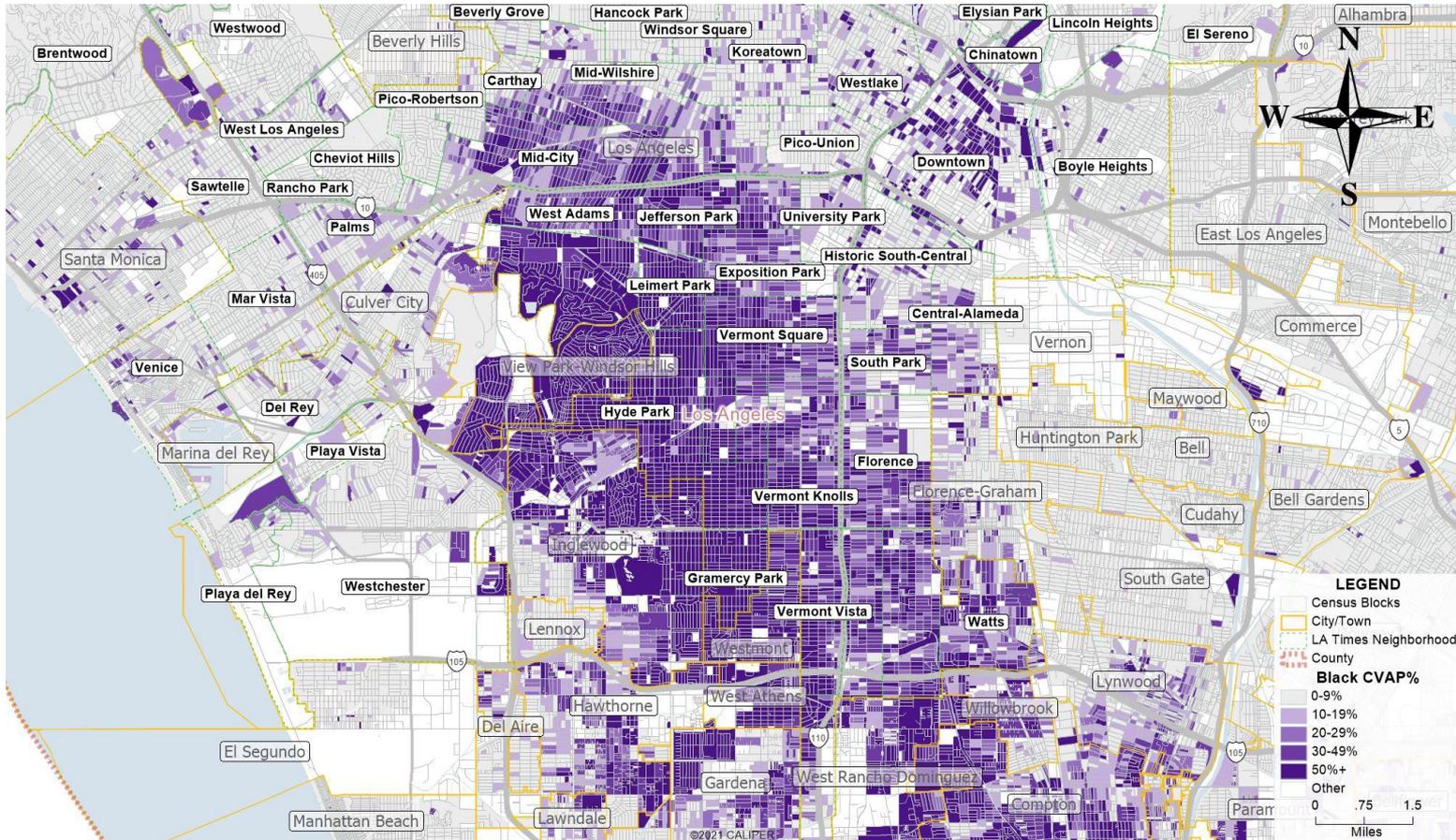
Key Unifying Trends

- Concerns of food inaccessibility, housing insecurity, gentrification, over policing, and incarceration were consistently raised as major issues
- As parts of South LA become increasingly diverse, Latino and Black communities have faced similar struggles and have started to come together to address some of these issues and challenges.
- There was also deep pride in the home and business ownership throughout these communities, as well as the resilience and the cultural and political impact that LA's Black communities have exhibited over the years

District Preferences

- There was overwhelming cry to protect the political voice of South LA's historic Black neighborhoods and the surrounding cities by keeping them whole, together, and separate from the more affluent cities to the west and along the coast.
- There was also a strong desire to keep emerging Black communities such as Lancaster, Palmdale, Santa Clarita, North Hollywood and Altadena as whole as possible to ensure that shared interests in these areas are heard.

South LA

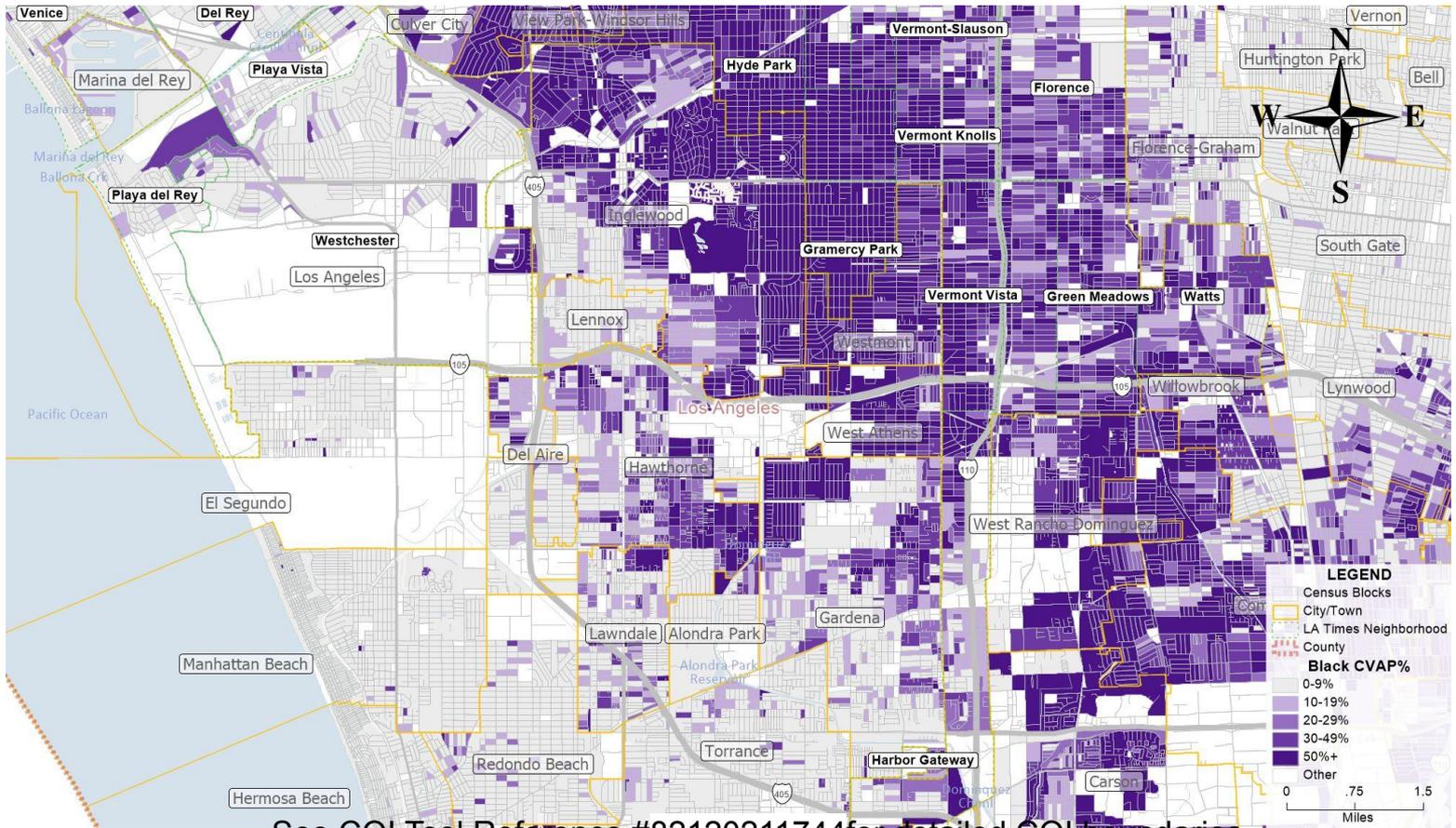


See COI Tool Reference # 8212021971, 082120211026, 8212021972, 082120211029, 8212021973, 08212021974, 8212021975, 08212021976, 82120211007, 82120211008, 82120211363 for detailed COI boundaries.

South LA

- South Los Angeles consists of many historically Black neighborhoods including the Baldwin Hills, the Crenshaw Corridor, West Athens, Watts, Compton, Leimert Park, Florence-Graham and West Adams neighborhoods.
- The concerns and issues consistently raised during our community input sessions throughout South LA are food inaccessibility, housing insecurity, gentrification, over policing, and incarceration. These issues disproportionately impact these neighborhoods.
- Another message we heard from community members is the importance of keeping these neighborhoods together rather than splitting them up or districting them with other coastal communities that don't align with the needs of the residents. The community members wish to support small businesses and protect Black home ownership.

Inglewood / Hawthorne / Gardena

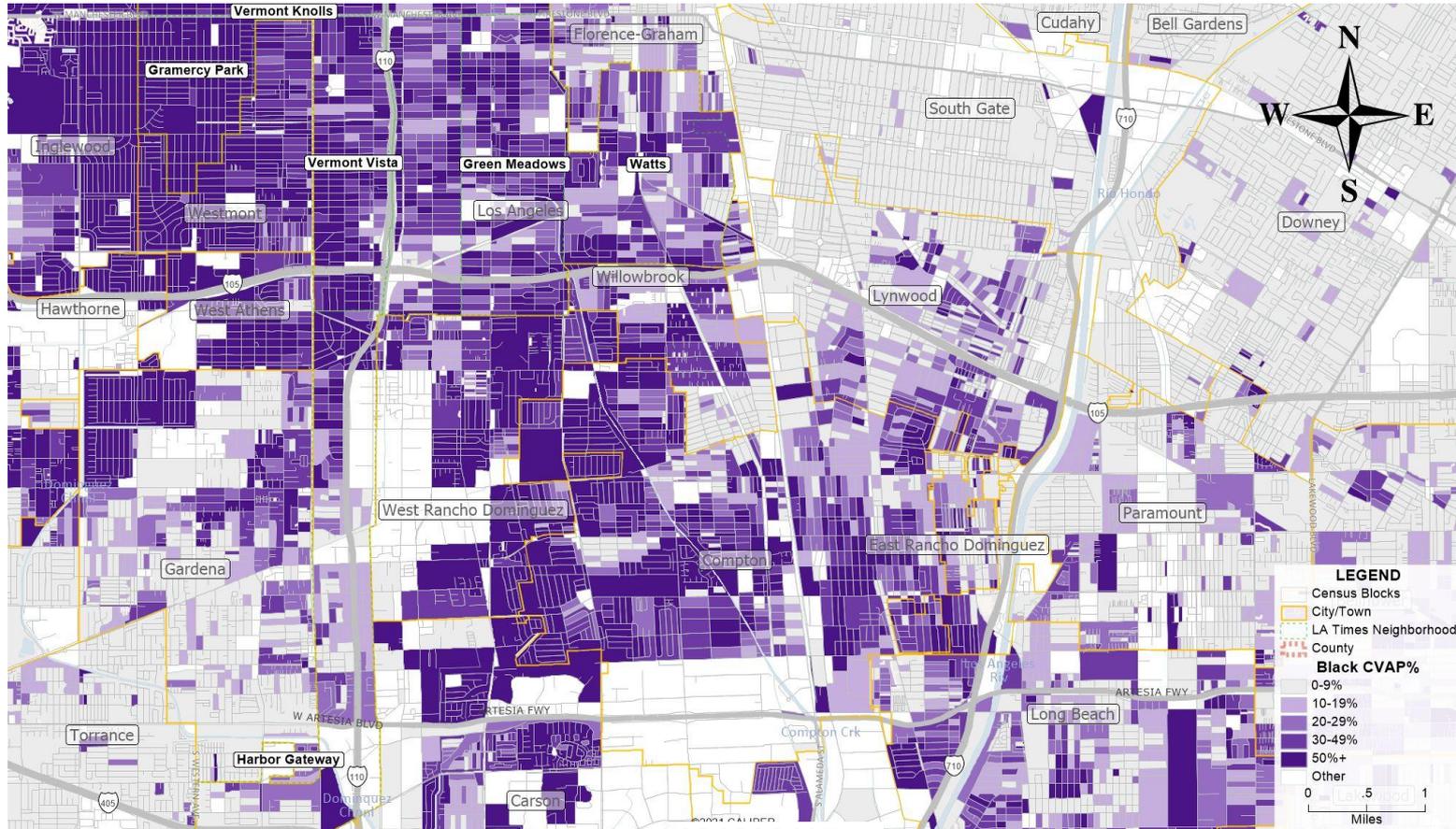


See COI Tool Reference #82120211744 for detailed COI boundaries.

Inglewood / Hawthorne / Gardena

- During the community input session for Inglewood, Hawthorne and Gardena, community members highlighted many small Black owned businesses and restaurants that are important to the area. Many of these Black owned restaurants have become hubs for the Black community economically and culturally.
- This area is also a food desert, as there are not many quality markets and food access is a problem. Input session attendees expressed safety is important to their communities as well as having access to a good quality of life which they feel is in danger due to the threat of gentrification.
- Inglewood has gone through many changes over the past 50 years, it is reflective of the larger diversity of the state. It has a rich history and is also going through a renaissance/resurgence. It is near important areas of Los Angeles, such as LAX and home to the Forum & Sofi Stadium. Inglewood plays a large role in the identity of Los Angeles.

Compton/Watts

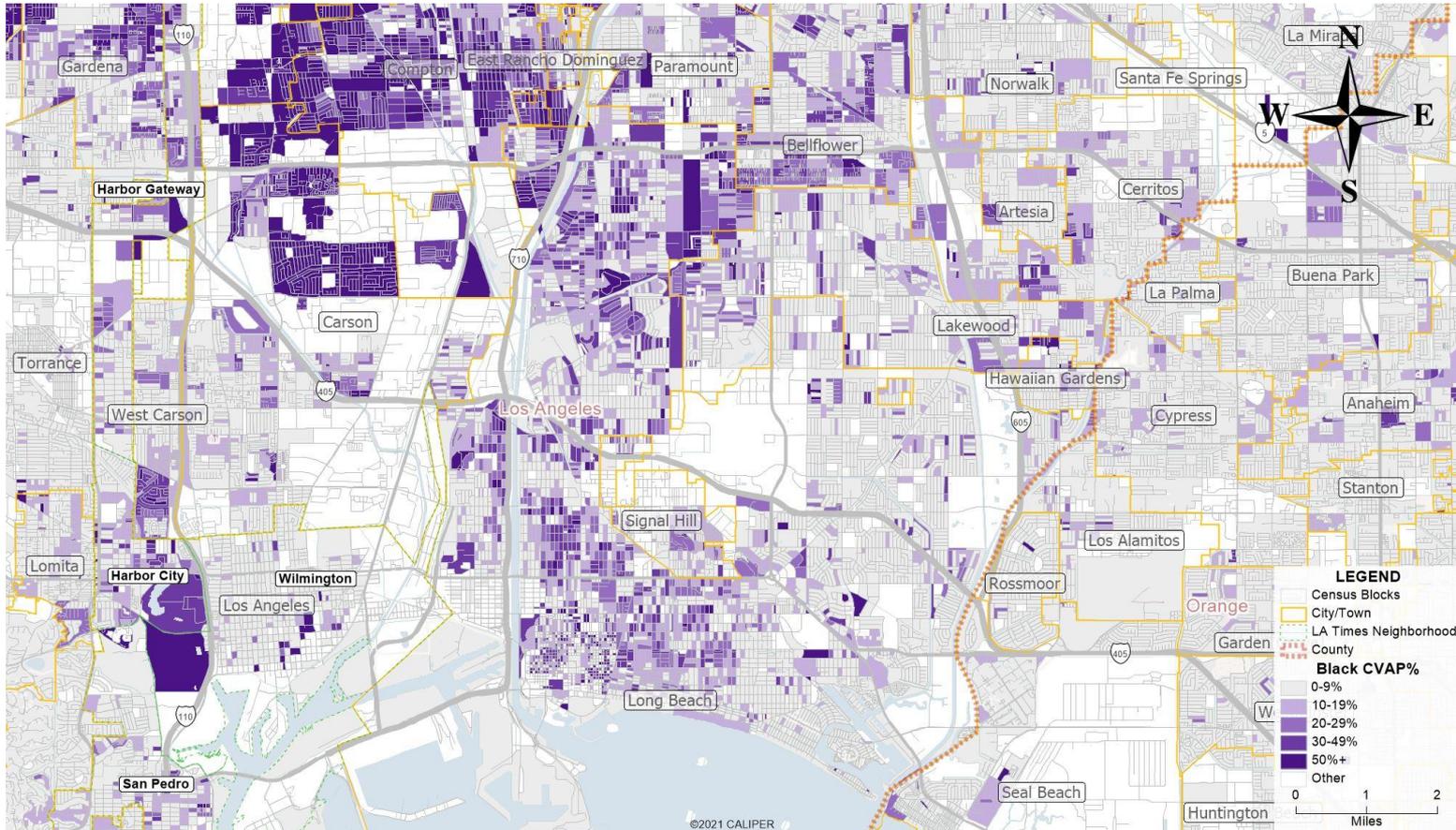


See COI Tool Reference #82120211744 for detailed COI boundaries.

Compton/Watts

- Compton and Watts are important hubs for the Black community of Los Angeles. The community input sessions highlighted a deep pride in these areas, as they have persevered through systemic issues that impact much of South LA.
- The community members of Watts expressed a desire to preserve the historic community landmarks including the historic train station and Watts towers.
- These communities have not only made significant cultural contributions but have also made notable political impact as well, through community organizing and uprisings.
- Despite the resilience of these communities, the community members expressed a need for improvements in their neighborhoods which would allow them to grow and thrive.

Long Beach



See COI Tool Reference #92420212698 for detailed COI boundaries.

Long Beach

- Long Beach was identified as a Black community of interest. This area is unique in that while it is a coastal community, it is diverse and multicultural. Over the years, the Black community has fought to establish itself in Long Beach despite historically racist real estate practices and redlining.
- The political influence of Black communities can be seen throughout the history of Long Beach. Through community organizing to champion discriminatory housing practices, advocating for improvements in education and economic development.
- The Long Beach African American Cultural Center is a testament to the presence and influence of the Black community in the region. The cultural center also provides a space for celebrations, gatherings, and seminars.

Skid Row

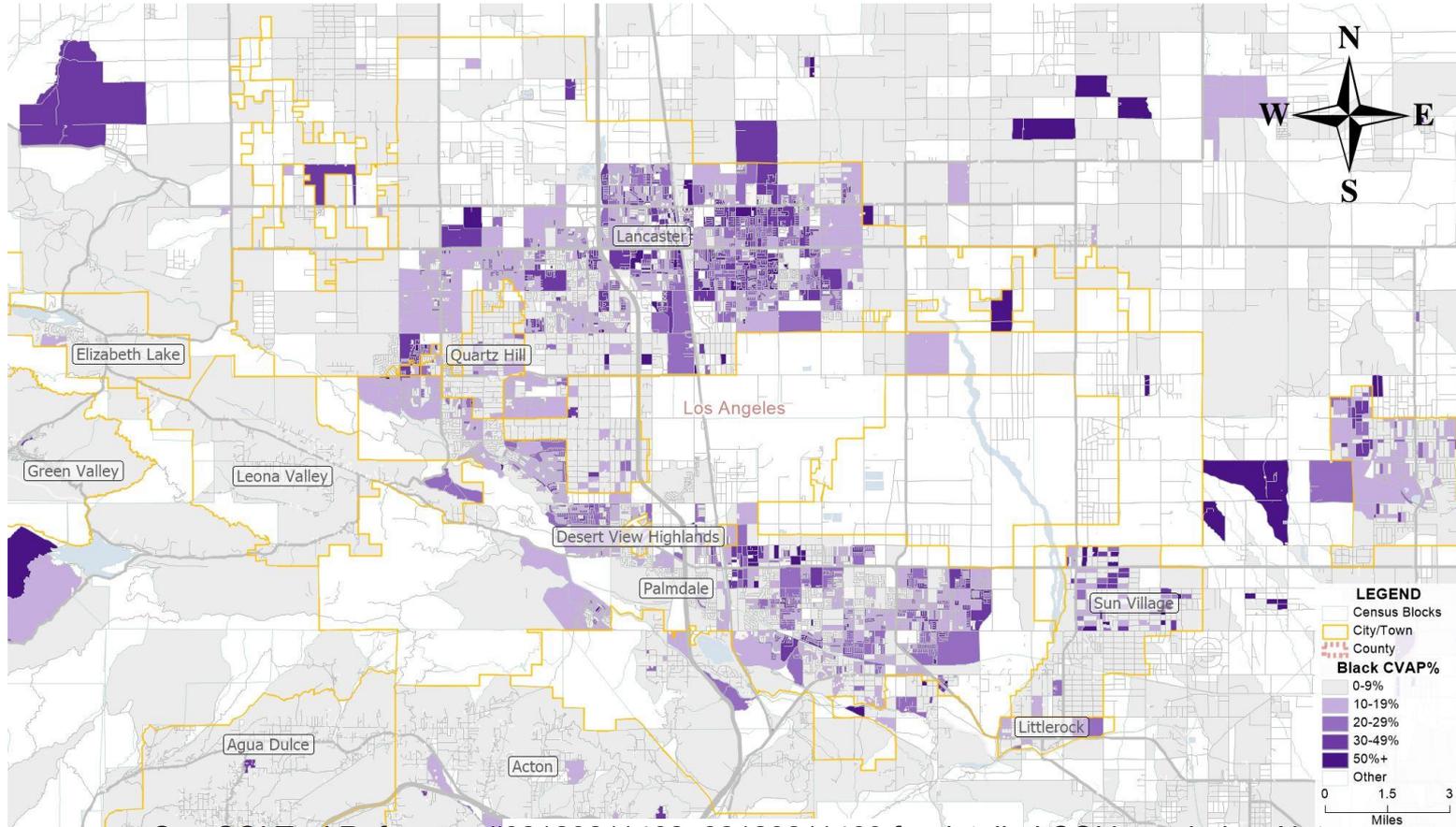


See COI Tool Reference #08212021739 for detailed COI boundaries.

Skid Row

- Skid Row and Downtown Los Angeles' Black communities have a rich history dating back to the early California days. During the Jim Crow era, the Black population of Los Angeles made up majority of the working class who contributed to building the city.
- Skid row is a community at risk of losing political power resulting from gentrification aimed at attracting higher earning wealthy folks.
- The search for affordable housing and an affordable community has brought the community together. The Skid Row community is home to the largest recovery community in the country and the largest bulk of protected residential housing in Los Angeles.

Palmdale / Lancaster



See COI Tool Reference #82120211462, 82120211463 for detailed COI boundaries. Not pictured, Pasadena COI; see COI Tool Reference #82120211365.

Palmdale / Lancaster

- During our community input sessions, attendees identified emerging and growing Black communities in Los Angeles county, including Lancaster and Palmdale.
- In these emerging communities, the infrastructure is not enough to support the rapid influx of folks who are in search of affordable housing. As a result, these communities suffer due to lack of resources.
- The hope is that these emerging communities could remain as whole as possible to ensure the shared interests of Black communities in these areas are heard.

SAN DIEGO

San Diego Regional Overview

Overview of Communities of Interest

- Southeast San Diego
- City Heights
- Lemon Grove
- Spring Valley
- El Cajon
- La Mesa

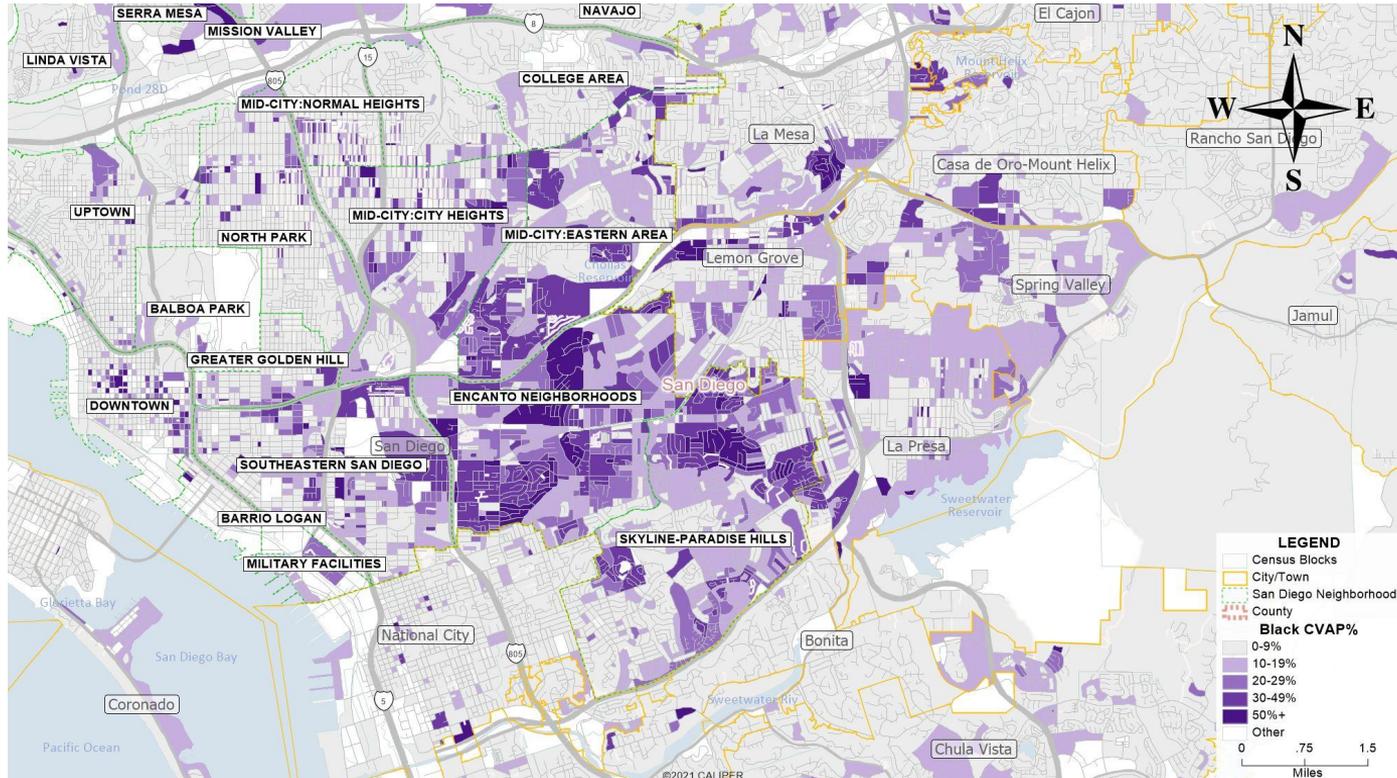
Key Unifying Trends

- Includes strong Black American, African and Afro-Caribbean communities
- Celebrates a wide array of languages, faiths and backgrounds
- Concerns about housing, healthcare, education, access to community programs, and the impacts of criminalization and over surveillance by police and ICE
- Gentrification and growing immigrant and refugee communities have created new and emerging Black communities in parts of the county just east of the City of San Diego
- Resounding pride in the culture, resilience, and shared vision for a better future

District Preferences

- There is strong connection between City Heights & Southeast San Diego and a desire to district them together
- There is also a connection between these areas and the growing communities in Lemon Grove, Spring Valley, La Mesa & El Cajon. They would like to be districted with City Heights & Southeast or with other similar communities in the county
- All of these communities voiced concern about being paired with communities along the coast or to the northern or eastern ends of the county that do not share similar interests, needs, concerns or values.

City Heights / Southeastern San Diego / Lemon Grove / Spring Valley

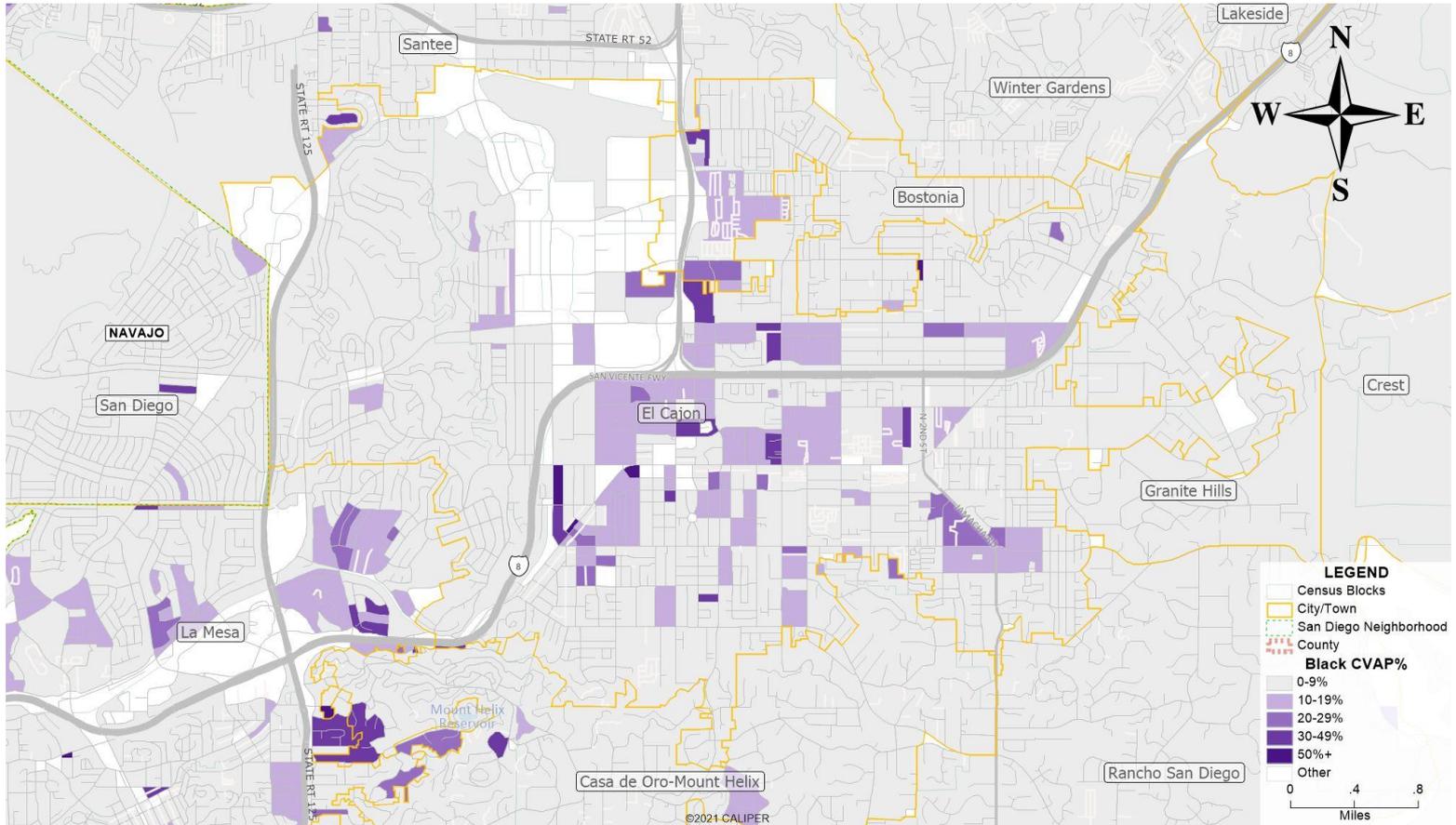


See COI Tool Reference #8132021496, 8142021687, 8132021630, 8172021686, 8142021685, 81720211256, 81720211263, 81720211308, 81720211309, 081720211259 for detailed COI boundaries.

City Heights / Southeastern San Diego / Lemon Grove / Spring Valley

- The Black communities of San Diego take pride in their diversity and unite around common struggles they endure living in the region. The issues highlighted by the community members include, housing, healthcare, education, access to community programs, and the impacts of criminalization and over surveillance by police and immigration authorities.
- Southeast and City Heights are well known as historically Black communities. City Heights was identified as home to a strong East African community made up of immigrants and refugees.
- Lemon Grove and Spring Valley were identified as new and emerging Black communities due to newly arriving Black and Middle Eastern immigrants as well as residents migrating from City Heights & Southeast due to lack of affordable housing.

El Cajon



See COI Tool Reference #8142021687 for detailed COI boundaries.

El Cajon

- During the community input session for El Cajon, the community members described the area as a diverse city made up primarily of immigrants and refugees.
- The growing immigrant and refugee communities of El Cajon want to ensure they are supported, welcomed and able to address issues like language access and access to housing, jobs and resources.
- Community members also highlighted the ethnic serving mom + pop grocery stores all along East Main St as they demonstrate the entrepreneurial spirit of the residents.