

Los Alamitos Unified School District

Presentation to the Orange County Committee
on School District Organization

April 29, 2020

Andrew Pulver, Ed.D., Superintendent

Ronald D. Wenkart, AALRR

Justin Levitt, National Demographic Corp.



Who Are We?

Los Alamitos Unified School District

- Proud to serve the students and families of Los Alamitos, Cypress, Rossmoor, and Seal Beach.
- Six Elementary, two Intermediate and one High School serving 10,000 students in grades TK-12.
- Committed to providing all students a strong academic program with well-rounded, diverse and innovative subject offerings.
- The Board of Trustees has been and continues to be committed to educating and engaging our residents through public meetings, hearings, and consistent communication.
- Our District has taken this transition to a new election system very seriously.





Los Alamitos Unified School District 2019-2020 District Priority Goals

1. **Passionately pursue academic excellence from all students.**
 - 1.1 Focus on the implementation of exemplary instruction by enhancing collaboration, rigor, multiple perspectives, professional development, and signature practices.
 - 1.2 Use assessment results to improve instruction, multi-tiered interventions, and enrichments.
 - 1.3 Ensure every student is connected to school through academics, athletics, activities, and the arts.
 - 1.4 Ensure all students have unparalleled preparation for College and Career Success:
 - Every student meets or exceeds grade-level/content standards on state assessments.
 - Every student completes CSU/UC a-g college entrance requirements.
 - Every student completes Algebra II.
 - Every student completes either an Advanced Placement, Career Technical Education and/or a Dual-Enrollment course in high school.
 - Every student takes the PSAT and SAT.
 - Every student develops foundational skills in technology and STEM.
2. **Ensure an inclusive, safe, healthy, secure, and substance-free environment.**
 - 2.1 Enhance Mental Health Services to support student wellness.
 - 2.2 Engage stakeholders and taskforce groups to implement robust programs that focus on:
 - Social, Emotional, and Mental Health
 - Human Relations
 - Positive Digital Citizenship Practices
 - Violence, Bullying, Vaping and Substance Abuse Prevention and Response
 - Student and staff training on mental health awareness, emergency preparedness and crisis response
 - 2.3 Foster strong relationships with local law enforcement to collaborate on threat mitigation, threat assessments, safe routes to schools, and to increase visibility on District campuses.

2019-2020 District Priority Goals Continued

3. Enhance communication processes to engage, inform, and educate all stakeholders.

- 3.1 Engage in, promote, and increase the number of employees trained in Interest-Based Bargaining as a practice and philosophy to enhance relationships and communication.
- 3.2 Effectively use communication processes to engage our families and all stakeholders:
 - Provide timely feedback and information regarding student performance.
 - Provide updates to the community about school and District news.
 - Provide communication opportunities to exchange ideas and information.
 - Provide executive summaries on Board Workshops during Board of Education meetings.
- 3.3 Serve and support all stakeholders by providing exceptional customer service.
- 3.4 Encourage attendance and participation at school, District, and community events.

4. Provide high quality facilities to meet the educational needs of students.

- 4.1 Implement the District's Master Facility Plan through Measures G and K funding.
- 4.2 Continue facility and technology improvements to protect District assets, meet current educational demands, as well as maintain and update facilities.
- 4.3 Protect funding allocations for short and long-term deferred maintenance and capital facilities projects.
- 4.4 Engage our communities to enhance and improve partnerships, agreements, and communication.

5. Manage and allocate financial resources to maximize students' educational experiences.

- 5.1 Engage in strong fiscal practices and Interest-Based Bargaining to ensure long-term financial stability and protection of District assets.
- 5.2 Enhance partnerships with LAEF, PTAs, school non-profit and booster groups, businesses, alumni, and community partners to secure volunteers, grants, and donations that support exceptional experiences for all students.



Background

- ❖ August 13, 2019 - Presentation on the California Voting Rights Act - Ronald Wenkart
- ❖ August 27, 2019 - Letter to the Community - Election Transition
- ❖ September 18, 2019 - Community Outreach Meeting /Demographer Presentation
- ❖ September 24, 2019 - Public Hearing
- ❖ October 14, 2019 - Public Hearing
- ❖ October 15, 2019 – Board adopts Resolution Establishing Criteria for Developing Trustee Area Boundaries
- ❖ October 24, 2019 - Letter to the Community – Trustee Area Elections – Meetings Schedule
- ❖ December 10, 2019 – Board adopts Resolution authorizing Request for Waiver of Election Requirement from State Board of Education⁵



Community Outreach

Informational & Input Meetings

August 23, 2019	Weaver Elementary School PTA	9:00 a.m.
August 26, 2019	PTA Council Meeting	9:30 a.m.
August 28, 2019	Rossmoor Elementary School PTA	8:00 a.m.
September 9, 2019	Lee Elementary School PTA	8:30 a.m.
September 9, 2019	McAuliffe Middle School PTA	5:00 p.m.
September 13, 2019	State of the District	8:00 a.m.
September 17, 2019	Los Alamitos/Seal Beach Rotary	12:00 p.m.
September 18, 2019	Los Alamitos USD Community	6:30 p.m.
October 17, 2019	Superintendent's Forum	3:30 p.m.
October 22, 2019	District Office Staff Meeting	2:45 p.m.
October 28, 2019	PTA Council Meeting	9:30 a.m.
November 4, 2019	Rossmoor Community	6:30 p.m.
November 5, 2019	Seal Beach Leisure World Community	2:00 p.m.
November 5, 2019	Seal Beach Community	6:30 p.m.
November 6, 2019	LAEA Executive Board	3:15 p.m.
November 6, 2019	CSEA Executive Board	4:30 p.m.
November 6, 2019	Los Alamitos Community	6:30 p.m.
November 13, 2019	PK-12 Administrators	9:15 a.m.
November 18, 2019	District Council PTA	9:30 a.m.
November 20, 2019	Los Alamitos Education Foundation Board	6:00 p.m.
December 2, 2019	Los Alamitos USD Community	6:30 p.m.
December 4, 2019	Weaver Elementary PTA	6:30 p.m.
December 11, 2019	PK-12 Administrators	10:00 a.m.
December 16, 2019	District Advisory Committee	9:00 a.m.
January 14, 2020	Oak PTA Meeting	9:00 a.m.
January 15, 2020	Operations Steering Committee	6:30 p.m.
January 16, 2020	Superintendent Forum	3:30 p.m.



Community Outreach

Pre-Transition CVRA Informational Presentations

August 13, 2019 *District Office* *6:30 p.m.*

September 18, 2019 *District Office* *6:30 p.m.*

Pre-Map Public Hearings

September 24, 2019 *District Office* *6:30 p.m.*

October 14, 2019 *District Office* *6:30 p.m.*

Public Hearings Map Options

November 12, 2019 *District Office* *6:30 p.m.*

December 10, 2019 *District Office* *6:30 p.m.*

January 7, 2020 *District Office* *6:30 p.m.*

January 21, 2020 *District Office* *6:30 p.m.*

11
Total Maps
Drafted

**36 Total
Meetings**



Letters to Parents



10293 Bloomfield Street • Los Alamitos, CA 90720-2200
(562) 799-4700 • FAX (562) 799-4730

*Andrew Pulver, Ed.D.
Superintendent*

Dear Members of the Los Alamitos Unified School District Community,

Our Board of Education is beginning the process of changing the current at-large voting system to a voting system based on five trustee areas. This means that instead of voting for all five members of the school board, a voter will select one trustee to represent their area of the school district. The change in the election system will have no effect on school attendance boundaries.

The Board of Education is making this change because the California Voting Rights Act strongly discourages at-large voting and highly encourages area-based voting as a means of ensuring that minority group voting rights in a community are protected and not abridged or diluted. Most California cities, school districts and public agencies have converted, or are in the process of converting, to area-based voting. Some school districts and public agencies have been sued for not shifting away from at-large voting. In each case, the public agency has lost and been forced to pay steep legal costs with money that otherwise would support students and instruction.

To work with the community in making the change, the Los Alamitos Board of Education will hold public hearings to solicit input on how the District should be divided into trustee areas. The Board of Education is working with a professional demographer to draft multiple versions of voting area maps for review by the Board of Education and the public. The demographer will also propose a schedule for which areas will hold elections in 2020 and 2022.

Community Outreach Meeting

Sept. 18, 6:30 PM
District Office Board Room
10293 Bloomfield St., Los Alamitos

Public Hearings

Sept. 24 and Oct. 14, 6:30 PM
District Office Board Room
10293 Bloomfield St., Los Alamitos

After reviewing the different versions of the maps and election schedule, the Board of Education will hold additional public hearings before deciding on a final plan. The new voting system must be approved by the Orange County Committee on School District Organization and the State Board of Education before it goes into effect, most likely for the November 2020 election.

If you are unable to attend a hearing but wish to learn more or submit comments or questions regarding the election transition process, please visit our website at www.losal.org/voting. A timeline for the transition, including dates and times for public hearings, can be found [here](#). Comments or questions can be emailed to trusteeareaelection@losal.org.

Sincerely,

Andrew Pulver, Ed.D.
Superintendent



Press Releases

LOS ALAMITOS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

10293 Bloomfield Street, Los Alamitos, CA 90720-2200

(562) 799-4700 Fax (562) 799-4730 www.losal.org

NEWS RELEASE

DATE: October 24, 2019

PRESS RELEASE – For Immediate Release

School Board Seeks Comment on Voting Area Maps

The Los Alamitos Unified School District has scheduled a series of community outreach meetings to solicit feedback on draft maps of school board trustee election areas. A professional demography firm hired by the District is preparing the maps, which will be posted on the District website by November 1.

Here is the schedule and location of the community outreach meetings:

- Mon., Nov. 4, 6:30 PM, Rush Park in Rossmoor.
- Tues., Nov. 5, 2:00 PM, Clubhouse 3 Rm. 2 in Leisure World.
- Tues., Nov. 5, 6:30 PM, McGaugh Elementary auditorium in Seal Beach.
- Wed., Nov. 6, 6:30 PM, District Office Board Room in Los Alamitos.

In addition, the District had already scheduled two formal public hearings on the draft maps at the District Office Board Room on November 12 and December 10. The hearings will be held during the regular Board meetings which begin at 6:30 PM.

Community members can also submit comment by email at trusteareaelection@losal.org

The Board of Education will consider public input from the outreach meetings and the formal hearings before voting on a final map of trustee-area boundaries by January 2020. The county and state must also approve the maps before they go into effect for the November 2020 election.

The Los Alamitos Unified Board of Education is moving to a trustee-area voting system because the California Voting Rights Act strongly discourages the current at-large system. Dividing the school district into trustee areas helps ensure that minority group voting rights in the community are protected and not abridged or diluted, according to the statute. Most California cities, school districts and public agencies have converted, or are in the process of converting, to area-based voting. Some school districts and public agencies have been sued for not shifting away from at-large voting. In each case, the public agency has lost and been forced to pay steep legal costs with money that, in the case of schools, would otherwise support students and instruction.

More information about the process of shifting to the trustee-area system, including frequently asked questions and a timeline for implementation, can be found at www.losal.org/Voting.

####

Contact: Robert Ostmann, Los Alamitos Unified School District



Comprehensive Website

The screenshot shows the top navigation bar of the Los Alamitos Unified School District website. The header includes the district logo, the name 'LOS ALAMITOS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT', and the tagline 'District API 922 - Igniting Unlimited Possibilities for Students!'. Below the header is a navigation menu with links to 'Our District', 'Board of Education', 'Departments', 'School Calendars', 'Programs', 'Bond Measures', 'Enrollment', 'Flyers', and 'PTA Council'. A secondary navigation bar contains links for 'Parents', 'Staff', 'Alumni', and 'LAEP'. The main content area is titled 'TRUSTEE VOTING AREAS' and features a sidebar with links to 'New System for Electing Board Members', 'Voting Process Communications', 'Trustee Voting Areas FAQs', 'Election Transition Timeline', 'Trustee Voting Areas Map', and 'Trustee Election Schedule'. The main text area is titled 'Trustee-Area Election System' and contains a 'Better Together' logo. The text describes the process of adopting a final plan to divide the district into five trustee voting areas, the Board's unanimous recommendation of the 'Green 4 trustee areas map', and the implications for the November 2020 election. It also mentions the school board's move to a trustee-area voting system and the final approval of the map and election cycles.

LOS ALAMITOS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
District API 922 - Igniting Unlimited Possibilities for Students!

Calendar Aeries Portal Classroom Portal Webmail

Parents Staff Alumni LAEP

Our District Board of Education Departments School Calendars Programs Bond Measures Enrollment Flyers PTA Council

Home ▶ Board of Education ▶ Trustee Voting AreasTrustee Voting Areas

TRUSTEE VOTING AREAS

- > New System for Electing Board Members
- > Voting Process Communications
- > Trustee Voting Areas FAQs
- > Election Transition Timeline
- > Trustee Voting Areas Map
- > Trustee Election Schedule

BOARD OF EDUCATION

- > Board of Education
- > Trustee Voting Areas

Trustee-Area Election System

Better Together
LOS ALAMITOS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Dear Members of the Los Alamitos Unified School District Community,

After a five-month process that included 11 draft maps prepared by professional demographers and 35 public meetings to solicit community input, the Los Alamitos Unified School District Board has adopted a final plan to divide the district into five trustee voting areas.

The Board decided unanimously to recommend the [Green 4 trustee areas map](#) to the Orange County Committee on School District Organization, which, along with the State Board of Education, must approve the plan before it goes into effect for the November 2020 election.

This means that instead of voting for all five members of the school board, a voter will select one trustee to represent their area of the school district. The change in the election system will have no effect on school attendance boundaries.

The school board is moving to a trustee-area voting system because the California Voting Rights Act strongly discourages the current at-large system. Dividing the school district into trustee areas helps ensure that minority group voting rights in the community are protected and not abridged or diluted.

"My fellow Board members and I want to express our gratitude to the community," said Board President Meg Cutuli, "for the valuable input throughout the process that was influential in how we made our final decision."

Final approval of the trustee voting area map and election cycles by the county and state is expected by May. As proposed to county and state officials, voting areas 2, 4 and 5 would hold school board elections in November 2020, and areas 1 and 3 would vote in 2022.

Complete information about the process of transitioning to the new electoral system can be found

The screenshot shows the 'Trustee Voting Areas Map' page of the Los Alamitos Unified School District website. The header and navigation bar are identical to the previous screenshot. The main content area is titled 'Trustee Voting Areas Map' and features a 'Better Together' logo. The text describes the adoption of the 'Green 4' trustee areas map by the Board of Education on January 21, 2020, after considering 11 draft versions. It notes that the map meets the legal ±10% deviation requirement for equal population in each trustee area and includes a majority non-white Area 1 in the northern part of the District. The page provides a link to the final map and includes a narrative summary and underlying demographic data, including comparative community populations and voter registration figures for each trustee area. A link to an 'interactive viewer' is provided, which allows users to view the boundaries of the trustee areas down to the street level with an overlay showing the locations of all district schools. The page also lists links to previous draft maps that were eliminated from consideration by the Board.

Home ▶ Board of Education ▶ Trustee Voting AreasTrustee Voting Areas

TRUSTEE VOTING AREAS

- > New System for Electing Board Members
- > Voting Process Communications
- > Trustee Voting Areas FAQs
- > Election Transition Timeline
- > Trustee Voting Areas Map
- > Trustee Election Schedule

BOARD OF EDUCATION

- > Board of Education
- > Trustee Voting Areas

Trustee Voting Areas Map

The Los Alamitos Unified School District Board of Education adopted Green 4 as the final trustee areas map at its meeting January 21, 2020 after considering 11 draft versions.

The map meets the legal ±10% deviation requirement for equal population in each trustee area and includes a majority non-white Area 1 in the northern part of the District that links Old Town Los Alamitos, Apartment Row and the portion of Cypress in Los Alamitos Unified.

The link below is to the final map adopted by the District Board and includes a narrative summary and underlying demographic data, including comparative community populations and voter registration figures for each trustee area.

[Green 4 Map](#)

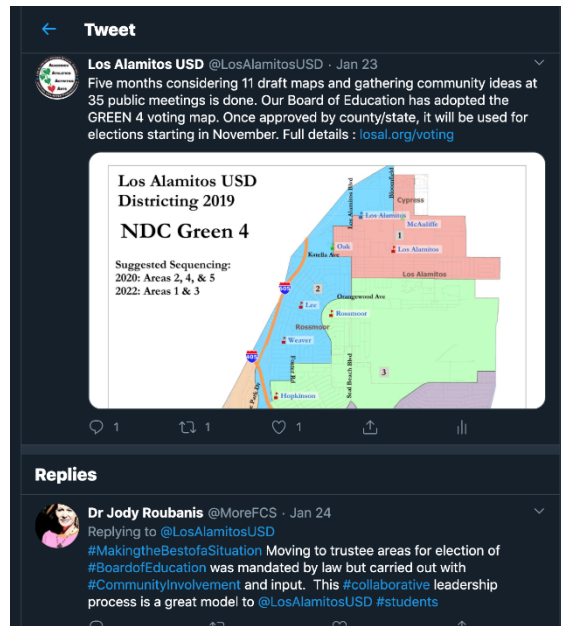
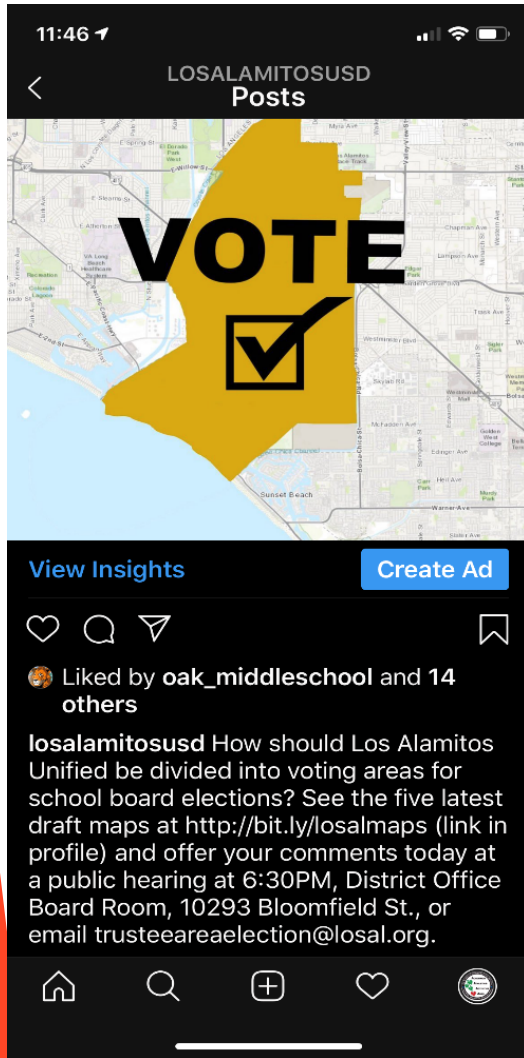
An [interactive viewer](#) allows you to view the boundaries of the trustee areas down to the street level with an overlay showing the locations of all district schools.

The links below are to previous draft maps that were eliminated from consideration by the Board.

- [Teal Map](#)
- [Purple Map](#)
- [Green Map](#)
- [Green 2 Map](#)
- [Green 3 Map](#)
- [Orange Map](#)
- [Orange 2 Map](#)
- [Yellow Map](#)
- [Yellow 2 Map](#)
- [Yellow 3 Map](#)



Social Media - Map Release



Sample social media posts publicizing map releases and hearings. Clockwise from left, Instagram, Twitter and Facebook.



Preparing Trustee Voting Area Plans: Districting Criteria

Federal Law

- ✓ Equal Population
- ✓ Federal Voting Rights Act
- ✓ No Racial Gerrymandering

Traditional Criteria

- ✓ Communities of interest
- ✓ Compact
- ✓ Contiguous
- ✓ Visible (Natural & man-made) boundaries
- ✓ Respect for voters' wishes and continuity in office
- ✓ Planned future growth



Demographics

Census Data (Total Population)

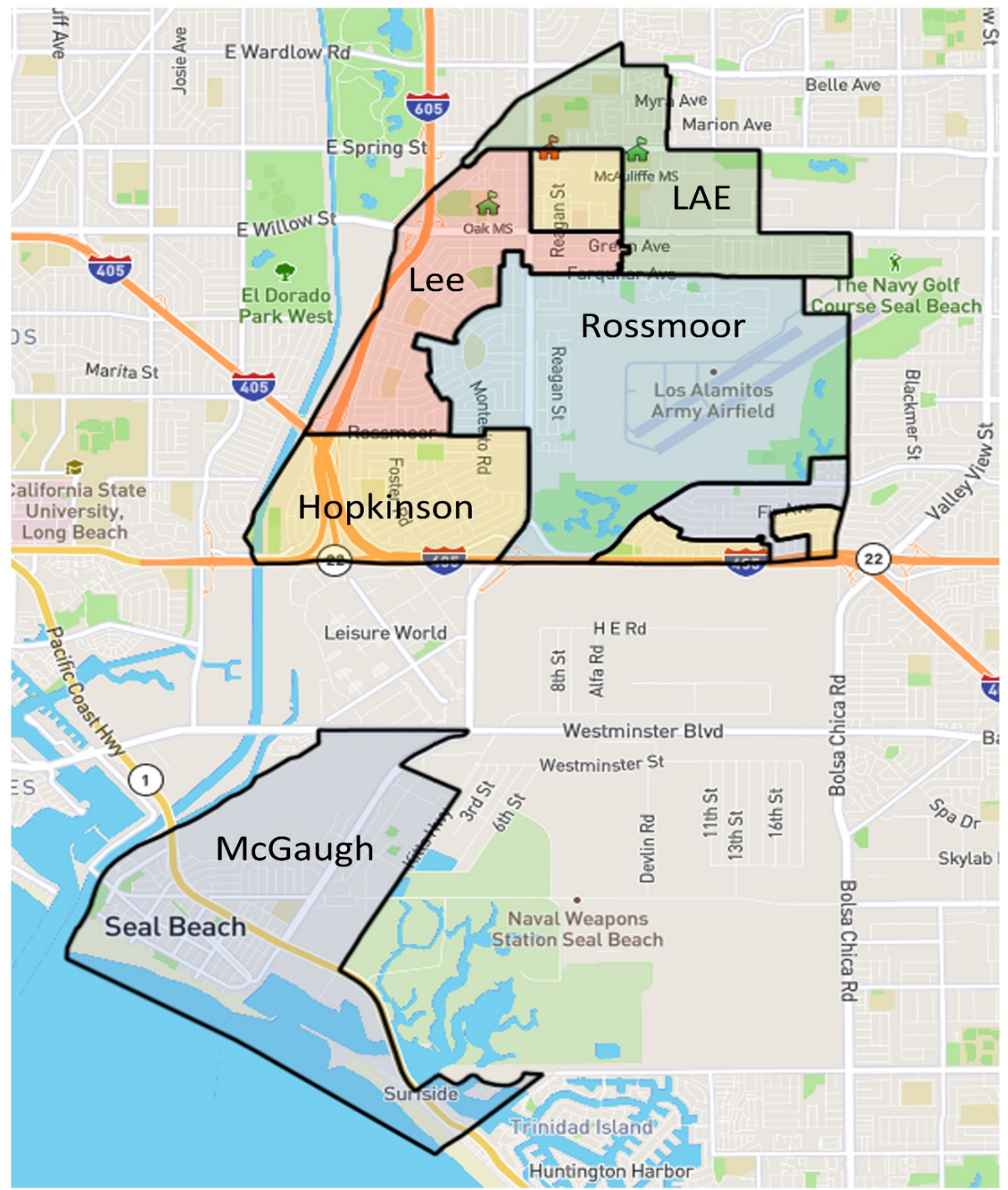
	Total Pop	47,947	Percentage
Total Pop	Hisp	6,330	13%
	NH White	34,280	71%
	NH Black	780	2%
	Asian-American	5,688	12%

Demographics

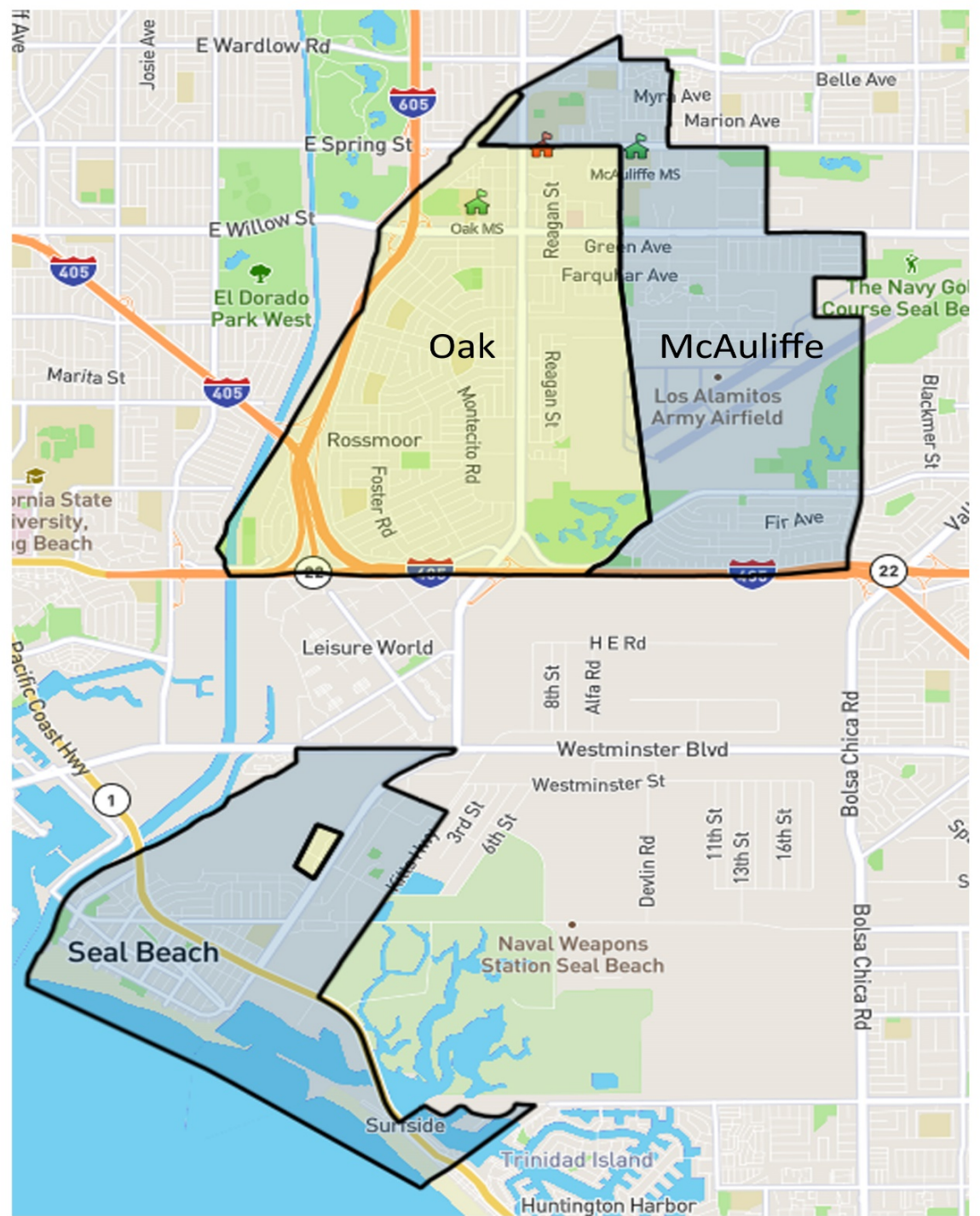
Census Data (Citizen Voting Age)

Citizen Voting Age Pop	Total	38,613	Percentage
	Hisp	4,880	13%
	NH White	28,280	73%
	NH Black	838	2%
	Asian/Pac.Isl.	3,963	11%

Elementary School Boundary Map



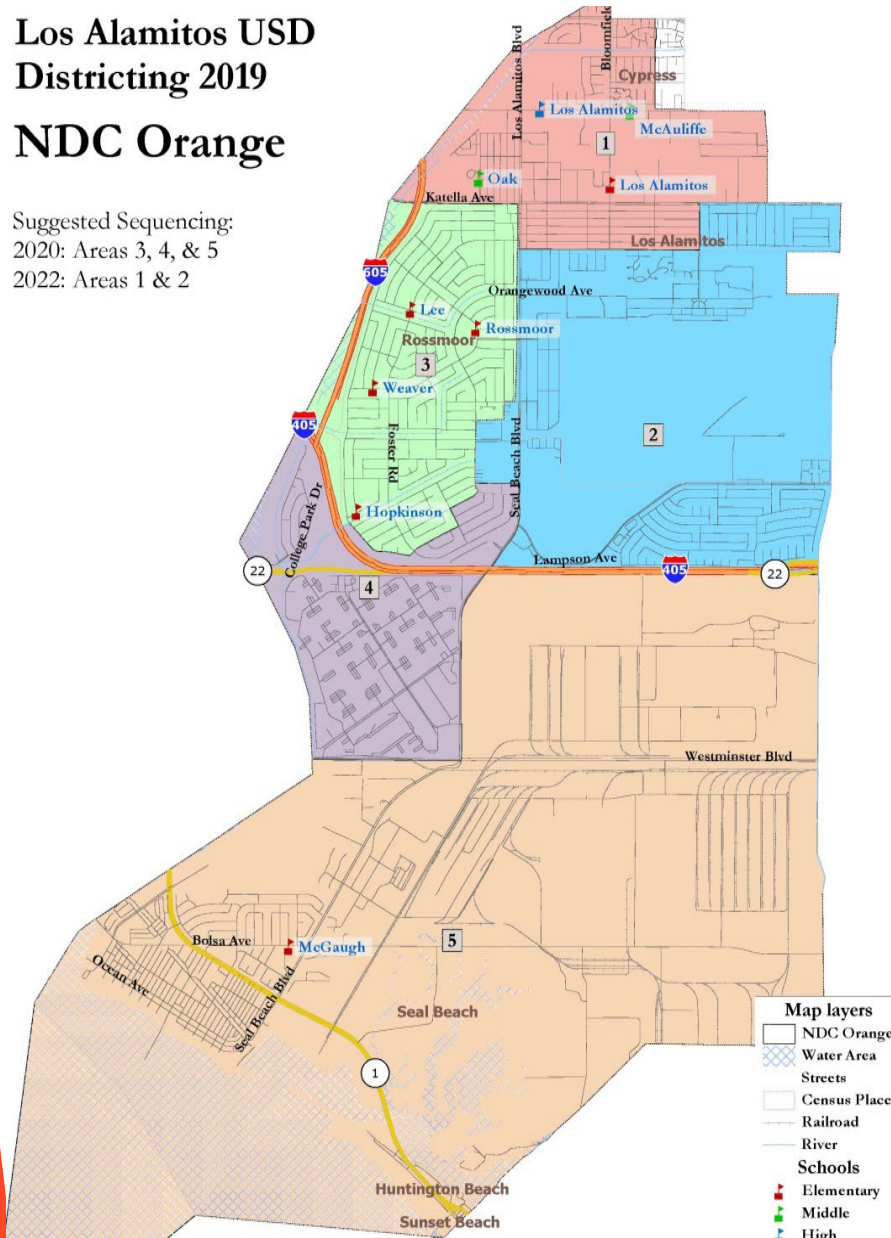
Middle School Boundary Map



Summary of Plans

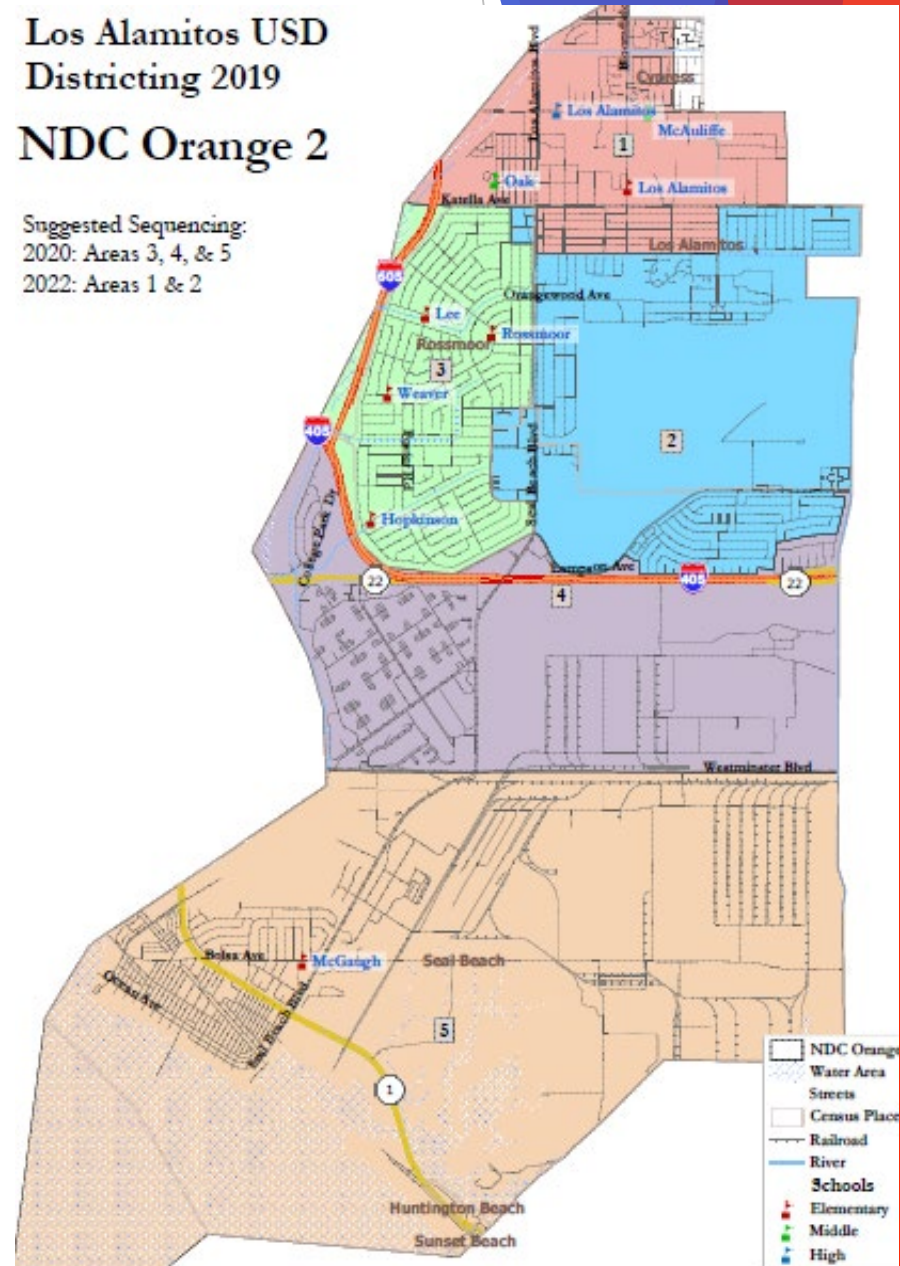
Los Alamitos USD Districting 2019 NDC Orange

Suggested Sequencing:
2020: Areas 3, 4, & 5
2022: Areas 1 & 2



Los Alamitos USD Districting 2019 NDC Orange 2

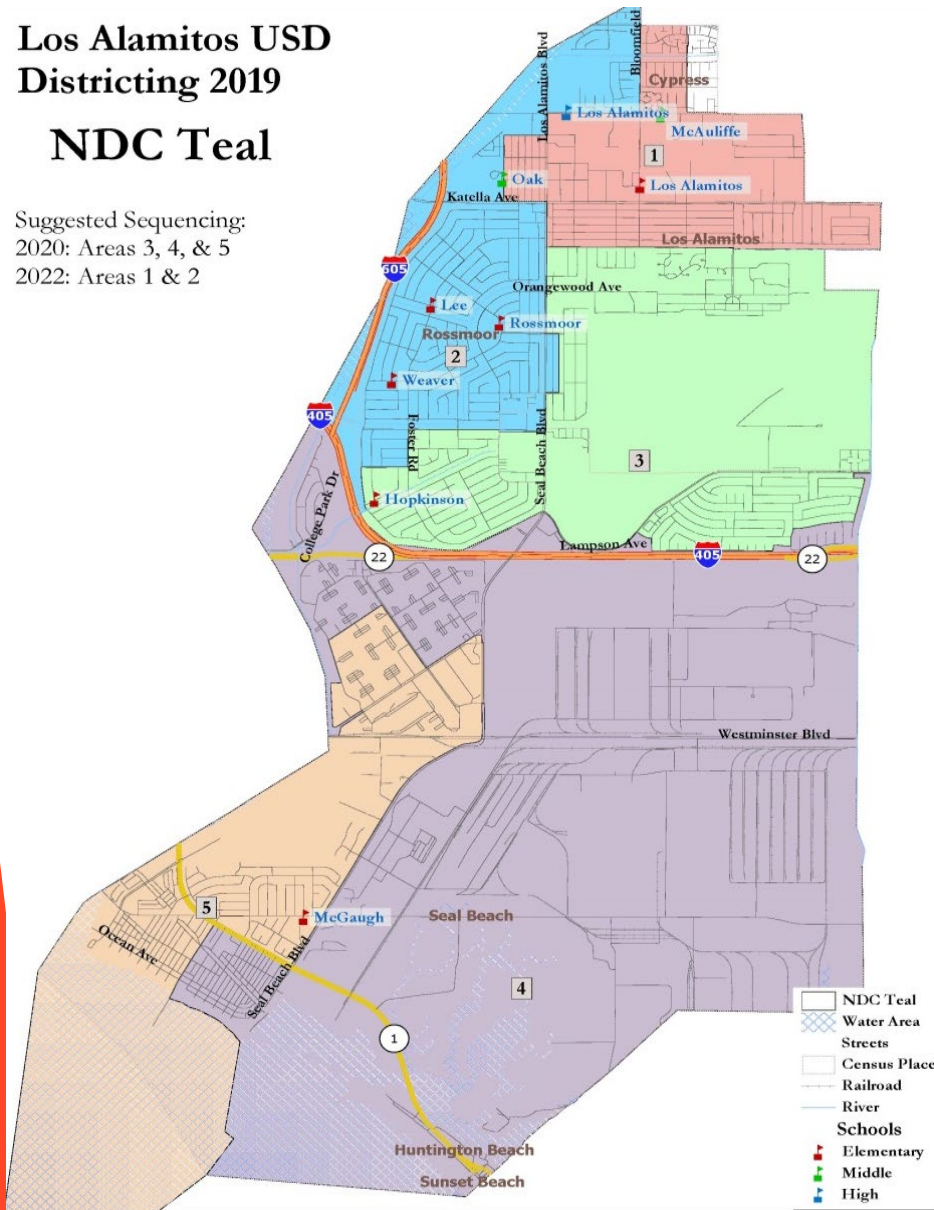
Suggested Sequencing:
2020: Areas 3, 4, & 5
2022: Areas 1 & 2



Summary of Plans

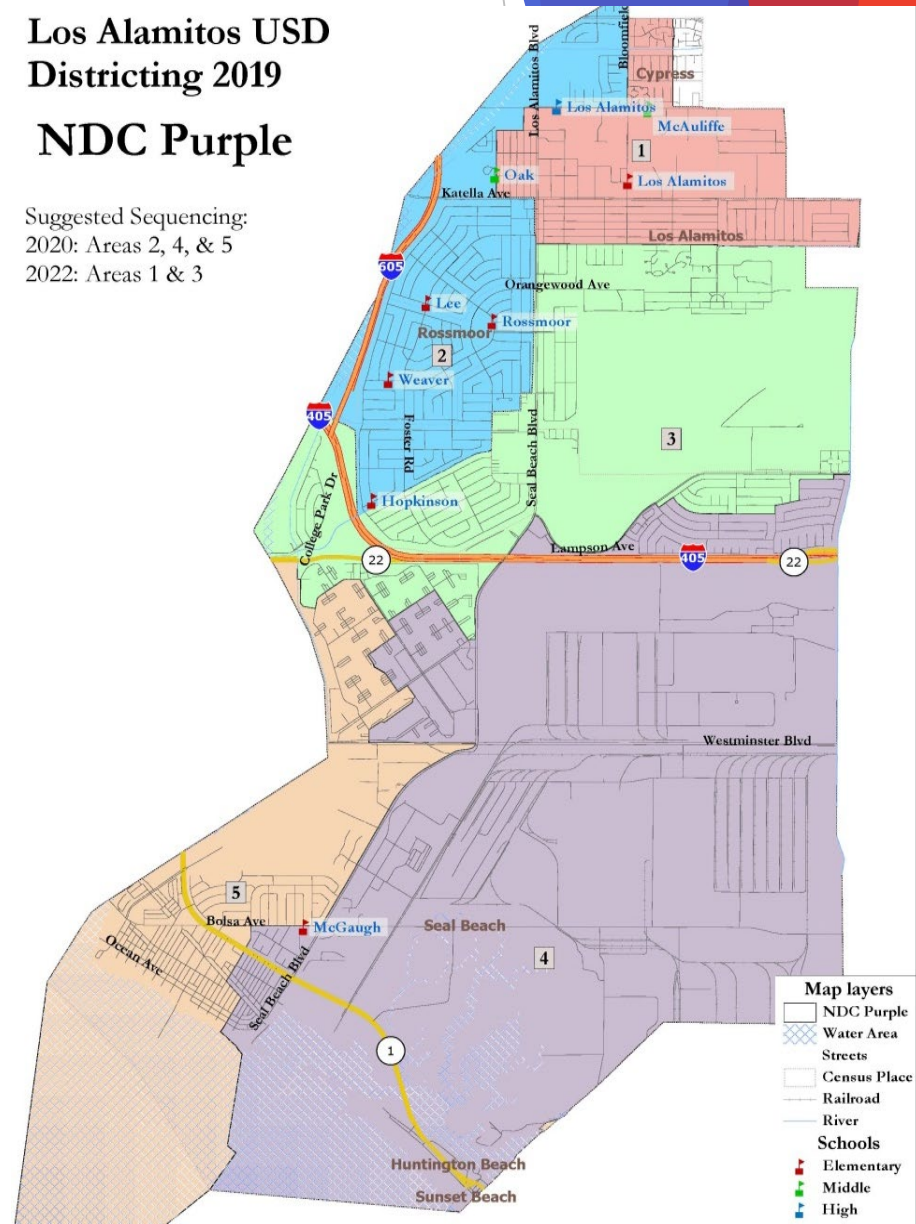
Los Alamitos USD Districting 2019 NDC Teal

Suggested Sequencing:
2020: Areas 3, 4, & 5
2022: Areas 1 & 2



Los Alamitos USD Districting 2019 NDC Purple

Suggested Sequencing:
2020: Areas 2, 4, & 5
2022: Areas 1 & 3



Summary of Plans

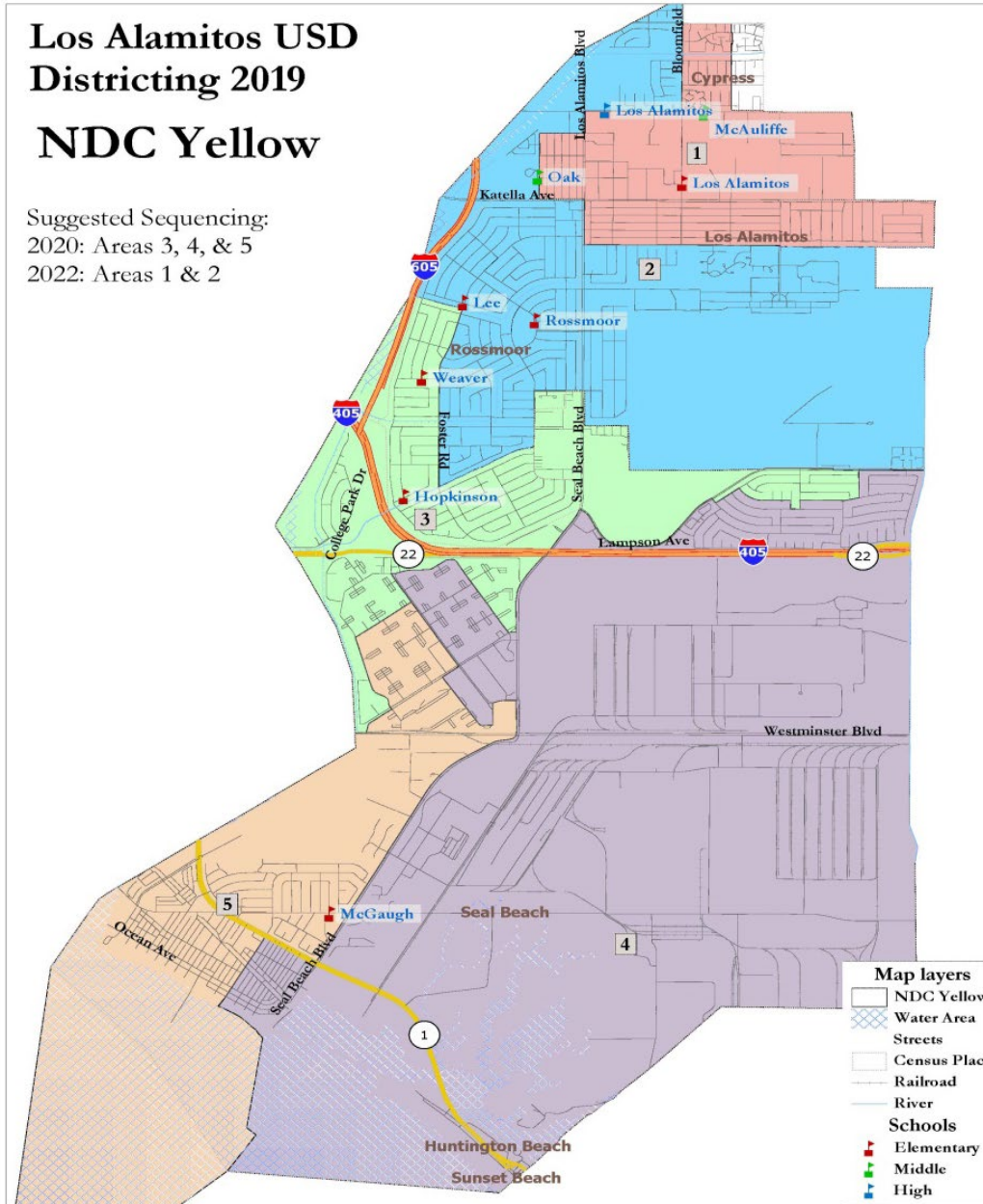
Los Alamitos USD Districting 2019

NDC Yellow

Suggested Sequencing:

2020: Areas 3, 4, & 5

2022: Areas 1 & 2



Summary of Plans

Los Alamitos USD Districting 2019

NDC Yellow 2

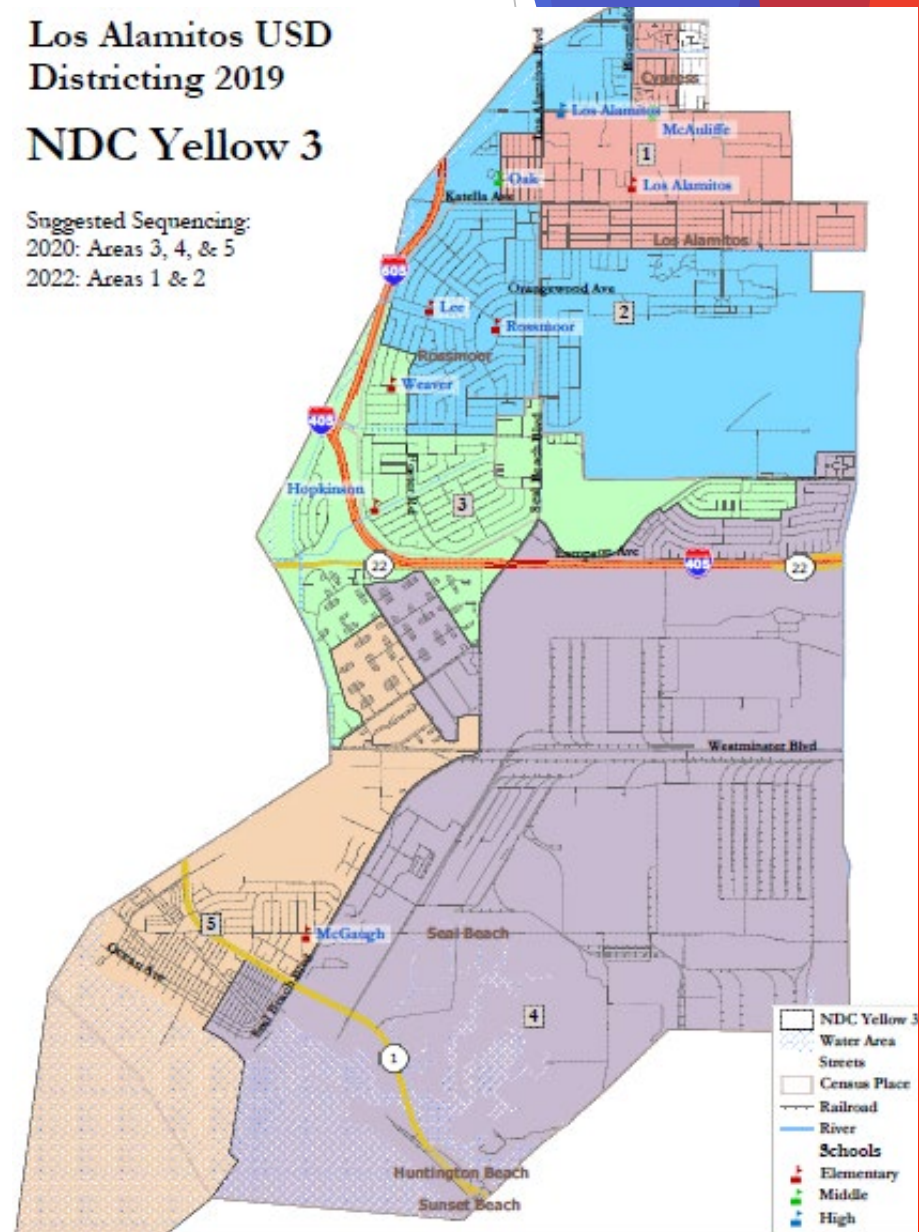
Suggested Sequencing:
2020: Areas 3, 4, & 5
2022: Areas 1 & 2



Los Alamitos USD Districting 2019

NDC Yellow 3

Suggested Sequencing:
2020: Areas 3, 4, & 5
2022: Areas 1 & 2



Summary of Plans

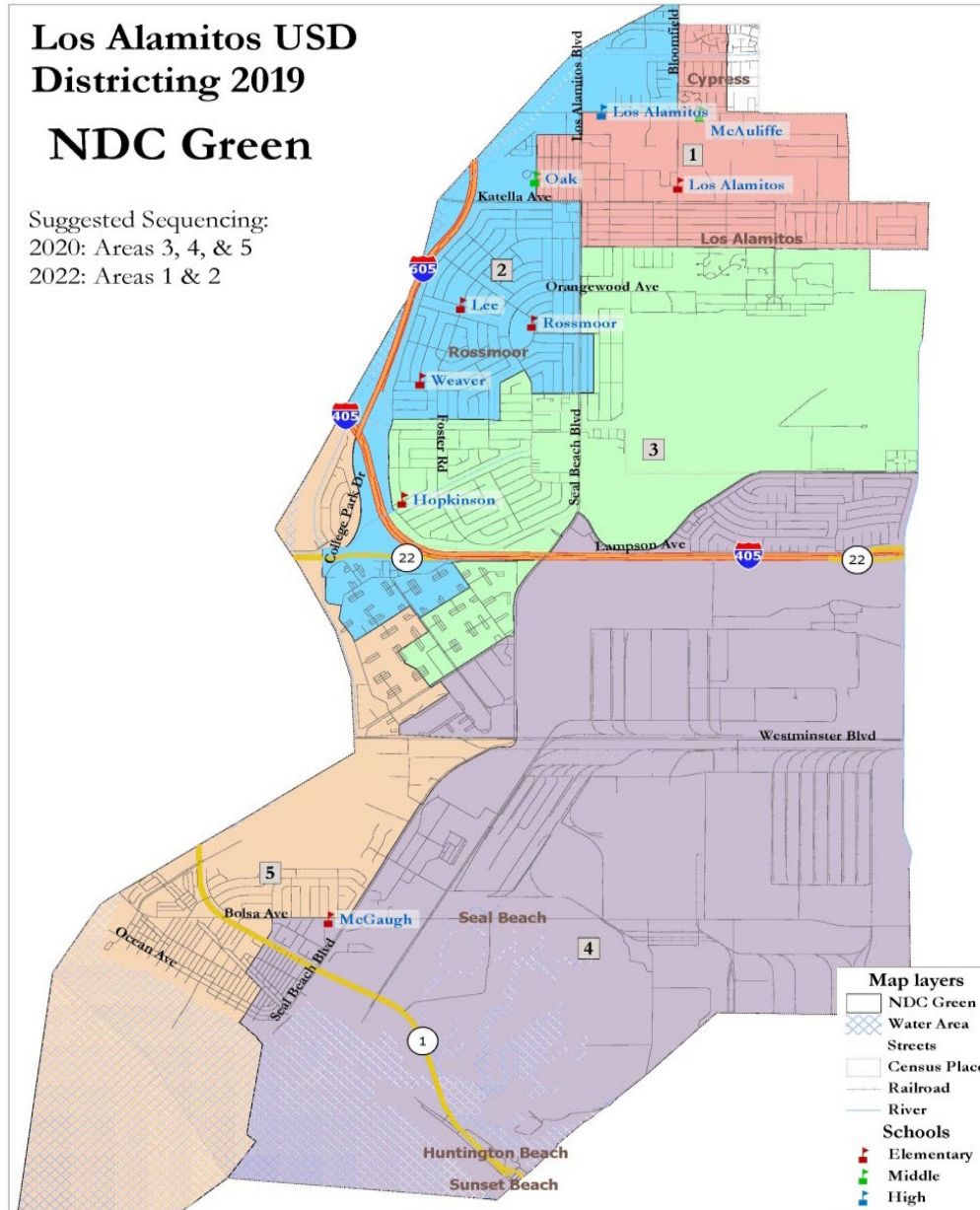
Los Alamitos USD Districting 2019

NDC Green

Suggested Sequencing:

2020: Areas 3, 4, & 5

2022: Areas 1 & 2

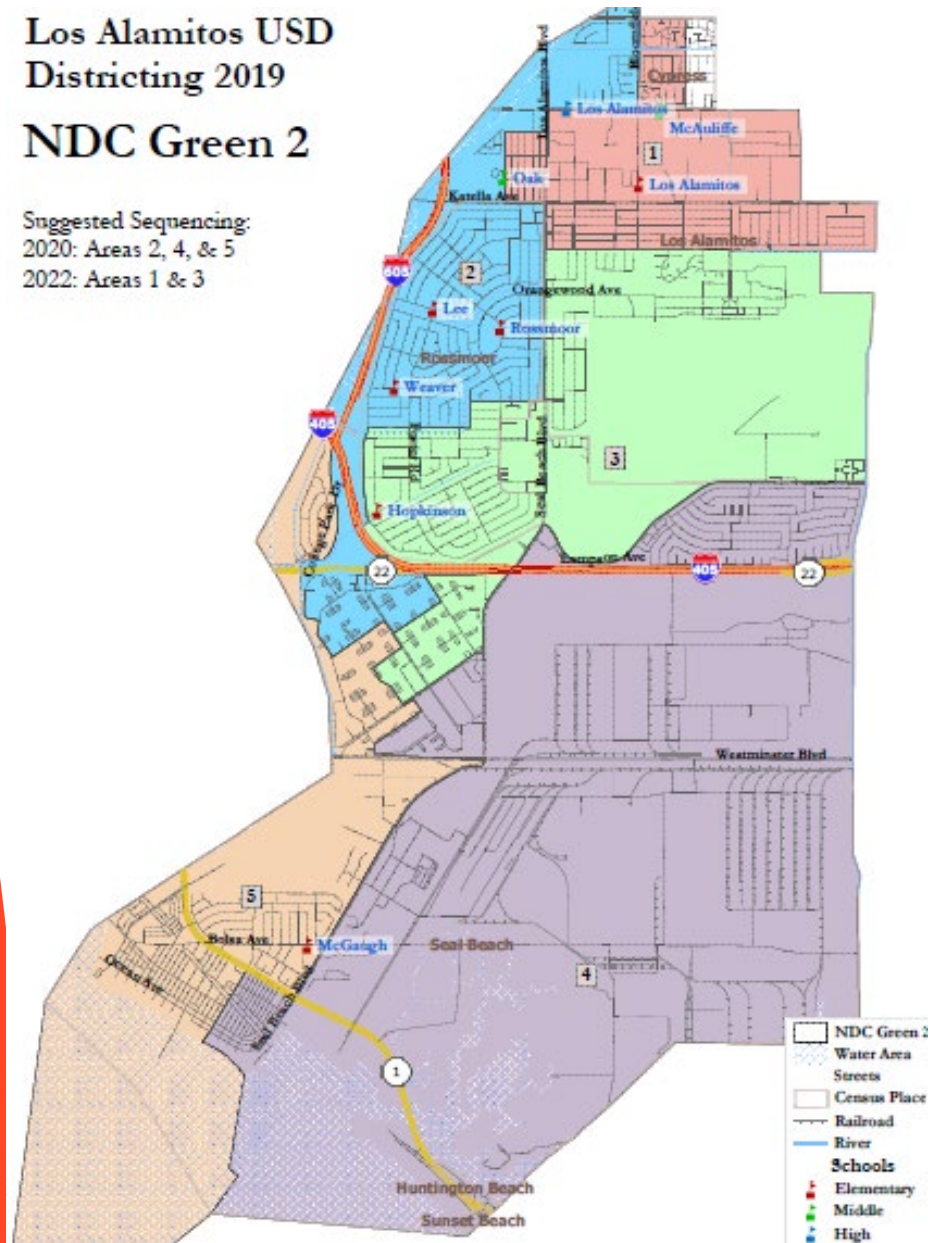


Summary of Plans

Los Alamitos USD
Districting 2019

NDC Green 2

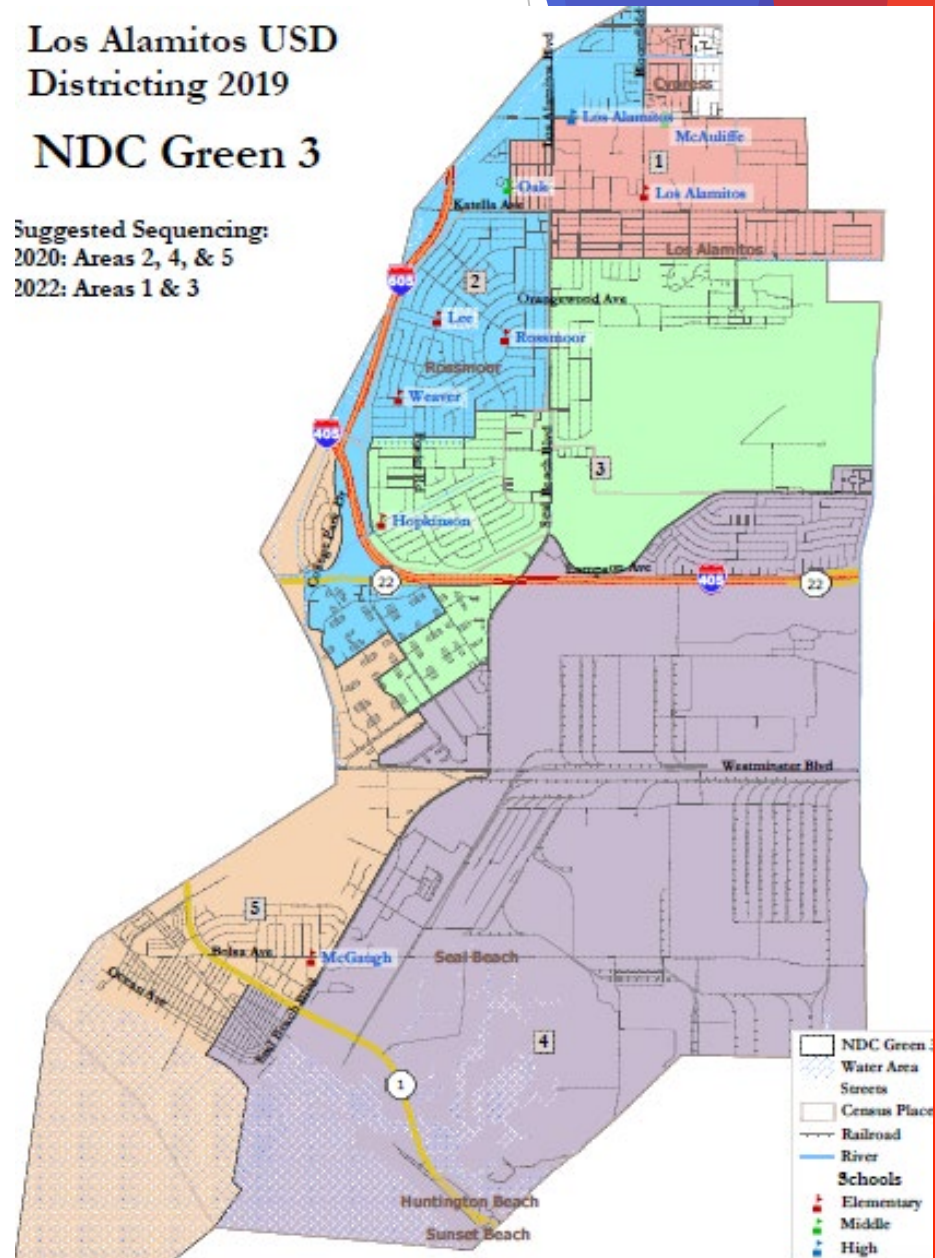
Suggested Sequencing:
2020: Areas 2, 4, & 5
2022: Areas 1 & 3



Los Alamitos USD
Districting 2019

NDC Green 3

Suggested Sequencing:
2020: Areas 2, 4, & 5
2022: Areas 1 & 3



ADOPTED MAP - GREEN 4

January 21, 2020

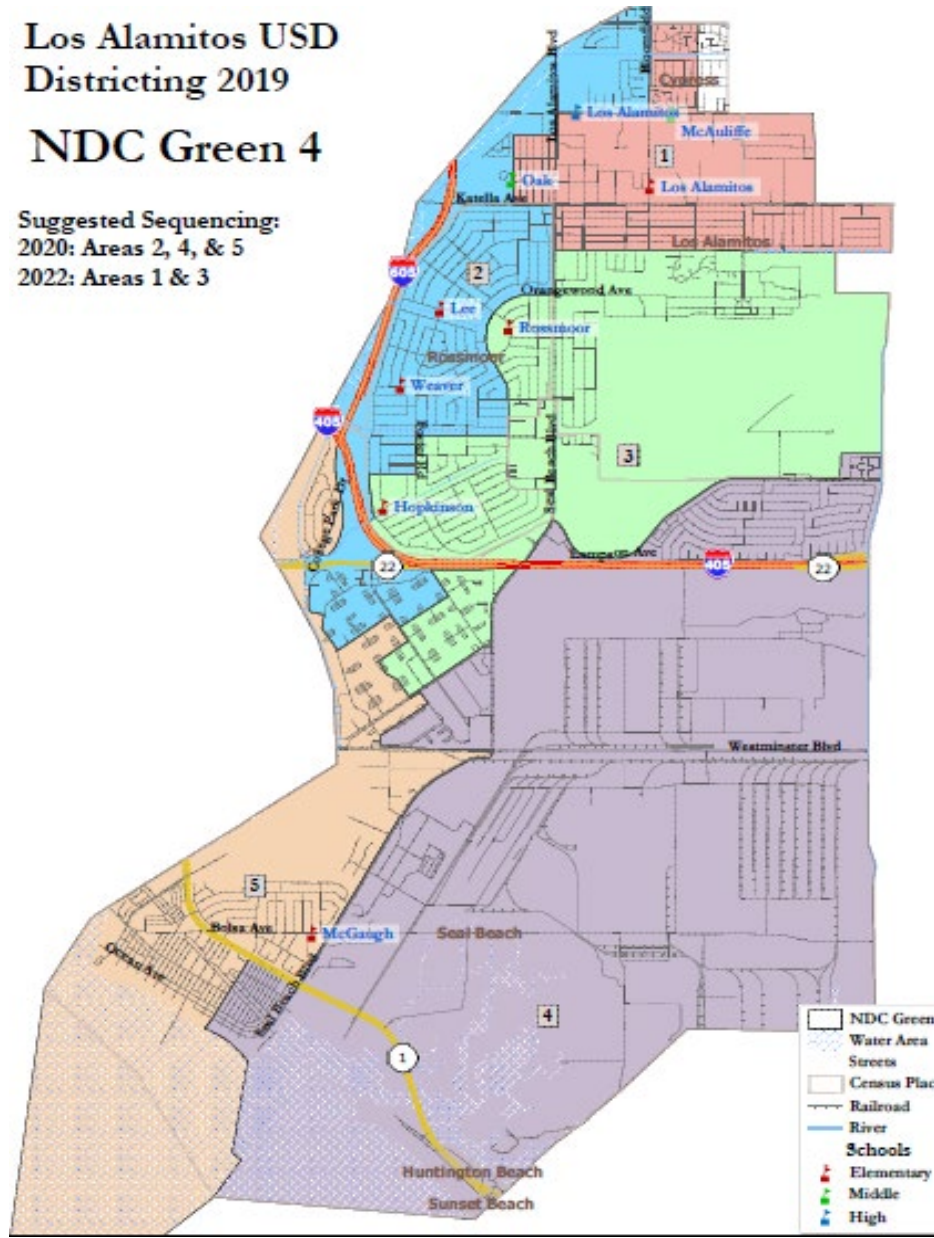
Los Alamitos USD
Districting 2019

NDC Green 4

Suggested Sequencing:

2020: Areas 2, 4, & 5

2022: Areas 1 & 3



Sequence of Elections:

Areas 2, 4, & 5: 2020

Areas 1 & 3: 2022

- 6.8% Deviation
- Majority non-White Trustee Area 1 (by CVAP)
- Leisure World divided into four Trustee Areas
- Area 4 includes all of College Park East and links with Seal Beach
- Parkewood moved to Area 4
- More even division of school sites between areas



State Board of Education (SBE)

Waiver Application

- December 10, 2019 - Board approved Resolution - General Waiver Request at Board Meeting (Ed Code 5020 and portions of 5019, 5021, 5030)
- December 2019 – Waiver Request submitted to SBE
- April 2020 - Waiver Approved by SBE



**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT
OF EDUCATION**
1430 N STREET, SACRAMENTO, CA 95814-5901 • 916-319-0800 • WWW.CDE.CA.GOV

TONY THURMOND
STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

April 21, 2020

Andrew Pulver
Los Alamitos Unified
10293 Bloomfield St.
Los Alamitos, CA 90720

Dear Dr. Pulver:

This letter serves as the official disposition notice of the waiver request submitted for consideration at the State Board of Education (SBE) meeting on March 11, 2020.

Waiver #: 15-12-2019-W-08 Period Recommended: 1/1/2020 to 12/31/2020

EC Section: Portions of 5019, 5021, 5030 and all of 5020
EC Authority: 33050-33053

Title: Request by Los Alamitos Unified to waive California Education Code Section 5020, and portions of sections 5019, 5021, and 5030, that require a districtwide election to establish a by-trustee-area method of election.

Disposition: Approved

If you have any questions about this waiver request or need further assistance with waiver requests to the SBE, please call the California Department of Education Waiver Office at 916-319-0824.

Sincerely,


Christine Plumb-Gordon, Consultant
Waiver Office

Christine Plumb Gordon, Consultant
SBE Liaison Office
1430 N Street 5602
Sacramento CA 95814-5901
916-319-0823
cpgordon@cde.ca.gov

Road Ahead

- **April 2020**– Presentation & Public Hearing with County Committee
- **Summer 2020** – Record Trustee Voting Area Plan with County Registrar
- **November 2020** – Elections under new election system/By-Trustee Area
- **2020** - Three Seats Up for Election
- **2022** - Two Seats Up for Election



LOS ALAMITOS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

QUESTIONS?

