

From: [rick mines](#)
To: [Thompson, John R.](#); [Amy Arambula](#); [Juan Arambula](#)
Subject: Redistricting and rural communities
Date: Monday, November 01, 2021 4:23:34 PM
Attachments: [Mines-Joining Farmworker Neighborhoods in City of Fresno with Nearby Farm Areas for Redistricting Purposes \(10-31-21\).docx](#)

CAUTION!!! - EXTERNAL EMAIL - THINK BEFORE YOU CLICK

John Thompson, the Fresno County Redistricting Liaison
jothompson@fresnocountyca.gov

Dear Mr. Thompson,

I was asked by Amy and Juan Arámbula to give my opinion about the advisability of joining urban and rural farmworker populations, that may form a community of interest, in the same political jurisdiction.

I looked into the issue basing my analysis on the American Community Survey (ACS) of the US Census Bureau. The ACS has data that accurately show where farmworkers are living down to the Census Tract level along with a rich treasure of other demographic data.

One, among many, myths about farmworkers is that they live in remote rural areas. Actually, they mostly rent in urban environments crowded into apartment buildings and modest houses. It makes perfect sense to join by appropriate census tract the farmworkers, who all have the same interests, into a single district.

Please include my paper by uploading it to the County Redistricting website and please be so kind as to share it with the Supervisors and their chiefs of staff.

Please contact me if I can be of any assistance.

Sincerely,

Rick Mines, Ph.D.
See my paper attached!

--

Rick Mines
916-710-9506
<https://rickmines.wordpress.com/>

FARMWORKER NEIGHBORHOODS IN THE CITY OF FRESNO SHOULD BE JOINED WITH NEARBY FARM AREAS FOR REDISTRICTING PURPOSES

Introduction

The author is an Agricultural Economist, who has conducted numerous surveys among farmworkers in the United States and Mexico for over 40 years. Two surveys in which the author played a leading role are the National Agricultural Workers Survey (1988 to the present) and the Indigenous Farmworker Survey (2010).

Executive Summary

1. Many of the residents of the 8 census tracts examined, though they sleep and shop in the City of Fresno, spend their days working in agricultural environments.
2. All the policies and programs that affect workers in farm areas, like their working conditions, their health care, and access to social services, also affect the farmworkers who often by necessity must live in cities like Fresno.
3. In order to fairly represent the interests of farmworkers, an identifiable community of interest, it is necessary for some urban farmworker neighborhoods to be grouped with ones in more rural parts of a District.
4. Recommendation: Group these 8 census tracts with populations in rural districts.

To provide fair representation to the community of farmworkers, I recommend these eight census tracts be grouped with populations within a rural district.

Introduction to the Farmworkers in the County of Fresno

First, I will provide a brief overview of the County of Fresno, then I focus on specific comparisons between a few important census tracts within the City of Fresno with rural towns that have similar populations with clear common interests and concerns. I submit that these census tracts should be joined with a nearby agricultural (political) district in rural Fresno since many of its residents represent the interests of the agriculturally employed in Fresno County.

Before starting, it should be underlined emphatically, we know there is an undercount of probably 20-25% of farmworkers in the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey, which is the source for our information. We stress that, while we do not know the exact extent of the undercount, it is clear the number of farmworkers are undercounted.¹

There are 55 zip codes in Fresno County that have people living in them according to the Census Bureau. About 44% of the 935,100² people living in these zip codes are employed.³ Of these, according to the (undercounted) Census, about 10% or 40,014 are engaged in farm employment. In the farmworkers' households there are at least another 48,000 family members. In total then, according to the Census, about 88,000 farmworker and family members live in the county or about 9.4% of the total population live in farmworker households. However, since we know there is an undercount, the real proportion is probably at least 12% of Fresno County residents live in farmworker households.

Total Civilian Employment	Total Agricultural Employment	Percent Agricultural Employment	Total Population
409,403	40,014	9.8%	935,100

These farmworkers are divided pretty evenly among 3 of the 5 main regions of the county—the City of Fresno, the rural towns and areas on the west side of the county, and rural towns and areas on the east side.

Area	Number of farmworkers	Percent of total farmworkers in Fresno County
Clovis	914	2.3%
Foothills	205	0.5%
City of Fresno	12,770	31.9%
Eastside Rural	13,558	33.9%
Westside Rural	12,567	31.4%
	40,014	100.0%

It is often mistakenly believed that farmworkers live scattered in small towns. But this is not true for most farmworkers. Most live in cities of 20,000 or more and almost a third

¹ The EDD counts 400,000 full time farmworkers. But according to the National Agricultural Workers Survey, only half work full time. Therefore, though the ACS counts about 400,000 farmworkers statewide there are probably about 550,000 to 600,000.

² Based on the most recently available data for the Census Bureau's American Community Survey.

³ 44 of the zips listed by the post office have zero residents.

live in Fresno itself, a city of about 542,000⁴ people. They live crowded in houses and apartment buildings in dense urban areas and commute to farm work each time they work. In the chart below, you can see that 54% of farmworkers live in cities and towns of 20,000 or more.

Also please consult the appendix for a full listing of all zip codes in Fresno County organized by rural towns and cities.

Distribution of Farmworkers between Cities and other Areas

Type of area	Total Civilian Employment	Total Agricultural Employment	Percent Agricultural Employment in each category	Percent of all Agricultural Employment by area
Cities (20,000 or more)	347,165	21,479	6.2%	54%
Towns (Less than 20,000)	62,238	18,535	29.8%	46%
Total	409,403	40,014	9.8%	100%

Within the City of Fresno, which has 18 zip codes, 75% of farmworkers live in only 7 of these zipcodes. For this reason, one may be able to draw a geographic area as a community of interest including some of the farmworker neighborhoods within Fresno proper, joined with the rural agricultural areas that occupy the West and East side of Fresno County where these city dwellers work.

Please see the complete list of Fresno City zip codes in the appendix.

⁴ NOTE: Fresno's population is now counted as 542,107 residents, an increase of more than 47,000 or 9.6% from the 494,665 reported in the 2010 Census. Read more at:
<https://www.fresnobee.com/news/local/article253451619.html#storylink=cpy>

Distribution of Farmworkers within the City of Fresno

Zip Code	Total Civilian Employment	Total Agricultural Employment	Cumulative Percent	Area
93702	15,375	2,506	19.6%	Fresno South
93706	12,852	2,405	38.5%	Fresno Westside
93725	10,217	1,381	49.3%	Fresno South
93727	34,102	1,131	58.1%	Fresno Central
93722	37,470	1,027	66.2%	Fresno Westside
93701	3,468	602	70.9%	Fresno South
93723	6,266	582	75.4%	Fresno Westside
other zips	131,252	3,136	100.0%	
Totals	251,002	12,770		

Joining of Farmworker Census Tracts with an Adjoining Rural District

Two data elements that are particularly associated with the presence of farmworkers in a given area can be easily identified in the American Community Survey:

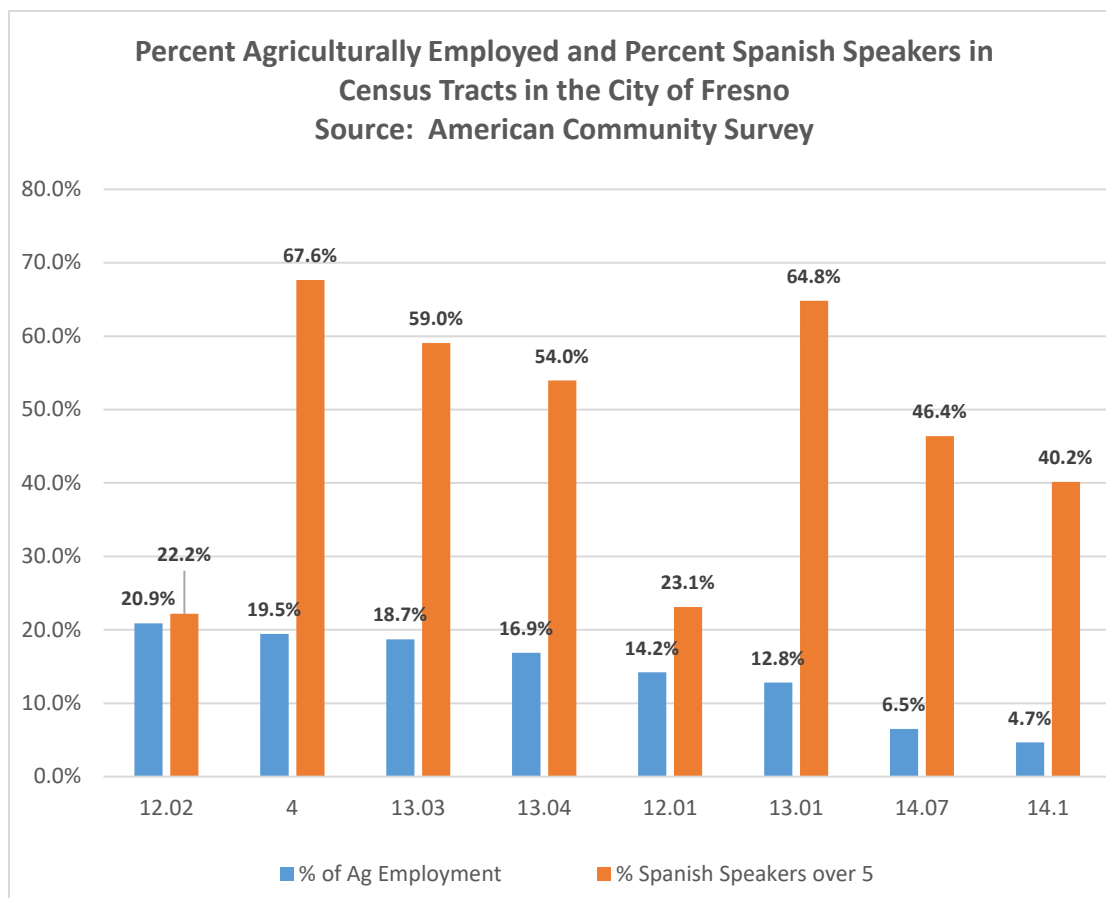
- the percent employed in agriculture and
- the percent of people over 5 that speak Spanish at home.

Both statistics are very likely undercounted by the Census Bureau. However, they serve well as a reliable estimate of where the farmworker population is located.

In the two tables below, I compare 8 farmworker census tracts (that are joined by coterminous boundaries) in Southeastern neighborhoods in the City of Fresno and Calwa with four (4) clearly identified farm towns nearby in rural areas of Southeast Fresno County. One sees immediately, that though the neighborhoods within Fresno have a lower rate of farmworker presence than the rural towns, they resemble those rural towns in having high rates of agriculturally employed and high rates of Spanish spoken in the home. In the 6 complete census tracts in Southeast Fresno's older neighborhoods (4, 12.01, 12.02, 13.01, 13.03, 13.04), over 17% of these Fresno City neighborhoods are employed in farm work. And, in over half in these 8 urban census tracts, Spanish is the language spoken at home. It also must be remembered the undercounts that inevitably result when the Census is done in poor, non-English speaking and informally housed populations.

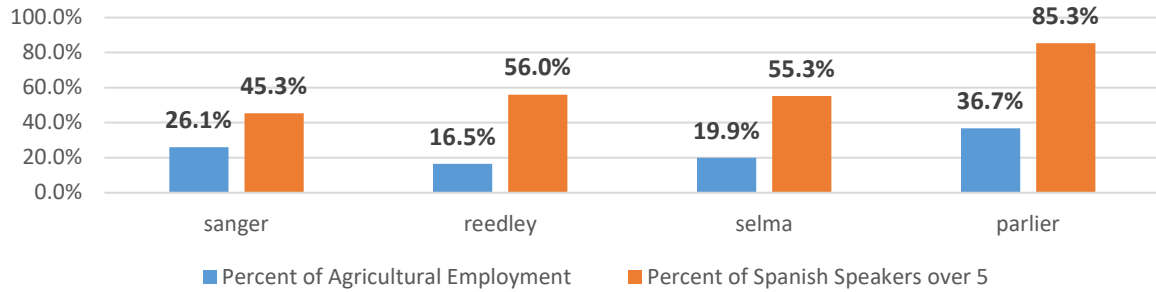
Conclusion

Many of the residents of these 8 census tracts, though they sleep and shop inside the city of Fresno, spend their workday in agricultural environments. All the policies and programs that affect workers in farm areas from education, work environment, health care and social services, also impact those who by chance live in a nearby urban area. As I pointed out above, most farmworkers live in cities in Fresno County. Therefore, if the interest of farmworkers (which all would agree is an identifiable community of interest) is to be fairly represented, then some urban farmworkers must be grouped with farmworkers living in rural areas to fairly draw district lines. As a result, I recommend that these 8 census tracts be grouped with populations in rural districts in order to provide fair representation to the “community of farmworkers.”



2. Percent Agriculturally Employed and Spanish Speakers over 5 in 4 Fresno County Farm Towns

Source: American Community Survey



Appendix

Farmworkers Residing in Urban Cities and a Few Rural Towns in Comparison

Zip Code	Total Civilian Employment	Total Agricultural Employment	Percent Agricultural Employment in each	City	Population
Rural Towns					
93648	6,827	2,508	36.7%	Parlier	15,719
93654	11,659	3,062	26.3%	Reedley	29,776
93662	12,299	2,208	18.0%	Selma	30,237
93657	15,254	2,525	16.6%	Sanger	34,999
City of Fresno					
93706	12,852	2,405	18.7%	Fresno	41,087
93702	15,375	2,506	16.3%	Fresno	48,607
93701	3,468	602	17.4%	Fresno	12,529
93725	10,217	1,381	13.5%	Fresno	24,979
93723	6,266	582	9.3%	Fresno	9,547
93728	7,094	471	6.6%	Fresno	15,743
93703	12,101	566	4.7%	Fresno	31,868
93721	1,945	85	4.4%	Fresno	6,959
93727	34,102	1,131	3.3%	Fresno	71,820
93722	37,470	1,027	2.7%	Fresno	76,448
93711	18,377	487	2.7%	Fresno	36,731
93705	14,071	332	2.4%	Fresno	36,703
93704	14,050	263	1.9%	Fresno	27,156
93710	15,440	280	1.8%	Fresno	30,202
93720	23,801	382	1.6%	Fresno	45,191
93726	17,031	197	1.2%	Fresno	40,705
93730	6,098	60	1.0%	Fresno	9,941
93650	1,244	13	1.0%	Fresno	4,055
City of Clovis					
93619	18,619	426	2.3%	Clovis	28,965
93611	22,726	286	1.3%	Clovis	45,614
93612	15,606	202	1.3%	Clovis	35,351
Cities	347,165	21,479	6.2%		

Farmworkers Residing in Rural Towns and Unincorporated Communities

Zip Code	Total Civilian Employment	Total Agricultural Employment	Percent Agricultural Employment in each zip code	City	Population
93608	571	434	76.0%	Cantua Creek	1,114
93624	282	176	62.4%	Five Points	1,134
93640	4,238	2,461	58.1%	Mendota	11,880
93668	429	227	52.9%	Tranquility	1,118
93234	2,394	1,234	51.5%	Huron	6,987
93660	1,377	669	48.6%	San Joaquin	4,675
93622	3,640	1,760	48.4%	Firebaugh	9,581
93627	147	67	45.6%	Helm	123
93646	4,072	1,760	43.2%	Orange Cove	10,557
93656	2,140	789	36.9%	Riverdale	6,313
93648	6,827	2,508	36.7%	Parlier	15,719
93616	1,051	362	34.4%	Del Rey	2,627
93242	1,336	445	33.3%	Laton	3,468
93630	8,628	2,575	29.8%	Kerman	19,162
93609	1,892	512	27.1%	Caruthers	5,640
93652	246	65	26.4%	Raisin City	415
93654	11,659	3,062	26.3%	Reedley	29,776
93662	12,299	2,208	18.0%	Selma	30,237
93210	6,237	1,093	17.5%	Coalinga	19,504
93657	15,254	2,525	16.6%	Sanger	34,999
93606	367	60	16.3%	Biola	1,217
93625	3,435	437	12.7%	Fowler	7,313
93631	6,937	696	10.0%	Kingsburg	15,941
All Foothill & Mountain communities					
	5992	205	3.4%	Foothill & Mountain communities	15,399
Towns	62,238	18,535	29.8%		
Total	409,403	40,014	9.8%		935,100

Fresno City with Zips organized by area of the City

Zip Code	Total Civilian Employment	Total Agricultural Employment	Percent of Total Employment	Percent Agricultural Employment within each zip	Population	Fresno City Region
93701	3,468	602	4.7%	17.4%	12,529	South
93702	15,375	2,506	19.6%	16.3%	48,607	South
93725	10,217	1,381	10.8%	13.5%	24,979	South
93727	34,102	1,131	8.9%	3.3%	71,820	South
93706	12,852	2,405	18.8%	18.7%	41,087	West of 99
93722	37,470	1,027	8.0%	2.7%	76,448	West of 99
93723	6,266	582	4.6%	9.3%	9,547	West of 99
93703	12,101	566	4.4%	4.7%	31,868	Central
93705	14,071	332	2.6%	2.4%	36,703	Central
93726	17,031	197	1.5%	1.2%	40,705	Central
93728	7,094	471	3.7%	6.6%	15,743	Central
93721	1,945	85	0.7%	4.4%	6,959	Downtown
93704	14,050	263	2.1%	1.9%	27,156	North
93710	15,440	280	2.2%	1.8%	30,202	North
93711	18,377	487	3.8%	2.7%	36,731	North
93720	23,801	382	3.0%	1.6%	45,191	North
93730	6,098	60	0.5%	1.0%	9,941	North
93650	1,244	13	0.1%	1.0%	4,055	North
		12,770	100.0%			