

LECTURE 10.
**Structure of the California
Political System**

Steven Weissman

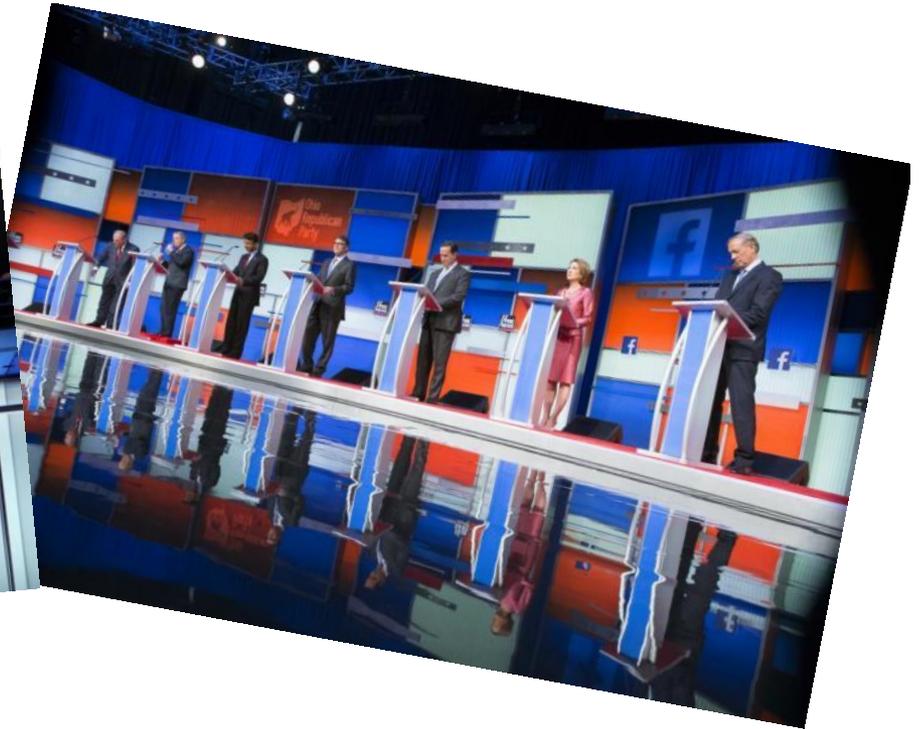
02/10/16

Learning Goals/Objectives

- Be able to discuss the role of government as an organizing tool.
- Be able to define the relative roles and powers of federal, state, regional, and local governments.
- Be able to identify the system of jurisdictional boundaries in California.
- Understand why these boundaries are as they are.

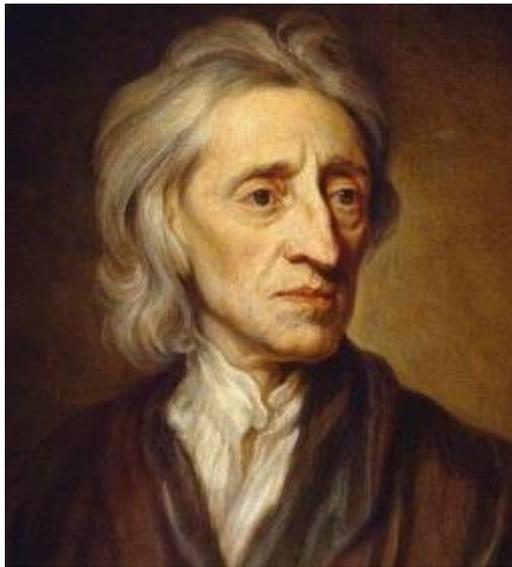


Why do we want a government?

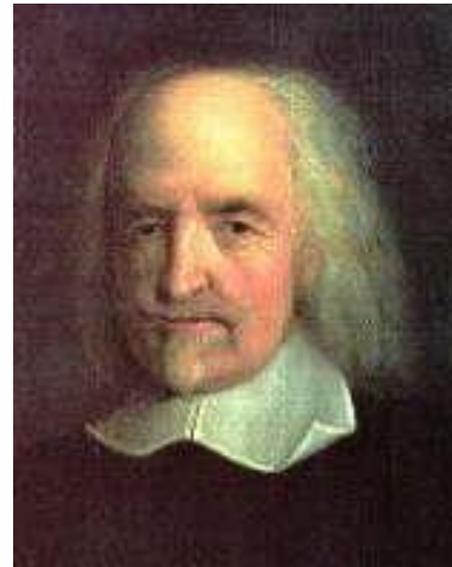


Why do we want a government?

John Locke (1632-1704)



Thos. Hobbes 1588-1679)



Why do we want a government?

Steve Weissman (now-?)



1. To protect us and the things we value
2. To do things that enable us to make our own lives better
3. To do together things, toward these ends, that require collective action

What do we want government
to do?

The Climate Challenge

Climate Mitigation

Reduce greenhouse gas emissions or reduce the impact of greenhouse gas emissions on our climate.

Climate Adaptation

Change infrastructure and behavior in response to a changing climate.



The Climate Challenge

The overarching challenge:

**Making plans and
taking action in the
face of uncertainty**



The state/federal split

The federal government can get involved where it finds a federal interest.



A Limited Government

Alexander Hamilton as to why there was no need for a federal Bill of Rights:

“[It] would contain various exceptions to powers not granted; and on this very account, would afford a colorable pretext to claim more than were granted. For why declare that things shall not be done, which there is no power to do?”



U.S. Constitution 10th Amendment

The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.

States

- Land Use
- Infrastructure
- Police Powers

Feds

- Federal Lands
- International Projects
- Interstate Commerce
- Navigable Streams



Police Power

- “The power of promoting the public welfare by restraining and regulating the use of liberty and property” Ernst Freund 1904
 - Civil Justice
 - Criminal Justice
 - Health and Safety
 - Economic welfare?
- As constrained by the U.S. Constitution
 - Federal Preemption
 - Commerce Clause



Basic Rights

California Constitution

- SECTION 1. All people are by nature free and independent and have inalienable rights. Among these are enjoying and defending life and liberty, acquiring, possessing, and protecting property, and pursuing and obtaining safety, happiness, and privacy.

U.S. Constitution

- FOURTEENTH AMENDMENTS SECTION 1. ...nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws



Constitution

Common Law

Statutory Law

Regulations

Court
Interpretation

Levels of Government

- State
- Tribes
- Counties
- Cities
- Special Districts
- Regional





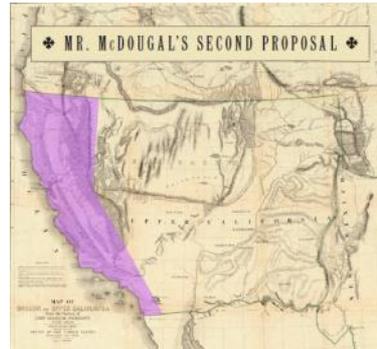
California in Perspective for East Coasters

Map of California with major cities, overlaid in reverse on the Eastern United States to demonstrate relative distances and positions. San Francisco is approximately aligned with New York City.



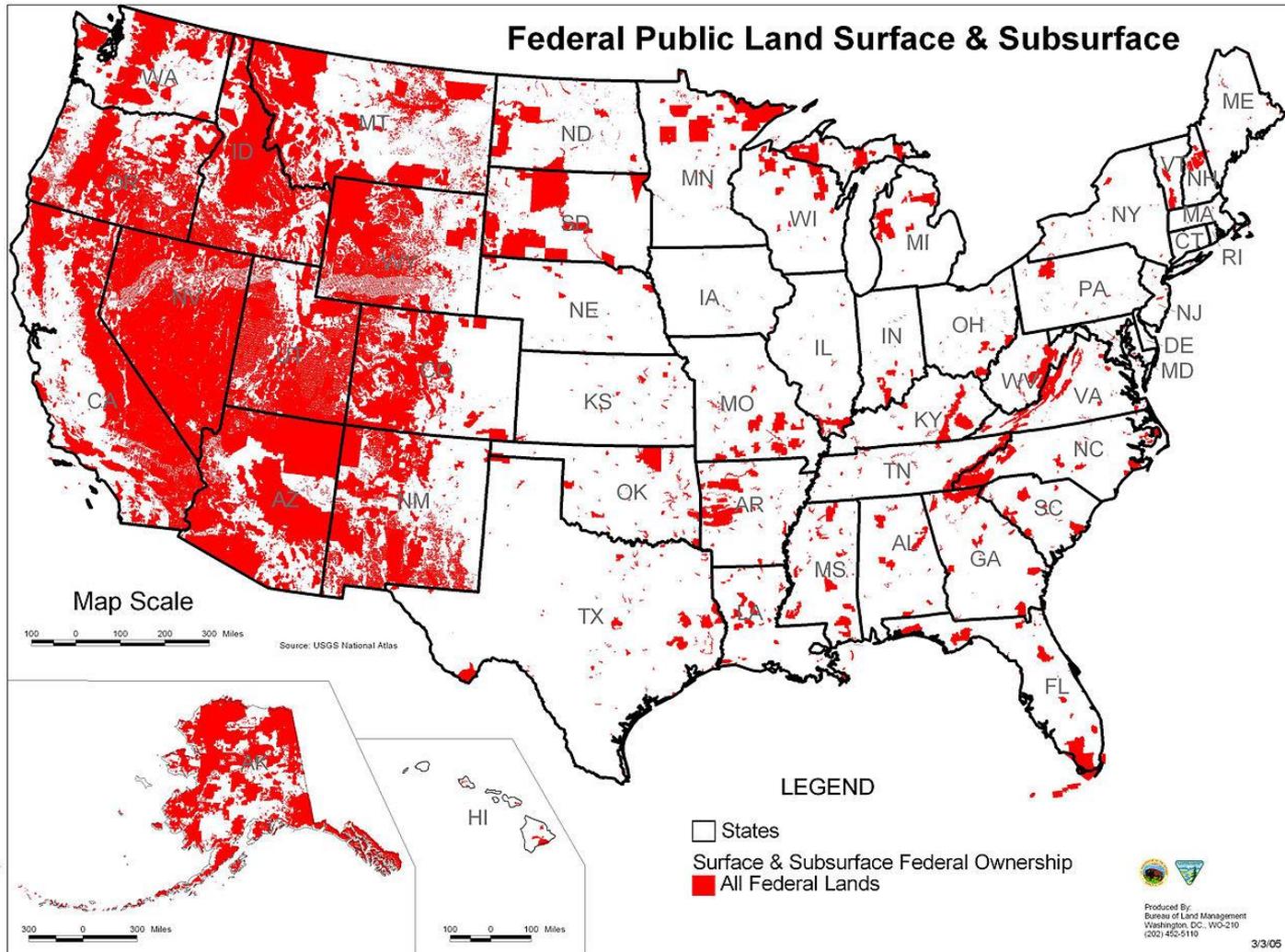
made for reddit by calinet6

Many Proposals to Shape California

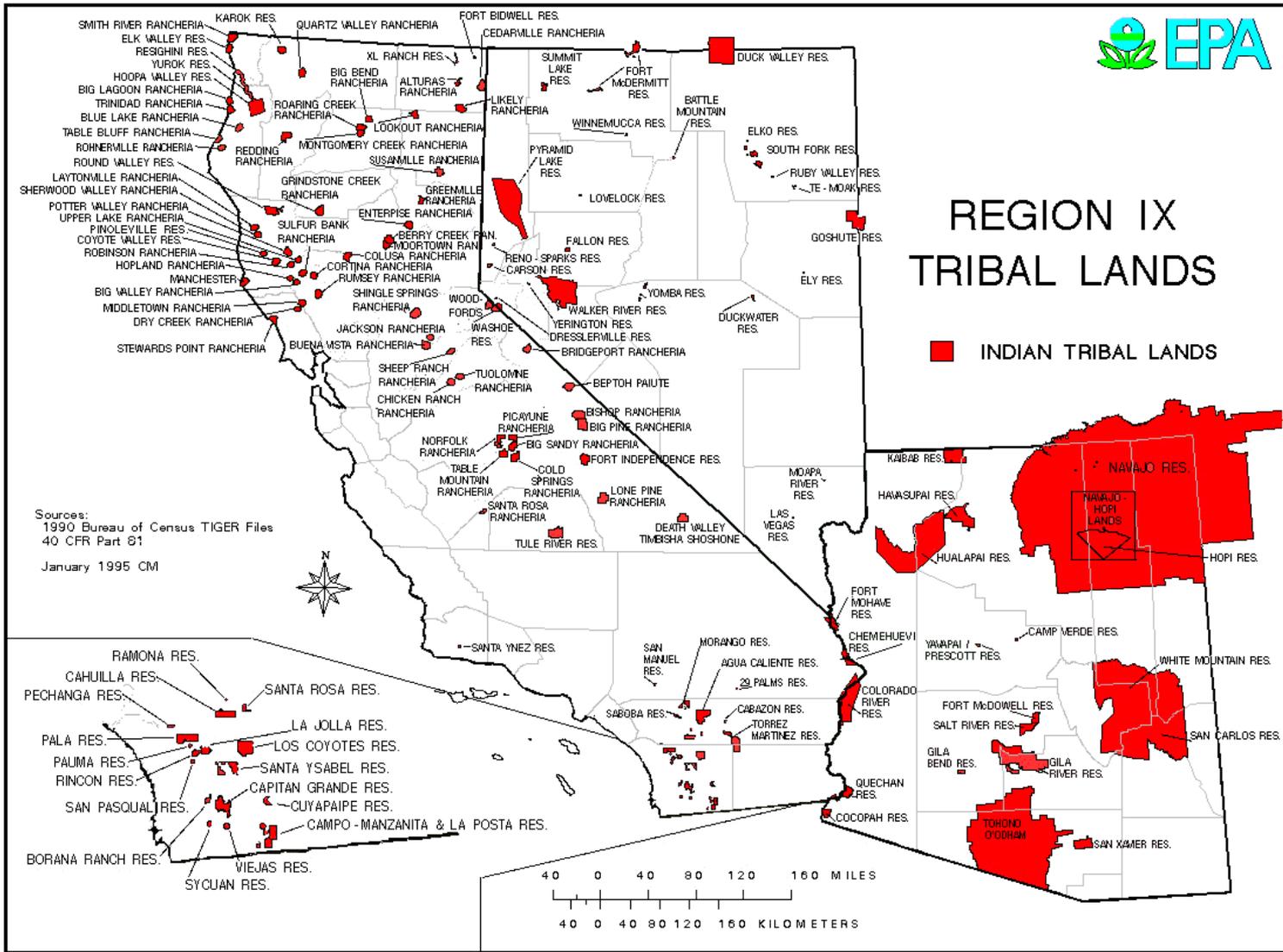




Federal Land in California



Tribal Land in California



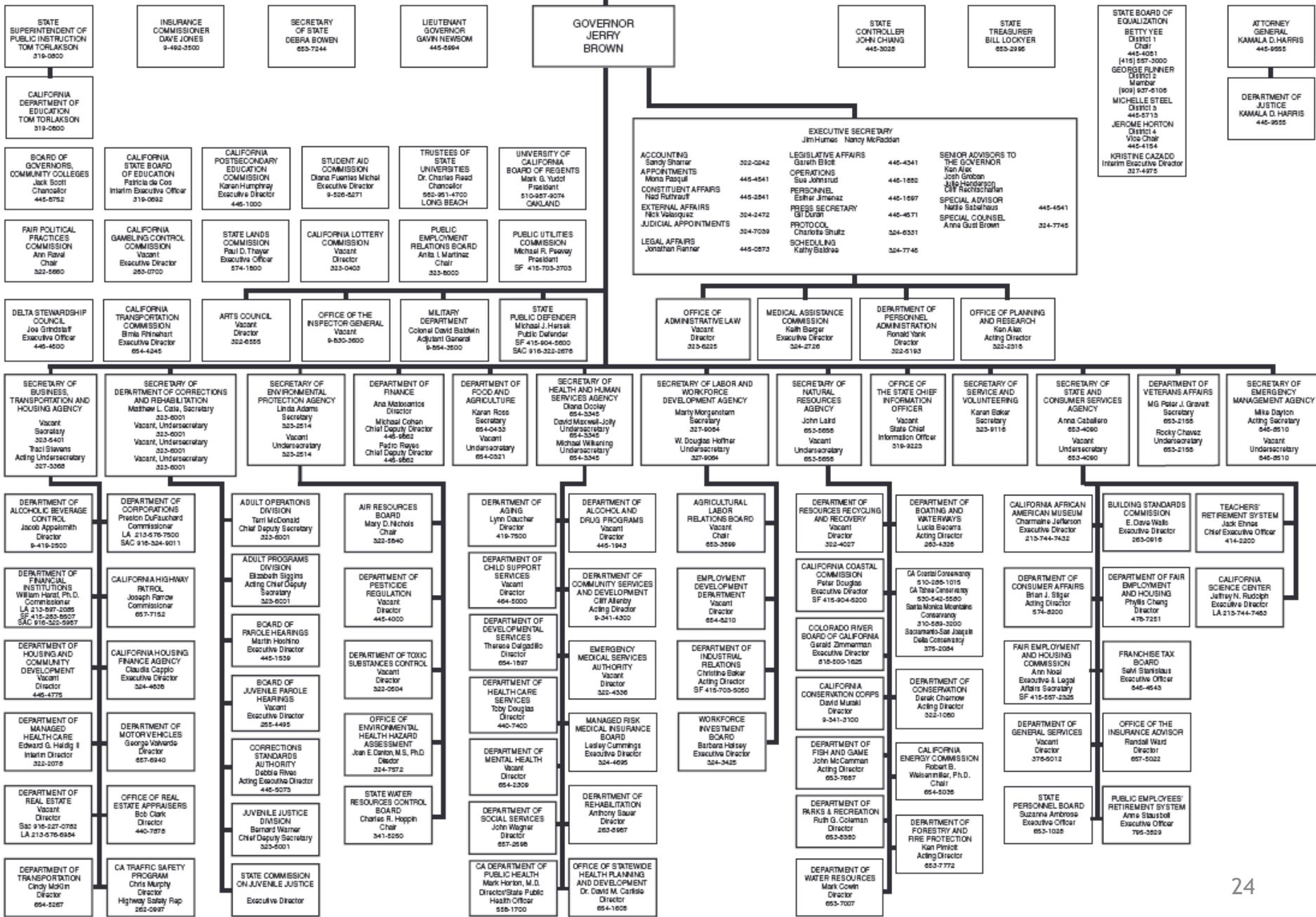
State Government

- Executive
- Legislative
- Judicial



CALIFORNIA STATE GOVERNMENT • THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH

PEOPLE OF CALIFORNIA



Elected Officials

- Governor
- Lieutenant Governor
- Attorney General
- Secretary of State
- Controller
- Treasurer
- Board of Equalization
- Insurance Commissioner
- Superintendent of Public Instruction



Executive - Super Agencies

- Business, Transportation and Housing
- Natural Resources
- Youth and Adult Corrections and Rehab.
- State and Consumer Services
- Health and Human Services
- Environmental Protection
- Labor and Workforce Development



Natural Resources

- Fish and Wildlife
- Energy Commission
- Coastal Commission
- Water Resources
- Parks and Recreation

Environmental Protection

- Air Resources Board
- State Water Resources Control Board

Independent Agencies

- Public Utilities Commission
- State Lands Commission
- State Board of Education
- University of Calif. Board of Regents
- California Lottery



Legislative

- Bicameral: Assembly (80) Senate (40)
- Full-time Legislators
- Professional Staff
- Two-year Term
- Term Limits



Judiciary

- **Superior Court:** All civil and criminal except small claims (\$7.5K for individuals, \$5K for businesses)
- **Court of Appeal:** Six Districts
- **Supreme Court:** Court has discretion to reject most cases



Local Government

Counties	58
Cities	481
School Districts	1043
Special Districts	4776
Total	6358



Counties

- A local government
- An administrative arm of the state
- Basic elected officers:
 - Board of Supervisors (5 people, 4 years)
 - Sheriff
 - District Attorney
 - Assessor
 - Clerk
 - Tax Collector



What Counties Do

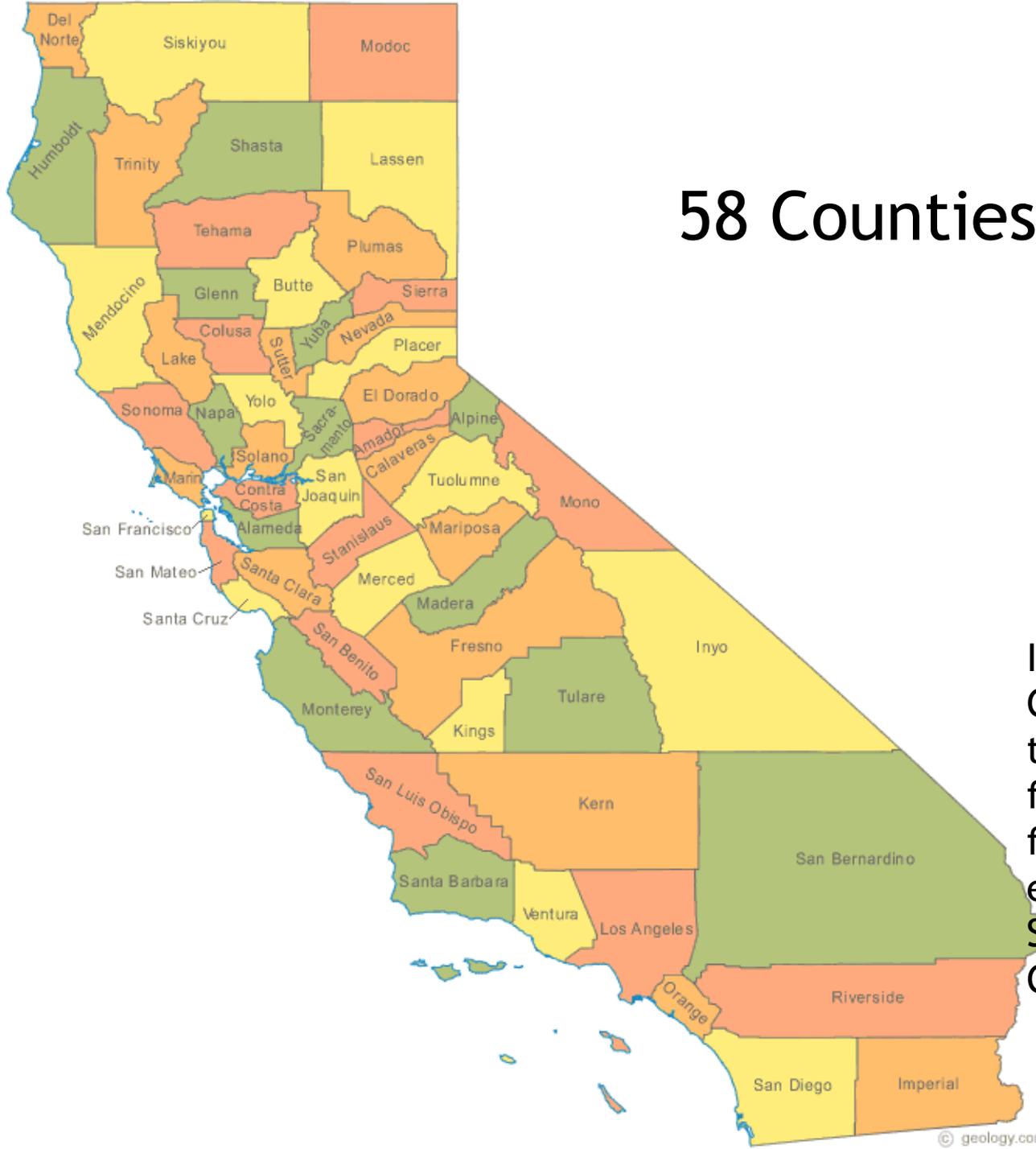
As Local Government

- Police
- Fire
- Jails
- Transit
- Health and Sanitation
- Public Records

As Agencies of the State

- Conduct Elections
- Operate the Courts
- Implement the State's Welfare System





58 Counties

Imperial County was the last, formed in 1907 from the eastern part of San Diego County.





482 Cities

Cities

- Discretionary
- General law or charter
- General law structure:
 - City Council (5 people, 4 years)
 - City Manager (Appointed by the Council)
 - Appoints police, fire, public works, parks, etc.
 - City Attorney
 - City Clerk

General Law Versus Charter

Counties

- General Law: 44
- Charter: 14
- Constrained by statutes

Cities

- General Law: 370
- Charter: 108
- Home rule

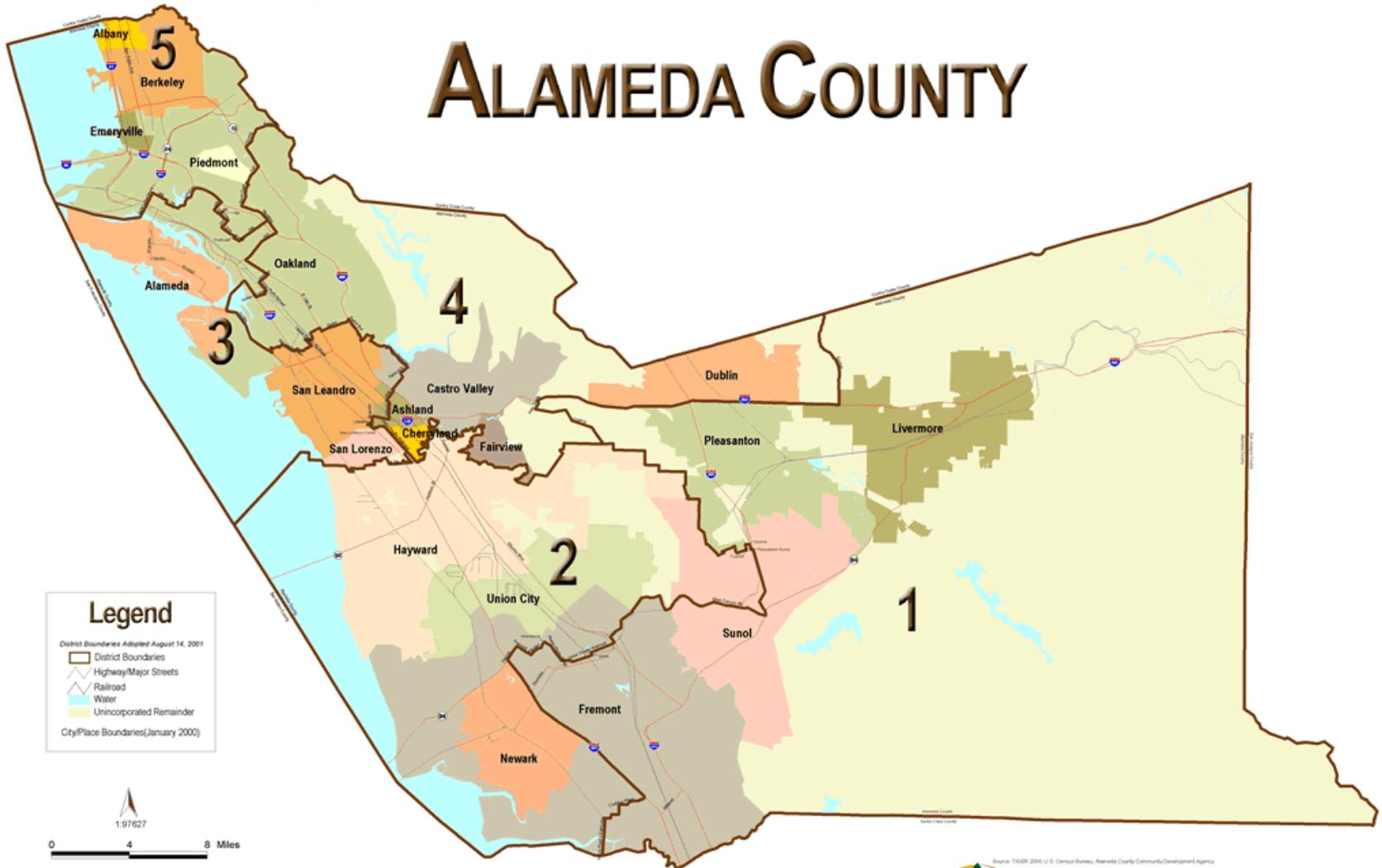




Three counties
have no cities.

Unincorporated Land

ALAMEDA COUNTY



Dates of Incorporation for Cities

- **The first 8:**

– Santa Barbara	4/09/1850
– Stockton	7/23/1850
– Los Angeles	4/04/1850
– Benicia	3/27/1850
– San Diego	3/27/1850
– San Jose	3/27/1850
– Sacramento	2/27/1850
– San Francisco	2/18/1850



Dates of Incorporation for Cities

- **The most recent 8:**

– Jurupa Valley	7/1/2011
– Eastvale	10/1/2010
– Menifee	10/1/2008
– Wildomar	7/1/2008
– Rancho Cordova	7/1/2003
– Goleta	2/1/2002
– Aliso Viejo	7/1/2001
– Elk Grove	7/1/2000



Regional Organizations and Special Districts

CALIFORNIA

Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs)
and
Regional Transportation Planning Agencies (RTPAs)



California Air Districts



California Department of Transportation
Division of Transportation Planning
August 2010

Examples of Special Districts

- Airport
- Cemetery
- Community Services
- Drainage
- Flood Control,
- Water Conservation
- Fire Protection
- Healthcare/Hospital
- Harbor/Ports Improvement
- Irrigation
- Library
- Mosquito Abatement & Vector Control
- Park and Recreation
- Police Protection
- Reclamation
- Recreation & Park/Open Space
- Resource Conservation
- Sanitation/Sewer Transit
- Utility
- Water

Source: California Special District Association





JPR

**Jefferson
Public Radio**

a service of Southern Oregon University



State of Jefferson



PAM MARTIN/THE OREGONIAN

State of Jefferson



Tim Draper's Six State Option



2004 Presidential Election

