

## Victor Valley fastest growing in county

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The Victor Valley is the fastest-growing area in San Bernardino County and shows no signs of stopping.

“The High Desert area is just beginning to grow, which is probably shocking to those who have lived there and seen the rapid growth in the past 10 years,” said Doug Johnson, a fellow with Rose Institute of State and Local Government.

The 1st Supervisorial District has gained almost 102,000 residents since the 2000 census, putting it more than 60,000 residents above districts 3,4 and 5.

District lines are drawn according to the percentage of population, which means undoubtedly the 1st District will shrink in the 2010 redistricting.

Up until the 2001 redistricting, Phelan, Pinon Hills and Wrightwood were all part of the 2nd district.

The lines will be redrawn in 2010 to balance the population in each district. How they will be drawn will be up to the County Board of Supervisors at that time.

“Assuming that it’s the same supervisors, they would tend to do minimal changes because they were elected by those voters and would want to keep them,” Johnson said.

The largest population in the 1st district is in unincorporated areas. The county supervisor is the direct line of government for the 105,148 residents in those areas, which include, Phelan, Pinon Hills and Lucerne Valley.

According to a report released by the California Department of Finance, by the year 2050 there will be almost 60 million residents who call the Golden State home, 22 million more than today.

The report predicts that 52 percent of the population will be Hispanic.

“One thing that everybody can agree on is that the population will be heavily Hispanic,” said John Husing, a Redlands-based economist.

Husing said the Victor Valley is most definitely the fastest-growing area in the county and will continue to hold that title.

“Typically, Southern Californians go where there is dirt where they can build,” said Husing who estimated that the Victor Valley will have 700,000 people by 2050.

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