



**Board of Supervisors
COUNTY OF TULARE
AGENDA ITEM**

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

ALLEN ISHIDA
District One

CONNIE CONWAY
District Two

PHILLIP A. COX
District Three

J. STEVEN WORTHLEY
District Four

MIKE ENNIS
District Five

AGENDA DATE: October 14, 2008 - **REVISED**

Public Hearing Required	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N/A <input type="checkbox"/>
Scheduled Public Hearing w/Clerk	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Published Notice Required	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N/A <input type="checkbox"/>
Advertised Published Notice	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Meet & Confer Required	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N/A <input type="checkbox"/>
Electronic file(s) has been sent	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	N/A <input type="checkbox"/>
Budget Transfer (Aud 308) attached	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Personnel Resolution attached	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Resolution, Ordinance or Agreements are attached and signature line for Chairman is marked with tab(s)/flag(s)	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	N/A <input type="checkbox"/>
CONTACT PERSON: Jeff Forbes PHONE: (559) 733-6271			

SUBJECT: A letter from the Board of Supervisors urging the California Public Utilities Commission not to modify decision 08-04-058 (dated April 24, 2008) approving the geographic split of the 760 telephone area code to establish a new 442 area code.

REQUEST(S):
 That the Board of Supervisors:
 Approve and send a letter to the California Public Utilities Commission urging them not to modify decision 08-04-058 (dated April 24, 2008) approving the geographic split of the 760 telephone area code to establish a new 442 area code.

SUMMARY:
 On June 18, 2007, an application was filed seeking numbering relief in the 760 area code. The application states that the 760 area code will run out of numbers in the third quarter of 2009. The options were to geographically separate the current 760 area code into two different area codes or to have an overlay of the new area code. The overlay would assign the new area code to any new numbers within the 760 area code.

The 760 area code is one of two geographically large area codes covering eastern California. The area code is predominantly in Southeastern California and is largely rural, but also includes densely populated areas of metropolitan San Diego. The 760 area code begins at the Pacific Ocean north of San Diego, moves inland to the Mexican and Arizona borders, then turns north following the Nevada border to mid-

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state, where it terminates at the Bridgeport rate center, which is approximately 500 miles from El Centro in the southwest corner.

On April 24, 2008 the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) voted for the geographic split of the 760 area code. The new area code of 442 would be assigned to Northern San Diego County, keeping Southern San Diego County and the Imperial Valley together in the same area code. A map is attached showing the location of the proposed 442 area code. In contrasting the split area code with the overlay, the CPUC argued the geographic split would be easier for residents, would balance the implementation cost, not favor a particular interest group and comply with state and federal statutes, among other issues.

After the CPUC's decision telephone companies, a State Assemblyman and Northern San Diego County residents publicly opposed the creation of new area code and promoted the overlay of the new area code. They did not want to change their existing numbers.

Tulare County has 89 phone numbers that are in the current 760 area code. These residents will be affected negatively if the CPUC reverses its decision and approves an overlay of the 442 area code. The residents, who live in the communities of Johnsondale and Fairview, could potentially have neighbors with a different area code. They will also be forced to use 10 digit dialing for all calls.

Further, the Inyo County Board of Supervisors requested that Tulare County weigh in on this issue. Our board agrees with Inyo County that the CPUC should uphold its decision. A new area code should be established and an overlay should not be implemented. The overlay will be confusing for residents who have to dial ten digit numbers, will make it more difficult for persons using emergency services and will simply not make sense because you could have two phone lines in the same house with different area codes. Lastly, most residents in the new 442 area code do not routinely travel between area codes, so it makes the most sense to geographically separate the area codes.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING:

No net County cost.

LINKAGE TO THE COUNTY OF TULARE STRATEGIC BUSINESS PLAN:

Working with other California Counties meets the Organizational Performance initiative of the Tulare County Strategic Business Plan. Urging the CPUC not to change its decision will help provide for effective communication, collaboration and decision-making at, and between, all levels of the organization.

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ALTERNATIVES:

The Board of Supervisors could choose to not approve the letter to the CPUC urging them not to change their decision.

INVOLVEMENT OF OTHER DEPARTMENTS OR AGENCIES:

N/A

ADMINISTRATIVE SIGN-OFF:

Jeff Forbes
Board Representative III

Cc: Auditor/Controller
County Counsel
County Administrative Office (3)

Attachment 1 – Map of proposed 442 area code and map showing the affected portion of Tulare County.

Attachment 2 - Letter from the Tulare County Board of Supervisors to the California Public Utilities Commission.

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF TULARE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

IN THE MATTER OF A LETTER FROM)
THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS)
URGING THE CALIFORNIA PUBLIC)
UTILITIES COMMISSION NOT TO)
MODIFY DECISION 08-04-058 (DATED)
APRIL 24, 2008) APPROVING THE)
GEOGRAPHIC SPLIT OF THE 760)
AREA CODE TO ESTABLISH A NEW)
442 AREA CODE)

RESOLUTION NO. _____
AGREEMENT NO. _____

UPON MOTION OF SUPERVISOR _____, SECONDED BY
SUPERVISOR _____, THE FOLLOWING WAS ADOPTED BY THE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, AT AN OFFICIAL MEETING HELD _____
_____, BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES:
NOES:
ABSTAIN:
ABSENT:

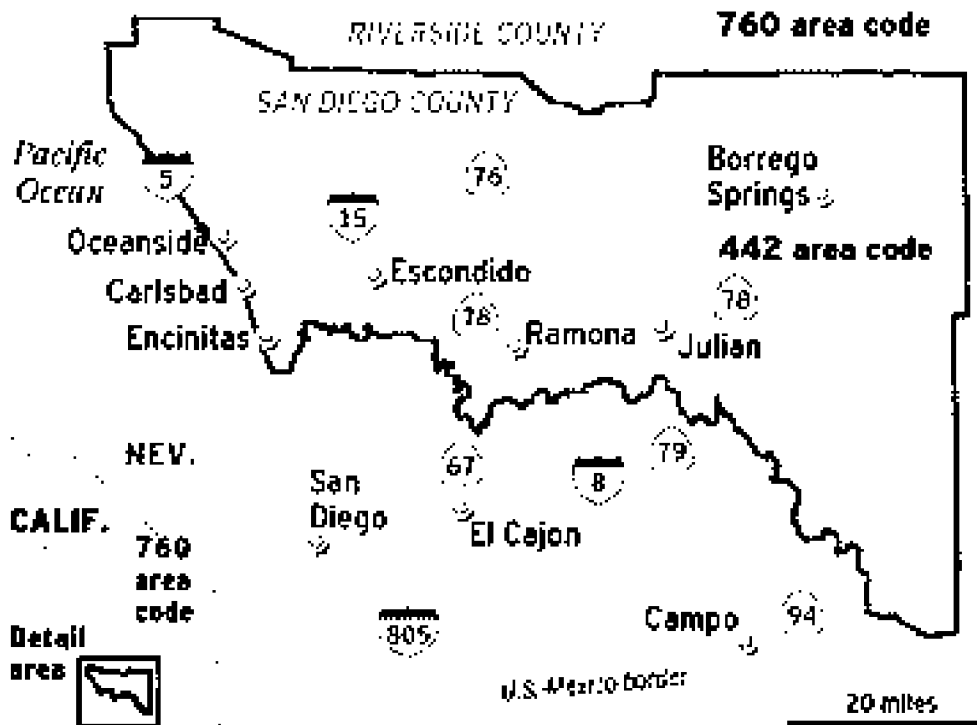
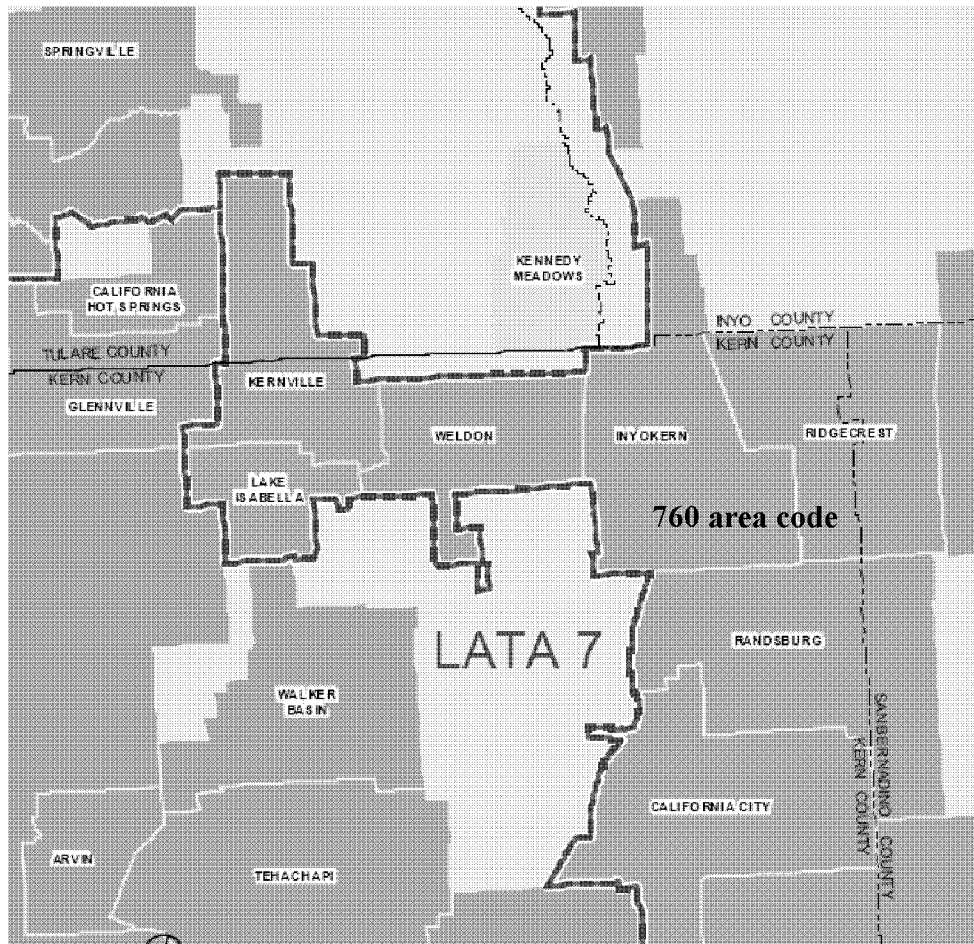
ATTEST: JEAN ROUSSEAU
COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER
CLERK, BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

BY: _____
Deputy Clerk

* * * * *

The Board of Supervisors hereby:

Approved and sent a letter to the California Public Utilities Commission urging them not to modify decision 08-04-058 (dated April 24, 2008) approving the geographic split of the 760 telephone area code to establish a new 442 area code.



SOURCES: ES&T; TeleAtlas; California Public Utilities Commission

AARON STECKELBERG / Union-Tribune

Map of proposed 442 area code

October 14, 2008

California Public Utilities Commission
Public Advisor's Office
320 W. 4th Street, Suite 500
Los Angeles, CA 90013

Re: Application 07-06-018 Petition to Modify Decision 08-04-058

Dear Commissioners:

The Tulare County Board of Supervisors urges you to not modify decision 08-04-058. The California Public Utilities Commission and the Administrative Law Judge both ruled that the impact of an overlay or change in the area code in Eastern Sierra district would harm residents living in this rural area.

It makes the most sense to geographically divide the existing 760 area code. Northern San Diego County would receive the 442 area code, with Southern San Diego County and the Eastern Sierra retaining the 760 area code. Creating the new area code will support public opinion, as 75% of the public comment supported a geographic split. The primary advocate for an overlay was the telecommunications industry due to the ease of implementation.

An overlay, with new numbers receiving the 442 prefix, would only confuse residents and emergency services. It would also force residents in both area codes to adopt 10 digit dialing.

The Tulare County Board of Supervisors believes the decision by the CPUC should not be changed. It is the correct decision to geographically split the area codes.

Sincerely,

Connie Conway, Chairman
Tulare County Board of Supervisors

Phil Cox, Vice Chair
Tulare County Board of Supervisors

Allen Ishida, District One
Tulare County Board of Supervisors

J. Steven Worthley, District Four
Tulare County Board of Supervisors

Mike Ennis, District Five
Tulare County Board of Supervisors