



January 9, 2020

Joe Vlach, Chief
City of Orland Police Station
817 Fourth Street
ORLAND, CA 95963

Dear Chief Vlach:

Greetings from the RAND Corporation! We are a non-profit, non-partisan research organization based out of Santa Monica. We are writing to inform you about a survey called **California Neighborhoods Count** that we will be conducting in neighborhoods within your jurisdiction. You may notice a RAND team of data collectors walking around neighborhoods and knocking on doors while your staff is on patrol. Please note:

- Our team of data collectors were carefully selected and trained and have all passed extensive background checks.
- Our team of data collectors will be wearing a vest with the project name (California Neighborhoods Count) and will carry an identification badge.
- Our team of data collectors are simply counting the number of housing units in and asking neighborhood residents to fill out a survey. They are **not** selling anything.
- The study is sponsored by the State of California– see attached letter of endorsement. The data collected will help the State in making important decisions about how to allocate funding for services and infrastructure – **including funding for local law enforcement!**

We hope your department will cooperate with us as we undertake this important project! We have enclosed a flyer for the study. Feel free to post it on your community bulletin board to alert your residents. THANK YOU!

If you have any questions about this study, please don't hesitate to contact me at (310) 393-0411, ext.6788 or via email at Beverly_Weidmer@rand.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Beverly Weidmer".

Beverly Weidmer
Survey Director



Dear Sir/Madam:

The **State of California** is requesting your participation in a study called **California Neighborhoods Count**, that will be undertaken by the RAND Corporation on our behalf. This important study aims to collect demographic and neighborhood information in communities throughout the state and to collect information on awareness and participation in the 2020 Census.

The information from our survey will be used to help the state make better decisions about **neighborhoods like yours**. You may have responded to the federal census. Our survey will provide similar information for the state. We produce population counts which help to determine resource funding decisions and planning – including healthcare, housing, schools, senior centers, public safety, and roads – all across the state. In addition, the survey data will help us assess the success of our 2020 Census outreach efforts.

The RAND Corporation will be sending out a team of trained data collectors to selected neighborhoods and communities throughout the state to first identify all of the residential housing units in each of the blocks selected for the study and subsequently ask each household to participate in a brief survey. Households that complete the survey will receive \$10 as a thank you for their participation. We have included a study brochure that explains what we will be asking participants to do.

The RAND data collectors have been carefully selected and trained and have all passed extensive background checks. They will be wearing a vest with the project name and will carry an identification badge. They are **not** selling anything. All information collected as part of this study will only be used for research purposes and will not be used by any federal, state, or city government agency or court in any way that could harm study participants. Names, addresses, and any other identifying information are kept completely confidential, and all reports will be written in summary or statistical form. **We hope you will participate as this project will provide critical information to the State of California that will be used for planning and budgeting for all areas of the state including in your community.**

If you have any questions about this study, please call Beverly Weidmer, Survey Director at (310) 393-0411, ext.6788 or via email at Beverly_Weidmer@rand.org.

Thank you in advance for your help.

Sincerely,

Tina Daley

Chief, Demographic Research



CALIFORNIA NEIGHBORHOODS COUNT



What is *California Neighborhoods Count* study?

California Neighborhoods Count is a research study funded by the State of California that aims to get population counts in communities throughout the state. You may have responded to the federal census. This study will provide similar information for the state, however it is different from the Census. We hope that you will fill out your Census form and our survey as both are very important. Information from our study will be used by the state to make better decisions about **neighborhoods like yours**, and will help in planning and in making funding decisions for services and infrastructure-- including funding for healthcare, housing, schools, senior centers, public safety, and roads all across the state. Information from this study will also help us assess the success of the 2020 Census in California.

What will I be asked to do?

The *California Neighborhoods Count* study has two phases. In the first phase, RAND data collectors will come to your neighborhood to do a complete listing of all residential housing units in selected blocks. In the second phase, RAND will invite you and all the other residents on your block to take part in a short survey that includes questions about your neighborhood, your household, and whether you participated in the 2020 Census.

To thank you for completing the survey, you will receive a payment of \$10.

\$10

Is the information you collect from me confidential?

Yes! We will keep all of the information about you and your household confidential.

All information collected as part of this study will only be used for research purposes and will not be used by any federal, state, or city government agency or court in any way that could harm study participants. Names, addresses, and any other identifying information are kept completely confidential, and all reports will be written in summary or statistical form.

Why should I participate?

Participation is voluntary but we hope you will agree to take part. This study gives you an opportunity to provide information that will help improve how funding for programs and services is allocated by the State of California and will help us assess the success of the 2020 Census in California.



Who is doing this study?

The study is being conducted by the RAND Corporation in collaboration with the State of California's Demographic Research Unit. RAND is a nonprofit, nonpartisan research organization based in Santa Monica, CA. For more information about RAND, please go to www.rand.org.

Questions?

If you have any questions or concerns about this study, you may contact the Survey Director, Beverly Weidmer at 1-800-734-5399 or via email at Beverly_Weidmer@rand.org. If you would like more information about this study, please visit our website at www.ca-neighborhoods.org.