

# SPUR

**Ideas + Action for a Better City**

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#RoadtoResegregation*

# The Road to Resegregation: Northern California and the Failure of Politics

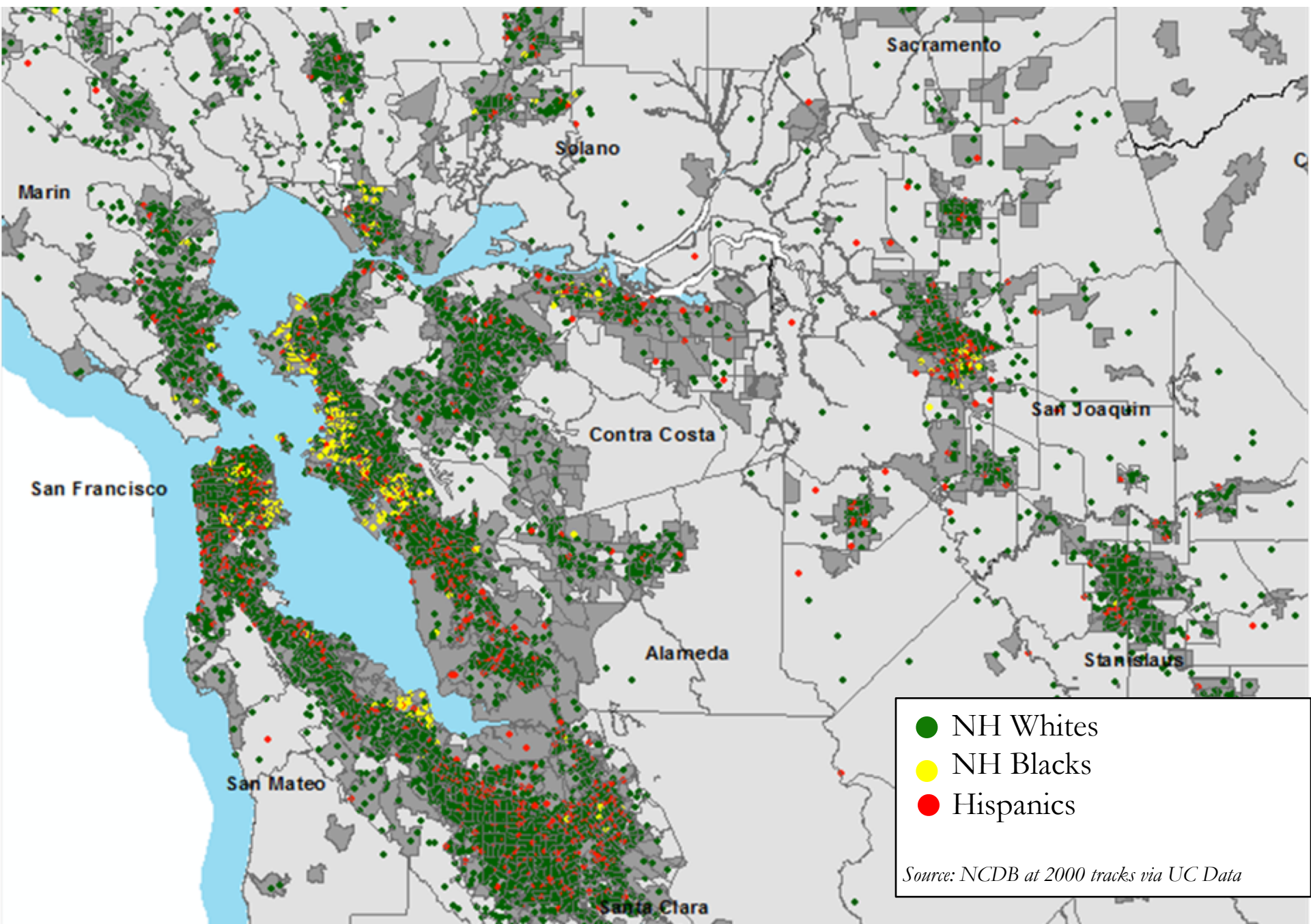
Alex Schafran  
[@alexschafran](#)



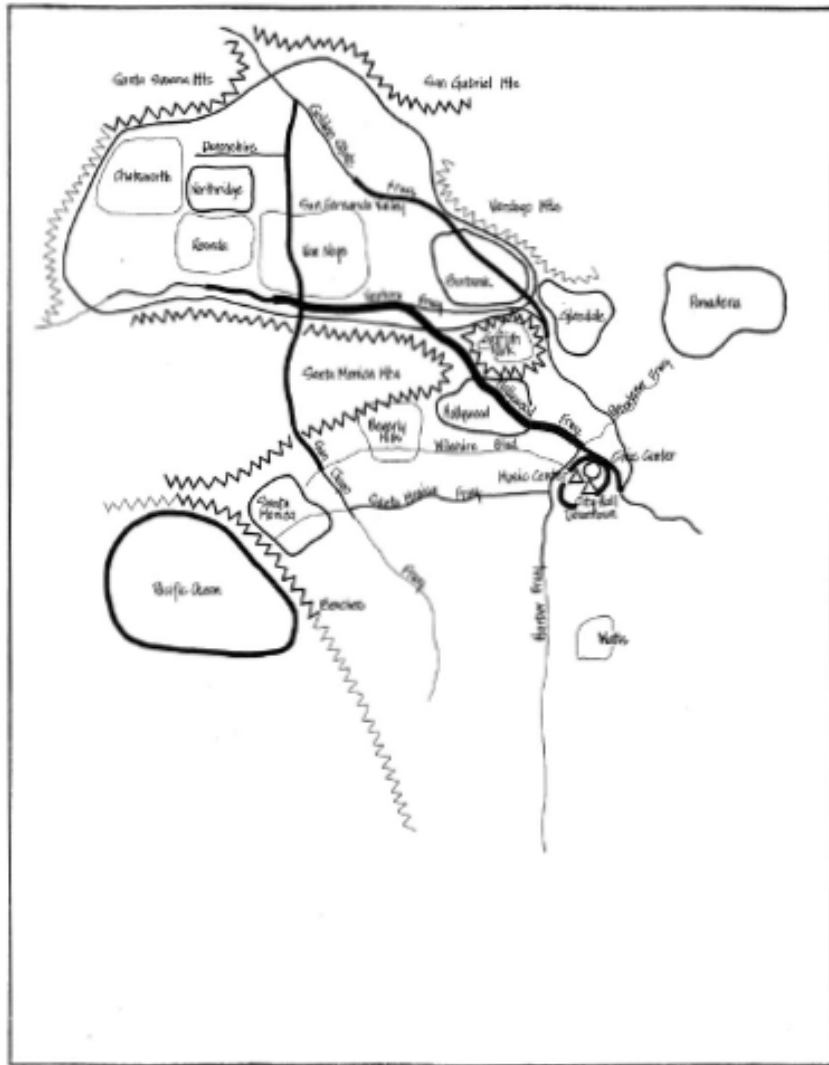
# The Problem: Resegregation as a Fact



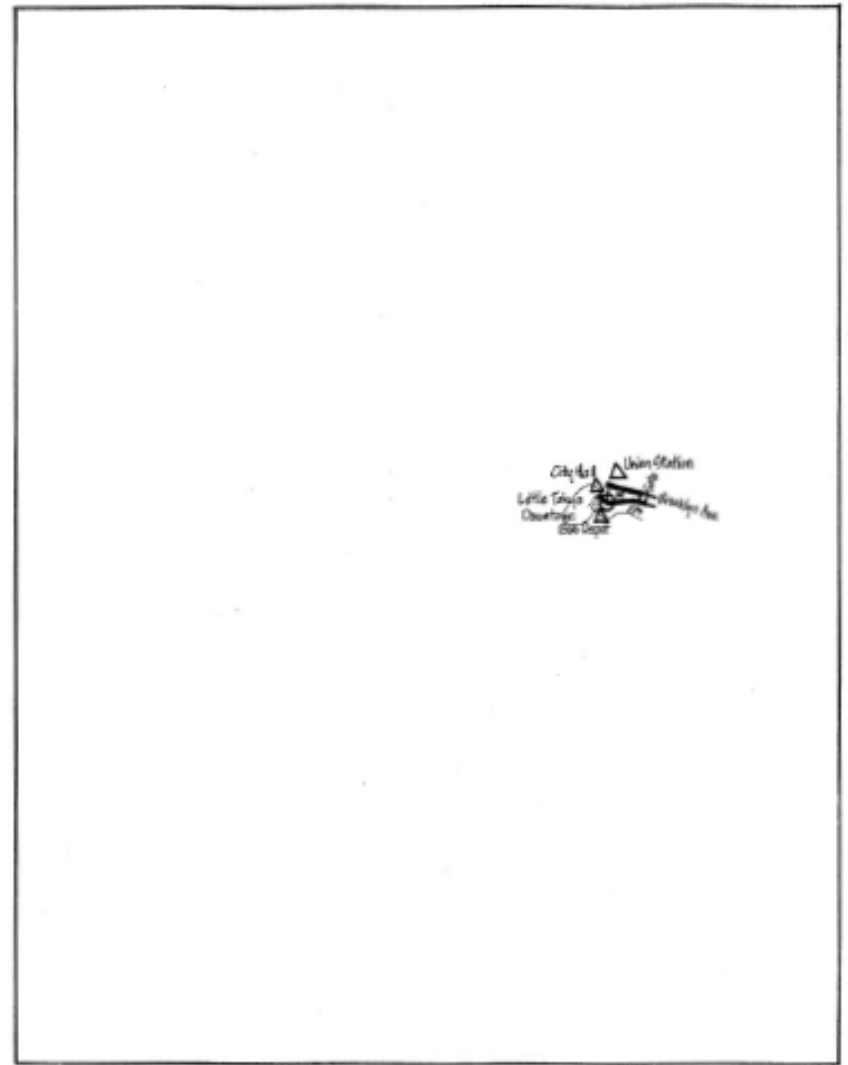
# A new mental map of segregation is needed: Bay Area 1970



# A new mental map of segregation is needed: Ghettoized Segregation

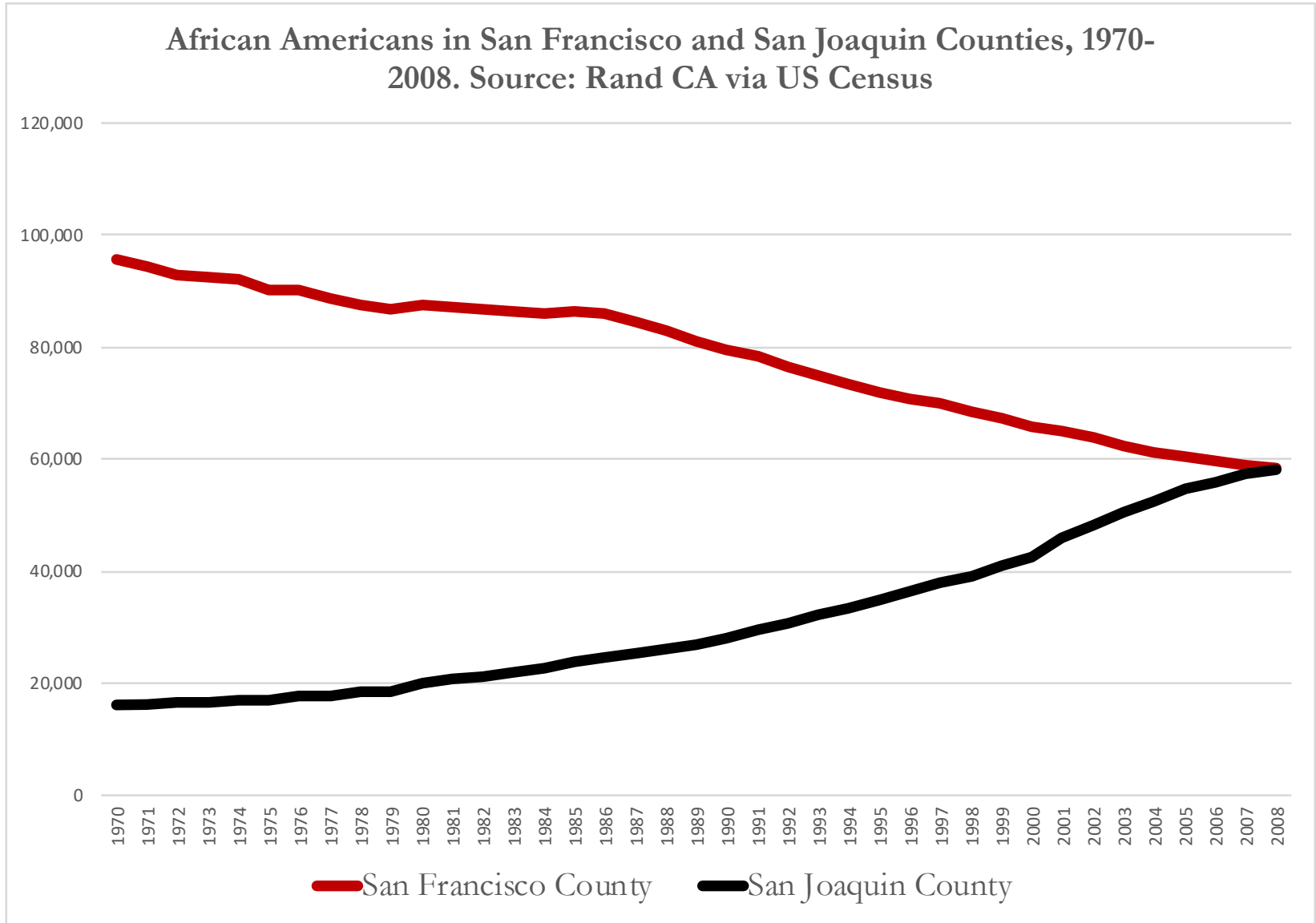


Composite Citizen Image - Northridge

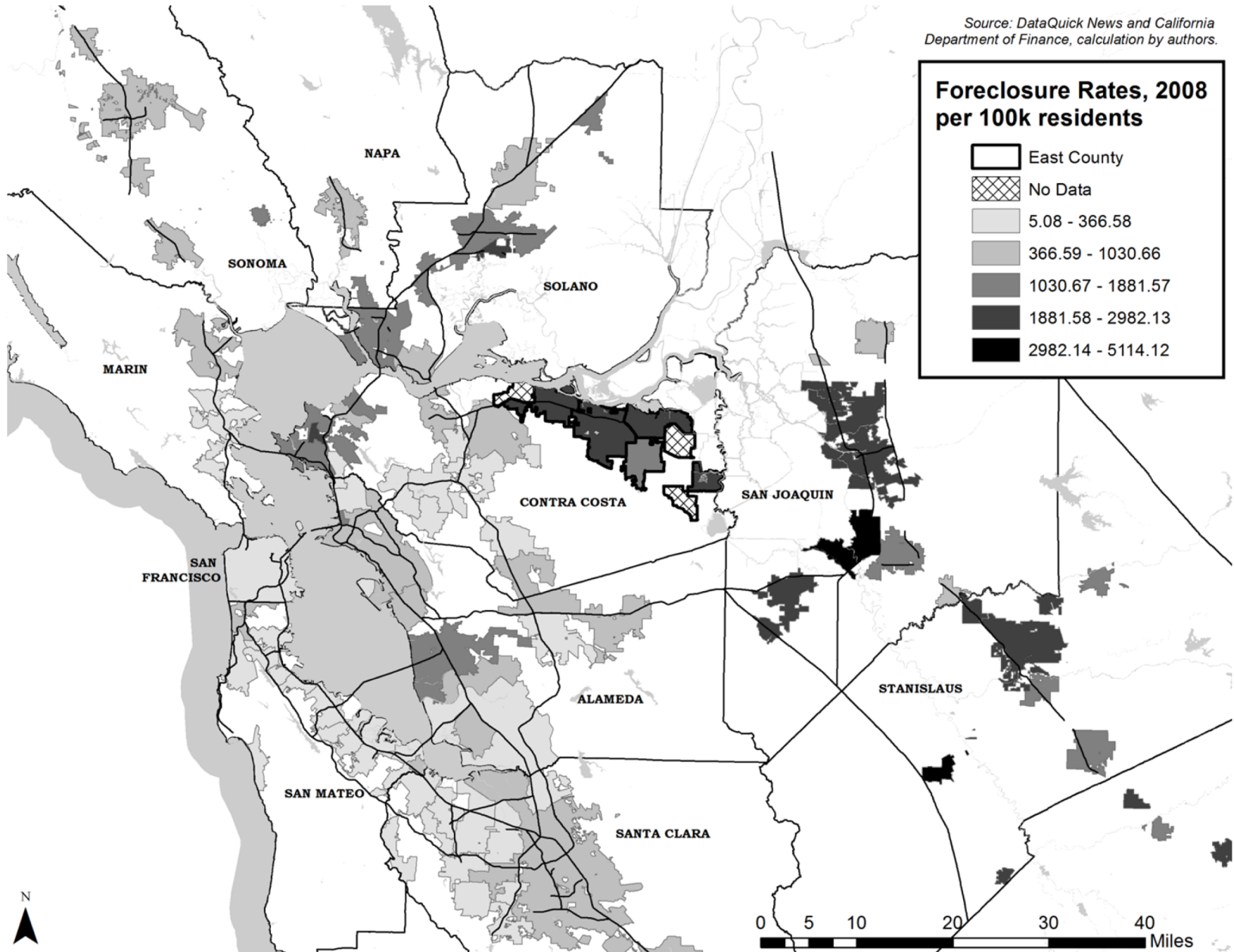



Composite Citizen Image - Boyle Heights

# A new mental map of segregation is needed: **Mobile Segregation?**



# A new mental map of segregation is needed: Mobile Segregation?



A wide-angle photograph of the San Francisco Bay at sunset. The sun is a bright orange orb on the right horizon, casting a long, shimmering path of light across the water. The Golden Gate Bridge is silhouetted against the sky in the distance. The foreground shows the dark, silhouetted cityscape of San Francisco, with some buildings and trees visible. The sky transitions from a deep orange near the horizon to a pale, hazy blue at the top.

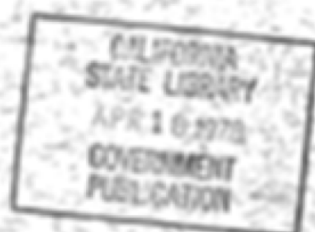
**How did this happen in the wealthiest  
and most ‘progressive’ region in the  
country?**







# **AN URBAN STRATEGY FOR CALIFORNIA**



State of California



# State of California

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE  
SACRAMENTO 95814

February 9, 1978

EDMUND G. BROWN JR.  
GOVERNOR

Dear Californian:

California is a land of promise—and much of that promise still lies in our cities.

The city and the suburb are home for 94 out of 100 Californians. And California's urban population will continue to grow dramatically, at least for the remainder of this century.

How to meet the needs of more people in California, while at the same time respecting fundamental limits on our tax dollars and natural resources is one of the inexorable challenges we face.

This Urban Strategy begins to meet that challenge. It gives focus to thousands of individual decisions which will affect California's cities and suburbs by directing state and local governments toward a common purpose: the revitalization of existing cities and the sound management of new urban development.

The preparation of this document involved many citizens, neighborhood organizations, local officials, state agencies, and representatives of organized labor and private business. If it is to succeed, that cooperative effort must continue.

I invite your active participation.

  
EDMUND G. BROWN JR.  
Governor

How to **meet the needs of more people** in California, while at the same time respecting fundamental limits on our **tax dollars** and **natural resources** is one of the inexorable challenges we face.

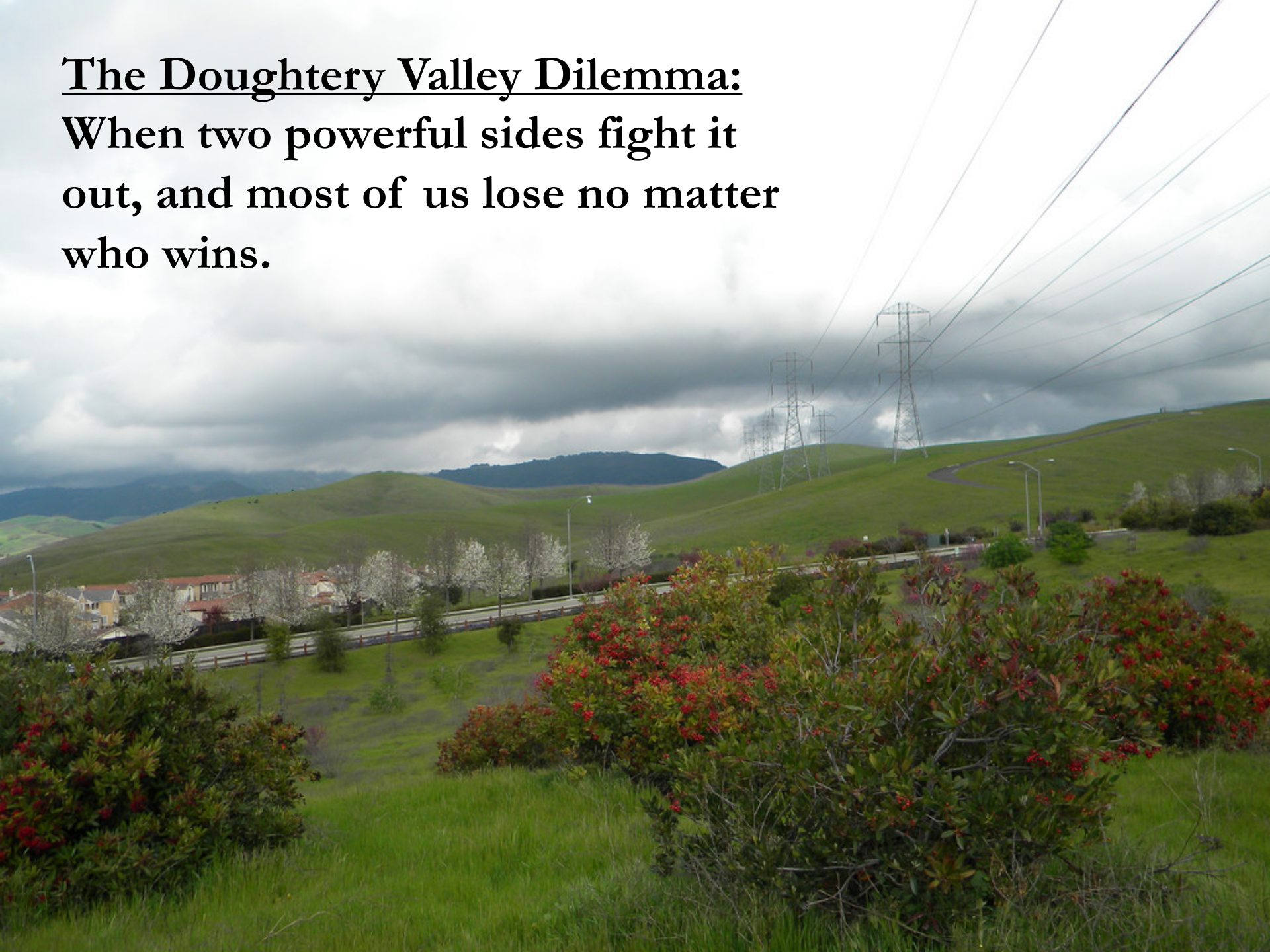
This **Urban Strategy** begins to meet that challenge. It gives focus to thousands of individual decisions which will affect California's cities and suburbs by directing state and local governments toward a **common purpose**: the revitalization of existing cities and the sound management of new urban development.

Deep political fragmentation in the politics of space, place and race.



Lack of *effective* politics of planning, development and urbanization.

**The Dougherty Valley Dilemma:**  
**When two powerful sides fight it out, and most of us lose no matter who wins.**



## The Gentrification Dilemma:

The choice between abandonment and displacement.

The reality of both happening at the same time.



The Planning Dilemma:  
When any act to make a  
place better makes it more  
expensive and exclusive





How do we fix our broken development politics?

CLEAR CHANNEL

IT'S ALWAYS A BEAUTIFUL DAY  
IN THE BAY

CHRISTINA LOREN, MORNINGS

NBC BAY AREA

001998

# Eight principles for building common purpose



# 1. Embrace an urbanization-centered politics



**2. Demand broad institutional responsibility for urban development**



**BANK OF STOCKTON**

**P**

### 3. Restorative Justice



**MAKE  
HISTORY**

**NOT  
APOLOGIES**

**COME  
OUT OF  
N^WH**  


PEOPLE · PLACES · RELATIONSHIPS

## 4. Combatting Exploitation and the Duty to Protect

## 5. Reconstruct the growth machine



## 6. Develop a vision for all people and places







**7. Teach urbanization widely**

## 8. Rebuild the possibility of progress



# The Road to Resegregation: Northern California and the Failure of Politics

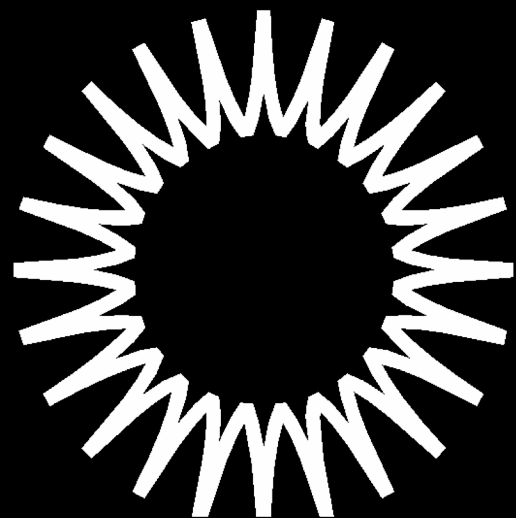
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<https://environment.leeds.ac.uk/geography/staff/1100/dr-alex-schafran>





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