

Technical Memorandum

To: City of Ridgecrest and MKN Associates

From: Ken Shuey, P.E., Provost & Pritchard

Subject: City of Ridgecrest – Updated Flows and BOD Loading

Date: July 10, 2021

Updated wastewater treatment plant data from the City of Ridgecrest for 2015 – 2020 was provided to supplement the data used by Provost & Pritchard in the preparation of the 2016 CWSRF Project Report (2016 Report). This memo focuses on updating the population, flow and BOD loading assumptions that were made in the 2016 Report.

POPULATION

Census data provided the following population numbers:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Population</u>	<u>Growth</u>
2000	24,927	
2010	27,616	1.03% / year
2020	29,217	0.57% / year

The 2016 report assumed a growth rate of 1.8% per year based on Kern County population data, which yielded a projected 2020 population of 35,926. Historic population growth for the City has been very low and, in some cases, negative. Table 1 and Figure 1 summarize the historic (from 1985) population and projected population through 2050 under four scenarios:

1. Population assumptions made in the 2016 report at 1.8% growth.
2. Updated population assumptions using the 2020 census numbers and 1.8% growth.
3. Updated population assumptions using the 2020 census numbers and 1.2% growth.
4. Updated population assumptions using the 2020 census numbers and 0.8% growth.

The 2016 report used a 2010 population of 30,056. In researching data for 2010, the US Census reports the 2010 population for Ridgecrest was 27,616 (April 1, 2010) and the 2019 population was 28,937 (July 1, 2019). The differences in Table 1 between the 2010 through 2020 populations reflect this change. The US Census data summary for the Ridgecrest area can be found online here:

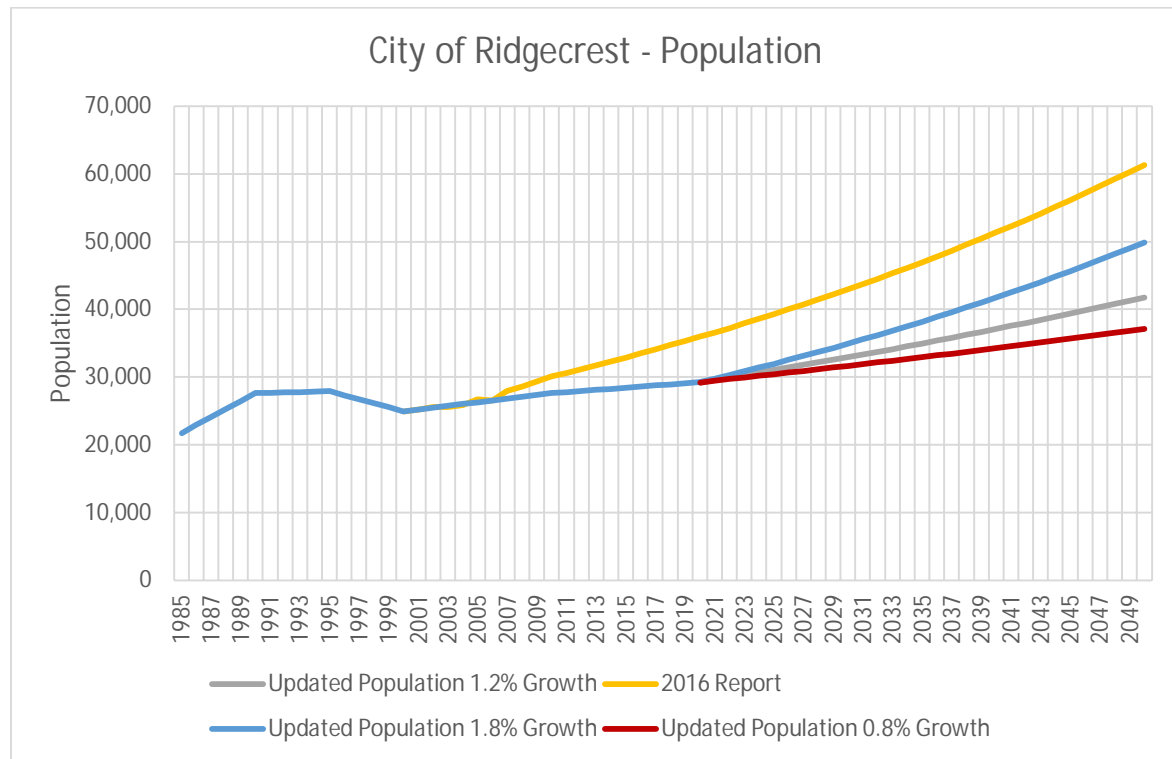
<https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/ridgecrestcitycalifornia/PST045219>.

A copy of the US Census data and map are attached to this memo.

Table 1 – City of Ridgecrest Population

Year	2016 Report w/ 1.8% Growth	Updated 2020 Population w/ 1.8% Growth	Updated 2020 Population w/ 1.2% Growth	Updated 2020 Population w/ 0.8% Growth
1985	21,700	21,700	21,700	21,700
1990	27,600	27,600	27,600	27,600
1995	27,900	27,900	27,900	27,900
2000	24,927	24,927	24,927	24,927
2005	26,666	26,272	26,272	26,272
2010	30,056	27,616	27,616	27,616
2015	32,860	28,417	28,417	28,417
2020	35,926	29,217	29,217	29,217
2025	39,278	31,943	31,013	30,405
2030	42,942	34,923	32,919	31,640
2035	46,949	38,181	34,942	32,926
2040	51,329	41,744	37,089	34,265
2045	56,118	45,638	39,368	35,657
2050	61,354	49,896	41,788	37,107

Figure 1 – City of Ridgecrest Population



Two additional growth forecast references are included for comparison.

The Regional Growth Forecast for Kern Council of Governments, Methodology and Forecasts 2020 to 2050 (December 2019, https://www.kerncog.org/wp-content/uploads/2009/10/Kern_2020-2050_Regional_Growth_Forecast.pdf, Page 5, Regional Growth Forecast, Kern County) provides the following data:

Year	Population	Growth	% Change/Year
2010	841,189		
2020	927,500	86,311	0.98%
2030	1,025,700	98,200	1.01%
2040	1,126,000	100,300	0.94%
2050	1,227,200	101,200	0.86%

The 2018 Regional Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy, Kern Council of Governments (Adopted: August 16, 2018, Page 3-11 for the Ridgecrest Community, https://www.kerncog.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/2018_RTP.pdf) provides the following data:

Year	Population	Growth	% Change/Year
1980	15,929		
1990	28,295	12,366	5.91%
2000	24,927	-3,368	-1.26%
2010	27,616	2,689	1.03%
2017	28,349	733	0.37%
2030	32,300	3,951	1.01%
2042	37,870	5,570	1.33%

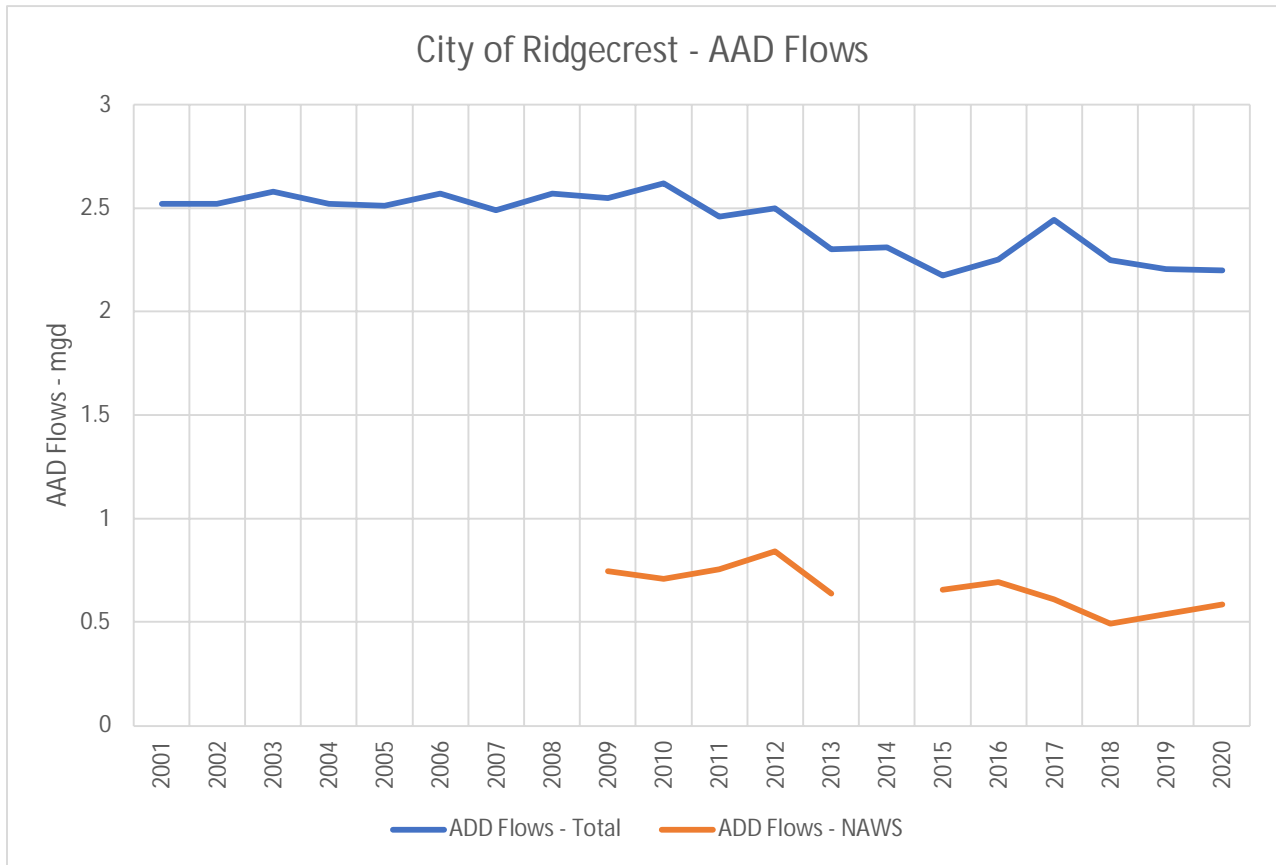
INFLUENT WASTEWATER FLOWS

Although population has increased between 2000 and 2020, influent wastewater flows measured at the WWTP (combined City and NAWS flows) have decreased. This is likely due to the ongoing drought conditions in the area and an emphasis on water conservation. Table 2 and Figure 2 summarize the historic average annual daily (AAD) flow from 2001 through 2020. Data is provided for City flows, NAWS flows and the total influent flow (City plus NAWS).

Table 2 – City of Ridgecrest Average Annual Daily Flow

Year	WWTP Influent Flows	NAWS Flows	City Flows
	AAD Flow (mgd)	AAD Flow (mgd)	AAD Flow (mgd)
2001	2.52		
2002	2.52		
2003	2.58		
2004	2.52		
2005	2.51		
2006	2.57		
2007	2.49		
2008	2.57		
2009	2.55	0.747	1.80
2010	2.62	0.709	1.91
2011	2.46	0.756	1.70
2012	2.50	0.843	1.66
2013	2.30	0.636	1.66
2014	2.31		
2015	2.18	0.657	1.52
2016	2.25	0.693	1.56
2017	2.44	0.609	1.83
2018	2.25	0.494	1.75
2019	2.21	0.537	1.67
2020	2.20	0.586	1.61

Figure 2 – City of Ridgecrest Average Annual Daily Flow



Influent wastewater per capita flow is also decreasing. Table 3 and Figure 3 show the yearly annual average gallons per capita day flows from 2001 through 2020. Data is shown as presented in the 2016 report and updated with recent population and flow data. The 2016 report assumed a future annual average of 85 gallons per capita day (gpcd). City flows have been at or below this number since 2013 and the per capita flow in 2020 was 75 gpcd.

Table 3 – City of Ridgecrest Average Annual Daily Flow per Capita

Year	Per Capita Flow (gpcd)	
	2016 Report	2020 Data
2001	99.9	100.0
2002	98.7	99.0
2003	100.8	100.3
2004	97.5	96.9
2005	94.1	95.5
2006	96.9	96.8
2007	89.1	92.9
2008	89.8	94.9
2009	86.9	93.2
2010	87.2	94.9
2011	80.4	88.6
2012	80.3	89.5
2013	72.5	81.9
2014	71.6	81.8
2015		76.6
2016		78.8
2017		85.0
2018		77.8
2019		75.9
2020		75.3

The per capita flow from the 2016 report was calculated based on a 2010 population of 30,056 and the per capita flow based on 2020 data was calculated on a 2010 population of 27,616.

Figure 3 – City of Ridgecrest Average Annual Daily Flow

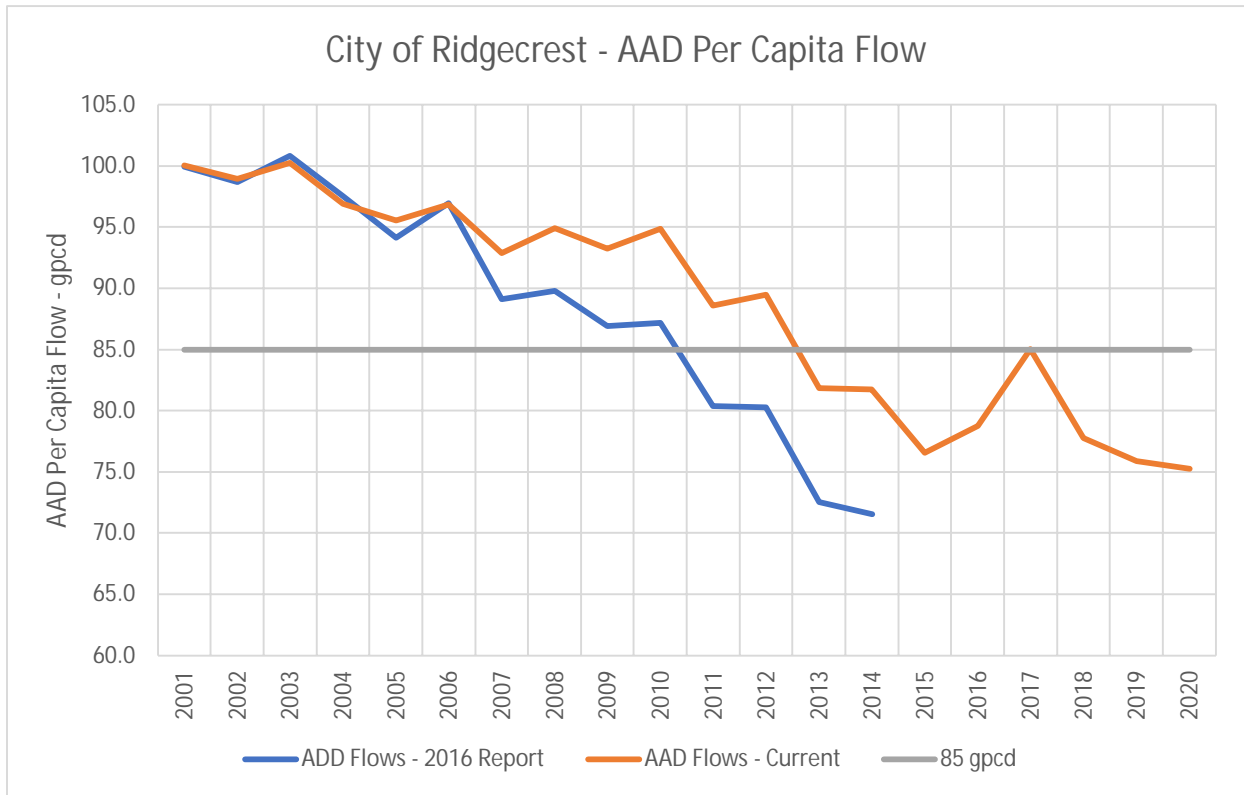


Table 4 and Figure 4 present the historical and projected average annual daily (AAD) flow based on population growth of 1.8%, 1.2% and 0.8%, and an average annual per capita wastewater flow of 85 gpcd and 75 gpcd.

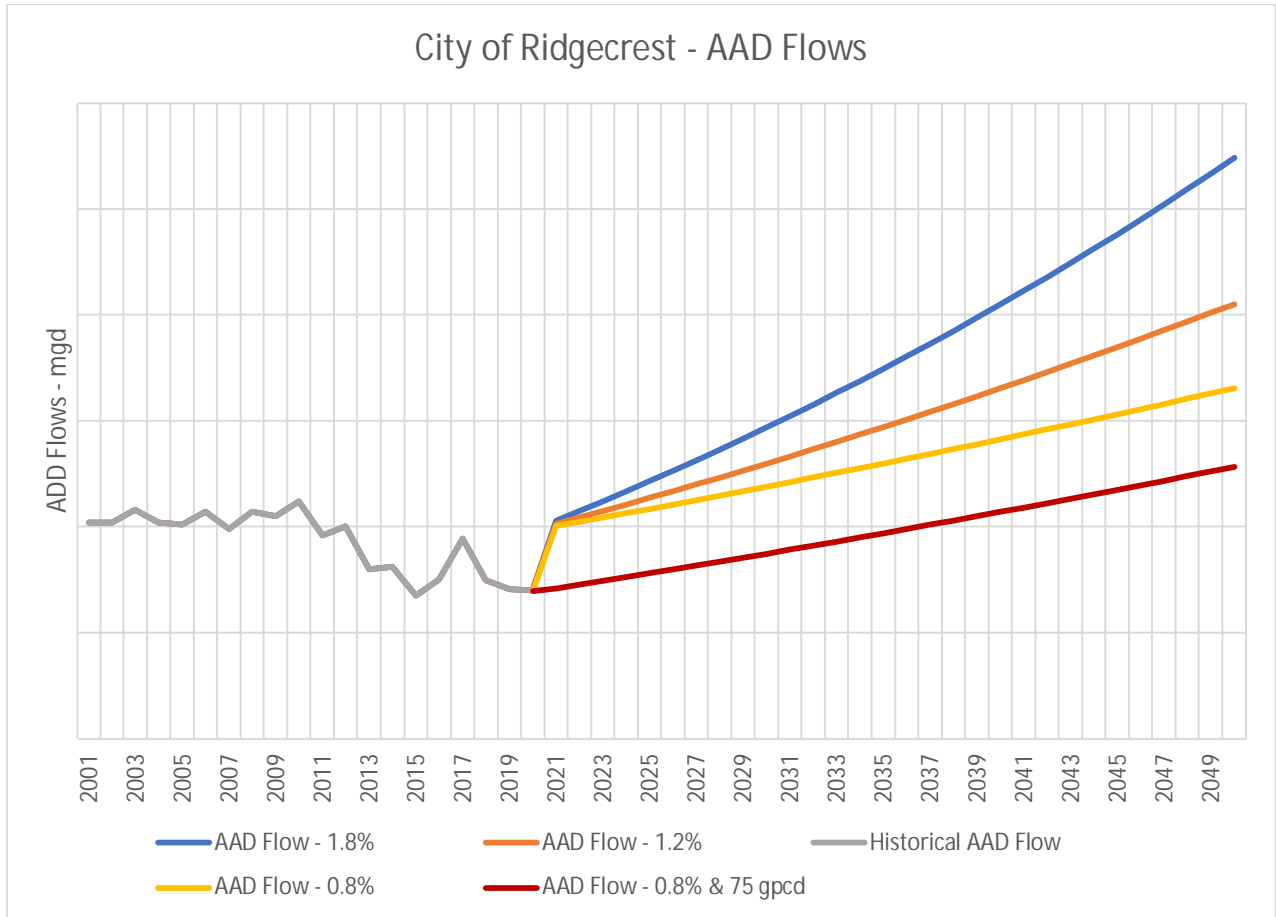
Table 4 – City of Ridgecrest Projected AAD Flows

Year	Influent AAD Flow				
	Historical	Projected @ 1.8% Growth & 85 gpcd	Projected @ 1.2% Growth & 85 gpcd	Projected @ 0.8% Growth & 85 gpcd	Projected @ 0.8% Growth & 75 gpcd
2001	2.52				
2002	2.52				
2003	2.58				
2004	2.52				
2005	2.51				
2006	2.57				
2007	2.49				
2008	2.57				
2009	2.55				
2010	2.62				
2011	2.46				
2012	2.50				
2013	2.30				
2014	2.31				
2015	2.18				
2016	2.25				
2017	2.44				
2018	2.25				
2019	2.21				
2020	2.20				
2021		2.53	2.51	2.50	2.21
2022		2.57	2.54	2.52	2.23
2023		2.62	2.57	2.54	2.24
2024		2.67	2.60	2.56	2.26
2025		<u>2.72</u>	2.64	2.58	2.28
2030		<u>2.97</u>	<u>2.80</u>	2.69	2.37
2035		3.25	2.97	<u>2.80</u>	2.47
2040		3.55	3.15	2.91	2.57
2045		3.88	3.35	3.03	2.67
2050		4.24	3.55	3.15	2.78

The 2016 report assumed a Phase 1 design AAD capacity of 3.6 mgd. Assuming expansion planning would start when WWTP flows reached 80% or 2.9 mgd, the timing of this planning start would be as shown by the underlining in Table 4.

Note that the larger flow increases between 2020 (historical) and 2021 (projected) is due to the per capita flow used to calculate the AAD flow (75 gpcd recorded in 2020 and 85 gpcd assumed in 2021 and later).

Figure 4 – City of Ridgecrest Projected AAD Flows

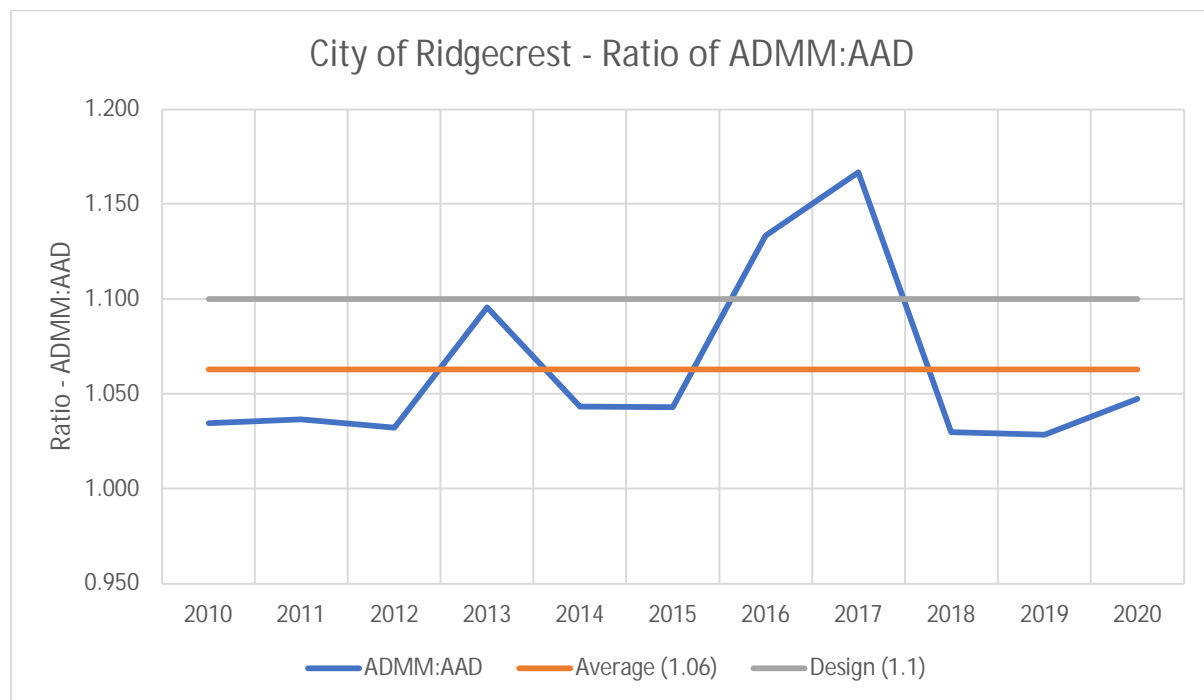


Average day maximum month (ADMM) flows are typically used for design of treatment facility components associated with loading (i.e. BOD, TSS and nitrogen). Table 5 and Figure 5 show the ratio of ADMM to AAD for the period from 2010 through 2020 for influent flows into the WWTP. This ratio has averaged 1.065. The 2016 report assumed a ratio for design purposes of 1.10. Note that the highest ratio occurred in 2017 and the lowest ratio occurred in 2018 (the following year).

Table 5 – City of Ridgecrest Ratio of ADMM:AAD

Year	Flow - mgd		Ratio
	AAD	ADMM	
2010	2.62	2.71	1.034
2011	2.46	2.55	1.037
2012	2.50	2.58	1.032
2013	2.30	2.52	1.096
2014	2.31	2.41	1.043
2015	2.18	2.27	1.043
2016	2.25	2.55	1.133
2017	2.44	2.85	1.167
2018	2.25	2.31	1.030
2019	2.21	2.32	1.054
2020	2.20	2.30	1.047

Figure 5 – City of Ridgecrest Ratio of ADMM:AAD



BOD LOADING

Average daily maximum month (ADMM) influent BOD loading is typically used for design of process related equipment at a WWTP. ADMM BOD loading at the City's WWTP has generally ranged from 188 mg/L to 260 mg/L for the period between 2005 and 2018 with one reading of 400 mg/L in 2010. However, in 2019 and 2020, ADMM BOD was 370 mg/L and 320 mg/L respectively. It is noted that AAD BOD concentrations also increased in 2019 and 2020.

Table 6 summarizes the historical BOD loading (AAD and ADMM), and Figures 6 and 7 present the AAD and ADMM BOD loadings in both mg/L and pounds per day (lbs/day).

Table 6 – City of Ridgecrest Historical BOD Loading

Year	AAD			ADMM				
	Flow	BOD		Flow	BOD			<i>2016 projected for design</i>
	mgd	mg/L	lbs/day	mgd	mg/L	lbs/day	mg/L	
2005	2.51	158	3,307		200	4,187		
2006	2.57	150	3,215		200	4,287		
2007	2.49	166	3,438		250	5,659		
2008	2.57	138	2,839		200	4,937		
2009	2.55	132	2,814		230	5,198		
2010	2.62	150	3,259	2.71	400	9,111	270	6,102
2011	2.46			2.55			270	5,742
2012	2.50			2.58			270	5,810
2013	2.30	111	2,129	2.52	188	3,951	270	5,675
2014	2.31	162	2,121	2.41	211	4,241	270	5,427
2015	2.18	157	2,843	2.27	250	4,731	270	5,109
2016	2.25	160	2,996	2.55	260	5,532	270	5,744
2017	2.44	138	2,805	2.85	240	5,707	270	6,420
2018	2.25	133	2,485	2.31	190	3,667	270	5,211
2019	2.21	191	3,503	2.27	370	6,999	270	5,107
2020	2.20	226	4,142	2.30	320	6,146	270	5,186

Detailed Summary of 2015 – 2020 Monthly BOD Concentrations (mg/L)

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
January	250	130	160	190	370	320
February	200	260	210	120	200	250
March	210	170	240	95	340	370
April	120	160	170	160	200	220
May	180	190	170	170	170	170
June	130	76	89	140	62	210
July	120	120	52	120	260	220
August	120	150	130	67	47	190
September	150	160	83	156	100	180
October	120	160	78	53	97	180
November	160	79	150	130	270	180
December	120	260	120	190	170	220
Average - mg/L	157	160	138	133	191	226
Max Month – mg/L	250	260	240	190	370	370

Figure 6 – City of Ridgecrest BOD – AAD & ADMM (mg/L)

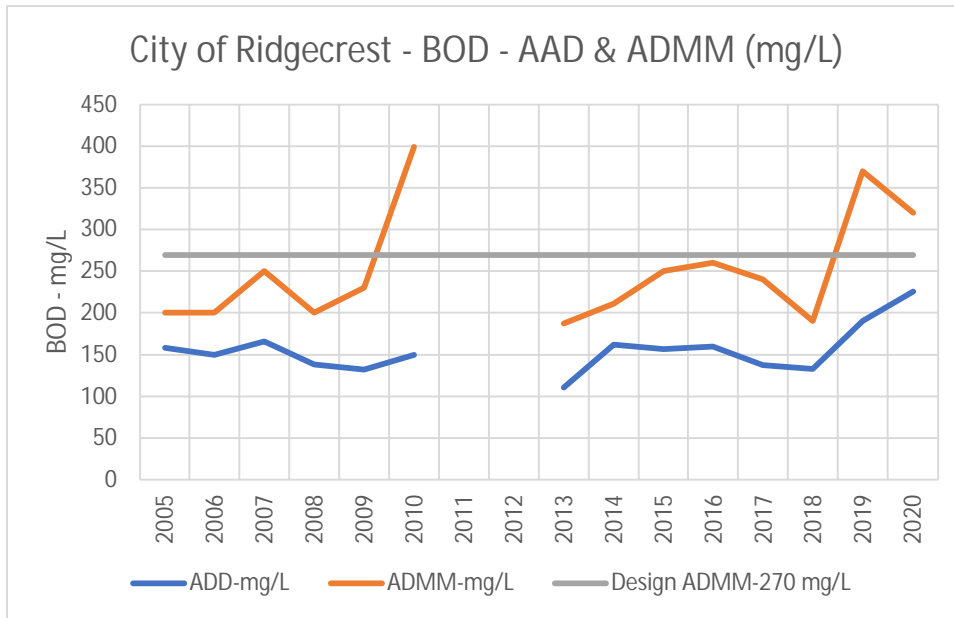
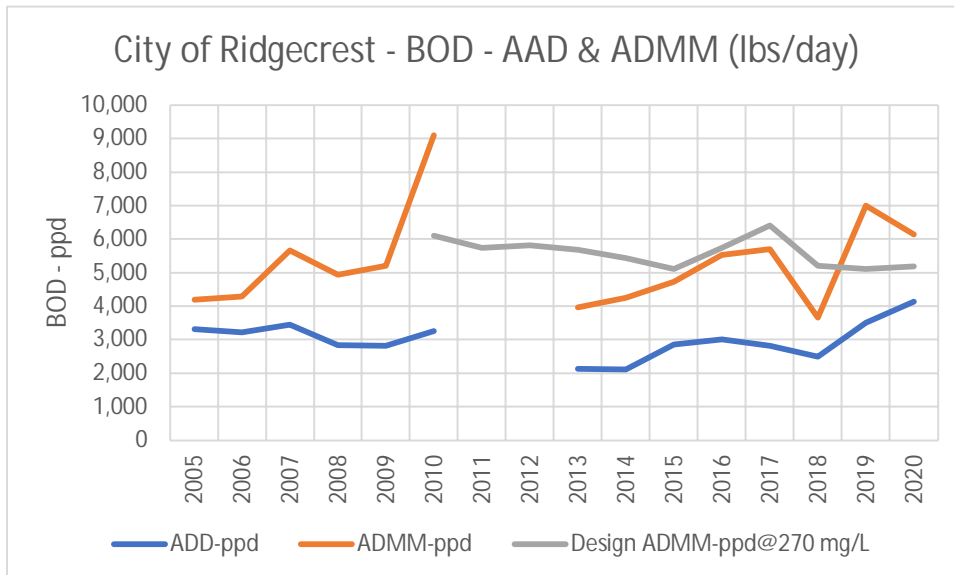


Figure 7 – City of Ridgecrest BOD – AAD & ADMM (lbs/day)



SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the 2020 US Census data for the Ridgecrest area, the 2020 population of 29,217 is 6,700 or 17.8% less than projected in the 2016 report. At a 1.8% growth rate, this results in a 2050 population of 49,896 or 11,458 fewer than projected in the 2016 report. Over the past 20 years, historic population growth has been at 1.0% or less. The area's population growth and/or

decline is highly dependent on staffing levels at NAWS China Lake, which is at best difficult to predict.

Coupled with the lower than predicted population growth rate is a declining per capita wastewater flow. There has been a steady decline in AAD per capita wastewater flow since the early 2000's when per capita flows were 100 gpcd. 2020 per capita wastewater flows were 75 gpcd. This decline is likely due to the ongoing drought in the state and associated water conservation initiatives undertaken by the State and the area water purveyors. The 2016 report recognized the decline and recommended a design per capita flow of 85 gpcd. Further reduction of per capita flows may be warranted as shown in Table 4 and Figure 4.

The declining per capita flow has been accompanied by an increase in the concentration of biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) in the influent wastewater. BOD is measured both in concentration (mg/L) and total loading (lbs/day). Total loading is calculated as follows:

$$\text{BOD}_{(\text{lbs/day})} = \text{Concentration}_{(\text{mg/L})} \times \text{Flow}_{(\text{mgd})} \times 8.34$$

Maximum month BOD loading is typically used as a criterion in WWTP process design. As per capita flows decrease, BOD concentrations typically increase – the amount of organic material typically remains the same but the water diluting it is less. In 2017 the maximum month daily flow was 2.85 mgd and the BOD concentration was 240 mg/L yielding a BOD loading of 5,707 lbs/day. In 2020 the maximum month flow dropped to 2.3 mgd and the BOD concentration increased to 320 mg/L yielding a BOD loading of 6,146 lbs/day.

The 2016 report recommended a maximum month design BOD concentration of 270 mg/L, which was higher than any recorded maximum month concentration (except for 2010) until 2019. 2019 and 2020 maximum month BOD concentrations were 370 mg/L and 320 mg/L, respectively. Average annual BOD concentrations for those two years were also higher than previous years – 191 mg/L and 226 mg/L, respectively.

The 2016 report recommended the following Phase 1 design criteria:

Table 7 – 2016 Report Phase 1 Design Criteria

Design Criteria	Phase 1 Value
Flow - AAD (mgd)	3.6
Flow - ADMM (mgd)	4.0
Ratio - ADMM:AAD	1.1
Flow - AAD (gpcd)	85
BOD Concentration - ADMM (mg/L)	270
Population Served (calculated)	42,353
BOD Loading @ ADMM Flow & 270 mg/L (lbs/day)	8,917
Year Capacity Reached (at 1.8% growth)	2041
Year Capacity Reached (at 1.2% growth)	2052

There are four variables that must be addressed in determining the new WWTP design criteria. They are:

1. Average daily maximum month (ADMM) flow.
2. Per capita wastewater flow.
3. Growth rate and desired design life.
4. BOD concentration.

Based on recent (2015 – 2020) data provided by the City, the population, AAD and ADMM flows and per capita wastewater flow assumptions in the 2016 report are higher than the values currently experienced at the WWTP. The new WWTP would not reach 80 % of the Phase 1 design capacity of 3.6 mgd (2.9 mgd) until 2029 (assuming a 1.8% growth rate and 85 gpcd) or 2033 (assuming a 1.2% growth rate and 85 gpcd). If the growth rate is reduced to 0.8% and per capita wastewater flows to 75 gpcd, 80% of design capacity would not be reached until 2055.

However, based on the past two years (2019 and 2020) of data, the BOD concentration at ADMM flow of 270 mg/L assumed in the 2016 report may be low. If the design BOD concentration were increased to 320 mg/L, the BOD loading would increase to 10,568 lbs/day. If the new WWTP was designed using 270 mg/L and experienced 320 mg/L, the new WWTP's design capacity would be reached in 2037 at a 1.8% growth rate and 2045 at a 1.2% growth rate.

The downside of designing for higher BOD concentration (320 mg/L) is the cost of larger blowers and aeration capacity that might not be used until later in the WWTP's life. Designing for a lower BOD concentration (270 mg/L) could result in a plant upgrade/expansion 4 to 7 years sooner. Unless the City believes the BOD concentrations reported for 2019 and 2020 are abnormally high and are not representative of future concentrations, we recommend that the design ADMM BOD concentration be increased to 320 mg/L.

If ADD and ADMM design flows for Phase 1 remain at 3.6 mgd and 4.0 mgd respectively, treatment capacity will be provided through 2041 even at a 1.8% growth rate and more likely through 2052 at a 1.2% growth rate, or even well beyond 2060 if 0.8% population growth and 75 gpcd AAD flows are experienced. ADD and ADMM flows for Phase 2 would remain at 5.4 and 5.9 mgd and will be used primarily for reserving space on the site for the Phase 2 treatment components.

A Microsoft Teams conference was held on June 24, 2021 with Mike Nunley and Jason Wilson, MKN Associates and Ron Strand and Travis Reed, City of Ridgecrest. This memo was reviewed and all agreed with the conclusions and recommendations for design flows (ADD and ADMM design flows for Phase 1 at 3.6 mgd and 4.0 mgd respectively) and influent BOD concentrations of 320 mg/L. Our work on the project report addendum will continue based on these recommendations.

Attachments:

US Census Data & Map

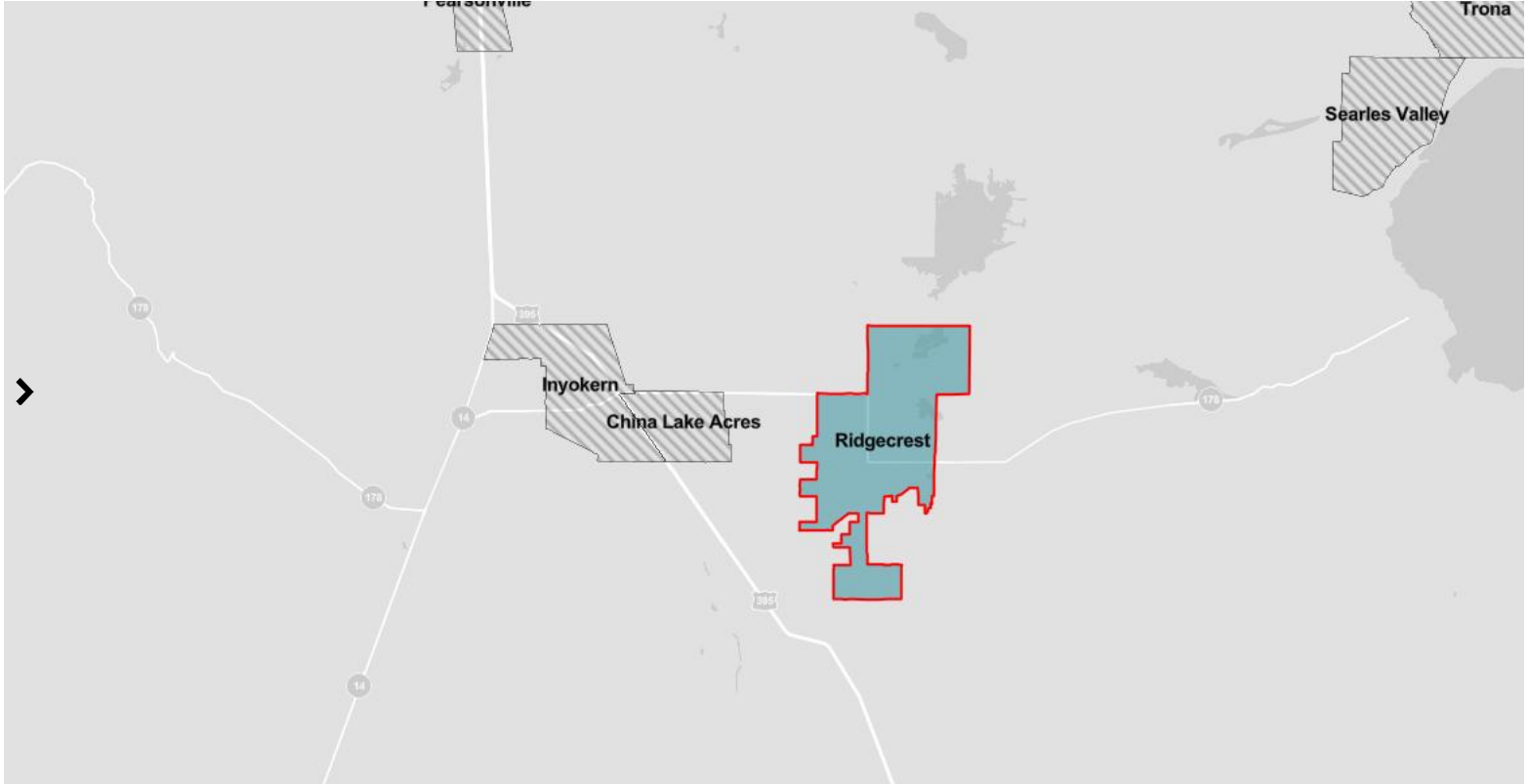
QuickFacts

Ridgecrest city, California

QuickFacts provides statistics for all states and counties, and for cities and towns with a *population of 5,000 or more*.

Map

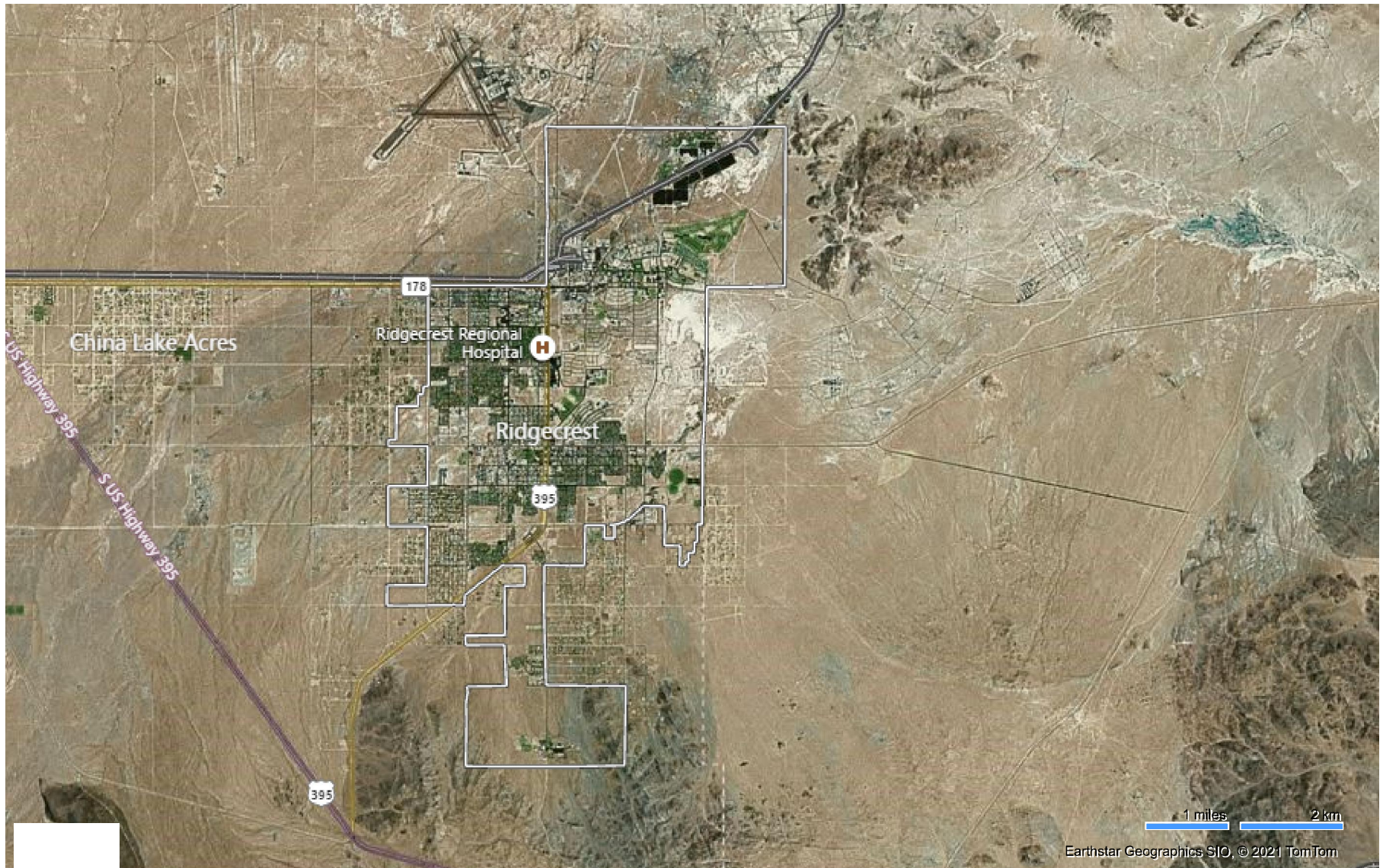
Population estimates, July 1, 2019, (V2019)



5,001 - 7,400 7,401 - 11,168 11,168 - 19,250 19,261 - 40,897 40,913 - 8,336,817 X

Populations below 5,000 are not in QuickFacts and therefore Not Selectable

Selectable Not Selectable



Data from: Wikipedia · Freebase

QuickFacts

Ridgecrest city, California

QuickFacts provides statistics for all states and counties, and for cities and towns with a *population of 5,000 or more*.

Table

All Topics	Ridgecrest city, California
Population estimates, July 1, 2019, (V2019)	28,973
PEOPLE	
Population	
Population estimates, July 1, 2019, (V2019)	28,973
Population estimates base, April 1, 2010, (V2019)	27,616
Population, percent change - April 1, 2010 (estimates base) to July 1, 2019, (V2019)	4.9%
Population, Census, April 1, 2010	27,616
Population, Census, April 1, 2020	X
Age and Sex	
Persons under 5 years, percent	▲ 4.9%
Persons under 18 years, percent	▲ 26.5%
Persons 65 years and over, percent	▲ 13.5%
Female persons, percent	▲ 50.2%
Race and Hispanic Origin	
White alone, percent	▲ 77.1%
Black or African American alone, percent (a)	▲ 4.3%
American Indian and Alaska Native alone, percent (a)	▲ 0.9%
Asian alone, percent (a)	▲ 5.9%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone, percent (a)	▲ 0.3%
Two or More Races, percent	▲ 4.8%
Hispanic or Latino, percent (b)	▲ 21.6%
White alone, not Hispanic or Latino, percent	▲ 64.8%
Population Characteristics	
Veterans, 2015-2019	3,062
Foreign born persons, percent, 2015-2019	8.7%
Housing	
Housing units, July 1, 2019, (V2019)	X
Owner-occupied housing unit rate, 2015-2019	63.2%
Median value of owner-occupied housing units, 2015-2019	\$180,300
Median selected monthly owner costs -with a mortgage, 2015-2019	\$1,390
Median selected monthly owner costs -without a mortgage, 2015-2019	\$411
Median gross rent, 2015-2019	\$879
Building permits, 2020	X
Families & Living Arrangements	
Households, 2015-2019	10,974
Persons per household, 2015-2019	2.60
Living in same house 1 year ago, percent of persons age 1 year+, 2015-2019	83.6%
Language other than English spoken at home, percent of persons age 5 years+, 2015-2019	18.7%
Computer and Internet Use	
Households with a computer, percent, 2015-2019	89.8%
Households with a broadband Internet subscription, percent, 2015-2019	83.3%
Education	
High school graduate or higher, percent of persons age 25 years+, 2015-2019	89.9%
Bachelor's degree or higher, percent of persons age 25 years+, 2015-2019	28.4%
Health	
With a disability, under age 65 years, percent, 2015-2019	11.9%
Persons without health insurance, under age 65 years, percent	▲ 3.9%
Economy	
In civilian labor force, total, percent of population age 16 years+, 2015-2019	60.3%
In civilian labor force, female, percent of population age 16 years+, 2015-2019	55.0%
Total accommodation and food services sales, 2012 (\$1,000) (c)	45,159
	122,721

Total health care and social assistance receipts/revenue, 2012 (\$1,000) (c)	
Total manufacturers shipments, 2012 (\$1,000) (c)	D
Total merchant wholesaler sales, 2012 (\$1,000) (c)	D
Total retail sales, 2012 (\$1,000) (c)	272,370
Total retail sales per capita, 2012 (c)	\$9,616
Transportation	
Mean travel time to work (minutes), workers age 16 years+, 2015-2019	14.7
Income & Poverty	
Median household income (in 2019 dollars), 2015-2019	\$69,577
Per capita income in past 12 months (in 2019 dollars), 2015-2019	\$32,499
Persons in poverty, percent	▲ 12.7%

BUSINESSES


Businesses	
Total employer establishments, 2019	X
Total employment, 2019	X
Total annual payroll, 2019 (\$1,000)	X
Total employment, percent change, 2018-2019	X
Total nonemployer establishments, 2018	X
All firms, 2012	1,572
Men-owned firms, 2012	718
Women-owned firms, 2012	637
Minority-owned firms, 2012	461
Nonminority-owned firms, 2012	1,021
Veteran-owned firms, 2012	211
Nonveteran-owned firms, 2012	1,237


GEOGRAPHY

Geography	
Population per square mile, 2010	1,329.9
Land area in square miles, 2010	20.77
FIPS Code	0660704

About datasets used in this table

Value Notes

 Estimates are not comparable to other geographic levels due to methodology differences that may exist between different data sources.

Some estimates presented here come from sample data, and thus have sampling errors that may render some apparent differences between geographies statistically indistinguishable. Click the Quick Info  icon to the row in TABLE view to learn about sampling error.

The vintage year (e.g., V2019) refers to the final year of the series (2010 thru 2019). *Different vintage years of estimates are not comparable.*

Fact Notes

- (a) Includes persons reporting only one race
- (c) Economic Census - Puerto Rico data are not comparable to U.S. Economic Census data
- (b) Hispanics may be of any race, so also are included in applicable race categories

Value Flags

- Either no or too few sample observations were available to compute an estimate, or a ratio of medians cannot be calculated because one or both of the median estimates falls in the lowest or upper in open ended distribution.
- F Fewer than 25 firms
- D Suppressed to avoid disclosure of confidential information
- N Data for this geographic area cannot be displayed because the number of sample cases is too small.
- FN Footnote on this item in place of data
- X Not applicable
- S Suppressed; does not meet publication standards
- NA Not available
- Z Value greater than zero but less than half unit of measure shown

QuickFacts data are derived from: Population Estimates, American Community Survey, Census of Population and Housing, Current Population Survey, Small Area Health Insurance Estimates, Small Area Income and Expenses Estimates, State and County Housing Unit Estimates, County Business Patterns, Nonemployer Statistics, Economic Census, Survey of Business Owners, Building Permits.

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