

# Enrollment Decline and K-12 Education: Trends and Implications for Southern California

Afternoon Roundtable Presentation  
USC/SCAG 24th Annual Demographic Workshop  
“Generation Revolution in Southern California”

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# OVERVIEW

During the workshop today, we've learned how Southern California's population projections are being ramped down. We're going to take a closer look at the implications of this trend for K-12 student populations and public school planning in Southern California.

# OVERVIEW

1. California's K-12 projections from the Dept of Finance ramped down

California's K-12 projections from the Department of Finance (DOF) have been ramped down. This is consistent with other projections we've been hearing about during today's sessions with the DOF, Southern CA Association of Governments (SCAG), Dowell Meyers, et al.

## OVERVIEW

1. California's K-12 projections from the Dept of Finance ramped down
2. Southern CA counties' / LAUSD's shares of K-12 population dropping

Southern California counties' share of the state's K-12 population, and LAUSD's share of LA County's K-12 population, have been dropping. We will look at the effect of the ramp-down and changing distribution on five main SoCal counties and on LAUSD.

## OVERVIEW

1. California's K-12 projections from the Dept of Finance ramped down
2. Southern CA counties' / LAUSD's shares of K-12 population dropping
3. LAUSD's projections also ramped down – but differences in outlook

We will see that LAUSD's projections have also been ramped down, but we will see that there are differences in outlook between LAUSD and LA County-- and we will explore the reasons why this is so.

## OVERVIEW

1. California's K-12 projections from the Dept of Finance ramped down
2. Southern CA counties' / LAUSD's shares of K-12 population dropping
3. LAUSD's projections also ramped down – but differences in outlook
4. LACOE's birth projections also revised down

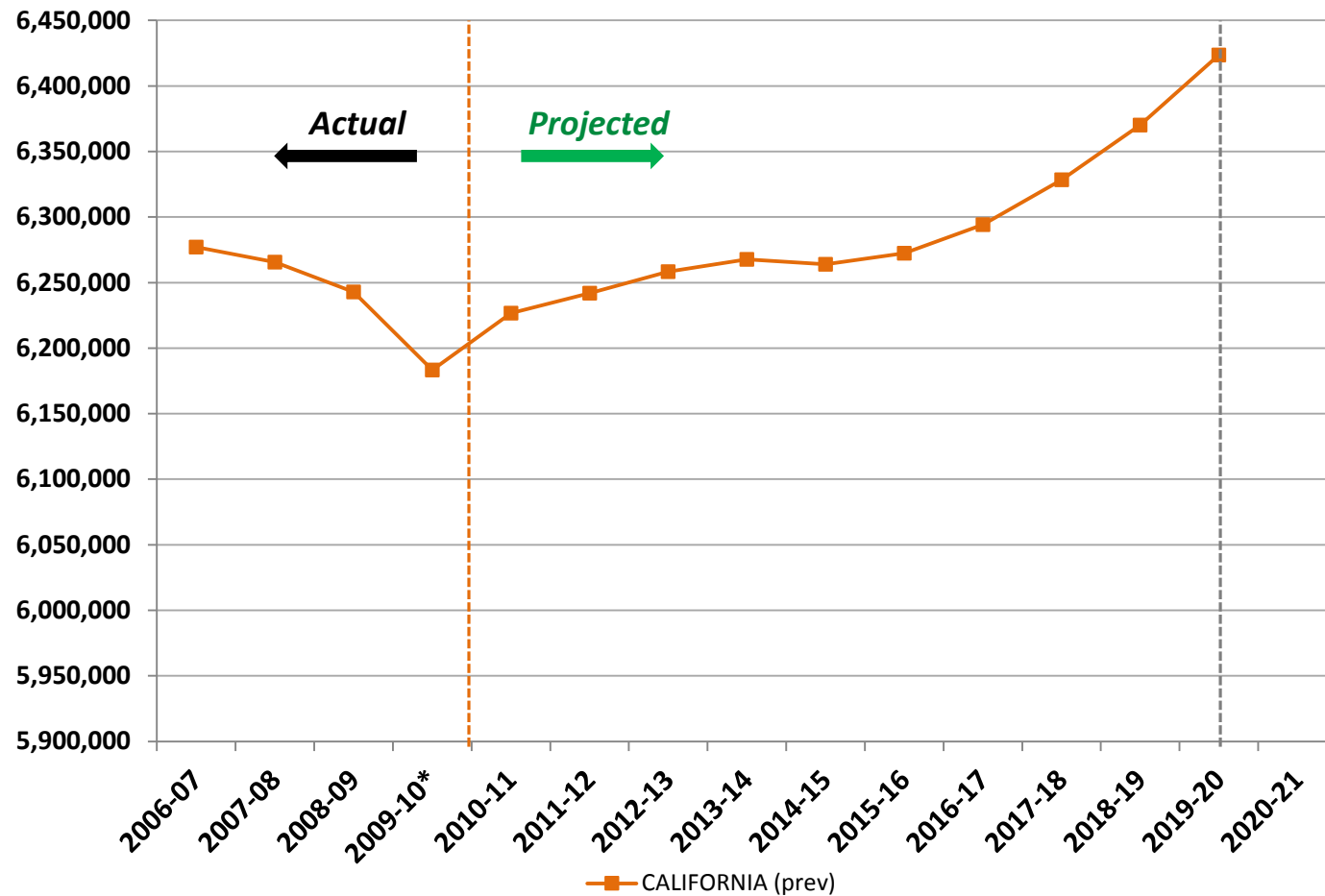
LA County Office of Education's (LACOE) birth projections have also been revised down. Trends in births are the key element in LAUSD's enrollment forecasting.

## OVERVIEW

1. California's K-12 projections from the Dept of Finance ramped down
2. Southern CA counties' / LAUSD's shares of K-12 population dropping
3. LAUSD's projections also ramped down – but differences in outlook
4. LACOE's birth projections also revised down
5. Implications of forecast revisions for planning

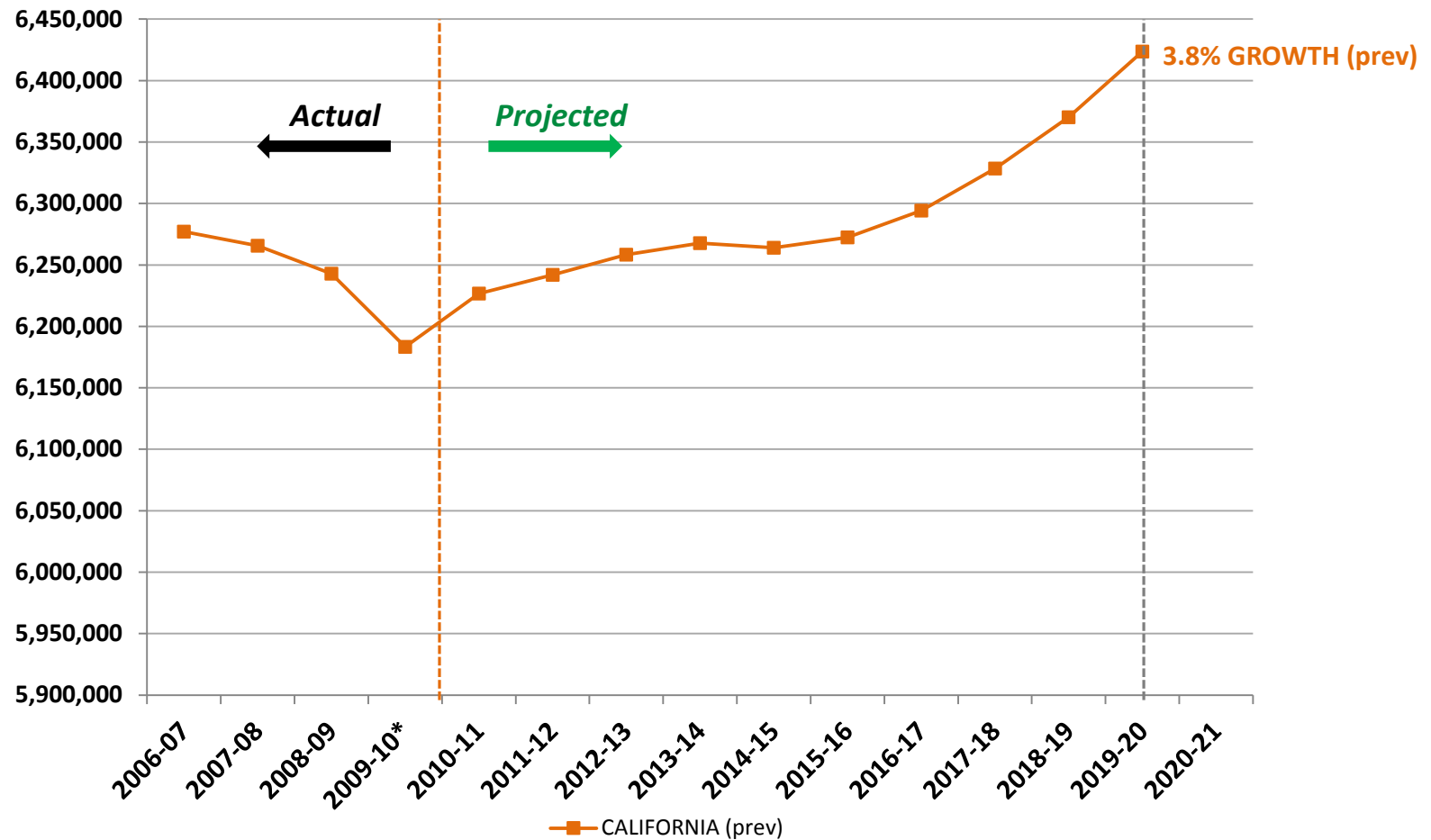
We will look at the implications of these revised forecasts for short-term school planning, and we'll see how CA birth and population forecasts are integrated into LAUSD's long-range planning.

## California Projected Public K-12 Graded Enrollment through School Year 2019 -20



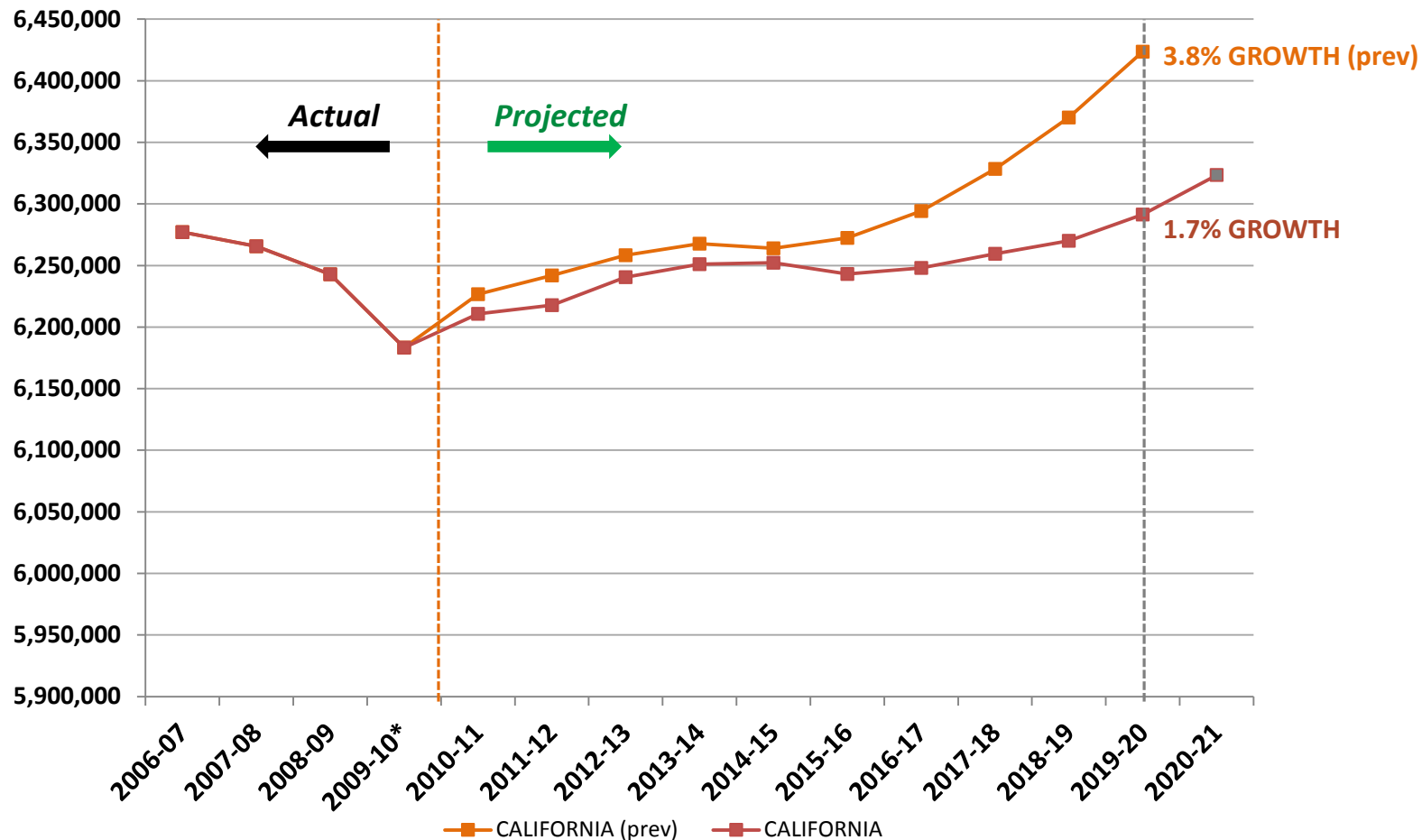
Statewide enrollments are now expected to grow more slowly than in previous projections, with fewer actual births and more conservative birth projections. Census 2010 counts have adjusted K-12 projections downward.

## California Projected Public K-12 Graded Enrollment through School Year 2019 -20



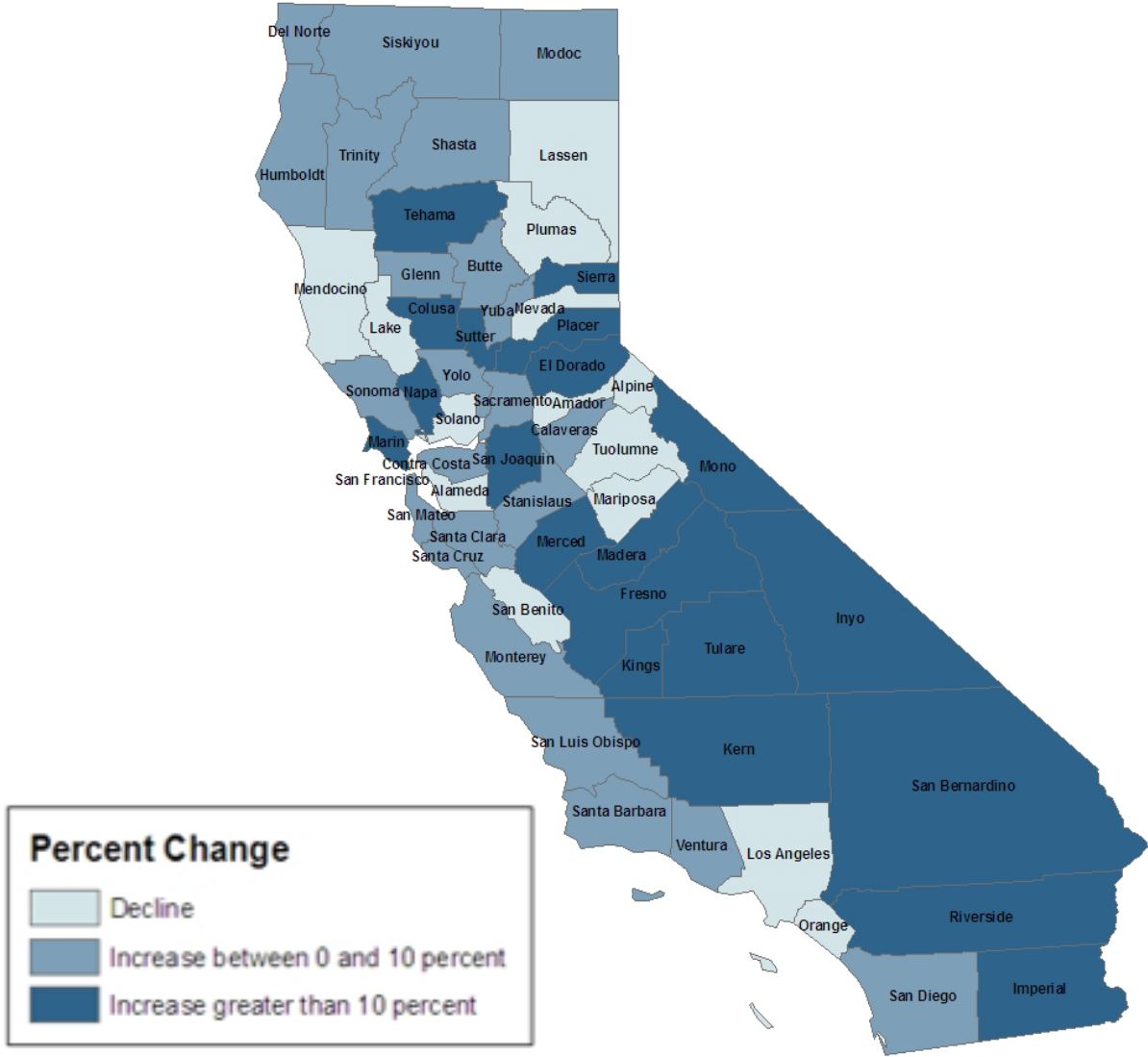
The DOF'S previous projection series showed a growth rate of 3.8% by 2019-20.

## California Projected Public K-12 Graded Enrollment through School Year 2019 -20



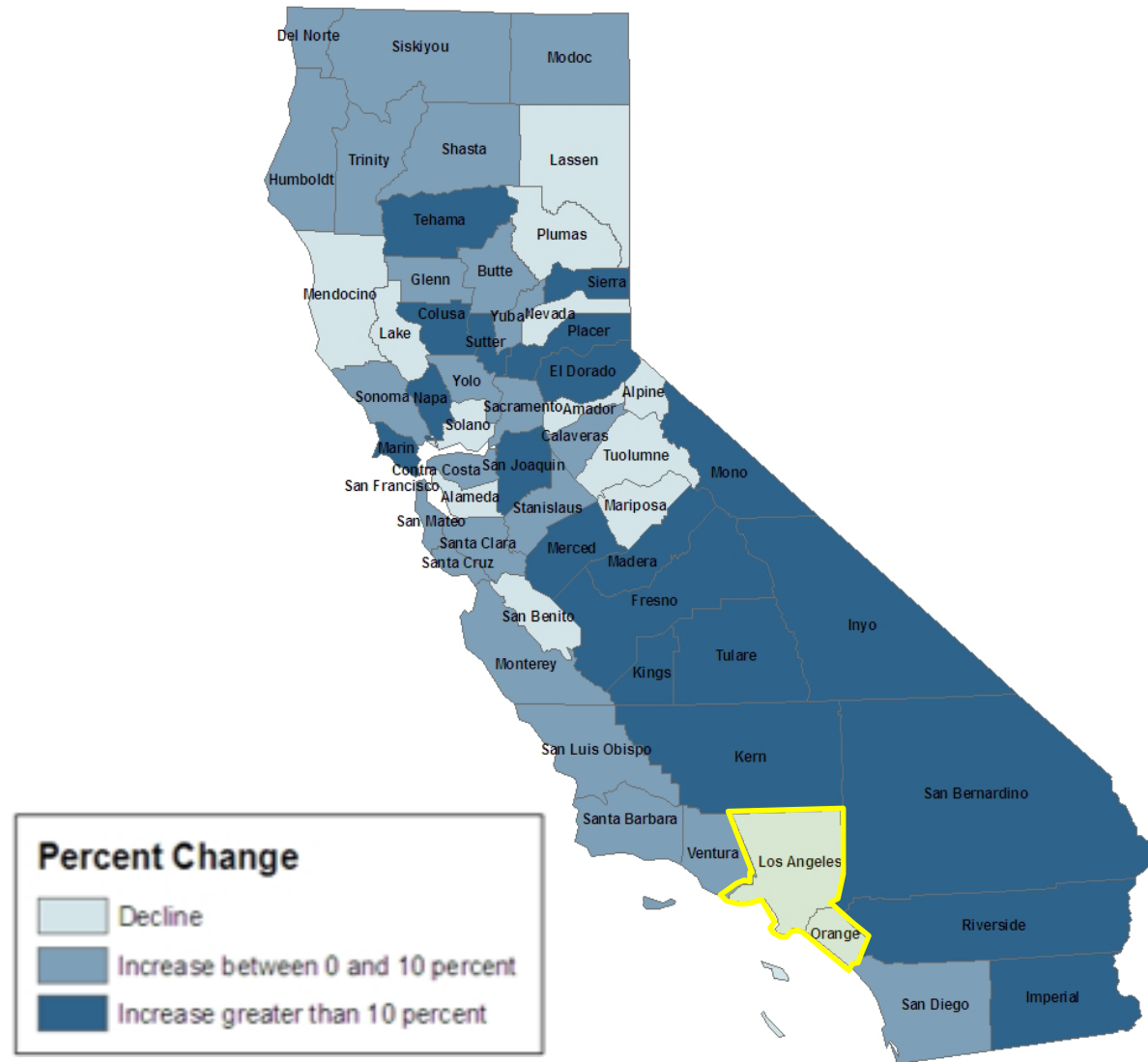
The revised projected growth was adjusted downward approximately 45%. Current projections now show a 1.7% growth rate. This slower projected growth is in line with the total population projections issued by the DOF in May, with the Meyers & Pitkin projections, and with SCAG's projections.

## California Public K-12 Graded Enrollment Change, 2008-19



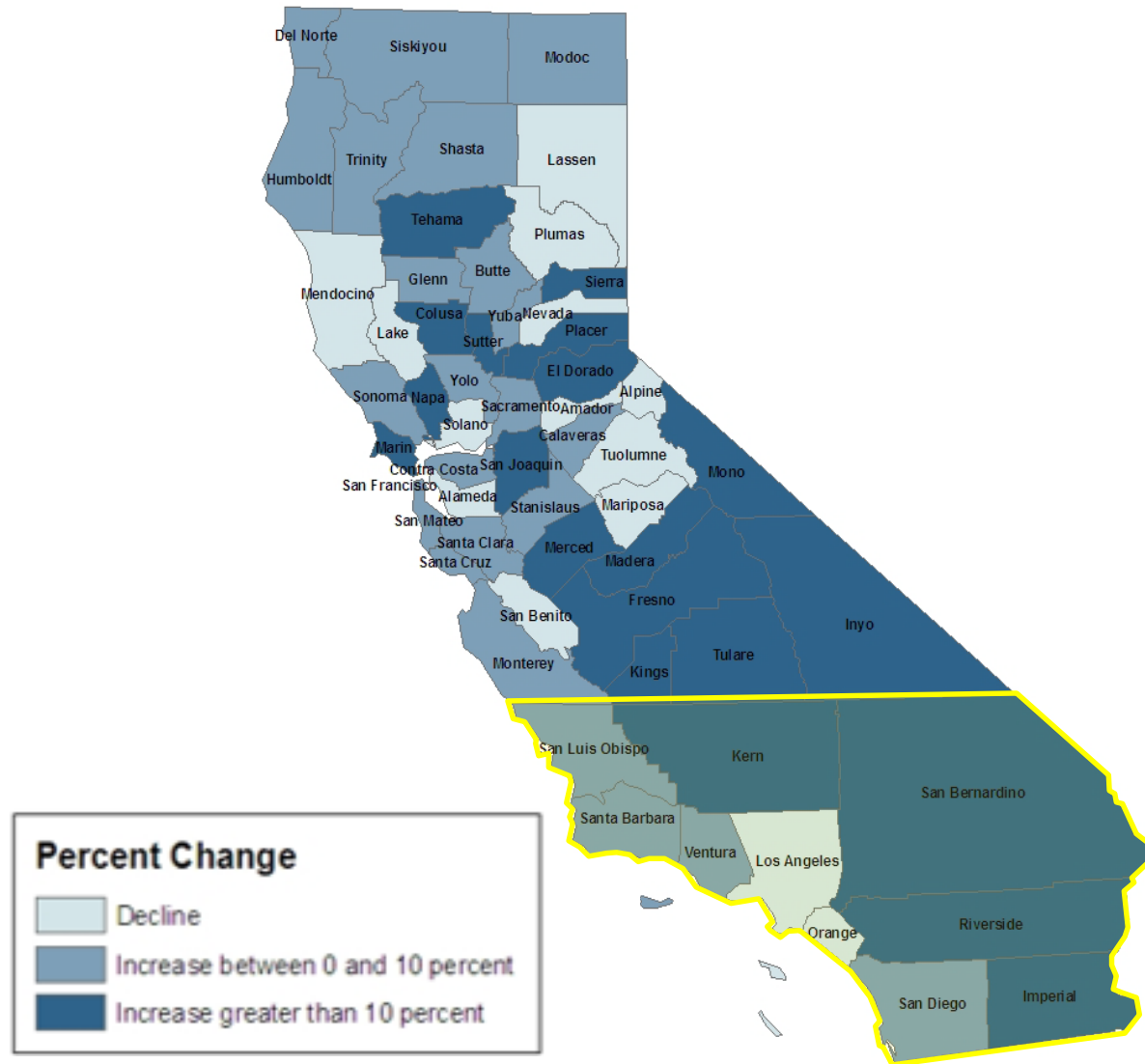
This map shows how DOF's previous K-12 enrollment projections, with its more rapid growth scenario, played out by county. We can see regional variations with some counties projected to grow and others decline. There is a clear coastal / inland county pattern: In general, coastal is declining and inland is growing.

## California Public K-12 Graded Enrollment Change, 2008-19



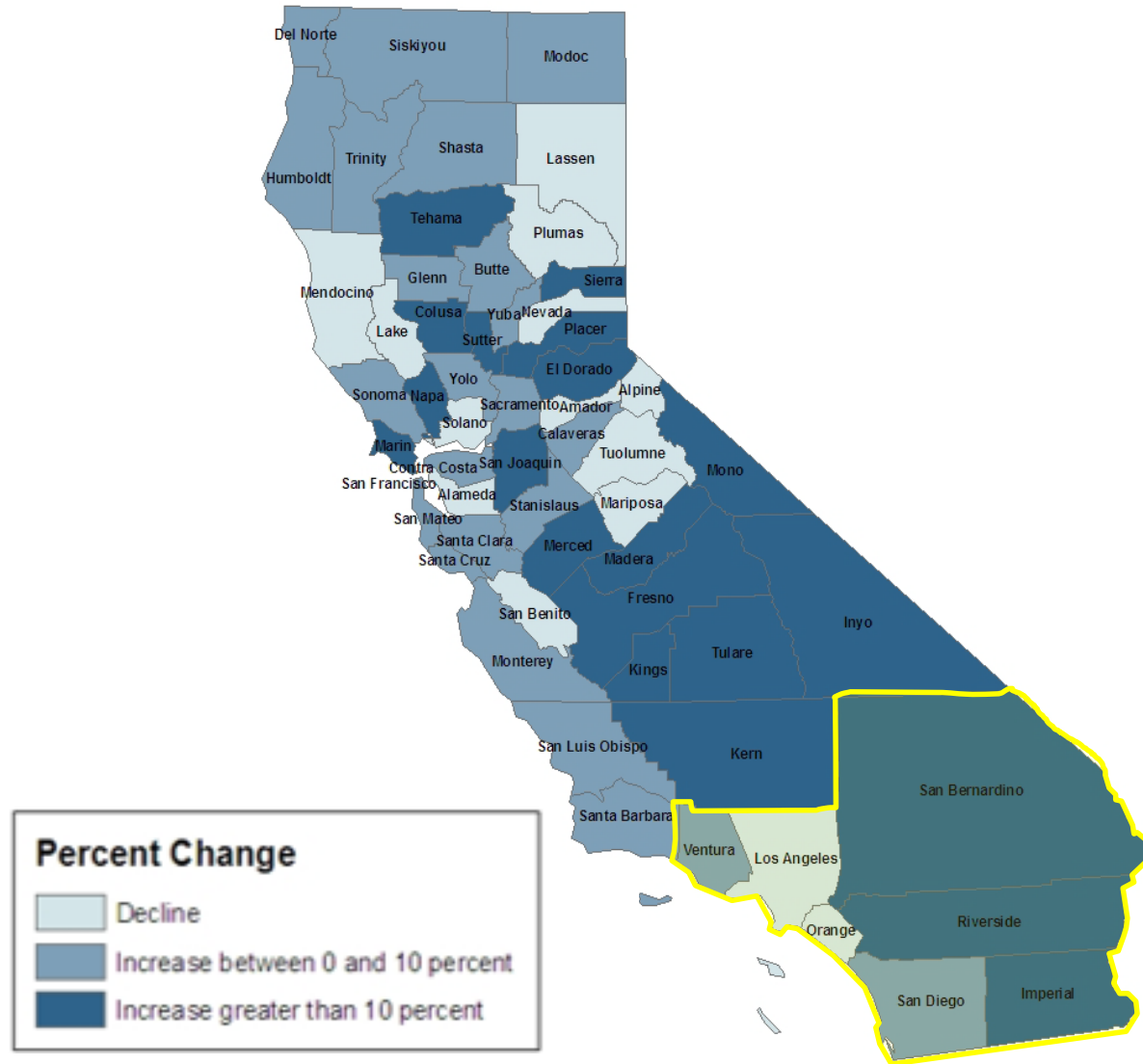
Note that, in this scenario, L.A. & Orange Counties are in decline.

## California Public K-12 Graded Enrollment Change, 2008-19



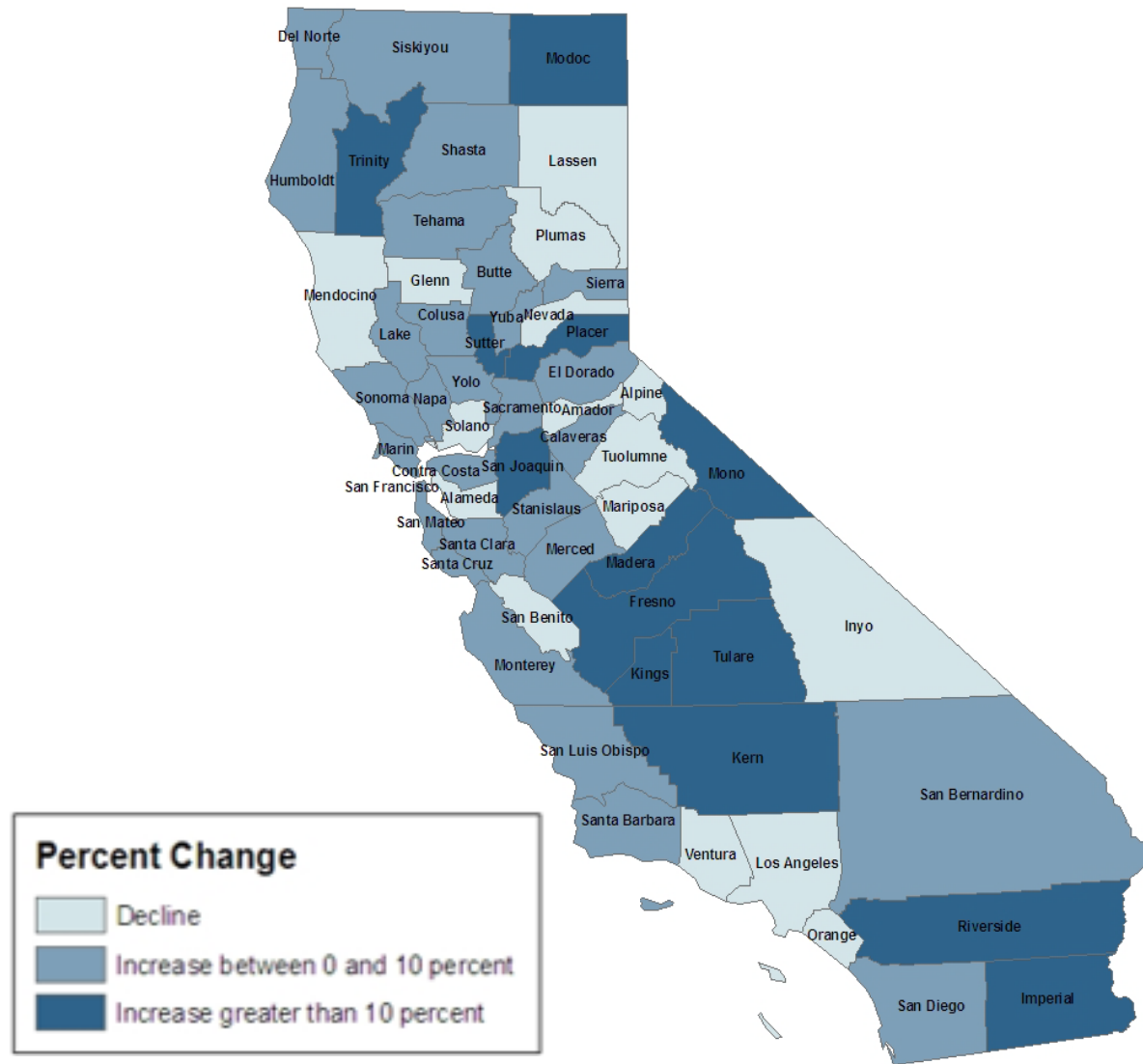
In this scenario, approximately 62% of the state's K-12 public school enrollment is enrolled within the ten southern counties in the state. That percentage is projected drop to 61% by 2020.

## California Public K-12 Graded Enrollment Change, 2008-19



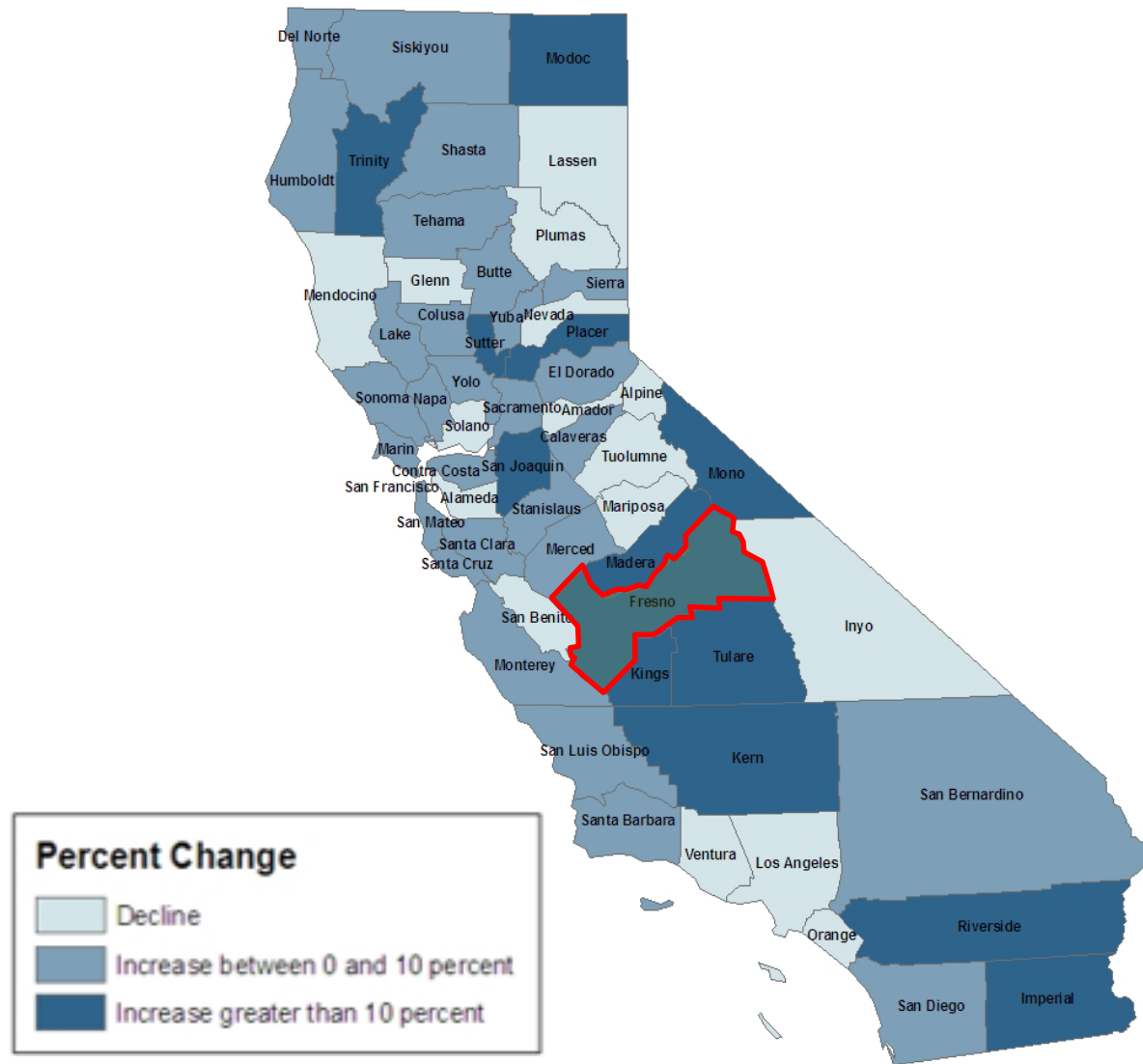
Over half (58%) of the state's K-12 public school enrollment is enrolled in the seven southern-most counties of Los Angeles: San Bernardino, Riverside, San Diego, Ventura, Orange, and Imperial. The percentage is projected to drop to 56% by 2020.

## California Public K-12 Graded Enrollment Change, 2010-20 **DOF REVISED**



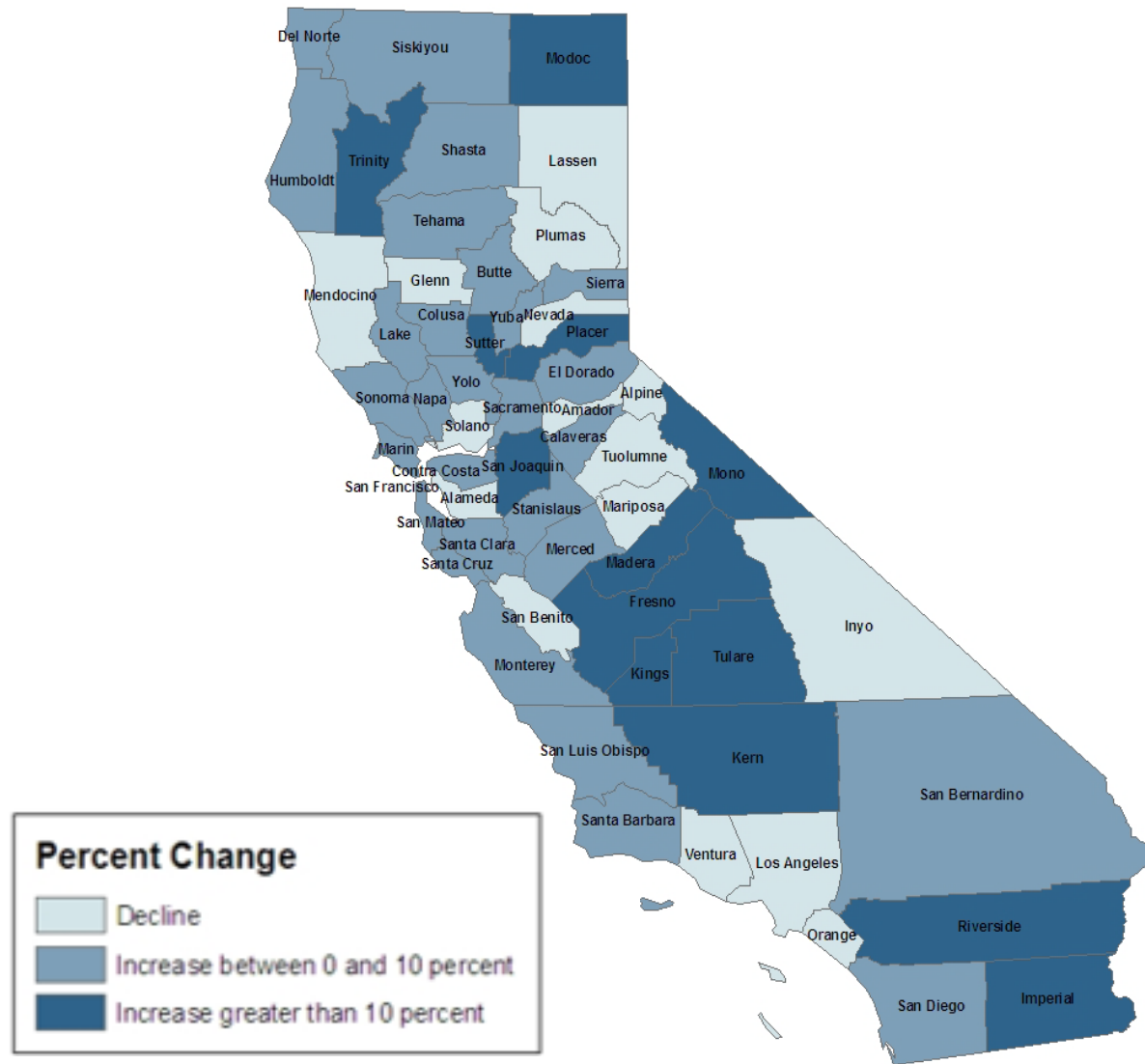
In the revised scenario, has ramped down their K-12 enrollment projections, showing slower growth expected among many counties. Bear in mind that rates of growth are not numeric increases. Counties with smaller base populations can easily display larger growth rates than counties with larger base populations, and larger base populations with slower growth may still mean larger numeric growth.

## California Public K-12 Graded Enrollment Change, 2010-20 **DOF REVISED**



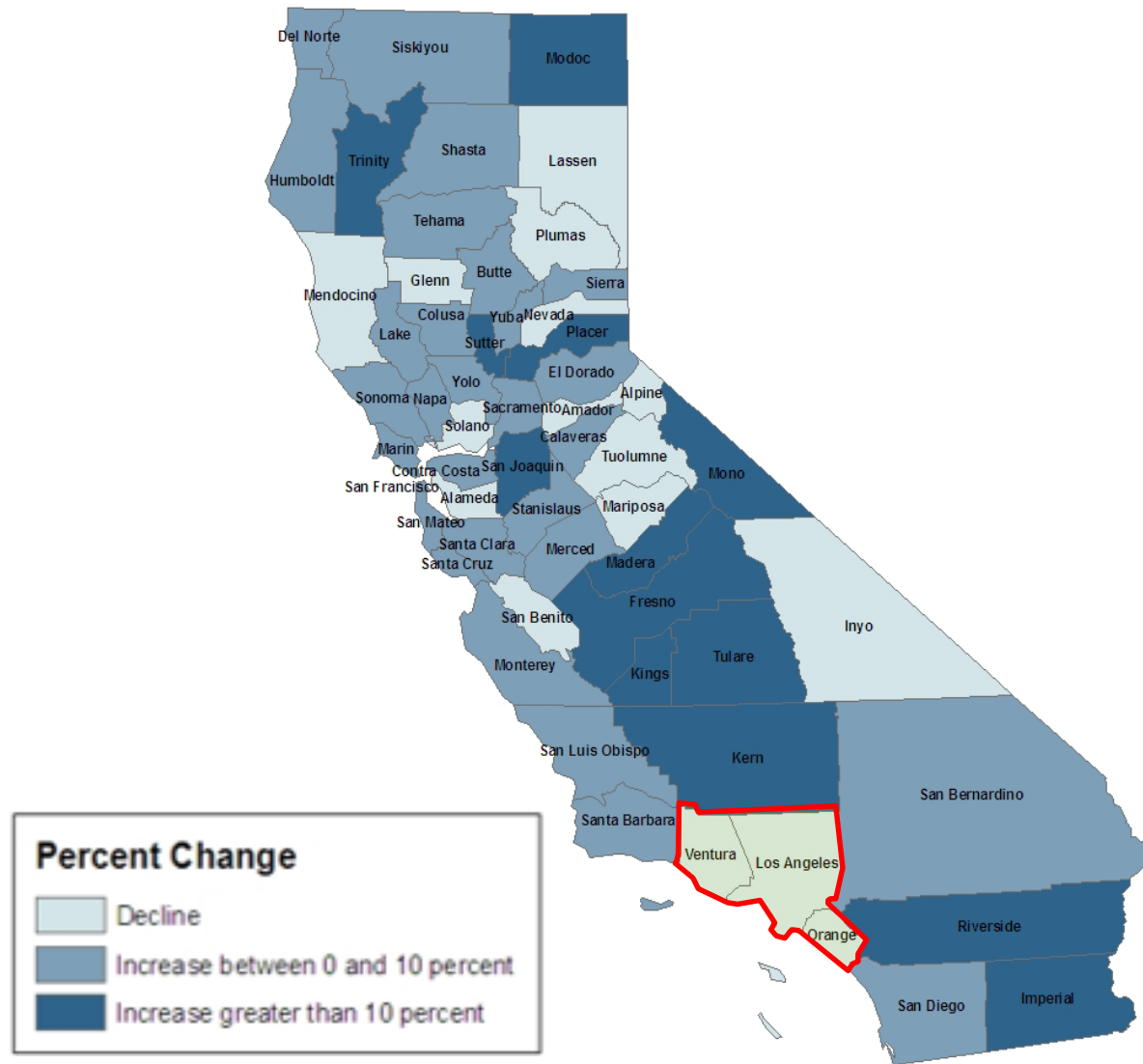
In this scenario, Central Valley counties are still expected to have the greatest growth, with Fresno having the greatest numeric and % growth in the Central Valley.

## California Public K-12 Graded Enrollment Change, 2010-20 **DOF REVISED**



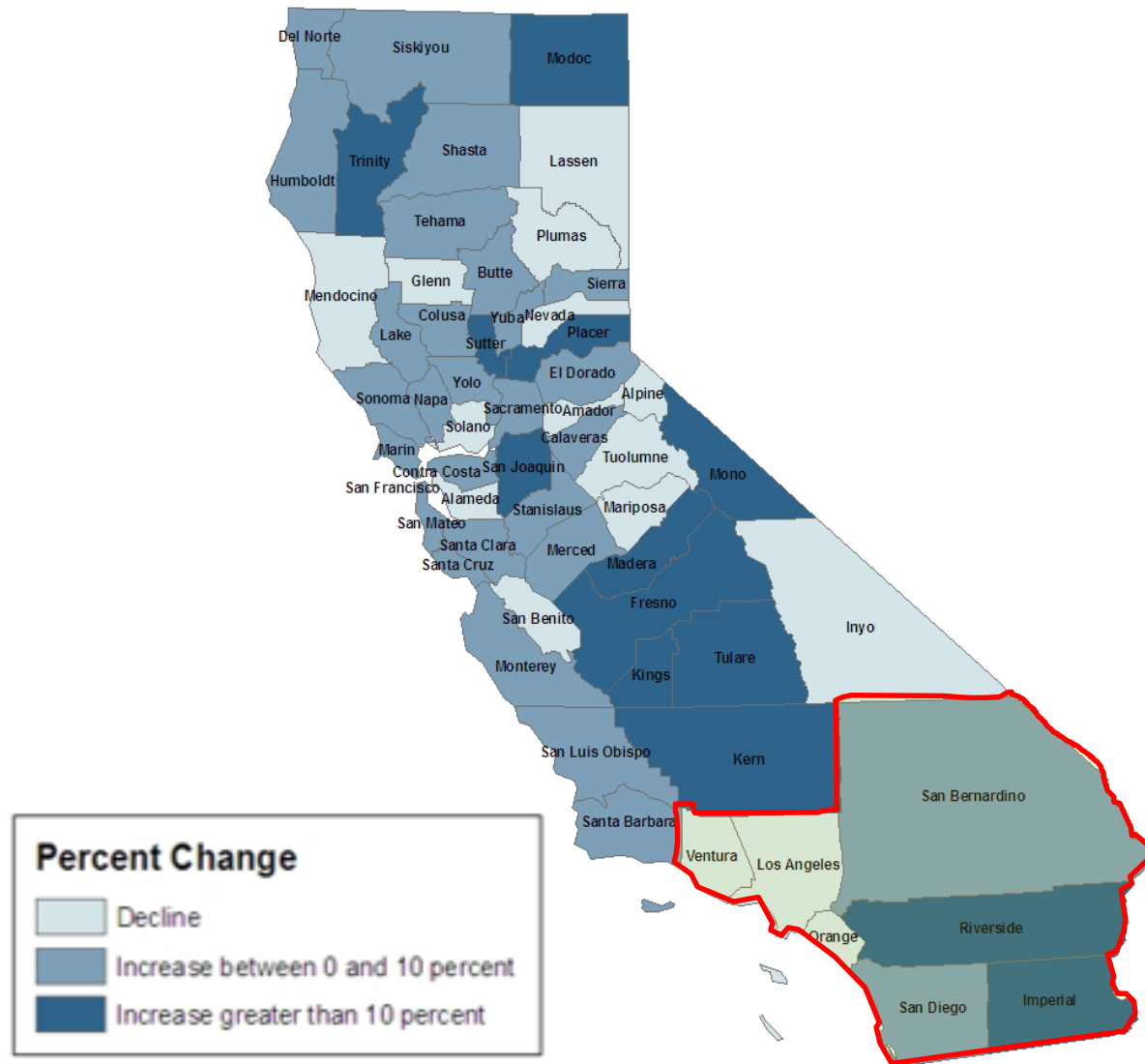
In general, inland counties still show the greatest increases in enrollments and coastal counties are generally in decline.

## California Public K-12 Graded Enrollment Change, 2010-20 **DOF REVISED**



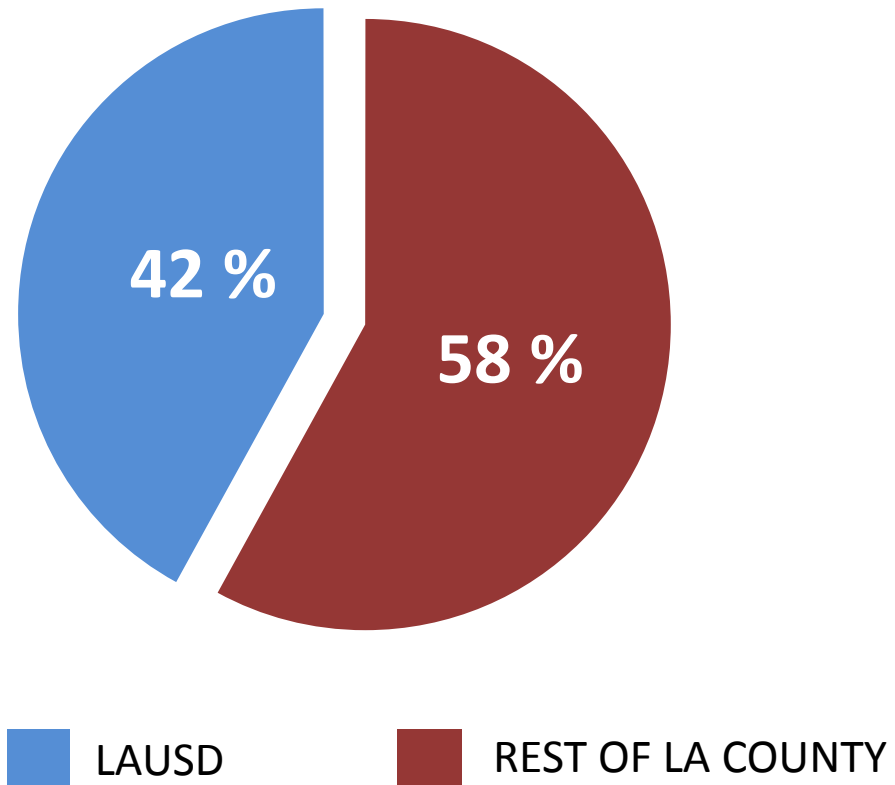
Note that L.A. & Orange Counties are still in decline, but they bare now joined by Ventura County.

## California Public K-12 Graded Enrollment Change, 2010-20 **DOF REVISED**



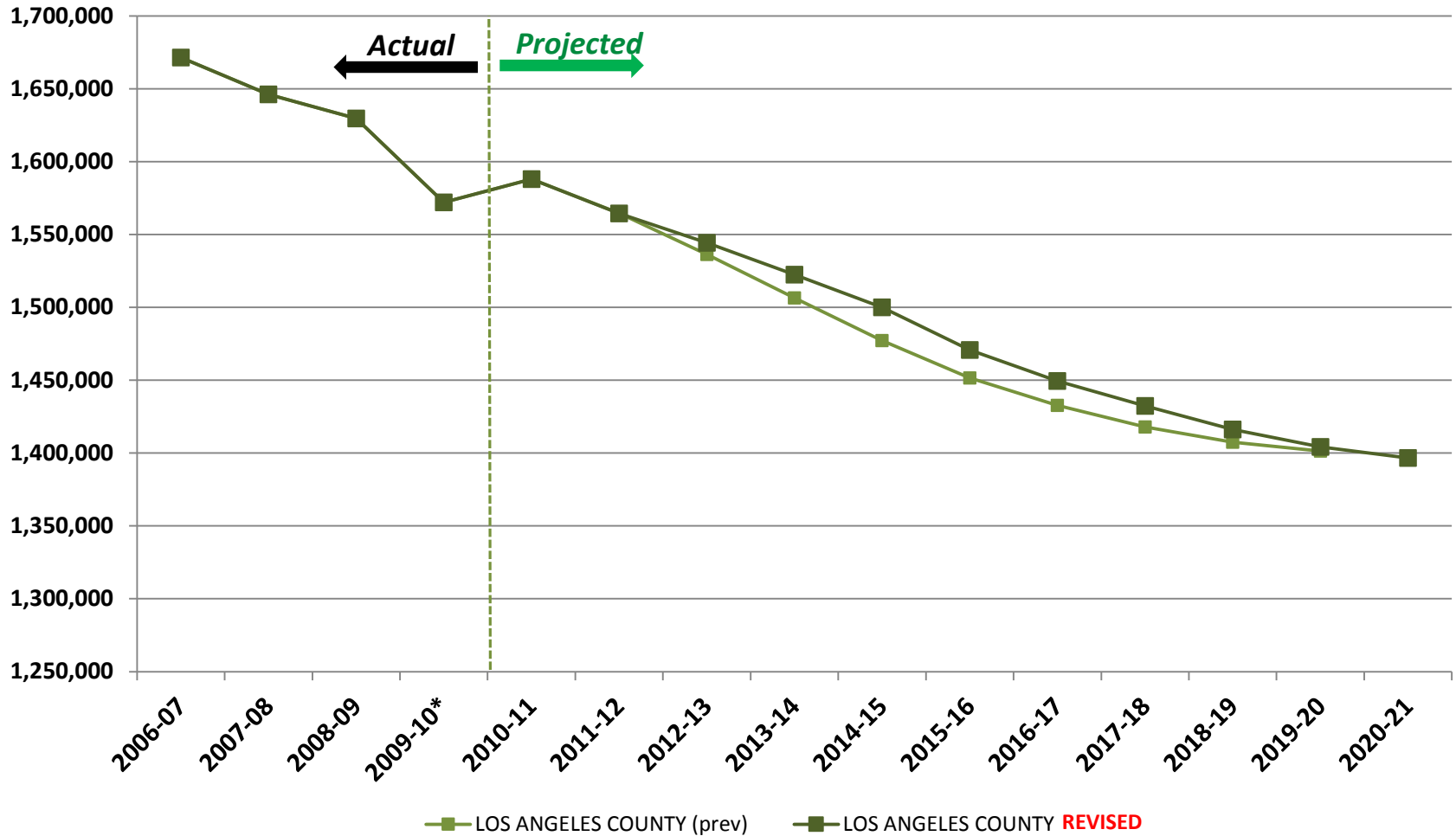
In this revised scenario, 55% of the state's K-12 public school enrollment is enrolled in the seven southern-most counties of Los Angeles: San Bernardino, Riverside, San Diego, Ventura, Orange, and Imperial. The percentage is now projected to drop to 53% by 2020.

## LAUSD ENROLLS 42% OF LA COUNTY'S K-12 PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS (SY 11-12)



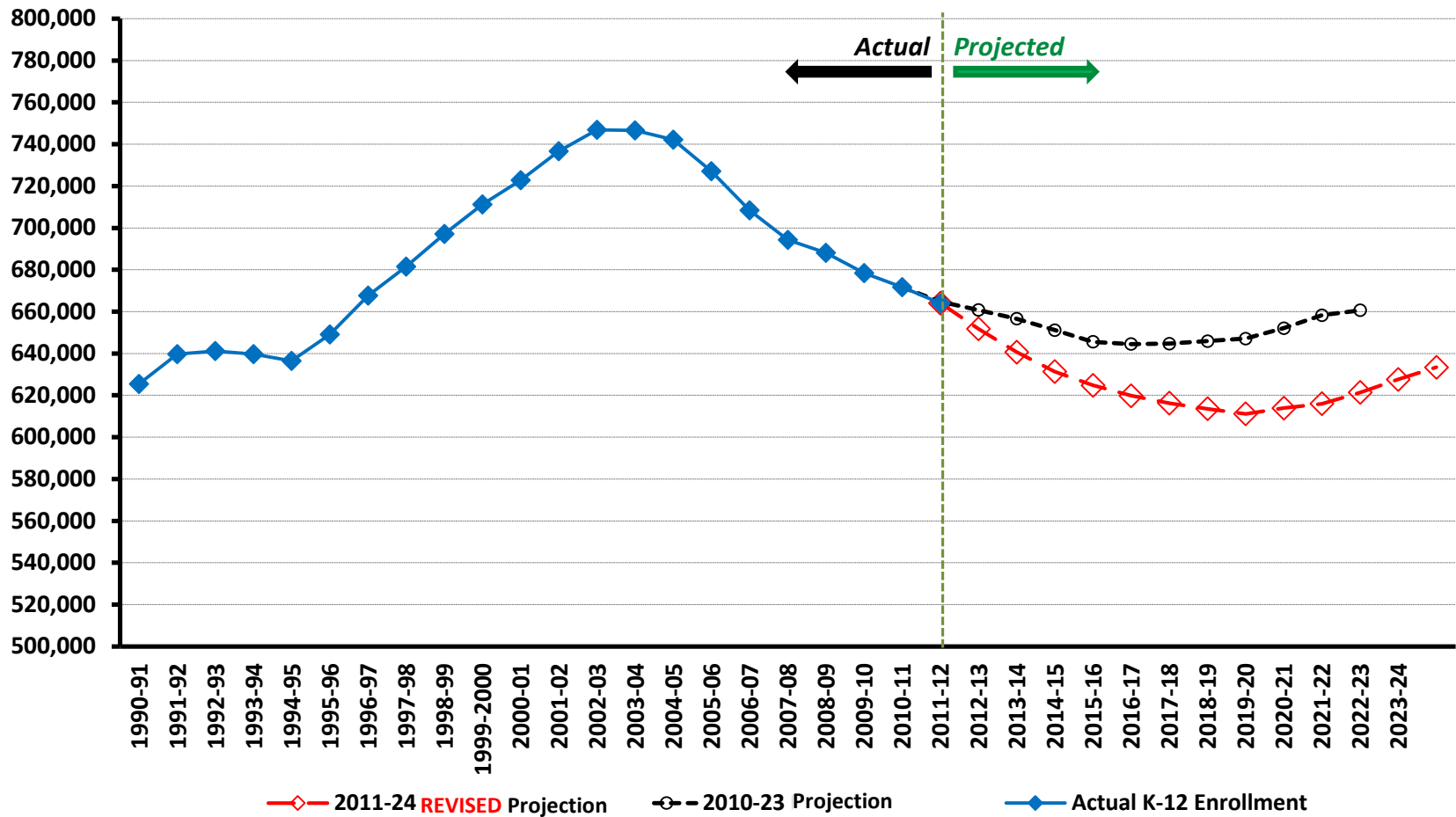
LAUSD currently enrolls about 42% of LA County's total K-12 enrollment, down from about 43% in SY 2001-02.

## LA County Projected Public K-12 Graded Enrollment



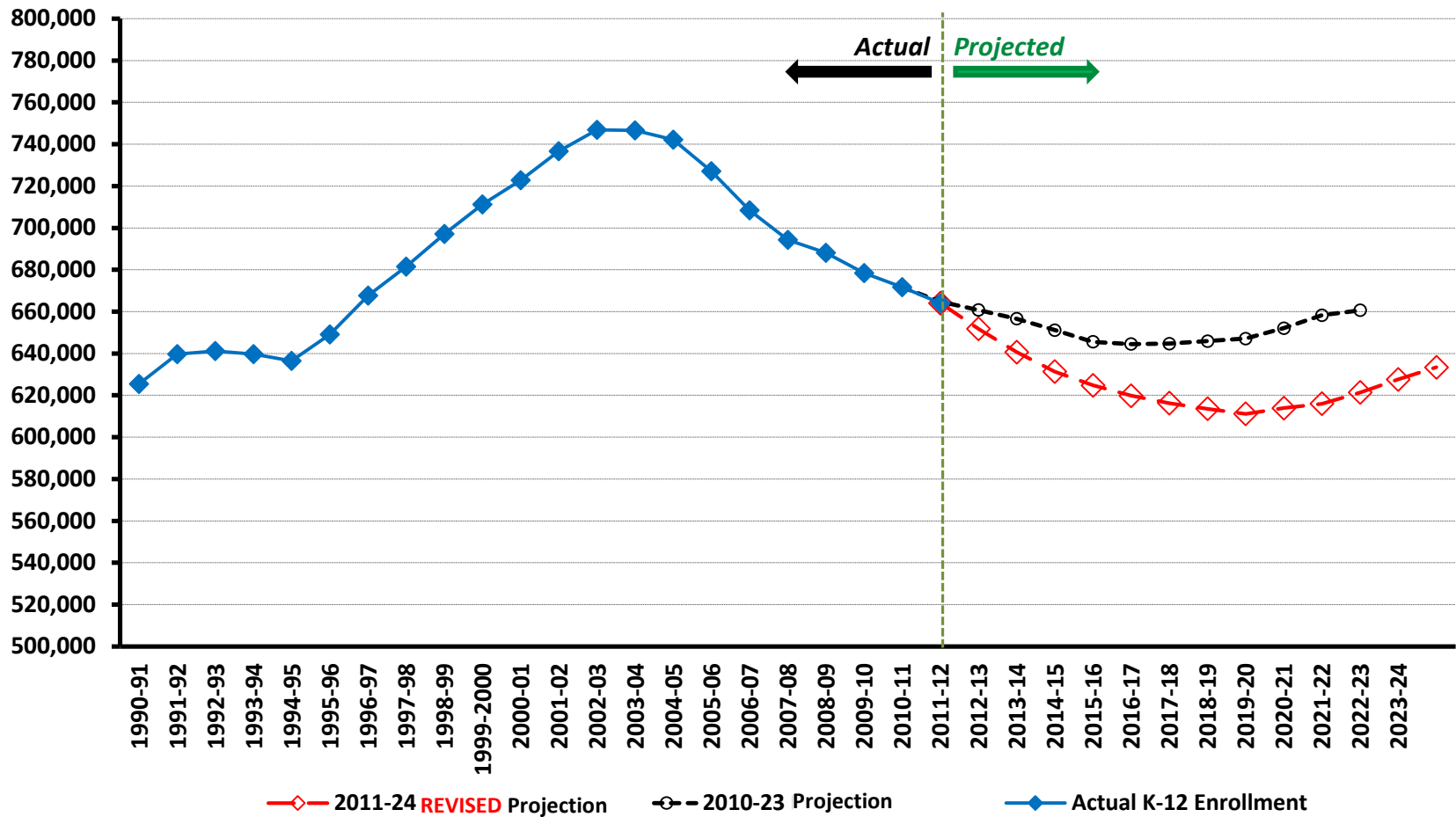
While the State projections have ramped down, the LA County projections have been adjusted slightly upwards. The largest adjustment, 1.5%, shows up in the 2014-15 school year. By 2019-20 both versions agree. The rate of change is flattening in the outer years, with signs that enrollments could begin to climb just beyond the projection horizon.

# LAUSD Projected Public K-12 Graded Enrollment



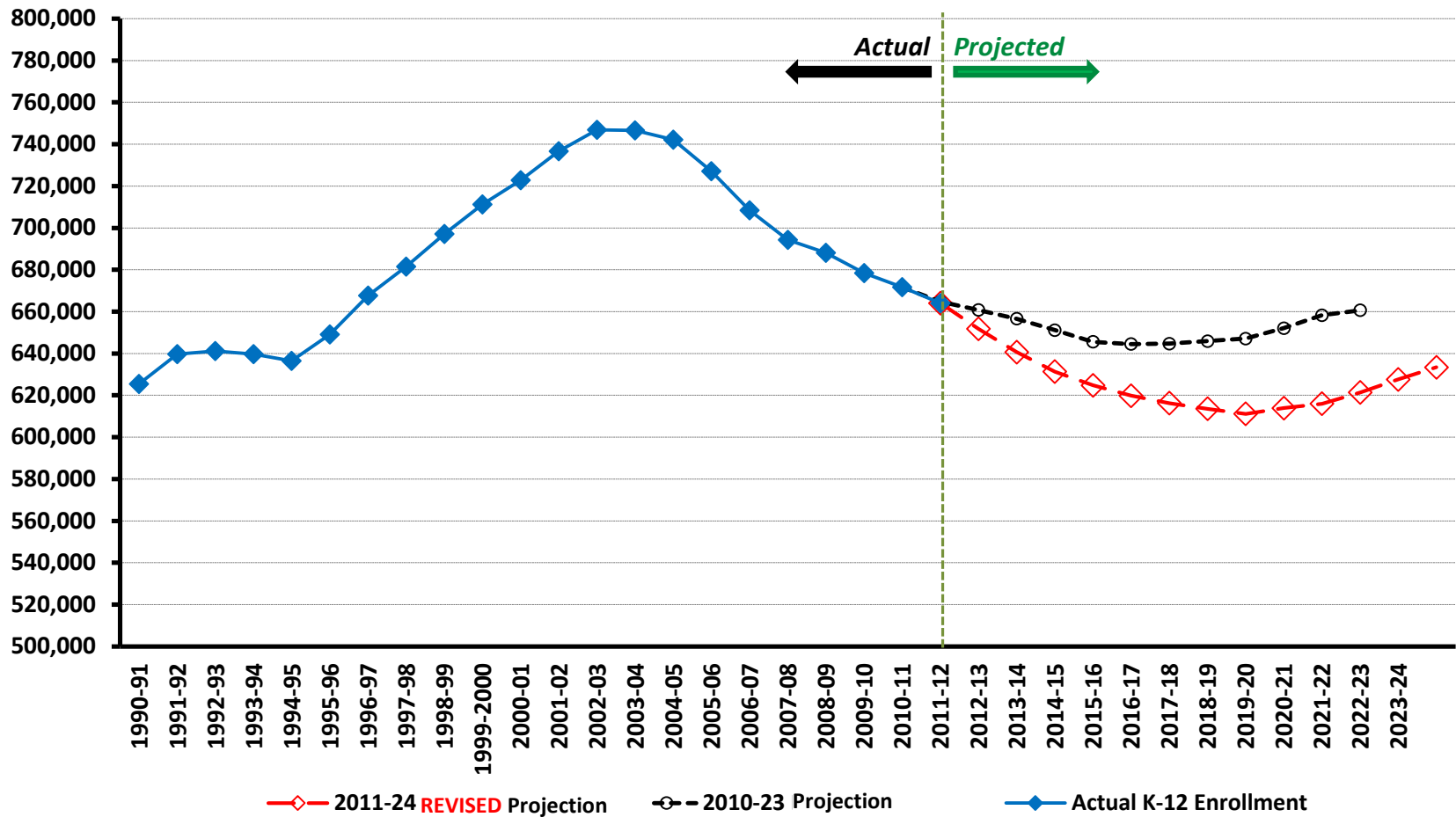
K-12 projections prepared by LAUSD are in agreement with the DOF's countywide projections that K-12 enrollment decline will continue for the immediate coming years. The differences between LA County's and LAUSD's projections center around the degree of decline and when a rebound will occur.

## LAUSD Projected Public K-12 Graded Enrollment



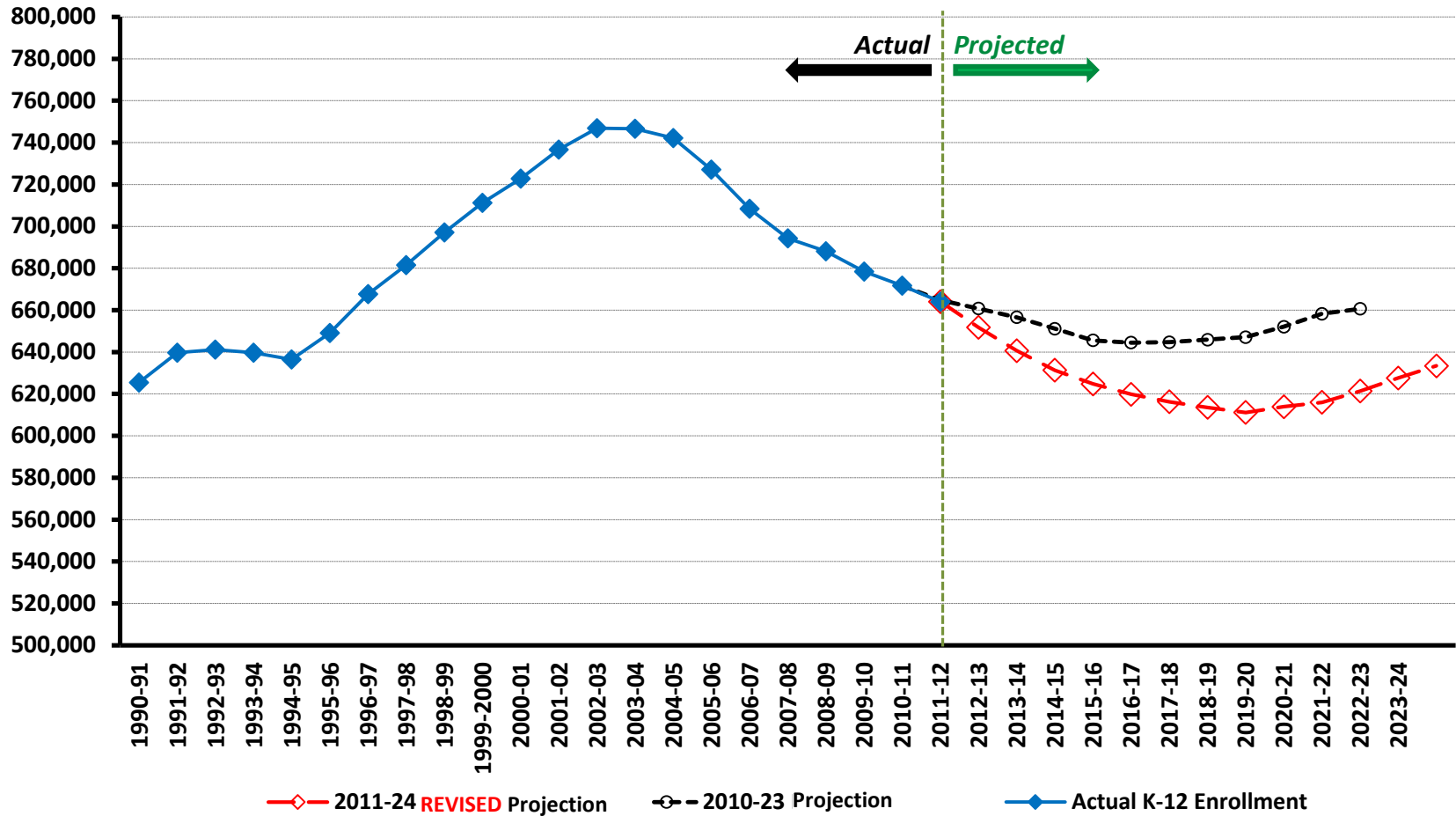
LAUSD's K-12 projections have also been adjusted downward. An earlier scenario predicted that enrollments would decline by 2.7% until 2016-17, and then rebound to close to 2011-12 levels. Revised projections extend the enrollment decline until 2019-2020 and with a steeper rate of decline, at 8%, and a more optimistic rebound, at 3.6%. However, the rebound does not replace all of the students lost because of the steeper rate of decline.

## LAUSD Projected Public K-12 Graded Enrollment

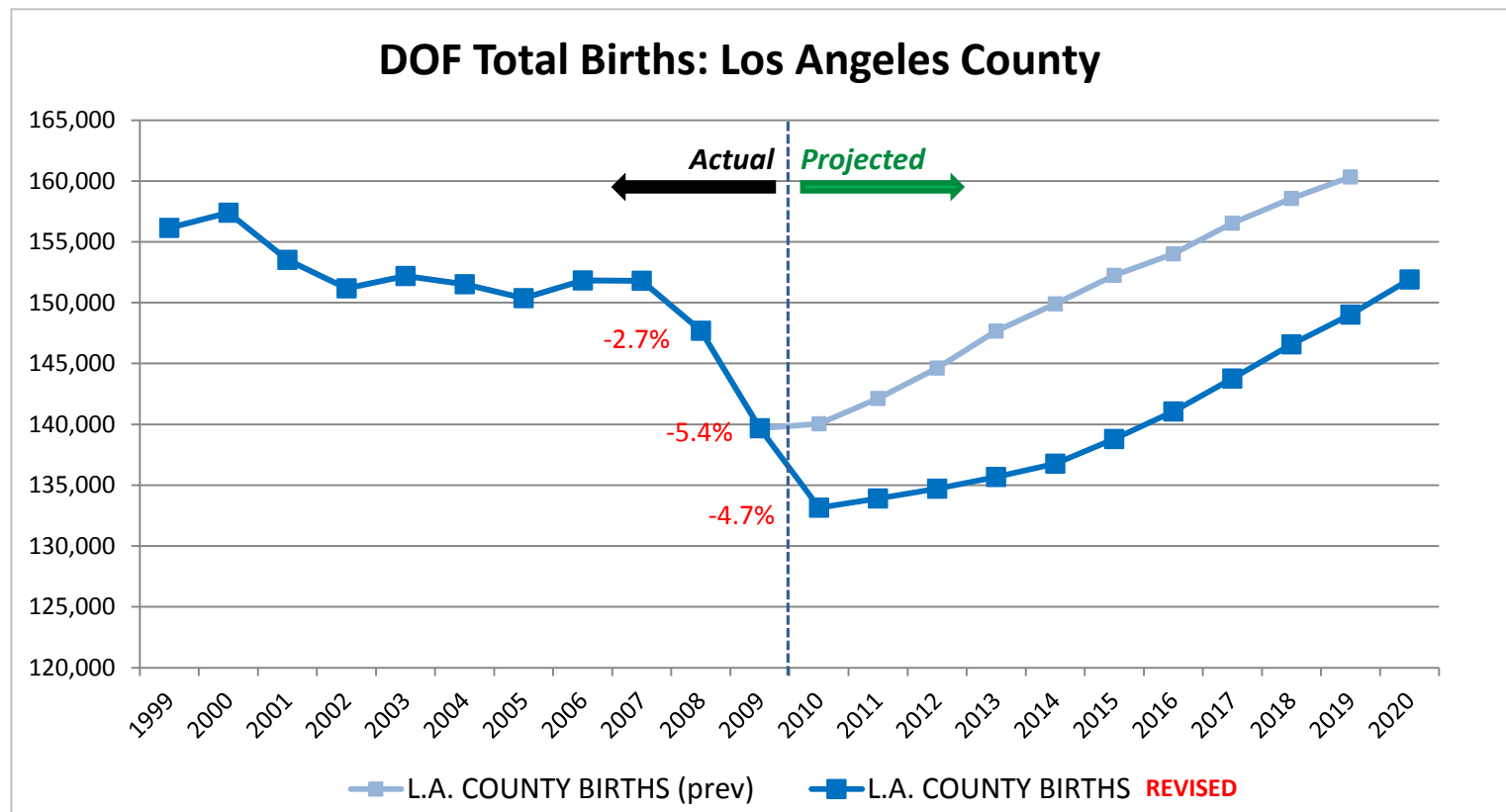


Only 22,000 (less than half) of the 53,000 students are back in the student pool by 2023-24, resulting in a projected net loss of about 31,000 students. For LA County, DOF projects a steeper decline (10% from 2011 through 2019) and continued decline through 2021. LAUSD'S projection is more optimistic than the DOF projection for LA County, due to a combination of programmatic and demographic, reasons, including:

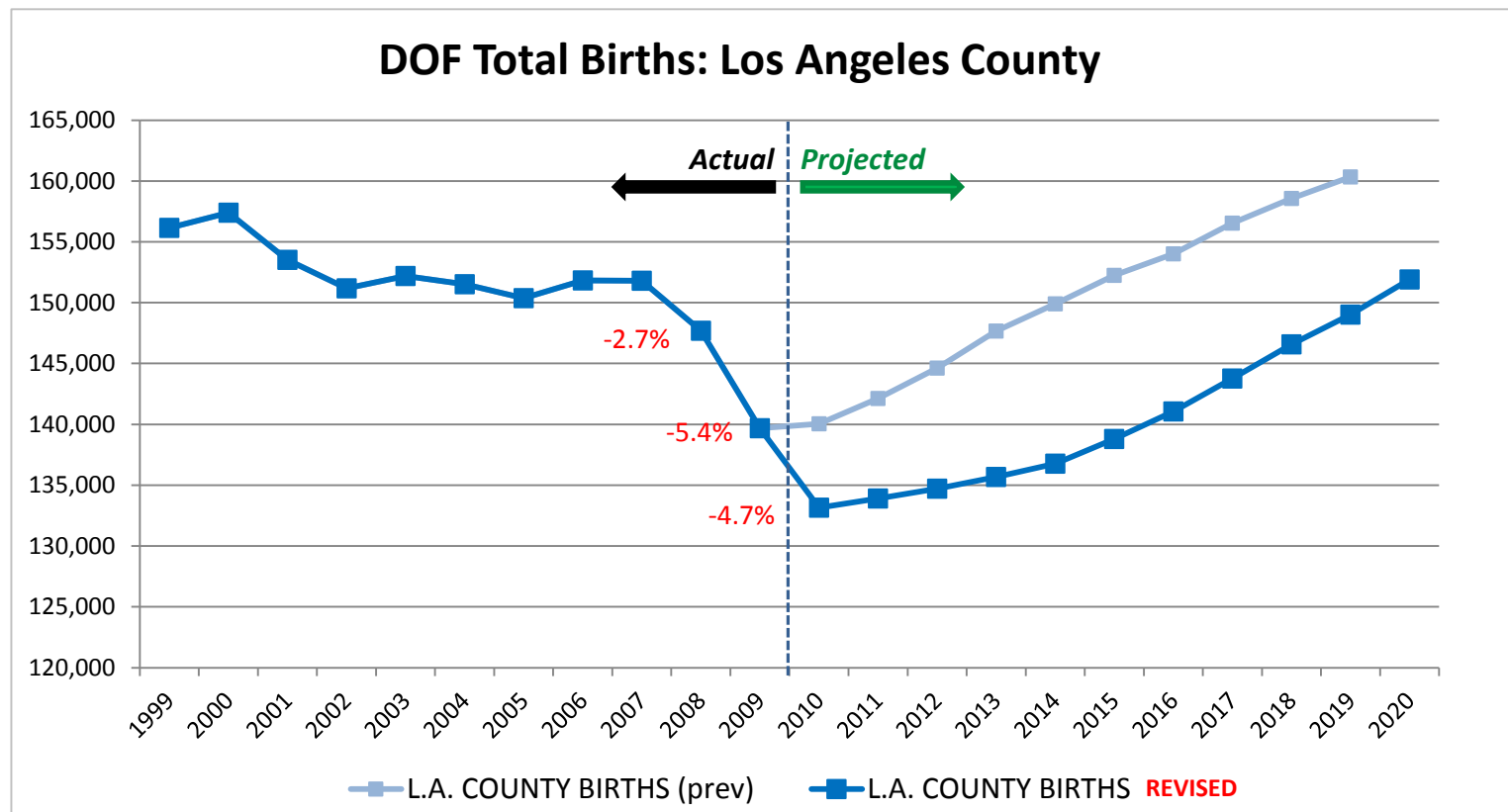
# LAUSD Projected Public K-12 Graded Enrollment



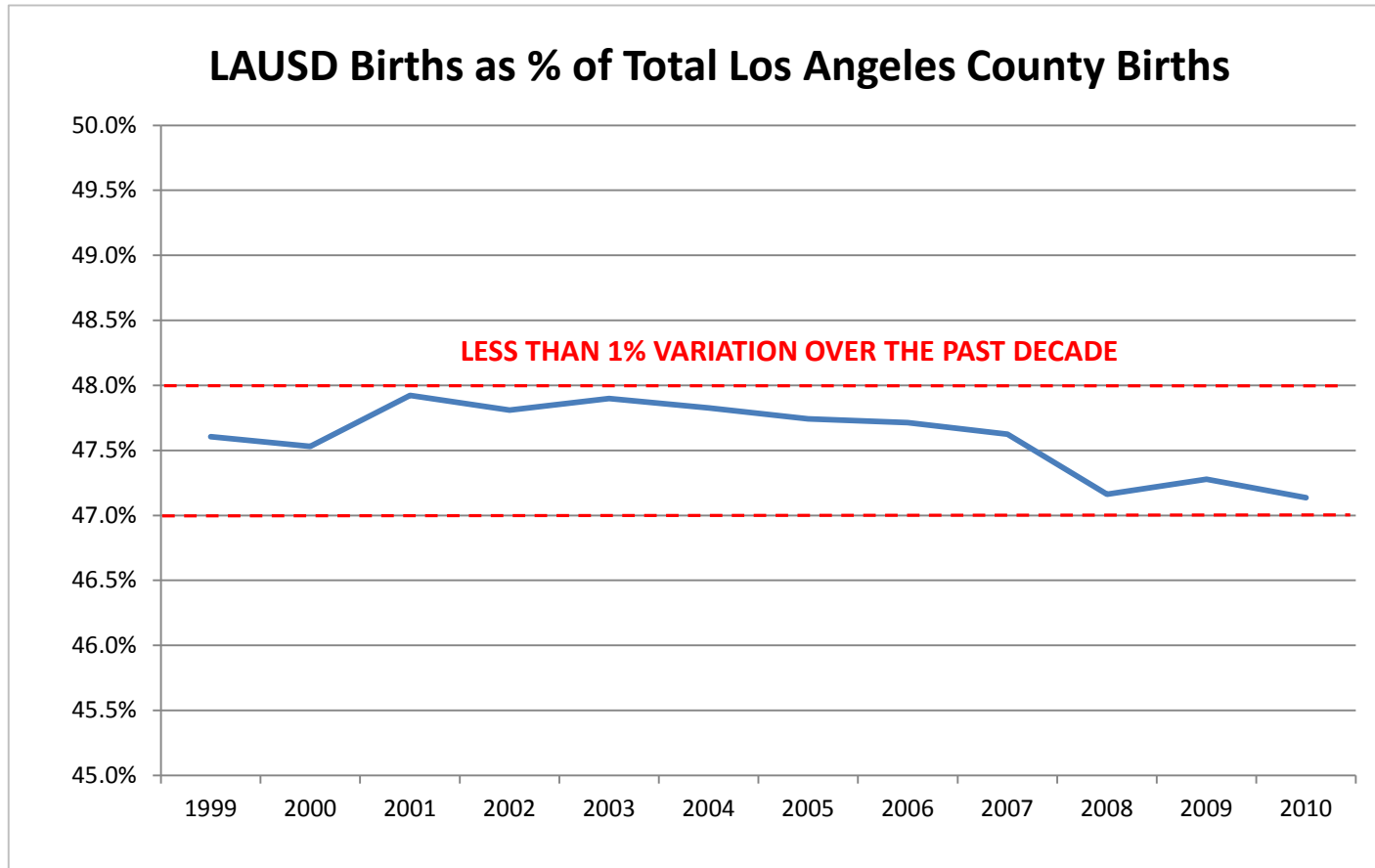
- 1) Expectation of improvements in grade-to-grade retentions rates
- 2) Less volatility in net out-migration of families
- 3) Better housing market now, and as economy improves, possibly resulting in higher in-migration of families
- 4) Private school enrollments continuing to decline, thus fewer students drawn away



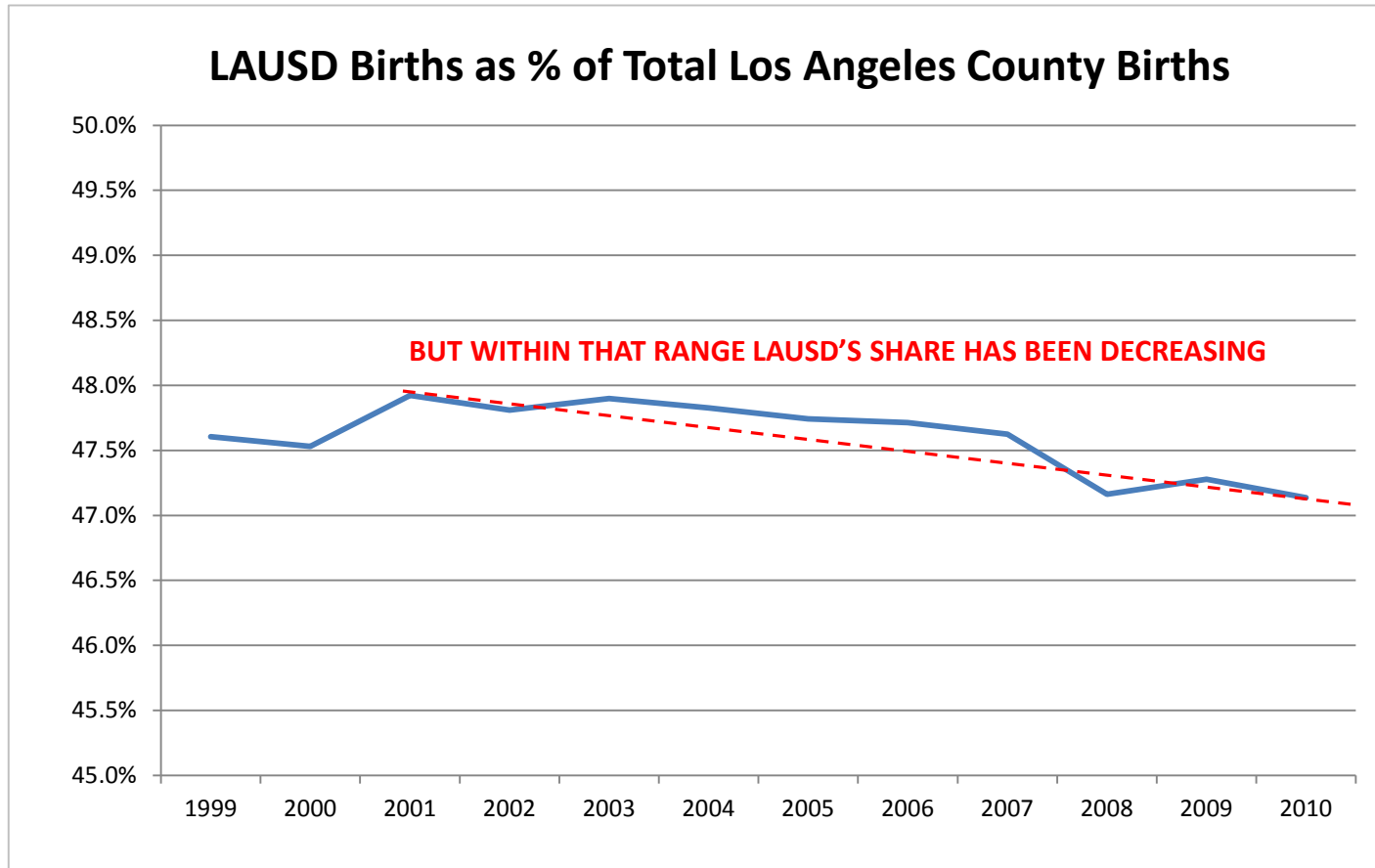
The DOF has also ramped its birth forecasts down. While the DOF's revised birth projections for LA County show a rebound, the number of births expected has been substantially decreased. Trends in births are a key element in LAUSD's enrollment forecasts. Births are the main predictor of Kindergarten enrollments 5-years later and Grade 1 enrollments 6 years later.



K-12 enrollment forecasts are also influenced by in- and out-migration, but, as in- and out-migration among young adults is projected to slow (“We have entered the new era of the ‘homegrown’ majority among young adults” Meyers & Pitkin), births will play a relatively greater role in determining K-12 student enrollment patterns.



LAUSD's share of LA County's births has remained fairly consistent over the past decade, within a 1% range, between 47.1% and 47.9% of LA County total births.



However, within that relatively consist range, LAUSD's share has been decreasing steadily since 2001. If this trend continues, it could amplify the effects of declining births on LAUSD's K-12 enrollments.

# Implications for LAUSD Long-Range Planning

***QUESTION: Why is LAUSD building new schools if enrollment is declining?***

There are implications of a revised California birth and population forecast for LAUSD's long-range planning. LAUSD is often asked, *"Why are you building new schools if enrollment is declining?"*

# Implications for LAUSD Long-Range Planning

***QUESTION: Why is LAUSD building new schools if enrollment is declining?***

***ANSWER: Capital Master Planning = Programmatic Requirements + Pedagogical Requirements + Demographics***

The answer is that capital master planning is not just about enrollment (demographics). It's also about how our school buildings are designed (programming) and how we teach students in those school buildings (pedagogy).

# Implications for LAUSD Long-Range Planning

***QUESTION: Why is LAUSD building new schools if enrollment is declining?***

***ANSWER: Capital Master Planning = Programmatic Requirements + Pedagogical Requirements + Demographics***

***Key Goals of LAUSD's New Construction Program:***

- ***Return schools to traditional, single-track calendar***
- ***Relieve over-crowding***
- ***Provide space for students to attend their resident schools***

For many decades, LAUSD did not keep up with its school facilities. The result was overcrowding, bussing, temporary classrooms, and multi-track calendars. The goals of LAUSD's new construction program are to catch up with LAUSD's programmatic requirements, to return LAUSD schools to a traditional, single-track calendar, to relieve overcrowding, and to provide space for students to attend their resident schools.

## Implications for LAUSD Long-Range Planning

*LAUSD's building program focuses on a 50- to 100-year horizon.*

A responsible building program has a 50-100 year horizon. Planners recognize that, with such a long timeline, there will be fluctuations in population and demographic 'waves,' but that a well-designed capital program will be able to adapt efficiently to change.

# Implications for LAUSD Long-Range Planning

*A good capital program must have enough capacity to adapt to:*

- **CHANGES IN POPULATION**
  - Enrollments will grow again in the foreseeable future
  - Seats need to be available for resident children

A good capital program must have enough capacity to remain flexible in the face of changes in population. A decline in enrollment today will be followed by growth in enrollment tomorrow. LAUSD's mandate is to have enough seating capacity to accommodate resident students over time without overcrowding or multi-track calendars.

# Implications for LAUSD Long-Range Planning

*A good capital program must have enough capacity to adapt to:*

- **CHANGES IN POPULATION**
  - Enrollments will grow again in the foreseeable future
  - Seats need to be available for resident children
- **CHANGES IN SCHOOL PROGRAMMING**
  - Rethinking school size: How big is too big? Are smaller schools better?
  - Are there enough seats to create smaller schools? Smaller classes?
  - Can the District afford them?

A good capital program must also have enough capacity to remain flexible in the face of changes in school programming. School size is a key example. How big is too big? Are smaller schools better? What about smaller class size? If a decision is made to downsize, how will more schools be provided, and how will they be paid-for?

# Implications for LAUSD Long-Range Planning

*A good capital program must have enough capacity to adapt to:*

- **CHANGES IN POPULATION**
  - Enrollments will grow again in the foreseeable future
  - Seats need to be available for resident children
- **CHANGES IN SCHOOL PROGRAMMING**
  - Rethinking school size: How big is too big? Are smaller schools better?
  - Are there enough seats to create smaller schools? Smaller classes?
  - Can the District afford them?
- **CHANGES IN SCHOOL CHOICE MODELS**
  - Expanding choice: shifting strategies and priorities
  - Growth of the Charter Schools movement
  - The challenges of managing Charter School co-locations

The capital program must be able to accommodate changes in school choice models. LAUSD's array of student choices has expanded through the increase in Charter Schools, option areas, and Charter School co-locations. Such changes require planning priorities and strategies to shift accordingly.

# Implications for LAUSD Long-Range Planning

*A good capital program must have enough capacity to adapt to:*

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  - Can the District afford them?
- **CHANGES IN SCHOOL CHOICE MODELS**
  - Expanding choice: shifting strategies and priorities
  - Growth of the Charter Schools movement
  - The challenges of managing Charter School co-locations
- **CHANGES IN FUNDING**
  - Challenges of chronically underfunding K-12 education
  - Impacts of higher teacher staffing Norms on class size
  - Impacts of downsizing – hazards and opportunities

The capital program must be able to accommodate changes in funding. Funding formulas directly impact class size and teacher staffing. A District's efforts to move to downsizing and smaller schools may be derailed by funding changes that necessitate larger class sizes or fewer teachers.

# Implications for LAUSD Long-Range Planning

## *LAUSD's long range capital planning issues:*

*The economic crises is driving school districts to 'do more with less'*

- *Higher teacher-student ratios*
- *Fewer staff and teachers*
- *Loss of institutional knowledge*

*Enrollments will decline and then grow in future*

- *How to plan for the needed seats now and in the future*
- *What are the implications of charter co-locations?*

LAUSD's new construction program will build and open 3 more new schools by 2014, which will complete its new construction program. Long-range planning issues and challenges revolve around the current financial crisis and the increasing mandate to do 'more with less.'

# Notes

- **Slides 8-10** – State of California, Department of Finance, *California Public K-12 Graded Enrollment and High School Graduate Projections by County, 2011 Series*. Sacramento, California, February 2011 & October 2011. Excludes ungraded enrollment . Excludes CEA and special schools. Actual enrollment data to 2009-10 (previous) and 2010-11 school year. Enrollment reporting change- 2006-07 school year. Enrollment reporting change- 2009-10 school year. Incomplete enrollment data for 2009-10 and 2010-11 school years.
- **Slides 11-14** –State of California, Department of Finance, *California Public K-12 Graded Enrollment and High School Graduate Projections by County, 2011 Series*. Sacramento, California, February 2011.
- **Slides 15-19** State of California, Department of Finance, *California Public K-12 Graded Enrollment and High School Graduate Projections by County, 2011 Series*. Sacramento, California, October 2011.
- **Slide 20** - LA County Office of Education, (LACOE) Fingertip Facts, 2011-12; LAUSD Fingertip Facts, 2011-12. Data prepared and reported by Master Planning and Demographics Unit, LAUSD.
- **Slide 21** - State of California, Department of Finance, *California Public K-12 Graded Enrollment and High School Graduate Projections by County, 2011 Series*. Sacramento, California, February 2011 & October 2011. Excludes ungraded enrollment . Excludes CEA and special schools. Actual enrollment data to 2009-10 (prev) and 2010-11 school year. Enrollment reporting change- 2006-07 school year. Enrollment reporting change- 2009-10 school year. Incomplete enrollment data for 2009-10 and 2010-11 school years.
- **Slides 22-25** – LAUSD Master Planning and Demographics Unit, 2010-2011 (February 2011) & 2011-12 Series, (February 2012). Includes ungraded enrollments; affiliated and independent charters; opportunity schools; stand-alone magnets.
- **Slides 26-27** - State of California, Department of Finance, Demographic Research Unit. *Historical and Projected State and County Births, 1980-2020, with Actual and Projected Fertility Rates by Mother's Age and Race/Ethnicity, 2000-2020*. Sacramento, California: October 2011.
- **Slides 28-29**- LAUSD Master Planning and Demographics Unit, SY 2011-12 Birth Projection Series.

# The Los Angeles Unified School District:

- Enrolled 664,233 students in grades K-12 in SY11-12
- Is second in size only to New York City Public Schools (*within the U.S.A.*)
- Covers 710 square miles
- Serves all or part of 28 cities and multiple unincorporated areas
- Serves over 40% of LA County's general & school-aged populations

**For further information please contact:**

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