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BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Order Instituting Rulemaking on the
Commission's own Motion Into
Competition for Local Exchange
Service.

R.95-04-043
(Filed April 26, 1995)

Order Instituting Investigation on the
Commission's own Motion Into
Competition for Local Exchange
Service.

I.95-04-044
(Filed April 26, 1995)

REPORT ON THE 949 AREA CODE

Submitted in Compliance with California Public Utilities
Code Section 7937, CPUC Decision 99-12-051, and Administrative Law Judge
Ruling Issued on January 18, 2000

CALIFORNIA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
TELECOMMUNICATIONS DIVISION

Respectfully submitted
July 25, 2001

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REPORT ON THE 949 AREA CODE

**CALIFORNIA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
TELECOMMUNICATIONS DIVISION**

July 25, 2001

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Like much of the country, California currently is experiencing a numbering crisis. From 1947 to January 1997, the number of area codes in this state increased gradually from 3 to 13. During the next three years, however, the number of area codes in California nearly doubled. By the end of 1999, California had 25 area codes. The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) recently has implemented several measures intended to ensure efficient use of telephone numbers. Without the implementation of major number conservation measures, the telecommunications industry had plans underway to add 22 more area codes in California by the end of 2003, resulting in a statewide total of 47 area codes.

This study recounts the history of the 949 area code, now covering most of southern Orange County. Created in 1998 as California's 20th area code when it split from the 714 area code, most of the 949 area code is contained within the Orange County Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), with the remainder contained within the San Diego MSA. This report should be viewed in a broader context than the facts pertaining solely to the 949 area code. The report evaluates the status of number availability in the 949 area code, and discusses the various state and federal policies which govern number use in California and nationwide. In addition, the report analyzes number use by carrier category and identifies what measures the CPUC can employ in the 949 and other area codes to improve efficiency of number use in order to avoid prematurely opening new area codes. Data is self-reported by the companies; the CPUC staff has not audited any of the 949 utilization data submitted for this study and report.

The utilization study sheds new light on the numbering crisis in the 949 area code. The data reveals that despite increasing demand for numbers, the 949 area code is not fully utilized. The study found that, of the 7.8 million useable numbers in the 949 area code, approximately 5.7 million, or almost three-fourths, presently are not in use. The data further establishes that the 949 area code possesses considerable room for growth, and thus, aggressive measures such as splits or overlays are not yet warranted in the 949

area code. The report further urges the CPUC to seek from the FCC authority to implement Unassigned Number Porting (UNP) as a means to more efficiently use numbers still available in the 949 area code.

This report is filed in compliance with CPUC Decision (D.) 99-12-051, and with AB 406, enacted by the California Legislature in the 1999 legislative session. (Chapter 99-809, 1999.) AB 406, codified as Public Utilities Code Section 7937, requires the CPUC to obtain historical telephone number use data from every telecommunications company in California. The CPUC's Telecommunications Division (TD) first obtained and analyzed data from the 310 area code in Los Angeles late in 1999, and produced a utilization report on 310 in March, 2000. In November 2000, TD completed utilization reports covering the 415, 510, 818, and 909 area codes, in March 2001 TD completed utilization reports covering the 408, 619, 650, and 714 area codes and in May 2001 TD completed utilization reports covering the 323, 562, 916 and 925 area codes. This report on the 949 area code continues TD's analysis covering number utilization levels in specific area codes.

BACKGROUND

The 949 area code contains approximately 7.8 million useable telephone numbers. These numbers are available to telecommunications companies, which obtain the numbers from the North American Numbering Plan Administrator (NANPA),¹ and in turn, assign the numbers to their customers for their immediate use. Alternatively, companies may reserve numbers for future use, or retain numbers for some internal (administrative) use. Some companies provide blocks of numbers to resellers or "dealers", which then assign those numbers to customers. The FCC deems numbers that companies allocate to resellers to be "intermediate" numbers. In addition, each assigned number, after disconnection, must "age" during a transition period before assignment to the next customer. Many companies have inventories of numbers in the "aging" process. Finally, some numbers are not available for public use, as they have been set aside for

¹ NANPA is an entity currently managed by NeuStar, Inc. The FCC chose NeuStar, formerly Lockheed

emergency purposes, for technical network support, or for other reasons. The FCC has defined numbers in these five categories – assigned, administrative, reserved, intermediate, or aging – as unavailable, either because they are already in use or are designated for some present or future use.

FINDINGS

TD's analysis shows that, of the 5.7 million available numbers, 3.4 million are available for allocation to companies in a lottery process. Companies possess the remaining 2.3 million unused numbers. Wireline carriers, such as Pacific Bell and many competitive local exchange carriers, hold roughly 1.7 million available numbers, while wireless carriers² hold approximately 600,000 available numbers.

At the same time, the 949 study finds that under FCC rules, about 1.6 million numbers cannot be contributed to the 949 number lottery, nor can they be contributed to a future 949 number pool for reassignment to other companies. The FCC has determined that wireless carriers do not have to participate in number pools at this time.³ In addition, the FCC has determined that the CPUC may only require wireline carriers to contribute to a number pool those blocks of 1,000 numbers that are 10% or less contaminated,⁴ meaning those blocks in which only 100 or fewer numbers are unavailable. However, wireline carriers may also keep a portion of the 10% or less contaminated blocks if they need to use those blocks within six months. Thus, 1.6 million numbers out of the 5.7 million unused numbers in the 949 area code are available only to the companies holding those numbers, because they are held by wireless carriers, are in blocks that are more than 10% contaminated, or are in blocks 10% or less contaminated but kept for six-month inventory. The study further finds that, of the 5.7 million numbers not in use, a

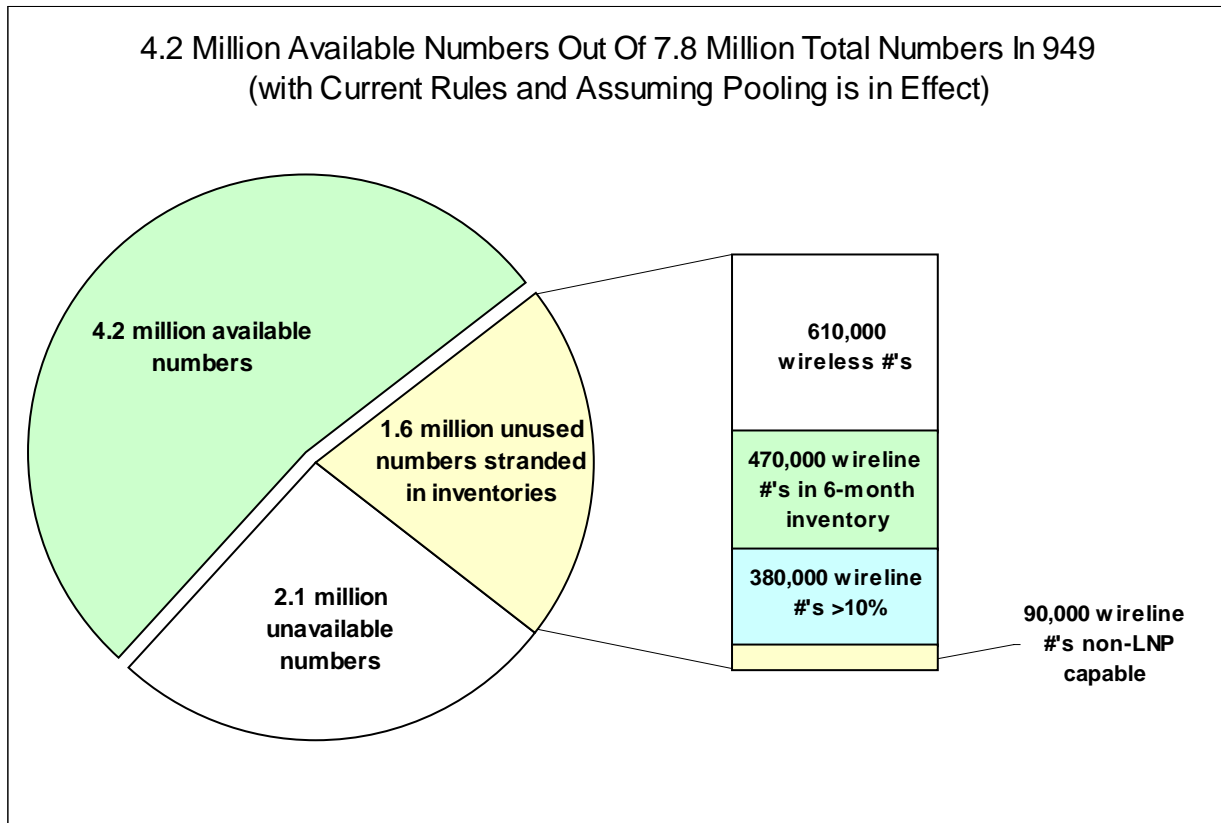
Martin, to perform the functions of numbering administration and area code changes nationwide.

² Including Type 1 carriers. Type 1 numbers are described in Chapter 2, Sec. D.4.a.

³ At present, only wireline carriers are required to participate in number pooling. The FCC has granted most wireless carriers an extension of time, until November 2002, to implement the technology that will support number pooling. The FCC has permanently exempted paging companies from implementing the technology necessary to pool.

⁴ The percentage of numbers in use in a particular block of 1,000 numbers is referred to as the

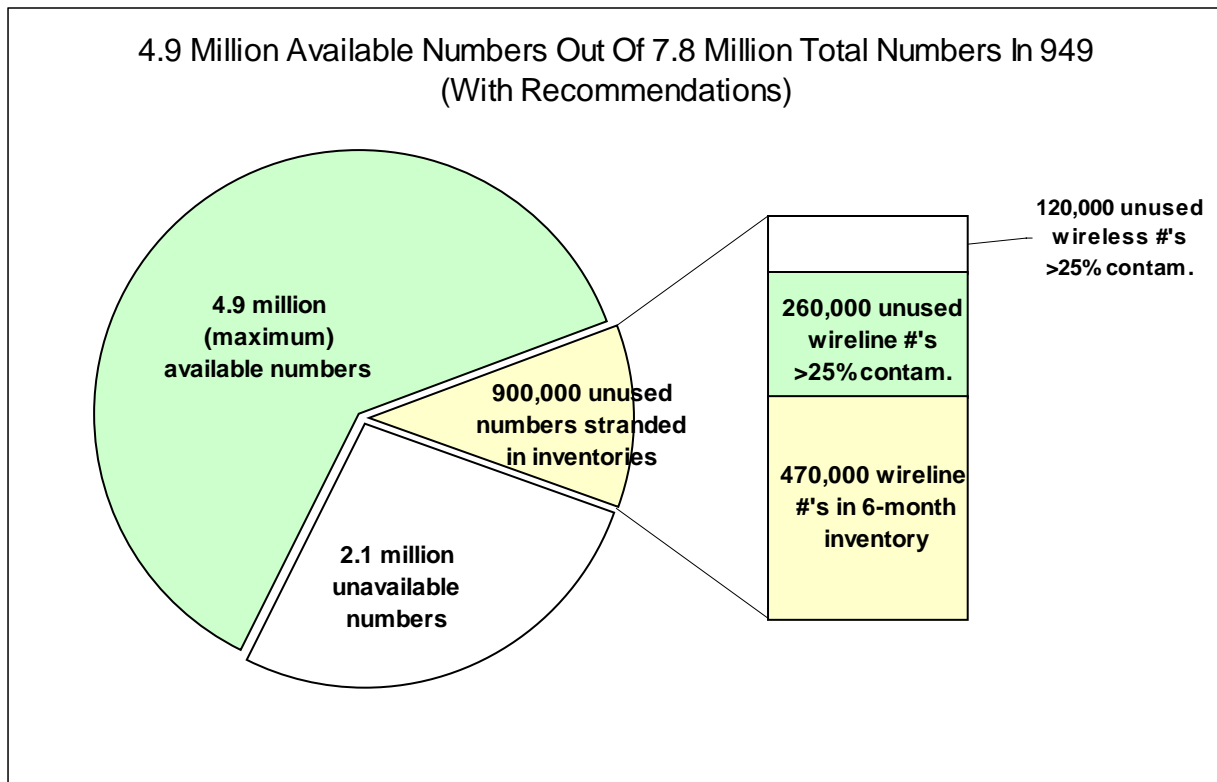
maximum of 4.9 million could be made available to companies through pooling if (a) the companies were required to donate blocks with higher contamination levels to a future pool, and (b) wireless carriers were required to participate in a 949 number pool. The first table below illustrates the current distribution of numbers, assuming that pooling is in effect in the 949 area code.⁵ The second table shows the distribution that would occur if all the recommendations in this report were implemented.



"contamination" level.

⁵ Numbers may not add to 100% due to rounding.

Finally, the study notes that companies identify 2.1 million numbers as unavailable. TD staff recommends specific measures the CPUC can employ to ensure that companies use those “unavailable” numbers more efficiently. Given the near doubling of the number of area codes in California from 1996 to 1999, this vital public resource should be used as efficiently and effectively as possible. The CPUC and the telecommunications industry should strive to minimize the quantity of numbers left “stranded” in company inventories. The 949 Area Code Report recommendations are summarized in Appendix I.



CHAPTER ONE: OVERVIEW OF NUMBERING

A. Inefficient Use and Increasing Demand for New Numbers in California Are Causing Area Code Proliferation

California is currently experiencing an explosive demand for telephone numbers and area codes. The increased demand for numbers is due to many factors, including competition for local phone service, as well as the popularity of faxes, pagers, cell phones, internet services, etc. California's robust economy and the growth in the state's population also contribute to the increased demand for telephone numbers. This increase in demand is complicated by a number allocation system dating from the 1940s that is inefficient in today's competitive marketplace.

Prior to 1997, one phone company⁶ provided local telephone service to all customers in a particular area, and new area codes were opened as the population grew. The number of California area codes rose steadily from 3 in 1947 to 13 in 1992, and stayed at that level until January 1997. During the next three years, however, the number of area codes in California nearly doubled. By the end of 1999, California had 25 area codes. The Telecommunications Act of 1996 sought to open competition for the local telephone service market and competitive local phone companies⁷ began to enter the marketplace, each requiring its own stock of numbers. The traditional system of number allocation was not designed to provide telephone numbers to more than one company.

In the past, when telecommunication companies needed telephone numbers to serve their customers, they received blocks of 10,000 numbers, i.e. prefixes. Because companies were assigned blocks of 10,000 numbers, they may have been assigned more numbers than they needed. For example, under this system, a company with only 500 customers would have received a 10,000 number block, the same quantity of numbers a company with 9,500 customers would receive. Thus, numbers are taken in these large blocks, creating an artificial demand for more numbers, which in turn fuels the need to

⁶ Today called the Incumbent Local Exchange Carrier (ILEC)

⁷ Today called Competitive Local Exchange Carriers (CLEC)

open more area codes. The need to assign 10,000 numbers is a practice from the past when one telephone company provided service to all customers in its territory. Today, with over 200 telecommunications companies in the state needing numbers to serve customers, and with the limited quantity of numbers available in each area code, this process is no longer an efficient way to allocate numbers.

The rise in demand for numbers combined with the inefficient allocation system for numbers has forced the rapid opening of new area codes throughout the state. Since 1997, the number of area codes in California has nearly doubled to 25. Without the implementation of major number conservation measures, the telecommunications industry had plans underway to add 22 more area codes in California by 2003. With more and more companies needing numbers of their own, new area codes are not necessarily the best solution.

B. 949 History and CPUC Decisions

The 949 area code is a classic example of area code proliferation in California. Originally, the area that now comprises the 949 area code was part of the 213 area code, one of the first three area codes created in California in 1947, which originally covered all of southern California. In 1951 the 714 area code was created to encompass all of southern California east or south of metropolitan Los Angeles. The creation of the 619 and 909 area codes, in 1982 and 1992 respectively, reduced the 714 area code to Orange County and a small part of San Diego County. The 949 area code was created in 1998 when the 714 area code was itself split. Encompassing southern Orange County, most of the 949 area code is contained within the Orange County Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), with the remainder contained within the San Diego MSA.

Despite the fact that the 949 area code was only created in April 1998, the North American Numbering Plan Administrator (NANPA) determined in September 1999 that the 949 area code was running short of numbers. After a series of public meetings in February and March 2000, in July of 2000 the NANPA submitted for CPUC consideration an exhaust relief plan containing three alternatives for introducing a new area code into the area presently covered by 949, to provide additional numbers for phone

company use. While the CPUC has not yet reached a decision on the 949 exhaust relief plan, the alternatives submitted included two geographic split plans and an overlay. In an overlay, a new area code is created covering the same geographical area as the existing area code. Under CPUC and Federal Communications Commission (FCC) rules, all customers with numbers in either the new or the old area code are required to dial 1 plus the area code plus the seven digit number (known as 1 + 10 digit dialing) to reach any other number in either of the two area codes.

When the first overlay and 1 + 10 digit dialing were implemented in the 310 area code (located in the Los Angeles area) in April of 1999, customers expressed strong objections to the overlay and to the requisite 1 + 10 digit dialing. The CPUC halted the 310 overlay and ten digit dialing in September. In December of 1999, by Decision 99-12-051, the CPUC suspended all overlays previously approved. In that same decision, the CPUC required its Telecommunications Division (TD) staff to study number use to determine the quantity of available, unused numbers in the 949 area code. This report fulfills that requirement.⁸

1. Monthly Lottery Allocates Prefixes

For those area codes nearing number exhaust, the CPUC has instituted a lottery process to fairly allocate the remaining prefixes among phone companies when demand exceeds supply. The 949 lottery began in October 1999. Currently, the CPUC distributes five prefixes (three initial prefixes and two growth prefixes²) in the monthly 949 lottery. Each company submits applications for initial and growth prefixes to the NANPA Code Administrator. If more applications are received than can be satisfied in that month, the first applicants chosen by random drawing are assigned a prefix, and the remaining applicants are placed on a priority list and receive prefixes in one of the following

⁸ In addition, the California state legislature enacted Section 7937 of the California Public Utilities Code. Effective on January 1, 2000, Section 7937 requires the CPUC to prepare and submit to the Legislature, by July 1, 2001, a study of the telecommunications industry's usage rates of telephone numbers in all California area codes. This report also complies with that legislative requirement with respect to the 949 area code.

² A company's request for its first prefix in the rate center is considered an initial request; requests for additional prefixes are considered growth requests.

months' lotteries in the order they were drawn. Once every company requesting a prefix has received one, a new drawing is held and additional companies are eligible to receive prefixes

Forty-eight prefixes were allocated in the 949 area code through this process between January 1, 2000 and December 31, 2000. With the CPUC working with companies to reclaim excess prefixes held by companies, sixteen unneeded prefixes were returned by companies to the NANPA during the same period, for a net distribution of thirty-two prefixes. During the first six months of 2001, sixteen prefixes have been allocated through the lottery, and ten prefixes have been returned to the NANPA, for a net distribution of six prefixes. As of June 30, 2001, there were 326 prefixes available for assignment in the 949 area code.¹⁰

C. CPUC Efforts to Resolve Area Code Proliferation

Recognizing the substantial social and economic burdens associated with constant area code changes, the CPUC has taken steps to resolve the numbering crisis.

Responding to widespread public outcry over the proliferation of new area codes, the CPUC suspended, beginning in December 1999, all plans for new area codes previously approved. In July 2000, the CPUC adopted number conservation measures, including establishing number pooling trials, fill rates, and sequential numbering.

1. Number Pooling

The CPUC, with FCC approval, has begun pool in eight area codes, in order to boost the efficiency of phone number allocation. In addition, the CPUC has ordered number pools for six other area codes during 2001.

Number pooling allows telephone companies to receive numbers in smaller blocks than the traditional 10,000 numbers, enabling multiple providers to share a prefix, thereby utilizing this limited resource much more efficiently. The technology that enables the network to support the assignment of smaller blocks is referred to as Local

¹⁰ TD's analysis of available numbers in the remainder of this report uses 337 prefixes available for lottery as of the utilization data date of August 31, 2000.

Number Portability or LNP.¹¹ LNP was originally mandated by the FCC as a means to enable customers to retain their telephone numbers when they switch telephone service to another local provider. This same platform is utilized for number pooling. The FCC had required all wireline carriers to become LNP-capable by the end of 1998 in the most populous 100 Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) in the country. Thirteen of the top 100 MSAs are located in California; the 949 area code is in two of them.¹²

Though LNP technology has existed for several years, the FCC later granted cellular and PCS companies an extension of time until November 2002 to become LNP-capable. The FCC gave paging companies a permanent exemption from the LNP requirement.¹³ Thus, at this time only wireline carriers¹⁴ can participate in number pooling. In the area codes with number pooling, wireline carriers participate in pooling and wireless carriers participate in the lottery. In the remaining area codes with rationing in effect, all phone companies participate in the lottery.

The CPUC has been aggressively setting up number pools. In November 2000, by an Assigned Commissioner's Ruling, the CPUC established a schedule for ten number pools for 2001. The CPUC also issued a more detailed schedule in February 2001 identifying the start dates for the last nine of the ten number pools scheduled to begin in 2001. A pooling schedule has not yet been set for the 949 area code. Once pooling is implemented in the 949 area code, all wireline companies with numbers in 949 will be required to donate 1,000-number blocks to the pooling administrator. Under the number pooling program, all LNP-capable carriers will receive numbers in blocks of 1,000 in the 949 area code on an as-needed basis. There is no rationing process in the pool and the blocks received can be put into service almost immediately upon receipt. All wireless carriers will continue to receive numbers in blocks of 10,000 through the monthly lottery allocation process.

¹¹ See Chapter Three of this report for a discussion of LNP, and further discussion of number pooling.

¹² FCC's Opinion and Order on Telephone Number Portability FCC 97-74, issued March 6, 1997

¹³ Cellular companies, PCS companies, and paging companies comprise the wireless category.

¹⁴ ILECs and CLECs

2. Improved Number Inventory Management

While number pools have improved the efficiency of the distribution of numbers to companies, companies have not had strong incentives to efficiently manage the numbers already allocated to them. Thus the CPUC ordered companies to improve number inventory management with measures including rules on fill rates and sequential numbering.

In July 2000, the CPUC issued Decision 00-07-052, which extended number conservation measures adopted in the 310 area code to other area codes within California. These number conservation measures include the following:

- Companies are required to return to the NANPA any prefix held for more than six months without being used.
- An “Imminent exhaust criterion” is established in all area codes with lotteries or number pools. In each rate center in which companies request additional numbers, they must provide to the NANPA a form demonstrating they will be out of numbers within six months.¹⁵
- Companies must satisfy a minimum 75% fill rate requirement before being eligible to request a growth prefix in any area code in rationing and before being eligible to receive a thousand-block through a number pool. Companies must assign numbers in thousand-block sequence, assigning numbers in the next block only once a 75% fill rate has been attained in the prior block.

TD anticipates these policies will potentially free more numbers for use in number pooling, to be allocated through the lottery, or to be otherwise used by companies. Indeed, these measures together with the effects of number pooling have already achieved some positive effects. For example, since the CPUC extended the 75% fill rate and imminent exhaust rules to all area codes, including 949, CPUC staff has observed that the demand for growth prefixes in each month’s lottery has declined. Further evidence of the effectiveness of the CPUC’s number conservation policies is the recent

¹⁵ The CPUC revised the imminent exhaust criterion from three months to six months in Joint Assigned Commissioner and Administrative Law Judge’s Ruling Implementing Revised Procedures to Conform to

increase in the number of excess prefixes in the 949 area code being returned to the NANPA by companies, as mentioned in section B.1 above.

3. CPUC Efforts at Federal Level

The FCC has exclusive jurisdiction over numbering in the United States. Therefore, the CPUC's number conservation policies (pooling, fill rates, and sequential numbering) are governed by the FCC's delegation of authority to the states. In recognition of the severity of the numbering crisis in California, the CPUC has aggressively petitioned the FCC for additional authority. As a result, the FCC has delegated authority to plan and implement area code changes, as well as authority to implement number conservation measures.

a. Authority Regarding Pooling

On April 26, 1999, the CPUC filed a petition with the FCC requesting authority to institute number pooling trials and other number conservation measures within the state to better manage this public resource. On September 15, 1999, the FCC granted that petition, allowing the CPUC to institute mandatory number pooling on a trial basis, deploying it sequentially in one MSA at a time. When the FCC granted the CPUC the authority to deploy various numbering resource optimization strategies, including the authority to institute thousand-block numbering pooling trials, it also clarified that California's authority will be superseded by future national measures adopted by the FCC.

On March 31, 2000, the FCC released the Numbering Resource Optimization Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (first NRO Order).¹⁶ The first NRO Order sets forth rules for defining numbers, forecasting, tracking and auditing companies' use of numbers, and for conservation measures associated with number usage, including but not limited to number pooling. The definitions of numbers and

FCC Order, dated April 30, 2001.

¹⁶ Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, CC Docket No. 99-200 FCC 00-104 (released March 31, 2000).

timelines for aging and reserved numbers that were adopted in that order have been incorporated into the utilization data cited herein.

With the release of the first NRO Order, the FCC adopted a number of administrative and technical measures that will allow it to monitor more closely the way numbering resources are used and to promote more efficient use of numbering resources. In particular, the FCC adopted a nationwide system for allocating numbers in blocks of one thousand, rather than ten thousand, wherever possible, and announced its intention to establish a plan for national rollout of thousand-block number pooling.

Because the FCC recognized that state thousand-block number pools underway might not conform to the national standards set forth in the first NRO Order, the FCC gave state commissions until September 1, 2000 to conform their thousand-block number pools to the national framework. One requirement imposed in California that differs from the national standards is the requirement that companies meet a 75% fill rate in each block before they may receive an additional block from the pooling administrator. The CPUC recognized the 75% fill rate as a critical factor in the success of the 310 pooling trial and petitioned for a waiver of compliance with the national rules. On August 31, 2000, the FCC issued an order granting the CPUC authority to continue to use its pooling rules until the FCC decides on the merits of the petition, or until December 31, 2000, whichever occurs sooner. This allowed California to continue applying the 75% utilization rate in its number pooling efforts.

On December 29, 2000, the FCC issued its Second Report and Order on Number Resource Optimization. In the second NRO Order, the FCC ruled on California's Petition for Waiver, concluding that the CPUC may continue to use its utilization thresholds subject to parameters set in this order (when FCC thresholds exceed California's, California must migrate to the more stringent utilization thresholds). The FCC also declined to adopt a transition period between the time that covered cellular carriers must implement LNP and the time they must participate in any mandatory number pooling.

The first NRO Order further constrains the CPUC by concluding that the rollout of thousand-block number pooling should first occur in area codes that are located in the largest 100 MSAs. In its comments prior to the release of the first NRO Order, the CPUC had argued that California would be precluded from exploring whether number pooling could alleviate the crises for number resources in many parts of the state that are located outside the top 100 MSAs. The CPUC believes the FCC should delegate authority to the states to order deployment of LNP. This grant of authority to California would make pooling possible throughout the state.

b. Authority Regarding Technology-Specific Area Codes

Currently, state commissions are constrained by the FCC from establishing an area code specifically for wireless telecommunications services. On April 26, 1999, the CPUC filed another petition with the FCC requesting authority to create service-specific or technology-specific area codes. In the 949 area code, there are 19 wireless carriers holding 93 prefixes. If the CPUC were allowed to create a separate area code for those companies, the 93 prefixes in the 949 area code could be reassigned to other phone uses, thus prolonging the life of the existing area code. To date, the FCC has not acted on the CPUC's petition. In the Second Report and Order, the FCC asks for further comments on technology-specific or non-geographic area codes.

On September 28, 2000, Governor Davis signed into law Senate Bill (SB) 1741, authored by Senator Bowen. SB 1741 requires the CPUC to request authority from the FCC to require telephone corporations to establish technology-specific area codes based on wireless and data communications, and to permit 7-digit dialing within both that technology-specific area code and the underlying pre-existing area code or codes. The bill requires the CPUC to use any authority so granted unless it makes a specified finding that there is reason not to do so. The legislation also prohibits the CPUC from implementing any authority granted by the FCC in a manner that impairs number portability. The petition that the CPUC filed with the FCC in April 1999 fulfills the technology-specific area code requirement set forth in the bill.

The bill also prohibits the CPUC from approving new area codes unless a telephone utilization study has been performed and all reasonable telephone number conservation measures have been implemented.

4. Utilization Studies

Before requiring the residents and businesses of the 949 area code to undergo another area code change, the CPUC recognized the necessity of determining the number of telephone numbers that are in use and the number yet to be used. To that end, the CPUC required companies to provide usage data to the CPUC as of August 31, 2000. The TD contracted with NeuStar to collect the data; NeuStar submitted the aggregated data in its entirety to TD on December 1, 2000. The definitions used in the utilization study are in Appendix A-1.

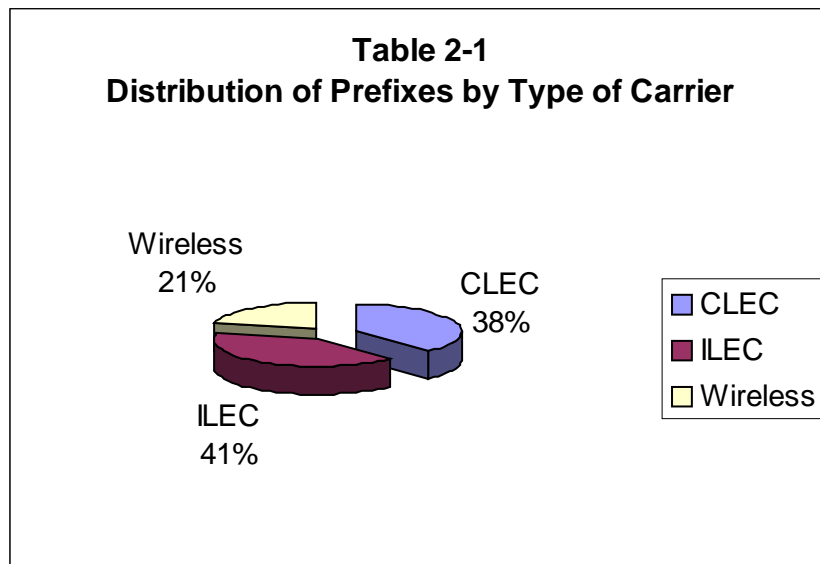
CHAPTER TWO: 5.7 MILLION UNUSED NUMBERS IN THE 949 AREA CODE

Of the 7.8 million numbers in the 949 area code, companies hold 4.4 million. The other 3.4 million numbers have yet to be assigned to companies. The CPUC's utilization study found that, of the 4.4 million numbers held by companies, 2.3 million remain unused in their inventories. Therefore, 5.7 million numbers in the 949 area code remain unused. A portion of these unused numbers can be made available for use by all companies, either through pooling or through the monthly lottery allocation process. In addition, companies have reported 2.1 million numbers as unavailable. A portion of these unavailable numbers can be used more efficiently if the recommendations contained in this report are implemented.

A. The Scope of the Utilization Study

1. Prefix Distribution Statistics

The CPUC asked 49 companies, holding 439 prefixes (4.4 million numbers) in the 949 area code, to report their utilization data, with a reporting cutoff date of August 31, 2000. Table 2-1 shows the distribution of these prefixes by type of carrier; incumbent local exchange carrier (ILEC), competitive local exchange carrier (CLEC),¹⁷ and wireless carrier.



¹⁷ Wireline carriers include ILECs and CLECs.

2. Companies Reporting

Of the 49 companies in the 949 area code, 46 submitted utilization data. A list of the companies that have been allocated numbers in the 949 area code appears in Appendix A-2.

3. Non-Reporting Companies

The remaining three companies hold four prefixes in the 949 area code. According to NANPA, Urjet Backbone Network is in bankruptcy status. The other two companies, holding two prefixes, failed to provide utilization data. Table 2-2 summarizes this information.

Table 2-2
Non-Reporting Companies

<u>Company</u>	<u>OCN</u>	<u>Rate Center</u>	<u>Prefix</u>
Digitcom Services	6927	Saddleback Valley	256
Pagers Plus dba Pageprompt	6588	Saddleback Valley	317
Urjet Backbone Network	3339	Saddleback Valley	345
Urjet Backbone Network	3339	Irvine	344

Administrative Law Judge's Ruling Ordering Carriers to Submit Utilization Data, dated October 25, 2000, ordered ten delinquent companies that hold prefixes in various California area codes to submit utilization data within 20 days or be subject to sanctions. Digitcom Services, and Paging Plus dba Pageprompt were listed among the ten companies.

Recommendation for Data Submittal

- *The CPUC should direct the NANPA to withhold issuing prefixes to Digitcom Services, and Pagers Plus dba Pageprompt until the required information is submitted. The CPUC should also consider levying fines or other penalties for failure to comply. If these prefixes are not being used for customers, the CPUC should direct the NANPA to reclaim the prefixes as soon as possible.*

B. 5.7 Million Numbers Available in the 949 Area Code

The 949 area code has 5.7 million unused numbers. Of these unused numbers, TD found that companies held 2.3 million numbers in their inventories.¹⁸ These numbers held in inventory are currently not used for any purpose but held in anticipation of future need. The remaining 3.4 million unused numbers are not yet assigned to companies and are available for allocation in the 949 monthly lottery. The summary of available numbers is shown in the table below.

Table 2-3
Summary of Available Numbers

Wireline Carriers	1,727,446
Wireless Carriers	567,964
Type 1 Carriers ¹⁹	<u>40,835</u>
Total Available/Unused Numbers Held by Carriers	2,335,795
Numbers Set Aside for 949 Pool	0
Numbers Available for the 949 Lottery	<u>3,370,000</u>
Total Available Numbers in the 949 Area Code	5,705,795

Not all of the 5.7 million unused numbers are immediately available to every company that wants numbers. Of the 5.7 million, a maximum of 4.2 million numbers²⁰ are estimated to be available to all companies via a future number pool or from the lottery. The remaining 1.6 million²¹ numbers are only available to the companies that

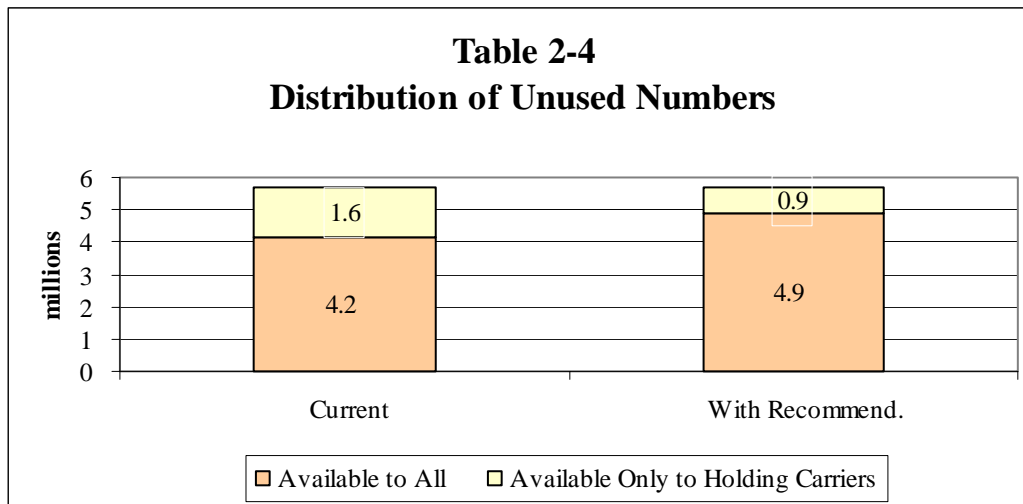
¹⁸ A further breakdown of the 2.3 million available numbers held by carriers is shown in Appendix B, Table B-1.

¹⁹ Type 1 carriers are not considered wireline or wireless companies. Type 1 numbers are programmed in the wireline company's end office, but are used by a wireless company. For further description of Type 1 carriers, see Section D.4.a.

²⁰ 4.2 million numbers are comprised of 0.8 million estimated pooling donations by companies plus 3.4 million available through the lottery.

²¹ Numbers do not all add due to rounding.

hold them. As shown in the table below, the CPUC could shift 0.7 million numbers from one category to the other by adopting the recommendations²² in this report. Of the 5.7 million unused numbers, those actions could result in making a maximum of 4.9 million numbers²³ available to all companies, with the remaining 0.9 million numbers available to the companies that hold them.



Current technology requires a company to be LNP capable in order to donate numbers for another company to use. All wireline carriers in the 949 area code are required to be LNP capable.²⁴ Wireline carriers hold 1.7 million unused numbers in the 949 area code. In order for the unused numbers to be retrieved from company inventories, the FCC requires these unused numbers to be retrieved from blocks which are 10% or less contaminated.²⁵ Of wireline companies' 1.7 million unused numbers, 1.3 million are contained in 1,270 thousand-blocks held by LNP-capable companies that are

²² The recommendations include receiving authority from the FCC to increase contamination threshold (25%) for pooling, recovering blocks from special-use prefixes, recovering unused numbers from non-LNP-capable carriers and Type 1 carriers, and requiring wireless carriers to participate in pooling, as described later in this report.

²³ See Appendix B, Table B-2 for a detailed breakout of the 4.9 million numbers.

²⁴ Although all wireline carriers are required to be LNP capable, two wireline carriers in the 949 area code remain non-LNP capable.

²⁵ 10% or less contaminated means that out of 1,000 numbers in a block, 100 numbers or fewer have been classified as unavailable.

10% or less contaminated. However, not all of these 1.3 million numbers can be retrieved from companies' inventories because companies need to have enough numbers to meet anticipated future need.²⁶ Both the CPUC and the FCC have determined that six months of inventory is a reasonable quantity to hold for future use. TD will not know how many of these 1.3 million numbers will be available for pooling until companies submit their pooling block donations to the pooling administrator. The CPUC has not yet ordered pooling in the 949 area code. In the meantime, a reasonable estimate of numbers likely to be donated to a 949 number pool, based on the experience of the 310 pool, is 0.8 million²⁷. The difference between the potential maximum 1.3 million currently poolable numbers that wireline carriers hold and the 0.8 million numbers estimated as likely to be donated to a pool consists of 500,000 numbers that companies are estimated to need for their six-month inventories.

The remaining 500,000 of the 2.3 million unused numbers cannot be retrieved, either because the numbers are in blocks more than 10% contaminated or because they are in non-LNP-capable blocks. However, companies can immediately use these numbers to provide service to their customers or meet other needs. Wireline carriers hold 380,000 numbers in blocks that are more than 10% contaminated.²⁸ Wireline carriers hold another 90,000 unused numbers in blocks that are non LNP-capable.

Wireless carriers hold 570,000 unused numbers in the 949 area code. Of these unused numbers, 450,000 are in blocks that are 10% or less contaminated, and 120,000 numbers are in blocks more than 10% contaminated. Until wireless carriers become LNP capable in November 2002, none of these numbers may be reallocated to other companies. In the interim, wireless carriers may assign these numbers to their own customers.

²⁶ Future need may include serving new customers or offering new services.

²⁷ See Footnote on Table B-2 in Appendix B for the derivation of this estimate.

²⁸ See Table B-1 in Appendix B. These 379,281 are comprised of 34,401 numbers from blocks that are 10-15% contaminated, 54,204 from 15-20% contaminated, 30,380 from 20-25% contaminated, and 260,296 numbers from blocks that are more than 25% contaminated. Later in this chapter, TD recommends additional steps that can be implemented to make more of these 380,000 numbers available for number pooling.

C. Analysis of Available Numbers

1. Analysis of Wireline Carriers' Contamination Rates

The CPUC requires each company participating in the 949 number pool to donate blocks that are 10% or less contaminated, excluding those retained for the company's six-month inventory.²⁹

TD analyzed the 949 utilization data to determine the availability of numbers within blocks of different contamination rates in order to assess different contamination thresholds the CPUC could apply to the number pool. The following table summarizes available numbers by contamination level and rate center for wireline carriers.

Rate Center	0%	> 0% to 10%	> 10% to 15%	> 15% to 20%	> 20% to 25%
Capistrano Valley	100,000	46,759	897	9,722	6,187
Irvine	175,000	100,293	15,866	16,978	7,041
Laguna Beach	120,000	45,071	1,767	1,646	774
Newport Beach	161,000	84,751	4,401	8,852	4,708
Rancho Viejo	64,000	16,708	3,553	3,247	774
Saddleback Valley	122,000	79,328	6,122	8,112	9,345
Trabuco	101,000	42,459	1,795	5,647	1,551
Total	843,000	415,369	34,401	54,204	30,380

Table 2-5

The first two numeric columns of Table 2-5 show the potential numbers available to the number pooling trial, except for those numbers kept for companies' six-month inventory, under current rules. Available numbers in one rate center cannot be used in another rate center.

The last three columns of Table 2-5 capture available numbers in blocks that are more than 10% contaminated but no more than 25% contaminated. Under the current number pool rules, companies retain thousand-number blocks that are more than 10% contaminated. Increasing the contamination rate threshold for donations from 10% to

²⁹ INC's Thousand Block (NXX-X) Pooling Administration Guidelines, dated January 10, 2000, state that carriers should donate specified thousand-blocks.

25% would potentially free up an additional 118,985³⁰ numbers for use in the number pool. TD cautions that, although Table 2-5 shows potential results from increasing allowable contamination levels, further analysis and input from the industry would be necessary to determine accurately the quantity of additional blocks that could be added to a pool while still leaving companies with a six-month inventory.

As shown by Table 2-5, and also shown graphically in Table B-3 of Appendix B, all rate centers have available numbers from blocks of differing contamination levels up to 25%. The tables show that if the contamination ceiling for pooling were increased from 10% to 25%, more unused numbers exist in all rate centers that potentially could be donated to the pool.

Recommendation from Block Contamination Analysis of Wireline Carriers

- *The CPUC should petition the FCC to increase the contamination level for pooling to 25%. If the FCC grants the petition, the CPUC should increase the maximum contamination level of donated blocks from 10% to 25% for all LNP-capable carriers.*

2. Analysis of Wireless Carriers' Contamination Rates

Under current FCC rules, cellular and PCS companies are exempt from number pooling until November 2002 when they must become LNP capable. The FCC has indefinitely exempted paging companies from becoming LNP capable. Table 2-6 shows available numbers in blocks of differing contamination levels held by wireless carriers. Wireless carriers hold 448,758 available numbers in blocks that are 10% or less contaminated, as shown in the first two numeric columns of Table 2-6. Wireless carriers also have 36,420 available numbers in blocks with contamination levels greater than 10% but less than or equal to 25%, as indicated by the last three columns of Table 2-5. Of these 485,178 unused numbers held by wireless carriers, TD estimates that 219,000 (45%) are held by paging companies³¹. TD staff is investigating whether there are

³⁰ Additional numbers from the last three columns of Table 2-5: 34,401 + 54,204 + 30,380 = 118,985.

³¹ See footnote 3 of Table B-2, Appendix B, for the derivation of this estimate.

methods to make some of these 219,000 unused numbers available to other carriers despite the FCC’s exemption of paging companies from becoming LNP-capable.

Table 2-6

Rate Center	0%	> 0% to	> 10% to	> 15% to	> 20% to
		10%	15%	20%	25%
Capistrano Valley	34,000	22,572	850	-	760
Irvine	111,000	34,061	9,752	4,113	2,350
Laguna Beach	37,000	4,887	2,599	1,617	2,325
Newport Beach	40,000	3,876	875	-	1,500
Rancho Viejo	10,000	4,929	-	-	-
Saddleback Valley	127,000	10,453	1,727	5,600	1,552
Trabuco	7,000	1,980	-	800	-
Totals	366,000	82,758	15,803	12,130	8,487

Because the FCC has granted wireless carriers an extension of time to implement LNP, no wireless carriers serving the 949 area code are capable of implementing LNP. Thus, wireless carriers cannot participate in number pooling at this time, resulting in 485,178 unused numbers in blocks between 0% and 25% contaminated in the 949 area code.

Recommendations from Block Contamination Analysis of Wireless Carriers

- *When cellular and PCS companies become LNP capable in November 2002, the CPUC should direct those wireless carriers to donate to and participate in all number pooling trials in California, using the same contamination threshold for donated blocks in effect for all LNP-capable companies.*
- *The CPUC should solicit comments on the feasibility of paging companies becoming LNP capable and participating in pooling, as well as other methods of reducing the number of stranded numbers held by paging companies.*
- *If deemed feasible, the CPUC should petition the FCC to rescind the paging companies’ indefinite exemption from becoming LNP capable.*

3. Potential Block Contamination Abuses

When blocks are slightly more than 10% contaminated, those blocks cannot be donated to a pool under current pooling rules. In the 949 area code, TD found ten

prefixes in which companies have contaminated two blocks in each of these prefixes above 10% but less than 15%. These instances are a small proportion of the 4,390 blocks in use in the 949 area code, and do not necessarily indicate that companies have intentionally contaminated blocks to avoid having to donate them to the number pool. Viewing the utilization data suggests, however, that companies have not generally followed practices of sequential numbering and filling blocks substantially before using new blocks. The CPUC's rules on sequential numbering and fill rate practices promulgated in Decision 00-07-052 are designed to ensure that companies efficiently use their numbers in the future. Fill rates mitigate contamination by requiring companies to use contaminated blocks up to 75% before they can receive additional blocks or prefixes. Sequential numbering minimizes contamination by requiring companies to begin assignment in the next thousand-block only after a 75% fill rate has been attained in the prior block. Where companies possess significant available numbers in a given rate center, these two efficiency measures could prevent the opening of new blocks or prefixes.

Companies reported utilization data as of August 31, 2000. The sequential numbering and fill rate decision was issued in July 2000. Some of these practices of non-sequential numbering and not filling blocks substantially before using new blocks may have happened before the July 2000 decision. TD does not expect companies to continue contaminating blocks unnecessarily.

Recommendations for Block Contamination Issues Affecting All Carriers

- *The CPUC should monitor compliance with its fill rate and sequential numbering policies through future number utilization filings and audits.*
- *The CPUC should establish penalties for non-compliance with fill rate and sequential numbering policies adopted in Decision 00-07-052.³²*

³² See Chapter 1 for the discussion of Decision 00-07-052.

4. Reclamation of Prefixes

Decision 00-07-052 directed companies to return prefixes that are held unused for more than six months. As shown in Appendix B-1, wireline carriers and wireless carriers hold 915,000 unused numbers and 366,000 unused numbers, respectively, in 0% contaminated blocks. Of these unused numbers, 210,000 are in 11 whole prefixes³³ that are completely uncontaminated, i.e., spare prefixes, while 1,071,000 numbers are in uncontaminated blocks that are scattered throughout many different prefixes. The following table shows the breakdown between wireless and wireline carriers.

Table 2-7

Breakdown of Numbers in 0% Contaminated Blocks

	<u>Total Avail. Nos. in 0% Contam. Blocks</u>	<u>Avail. Nos. in Spare Prefixes</u>	<u>Avail. Nos. in Differing Prefixes</u>
Wireline Carriers	915,000	70,000	845,000
Wireless Carriers	<u>366,000</u>	<u>140,000</u>	<u>226,000</u>
Total	1,281,000	210,000	1,071,000

The 210,000 numbers in 21 spare prefixes can possibly be reclaimed if not used within six months. However, as a result of the FCC's March 31, 2000 (first) NRO Order, the NANPA no longer has sole authority to reclaim unused prefixes. The FCC granted authority to state regulatory commissions to investigate and determine whether prefix holders have activated prefixes within the allowed time frames, and directed the NANPA to abide by the state commission's determination to reclaim a prefix if the state commission is satisfied that the prefix holder has not activated the prefix within the time

³³ This includes the four prefixes held by the three companies that did not report utilization data.

specified in the first NRO Order.³⁴ Substantial cooperation between the CPUC and the NANPA will be required in order for the CPUC to exercise this new authority and determine whether a prefix should be reclaimed. Furthermore, the NANPA must still perform the mechanical steps to reclaim prefixes once the CPUC directs the NANPA to reclaim a prefix.

The NANPA has provided to the CPUC a list of companies that have failed to report whether their assigned prefix(es) have been placed in service. The CPUC issued Assigned Commissioner's Ruling Requiring Carriers to Comply With NXX Code Reclamation Rules, dated December 21, 2000. In this ruling, the CPUC instructed the delinquent companies to comply immediately. Companies are to inform the CPUC either that the prefixes have been placed in service or returned, that the company was incorrectly included in the NANPA's delinquent list, or the reasons the prefixes have not been placed in service. The CPUC will review the reasons and make a determination as to whether the prefixes must be returned or reclaimed by the NANPA, or whether to grant an extension of time to the company to place the prefixes in service. Any delinquent company that fails to comply will be subject to penalties and sanctions.

D. Analysis of the 2.1 Million Unavailable Numbers

In the following sections, the TD recommends a series of policies designed to require companies to use unavailable numbers more efficiently. These policies would potentially free more numbers for use in the pool, to be allocated through the monthly lottery, or to be otherwise used by companies.

Companies report that 2.1 million numbers in the 949 area code are either assigned to customers or are used by companies for reserved, administrative, intermediate and aging purposes. Companies commonly refer to these numbers as "unavailable". Unavailable numbers include not only those actually in use by customers, but also the following categories:

³⁴ FCC 00-104, Paragraphs 237, 238, and 241

- Reserved numbers – Numbers that are reserved in blocks for future use by specific customers;
- Administrative numbers – Numbers that companies use for their own internal use;
- Intermediate numbers – Numbers that are made available for use by another telecommunications carrier or non-carrier entity for the purpose of providing telecommunications service to an end user or customer; and
- Aging – Numbers from recently disconnected service, which are not reassigned during a fixed interval.

1. 1.61 Million Assigned Numbers

In the 949 area code, there are 1.61 million assigned numbers with 1.33 million assigned to customers by wireline carriers and 280,000 assigned to customers by wireless carriers. The percentages of assigned numbers to total numbers held by companies are shown in the table below.

Table 2-8

Assigned Numbers to Numbers Held by Companies (in millions)

	<u>Assigned Numbers</u>	<u>Numbers Held by Companies</u>	<u>Percentage Assigned</u>
Wireline Carriers	1.33	3.46	38.4%
Wireless Carriers	0.28	0.93	30.1%

Telecommunications companies are now required by the FCC’s First NRO Order to file semiannual reports on their number utilization, known as Number Resource Utilization/Forecasting Reports (NRUF). TD examined Neustar’s summaries of the companies’ first two semiannual NRUF reports, which reported utilization data as of June 30, 2000 and December 31, 2000. Comparing the companies’ assigned numbers in the 949 area code as of 6/30/00 and 12/31/00 shows that wireline carriers assigned an average of 1,863 numbers each month, whereas wireless carriers assigned an average of 8,613 numbers per month. These rates of number assignment imply annual growth rates

in assigned numbers of 1.7% and 28% for wireline and wireless carriers respectively.³⁵ The fact that the half-year period spanned by these two reports includes the Christmas season, widely cited as a period of increased sales of wireless devices, suggests that a full year's data will probably show a lower annual growth rate for wireless carriers than that cited above.

a. Non-Working Wireless

Non-Working wireless describes numbers assigned to wireless customer equipment, but which are not yet working. These numbers are considered a sub-category of assigned numbers. For example, wireless carriers sometimes pre-package a cellular telephone with an assigned telephone number for sale to customers. Although the number is assigned, it will remain inactive until a customer purchases the telephone. There are only 567 non-working wireless numbers reported in the 949 area code. While the quantity of non-working wireless numbers reported for each different area code generally is zero or low, this sub-category of assigned numbers could increase because there are no restrictions on the number of days that a wireless company can hold these numbers, causing numbers to remain idle for an unspecified period.

The CPUC should consider several options to improve inventory management of non-working wireless numbers. One option is for the CPUC to require companies to return these numbers to the unassigned category after 180 days (similar to the requirement the FCC has established for reserved numbers). Since pre-packaged equipment with non-working assigned numbers is often located in various retail outlets, another option is for the CPUC to require companies to maintain inventory records of all such retail/wholesale equipment with the associated numbers assigned and to require regular (weekly/monthly) updating of these inventory records.

³⁵ The annual growth rates were calculated by calculating the percentage increases in assigned numbers between 6/30 and 12/31/2000, and multiplying the results by 2.

Recommendations for Treatment of Non-Working Wireless

- *Non-working wireless numbers should be treated as reserved numbers and limited to 180 days, after which they should become available for assignment to customers.*
- *Companies should be required to maintain and update regularly the inventory records of all equipment assigned non-working wireless numbers along with the number assigned, and to submit such records to the CPUC upon request.*
- *The CPUC should continue to monitor non-working wireless numbers in the near term by reviewing future utilization filings, and should include this category of numbers in any audits conducted of wireless carrier number use.*

b. Eliminating Interim Number Portability Releases Numbers for Reallocation

Interim Number Portability (INP) is the ability to move telephone service from one service provider to another using Remote Call Forwarding (RCF), Direct Inward Dialing (DID), or equivalent means.³⁶ Prior to the implementation of permanent LNP, companies entered into INP arrangements to enable the transfer of customers from one company to another. Under these INP arrangements, two telephone numbers are associated with each customer. LNP eliminates the need for two telephone numbers for each customer when the customers change companies because customers can take their numbers with them.

Since the 949 area code is included in one of the top 100 MSAs in the nation, all wireline carriers should be LNP-capable.³⁷ Companies reported a total of 567 INP numbers in the 949 area code. Switching to LNP technology and eliminating INP will free up half of the 567 numbers that are currently dedicated to INP.

³⁶ Remote Call Forwarding allows a customer to have a local telephone number in a distant location. RCF is similar to call forwarding on a residential line, except that the RCF customer has no phone, no office, and no physical presence in that location. Direct Inward Dialing uses a trunk from the central office which passes the last two to four digits of the Listed Directory Number into the PBX, thus allowing the PBX to switch the call to the correct extension without the use of an attendant. Existing DID retail service is limited to PBX services. For purposes of providing INP, DID switch functionality is used to provide INP to any CLC customer regardless of the type of terminal equipment used on the customer's premises.

³⁷ However, two wireline carriers in 949 still remain non-LNP capable.

Recommendation for INP-Related Conservation Measures

- *The CPUC should adopt a schedule for transitioning INP arrangements to LNP in all California area codes.*

c. Expanded Use of the 555 Prefix Could Release Other Prefixes Dedicated to Special Uses

Historically, the telecommunications industry has designated certain prefixes for special uses, usually to an ILEC. These include numbers for recorded public information announcements such as time-of-day, weather forecasts, high-volume call-in numbers, and emergency preparedness³⁸ numbers. These prefixes are not made available for general commercial use, and thus numbers within these prefixes that are not in actual use lie vacant. In 1999, companies decided not to duplicate the special use prefixes in each area code. Concerned that this process could adversely affect the public, the CPUC directed that these prefixes should be duplicated in each new area code.

The utilization study shows that four prefixes are dedicated for special uses: one each for directory assistance, high volume calling, time, and emergency preparedness. TD questions the necessity of assigning an entire prefix for each of the purposes listed above.

Furthermore, having multiple special use prefixes is an inefficient use of numbers in the 949 area code as well as in other area codes in California. For example, if the 555 prefix³⁹ currently reserved only for directory assistance could be used to provide time and emergency preparedness then two more prefixes could be returned for reallocation in the 949 area code.

Similarly, expanded use of the 555 prefix throughout the state could result in more returned prefixes in other area codes. TD recommends that the CPUC initiate an investigation into broader use of the 555 prefix in California. The CPUC should further analyze the option of obtaining standard 555 numbers in every California area code to

³⁸ The emergency preparedness prefixes are for services other than 911.

³⁹ The number used for inter-area code directory assistance, which is uniform throughout California, is 1-XXX-555-1212. This number has been designated for this use at the federal level.

provide time, emergency preparedness, and weather information at no additional cost to customers.

Recommendations for Special-Use Prefixes

- *TD recommends that the CPUC initiate an investigation into the possibility of moving the numbers for time and emergency preparedness into the 555 prefix.*
- *TD recommends that the CPUC include in its investigation the broader use of the 555 prefix in California's area codes by providing standard 555 numbers in every California area code to provide time, emergency preparedness, and weather information.*

2. Reserved Numbers Are a Potential Source of Additional Numbers

Carriers “set aside” numbers for future use by customers.⁴⁰ Previously, industry number assignment guidelines allowed companies to reserve a prefix for up to 18 months for customers’ future use.⁴¹ The FCC’s first NRO Order modified the number reservation period to 45 days. This 949 utilization study incorporated the FCC’s 45-day requirement. FCC later issued an extension until December 1, 2000 for companies to comply with the 45-day rule.⁴² The extension allows companies time to upgrade their number tracking mechanisms, which tally the quantities of reserved numbers they hold. The FCC’s second NRO Order on Reconsideration changed the number reservation period to 180 days. This took effect on December 29, 2000.⁴³ Companies reported a total of 106,797 reserved numbers in the 949 utilization study.⁴⁴

Wireline carriers reported a total of 100,878 reserved numbers in the 949 area code. If the quantity of reserved numbers held by wireline carriers can be minimized, additional numbers could be available for immediate use by the companies from within

⁴⁰ An example would be a customer request for 2,500 numbers to be used in 2000, coupled with a request to have the next 2,500 numbers in sequence “reserved” for the customer to use in 2001.

⁴¹ Central Office Code (NXX) Assignment Guidelines, prepared by the Industry Numbering Committee, January 27, 1999 version, Section 4.4.

⁴² FCC Order 00-280, CC Docket No. 99-200, adopted and released on July 31, 2000.

⁴³ See FCC Order 00-129, Paragraph 114

⁴⁴ See Appendix D for a breakdown of reserved numbers reported in the 949 area code by rate center.

their own number inventories thus slowing the rate at which new prefixes are allocated to these companies. Numbers could also be freed up for reallocation in the 949 number pool. Currently there are no limitations on the quantity or percentage of numbers a company can classify as reserved before requesting new numbers. Similarly, companies are not required to use their reserved numbers stock before they can request that new numbers be allocated to them. Comparing the data on the Irvine rate center and the Laguna Beach rate center illustrates wide discrepancies between the percentages of reserved numbers companies hold. Wireline carriers reserved over seven times as many numbers as a percentage of numbers held in the latter rate center compared to the former rate center. Ordering efficient use practices specific to reserved numbers would free up more numbers for customers to use.

Wireless carriers reported 5,919 reserved numbers in the 949 area code. Wireless carriers also reported wide variances in reserved numbers. Just as for wireline carriers, efficient number use practices specific to reserved numbers could immediately free up numbers within these companies' inventories, and thus, could slow the rate at which new prefixes are allocated to these companies. Once wireless carriers are able to participate in number pooling, these practices could have the same efficiency gains as for wireline carriers.

Recommendations for Reserved Numbers

- *The CPUC should monitor reserved number use for all companies by reviewing future utilization data to ensure companies are complying with the FCC's 180-day requirement.*
- *The CPUC should adopt efficient number use practices specific to companies' reserved number holdings. In developing these practices, the CPUC should investigate various alternatives including, but not limited to, 1) limits on the quantity or percentage of reserved numbers companies can hold, and 2) requirements for using reserved numbers prior to requesting new numbers.*

3. Restrictions on Administrative Numbers Could Yield More Numbers

Administrative numbers are not assigned to customers and are generally used for a wide range of applications for companies' internal use, including testing, internal business, and other network purposes. Companies reported 64,317 administrative numbers in the 949 area code. Wireline carriers hold 54,731 of these numbers and wireless carriers hold 9,586 numbers.

The utilization study revealed that companies may over-assign administrative numbers within a particular thousand block, prefix or rate center in the 949 area code. The following examples demonstrate this potential for over-assignment. Excluding the four special use prefixes in 949, which were reported as 10,000 administrative numbers in each prefix, administrative numbers constitute 0.9% of the total unavailable wireline numbers in 949. However, in the Rancho Viejo rate center, almost 8% of the unavailable wireline numbers were reported as administrative numbers, a rate of administrative number usage nine times the average. One company reported 229 administrative numbers in the Rancho Viejo rate center and one assigned number. Three other companies reported administrative number counts that were twenty or more times higher than their counts of assigned numbers. Given the variances in the levels of administrative numbers between companies and rate centers, it is unclear what basis companies use for placing numbers in this category. The CPUC should therefore pursue an investigation in this area.

Companies could conserve numbers by centralizing assignment of administrative numbers within one or a few blocks within one prefix. However, some companies randomly assigned administrative numbers in multiple thousand-blocks within the same prefix. Because of this practice, companies already have contaminated multiple thousand-blocks. Thus, preventing them from donating blocks once they can participate in number pooling or other LNP-based conservation measures.

Also, some companies holding multiple prefixes in a given rate center randomly assign administrative numbers throughout different prefixes when they have the available

number resources to centralize the assignment of these numbers in one prefix in that rate center. TD questions the need for companies to hold multiple prefixes in a given rate center, when they are using multiple prefixes to serve their internal purposes and not necessarily to serve customer needs.

Recommendations for Administrative Numbers

- *The CPUC should develop criteria by which companies assign administrative numbers. The CPUC should consider placing a limit on the quantity or percentage of administrative numbers companies are allowed to hold.*
- *The CPUC should develop rules that require companies to limit administrative number assignments within certain blocks in a given prefix. In cases in which companies hold multiple prefixes in a single rate center, the CPUC should develop rules that require companies to limit administrative number assignments within prefixes.*

4. Intermediate Numbers

The “intermediate number” category was only recently introduced by the FCC in its first NRO Order. This category tracks numbers that companies make available for use by another telecommunications carrier or non-carrier entity. Companies reported a total of 199,855 intermediate numbers in the 949 area code. Wireline carriers hold 157,334 of those numbers and wireless carriers hold 42,521. The quantity of intermediate numbers varied significantly among rate centers in the 949 area code.⁴⁵ Since the intermediate number category is new, the quantity of numbers reported by companies may increase over time as more companies become familiar with this category. TD notes that this number use category has the potential for abuse by companies if they use significant quantities of number resources for intermediate purposes. Therefore, TD recommends the CPUC continue to monitor intermediate number use.

Recommendation for Intermediate Numbers

- *The CPUC should monitor intermediate number use for all companies by reviewing future utilization filings to test whether potential abuses in this reporting category occur.*

⁴⁵ See Appendix F for a breakdown of intermediate numbers held by wireline and wireless carriers.

a. Type 1 Numbers

Wireline carriers allocate numbers for use by wireless carriers through Type 1 interconnection agreements.⁴⁶ Because wireline and wireless carriers share responsibility for Type 1 numbers, both types of companies reported on these numbers. Wireline carriers report Type 1 numbers in the Intermediate category since they provide these numbers to another company. Wireline carriers also list the wireless carriers to whom they distributed ranges of numbers. Wireless carriers report on the numbers they received, placing them in the Assigned, Administrative, Reserved, Intermediate, Aging, or Available categories.

Record keeping of Type 1 numbers is inadequate because, more often than not, wireline carriers' reports disagreed with wireless Type 1 carriers' reports. In the 949 area code, nearly 30% of all Type 1 numbers are unaccounted for or mismatched.⁴⁷ In some cases, wireless Type 1 carriers deny "owning" the numbers that wireline carriers report as distributed. In other cases, wireless Type 1 carriers go out of business and do not return their numbers to the wireline carrier. In either case, numbers are lying dormant, used by neither the wireline nor wireless Type 1 carrier.

In today's scarce numbering environment, it is unacceptable to let numbers go unused because of inadequate record keeping. Wireline donor carriers currently do not monitor wireless Type 1 inventories, nor do they proactively reclaim unused Type 1 numbers from wireless carriers. TD recommends that wireline carriers perform a one-time inventory check on Type 1 numbers to confirm that the numbers they have distributed are acknowledged by the recipient wireless Type 1 carrier. If errors are discovered, the wireline carriers should count the numbers as part of their own inventories.

Improved Type 1 number management is particularly crucial because unlike numbers held by most wireless carriers, Type 1 numbers are eligible for number

⁴⁶ Type 1 numbers are *programmed* in the wireline carrier's end office, but are *used* by a wireless carrier.

⁴⁷ 42,000 out of a total of 154,401 Type 1 numbers are unaccounted for or mismatched.

pooling.⁴⁸ Therefore, once wireline carriers recover unused Type 1 numbers, these numbers could be made available for pooling. Despite the problems with reporting, TD has identified 1 block of Type 1 numbers in the 949 area code that may be eligible for donation to a pool.⁴⁹ The CPUC should recognize Type 1 numbers as a resource for number pooling and take steps to have wireline companies recover unused Type 1 numbers for donation to a number pool.

As described in Chapter 1, state and federal mandates require most companies to demonstrate efficient numbering practices before becoming eligible to obtain more numbers. In contrast, Type 1 wireless carriers have no check on their number use because they draw numbers directly from wireline companies, therefore avoiding the scrutiny of the official number administrator. TD recommends that Type 1 wireless carriers be subject to number conservation measures, and the CPUC should develop a system to ensure compliance.

Recommendations for Type 1 numbers:

- *Wireline and wireless carriers should improve Type 1 number inventory management. Wireline carriers should perform a one-time inventory check of wireless Type 1 numbers to verify their records match that of the wireless Type 1 carriers' records. Companies should make inventory data available to the CPUC upon request. Wireline carriers should recover and add to their inventories any Type 1 numbers lying dormant.*
- *Type 1 carriers should be subject to number conservation techniques such as sequential numbering and fill rates. A system to ensure compliance with Type 1 number conservation measures should be developed.*
- *The Commission should consider Type 1 numbers as potential donations to the number pool. Excess and unused Type 1 numbers should be returned to the wireline carriers and either used to serve customers or donated to the number pool*

⁴⁸ Type 1 numbers given to wireless carriers are from prefixes in which LNP has already been initiated by the wireline carriers. Because Type 1 numbers reside in the wireline carrier's end office, Type 1 numbers are LNP-capable and thus suited for pooling.

⁴⁹ These blocks are 10% or less contaminated.

5. Aging Numbers

The FCC's first NRO Order defines aging numbers as disconnected numbers that are not available for assignment to another customer for a specified period of time. Consistent with the Industry Numbering Committee (INC) Guidelines, the CPUC adopted the FCC upper limits for aging numbers as 90 days for residential numbers and 365 days⁵⁰ for business numbers.

In the 949 area code, there are approximately 108,000 numbers in the aging category, representing about 5.2% of the total unavailable numbers. Most companies track aging telephone numbers by business and residential categories. However, Pacific Bell, does not differentiate between business and residential customers when tracking aging numbers and therefore, Pacific Bell reported all its aging numbers in the "residential" category for this phase of the area code studies. Therefore, the vast majority of aging numbers is categorized in the residential category and may give a false impression that most of the aging numbers are residential numbers.

Because Pacific Bell does not differentiate between residential and business in reporting aging numbers, it is uncertain whether Pacific is adhering to the maximum 90-day aging period for residential numbers, and whether, at the end of the 90-day period, Pacific is reassigning these numbers to the "available" category. Pacific Bell may be allowing residential numbers to be in the aging category for nine months longer than is permissible under both FCC and CPUC rules.

A higher percentage of aging numbers occurs in the wireless category, as compared to the wireline category. Aging numbers represent about 5.8% of the total unavailable wireless numbers, or about 21,000 numbers. Aging numbers represent approximately 5.2% of the total unavailable wireline numbers, or about 87,000 numbers. This is consistent with the higher turnover or "churn" that occurs in the wireless

⁵⁰ In the first NRO Order, both 360 days and 365 days were used as the time period for aging business numbers. In a clarifying order, the FCC adopted 365 days as the aging period for business numbers. When the CPUC sent out the parameters for utilization data for this study, the 360 day time period for aging business numbers was used. In order to be consistent with the time frames the FCC adopted, the CPUC is now using 365 days for aging business numbers.

industry. Appendix G shows the breakdown of aging numbers by wireless and wireline categories.

Recommendation for Aging Numbers

- *Although the CPUC has required all companies to differentiate aging numbers between residential and business and track the two categories separately, Pacific Bell has not complied with these requirements. Pacific Bell should be redirected to differentiate aging numbers between business and residential, track them separately, and report on each category accurately. The CPUC should assess penalties for failure to comply.*

6. The Need to Audit the Data

The data analyzed in this utilization study was self-reported by companies. Given the area code crisis in California, the CPUC should audit this data for two reasons. First, verifying number usage data is important to ensure that the public resource of telephone numbers is efficiently managed. Second, audits will help verify whether companies are complying with CPUC and FCC rules for number usage.

Recommendation for Audit

- *The CPUC should audit the data submitted by companies in this study and future area code number utilization studies.*

CHAPTER THREE: NUMBER POOLING AND OTHER NUMBER CONSERVATION MEASURES

A. Introduction

Many of the recommendations in Chapter Two resulted directly from the analysis of the utilization data and address actions that the CPUC should undertake to make additional numbers available for either pooling or for the regular monthly lottery. The recommendations contained in this chapter suggest additional conservation measures as required by Public Utilities Code Section 7935(a). The CPUC could adopt the following conservation measures in the 949 area code and statewide: LNP-related actions, Unassigned Number Porting, Rate Center Consolidation, and prefix sharing. When applied, these conservation measures would result in uniform policies which will cause companies to use numbers more efficiently across California and would minimize customer confusion

B. Number Pooling

Number pooling is an excellent method of number conservation. The CPUC worked aggressively to bring number pooling to California and the results have been dramatic. Pools are underway in the 310, 415, 408, 510, 650, 714, 818 and 909 area codes and six additional pools are scheduled to begin in 2001.

Number pooling has avoided the need to open prefixes and therefore has extended the life of area codes. Prior to pooling, 432 prefixes would have been opened in the eight area codes mentioned above.⁵¹ In addition, the pool has satisfied the numbering needs of all companies participating in the pool almost entirely with donated blocks.⁵²

Pooling benefits not only the public but the companies as well by reducing the time necessary to acquire numbering resources. Without pooling, activating new numbers

⁵¹ As of July 1, 2001. The number pool for the 510 area code began on June 29, 2001 and was implemented too late to be included in this analysis.

⁵² One prefix was opened in the 310 area code to supply numbers to the pool, and two prefixes were opened in the 909 area code to supply numbers to the pool. Several prefixes have been opened for LRN purposes.

takes at least 66 days.⁵³ With number pooling, activating new numbers can be accomplished in three weeks.

1. More Accurate Forecasting Will Improve Number Pooling

So far in California, number pooling has worked well because companies have met their numbering needs from the excess numbers other companies donate to the pool. The CPUC has set aside prefixes in each area code that will be used to replenish the pools if and when donations are no longer sufficient. There are a limited number of set-aside prefixes, so it is crucial that these prefixes be opened only when there is truly a need.

If donated numbers are not sufficient to meet the companies' forecasts, a new prefix may need to be opened. Industry guidelines suggest replenishing a pool at least 66 days in advance when the forecast shows a company will need more numbers than the pool has on hand. This presents a problem, as companies in California have been, on average, forecasting over *six times* more numbers than they will take from the pool. Had the pool administrator opened prefixes based on the forecast, the prefixes would lie unused in the rate center.⁵⁴

The CPUC has thus far prevented prefixes from being unnecessarily opened by ordering the Pooling Administrator (PA) to consult with TD prior to opening any prefix. However, the CPUC believes this issue should be addressed for the long term. Industry guidelines encourage companies to over-forecast, because a company can only be assured numbers for which it forecasts.⁵⁵ In essence, a company could be penalized for under-forecasting. Since there is no penalty for over-forecasting, it is in companies' interests to err on the side of over-forecasting. TD recommends the CPUC develop specific rules guiding company forecasting. TD also recommends that the PA take historical usage into account when determining when to open a fresh prefix of 10,000 numbers.

⁵³ Before a whole prefix is activated, the prefix must be first listed for 66 days in the Local Exchange Routing Guide (LERG), stating the rate center where the prefix will be located.

⁵⁴ Data can be found in Pooling Appendix.

⁵⁵ Sections 6.1.4 & 6.1.5 in INC 99-0127-023, January 10, 2000

Recommendation for Number Pooling

- *The CPUC should work with industry groups and the Pooling Administrator to develop specific rules for companies pertaining to forecasting a six-month inventory when a number pool is authorized in a particular area code.*

C. Lack of Local Number Portability Stands as a Key Barrier to Pooling

Full LNP deployment in the 949 area code is critical to effective number conservation. As described in Chapter 1, LNP enables customers to keep their telephone numbers when they switch companies. Because the number remains with the customer and can be transferred to different companies, there is no need to distribute duplicate numbering resources to both companies. Also, LNP is the technology platform that makes number pooling possible.

In an order released in 1997, the FCC ordered all wireline carriers in the top 100 MSAs to become LNP capable by December 1998.⁵⁶ The 949 area code falls within one of the top 100 MSAs. The study revealed that all but two wireline carriers in the 949 area code are LNP capable. These companies hold 81,000 numbers that could be made available for number pooling, if they implemented LNP technology. This non-compliance could likely be explained by the existence of subsequent FCC documents contradicting the original LNP order. However, in the Second NRO Report and Order adopted December 7, 2000, the FCC resolved the confusion within footnote 399 stating “Specifically, we have mandated thousands-block number pooling in the top 100 MSAs where carriers are required to be LNP capable.”

Wireless carriers, however, requested and received from the FCC an extension of time, until November 2002, to become LNP capable.⁵⁷ The CPUC filed comments with the FCC arguing that wireless carriers should be required to participate in pooling

⁵⁶ FCC 96-286 in CC Docket No. 95-116.

⁵⁷ FCC 99-19, WT Docket 98-229; CC Docket No. 95-116, Released: February 9, 1999. Paging companies are indefinitely exempt from becoming LNP-capable.

immediately upon becoming LNP capable.⁵⁸ In the Second NRO Report and Order, the FCC agreed with the CPUC and will require cellular and PCS carriers to participate in pooling immediately upon becoming LNP capable. Wireless carriers hold 93 prefixes in the 949 area code, of which up to 451 blocks could be made available for pooling if they were required to participate in a pool.

As noted earlier, federal LNP requirements are directed at companies in the country's top 100 MSAs. But roughly half of the area codes in California fall partially or completely outside of these MSAs. These area codes are facing similar numbering crises, and LNP is not ordered. Without full activation of LNP throughout California, the CPUC is effectively prevented from operating number pools in half of the area codes in the state. California has a pending petition at the FCC to extend LNP deployment statewide. The CPUC should urge the FCC to act on the petition for authority to order LNP capability statewide.

Recommendation for LNP

- *The CPUC should continue to work with the FCC to enforce LNP capability mandates for all wireline carriers in the top 100 MSAs.*

D. Unassigned Number Porting

Unassigned Number Porting (UNP) is the term used to describe the transfer of unused numbers from one company to another. Like number pooling and the porting of assigned numbers from company to company, UNP is made possible by deployment of LNP. The primary benefit of UNP would be increased access to unused numbers stranded in carrier inventories. UNP would also strengthen competitively neutral access to public numbering resources by enabling companies with smaller inventories to access the inventories of companies with larger number holdings.

UNP would allow companies to transfer small increments of numbers between themselves. Various proposals have suggested limiting the increments to 25 or 100

⁵⁸ Further Comments of the California Public Utilities Commission and the People of the State of California in CC Docket No. 99-200, submitted May 19, 2000.

numbers.⁵⁹ Two efficiencies would be gained: 1) companies with smaller scale needs would be able to receive numbers in increments appropriate to meet their needs, and 2) unused numbers stranded in company inventories would be transferred to companies where they could be put to use.

Currently, companies receive unused numbers from the NANPA or the PA in increments of 10,000 numbers (prefixes) or 1,000 numbers (blocks). In areas without number pooling, prefixes held in company inventories that are not put to use within six months must be returned, but only if uncontaminated. If just one number has been used, the remaining 9,999 are stranded in the company inventory. In areas with number pooling, blocks are eligible for return only if 10% or less contaminated. For example, if a company receives 1000 numbers and only has need for 100 numbers, the remaining 900 numbers are eligible for return. However, if a company received 1000 numbers and only has need for 101 numbers, the remaining 899 numbers are ineligible for return and are stranded in the company inventory. UNP is one way to address the problem of stranded numbers.

The FCC has contemplated UNP but has so far declined to act.⁶⁰ The FCC has not ruled out UNP as a conservation measure.⁶¹ In the absence of a voluntary company agreement to implement UNP, however, the CPUC could only implement UNP with FCC approval. Given the number conservation benefits to be had, the CPUC should petition the FCC for authority to undertake a UNP trial.

Recommendations for UNP

- *The CPUC should petition the FCC for authority to implement UNP statewide.*

⁵⁹ See INC Contribution #336R of September 29, 2000, “UNP Architecture With Minimal Administrative Structure” and Focal and MCIWorldcom’s Report on UNP Trial.

⁶⁰ NRO Order, FCC 00-104, CC Docket 99-200, ¶ 230. “We reiterate our finding that UNP and ITN [individual telephone number pooling] are not yet sufficiently developed for adoption as nationwide numbering resource optimization measures and conclude that ITN and UNP should not be mandated at this time.”

⁶¹ See ¶ 231: “We permit carriers, however, to engage voluntarily in UNP where it is mutually agreeable and where no public safety or network reliability concerns have been identified.”

- *The CPUC should solicit comments in order to develop rules and practices necessary to implement UNP.*

E. Consolidation of Rate Centers to Maximize Number Use

Rate Center Consolidation (RCC) is a potential number conservation tool because it allows companies to use numbers over a larger geographic area, thus slowing the rate at which prefixes are used. Rate center location dictates both the scope of a customer's local calling area and the charges assessed per toll call. In California, each rate center governs a relatively small, uniform local calling area, measured from the rate center of each exchange. Because the local calling areas in California are small compared to those in many other states, it is virtually impossible to migrate to larger calling areas via consolidation of rate centers without eliminating at least some toll call routes.

Eliminating toll routes would have the residual effect of reducing revenues for toll service providers, which include both local exchange carriers and interexchange carriers. The two major ILECs in California, Pacific Bell and Verizon (formerly GTE California), have expressed at industry meetings their belief that they should be "made whole" for any loss of toll revenues that likely would result from consolidating rate centers. An industry task force which the CPUC charged with developing a proposal for rate center consolidation reported to the CPUC in March 1999 that it would offer no such plan until the CPUC addresses revenue and consumer impact issues. However, it is difficult, if not impossible for the CPUC to address consumer and revenue impacts if the CPUC has no plan before it for consolidating rate centers, which would provide the context and details for assessing such impacts.

California has roughly 750 rate centers, each of which is the approximate center of a 12-mile local calling area. With no input from the industry, the CPUC cannot begin to guess what approach would be most appropriate. For example, California could consolidate from 750 rate centers to 400, or to 200. Each of those possibilities would present different rate "impacts" for both companies and customers. Alternatively, rather than attempting to consolidate rate centers on a statewide basis, the CPUC could consider

consolidating rate centers on an area code-by-area code basis. All rate centers in one area code, for example, could be consolidated into one rate center. This would eliminate both the uniform statewide local calling area of 12 miles and uniform statewide rates for each company, thus generating some amount of customer confusion as individuals travel throughout the state for business or social purposes, or relocate their home or business. Further, because companies would lose toll revenues when rate centers are consolidated and local calling areas expanded, the CPUC would need to address the question of which, if any, companies should be allowed to recover those lost revenues, and if so, how.⁶² Finally, rate center consolidation will mean direct, substantial, and permanent basic rate increases for many customers, unless the ILECs forgo their claim that RCC should be revenue neutral. Economics and Technology, a Boston consulting group, has projected that "...rate center consolidation in California could result in a per-access-line increase of \$5.56 in basic monthly rates for California ILEC customers."⁶³

This may not be an acceptable option, even though California presently has among the lowest local exchange rates in the country. And, if the ILECs continue to press for revenue neutrality, the very process of determining the amount of those revenues, as well as how those monies should be recovered and from what class(es) of customers, would constitute a rate design proceeding of significant scale and scope. Such a proceeding could consume a tremendous amount of CPUC, industry, and consumer representative resources, and take one to two years.⁶⁴

⁶² For example, while the ILECs still control roughly 95% of the residential toll market, competitors have succeeded in making significant inroads into the business toll market, where the ILECs now hold only 50% of the market. If the CPUC were to decide that the ILECs should be "made whole" for any lost toll revenues, then other companies legitimately could demand a mechanism to make them whole as well. Alternatively, if the competitors cannot practically be reimbursed for lost revenues, then as a policy matter, the CPUC must decide if it is reasonable to allow only the ILECs to recover such revenue.

⁶³ "Where Have All the Numbers Gone?" (Second Edition), The Ad Hoc Telecommunications Users Committee, prepared by Economics and Technology, Inc., June 2000. The estimate of \$5.56 may be conservative.

⁶⁴ The last major rate design proceeding undertaken for Pacific Bell and Verizon, then GTEC, was the Implementation and Rate Design (IRD) phase of the New Regulatory Framework proceeding, 1.87-11-033. The IRD phase took three years to complete.

Nonetheless, because RCC offers the potential for conserving significant quantities of numbers in California, TD recommends that the CPUC renew its efforts to determine how RCC could be implemented in California. The industry should be directed to posit several different scenarios, if they cannot agree on one proposal.

Recommendation for Rate Center Consolidation

- *The CPUC should undertake further investigation by ordering the telecommunications industry to develop a plan, within 180 days, for rate center consolidation.*

F. Sharing Prefixes May Yield More Efficient Number Use

In analyzing previous utilization data in the 310 area code, TD became aware that two non-affiliated companies were sharing prefixes under an informal arrangement. Using LNP technology, a company with excess numbers had transferred whole thousand blocks of numbers to the other company for use. TD believes this sharing arrangement promotes efficient number use among companies.

Some companies reporting utilization data in the 949 area code are affiliated through mergers, acquisitions or other business relationships. Despite these affiliations, each company separately requests numbers from the NANPA.⁶⁵ TD notes that the benefits of sharing prefixes may be different in area codes in which number pooling has already been implemented versus those that number pooling has not been implemented. Sharing prefixes between companies appears worthy of further investigation by the CPUC as a mechanism to promote more efficient use of numbers.

Recommendation for Sharing of Prefixes

- *The CPUC should further explore sharing of prefixes as a means to more efficiently utilize numbers in all area codes.*

⁶⁵ Prior to the opening of a number pool, all companies requesting telephone numbers get prefixes from the NANPA. With pooling, only non-LNP-capable carriers receive prefixes from the NANPA, while LNP-capable carriers receive thousand-number blocks from the pooling administrator.

CONCLUSION

Analyzing the utilization data provided by carriers has provided useful information regarding number availability and usage practices in the 949 area code. It also has offered insights into developing better public policies to improve efficiency of number use.

We now know that, of the approximately 7.8 million usable numbers in the 949 area code, approximately 5.7 million, or nearly three-fourths, presently are not in use. Despite the increasing demand for numbers, the 949 area code is not fully utilized. The data indicates that there is considerable room for growth within the existing 949 area code, and it is premature to consider splitting or overlaying the 949 area code at this time.

The CPUC already has directed carriers to employ measures to use the numbering resources in 949 more efficiently. Recently adopted fill rates and sequential numbering rules will ensure that carriers use their existing resources more fully and receive additional numbers only on an as-needed basis. When pooling takes effect in the 949 area code, all LNP-capable carriers will be given numbers expeditiously and in usable blocks. Allocating numbers in thousand-block increments rather than in full prefixes of 10,000 numbers will ensure that the numbering resources are used more efficiently, and can greatly extend the life of the existing area code. Implementing these more efficient numbering practices is an important first step, but more needs to be done.

In analyzing the carrier data, it is now clear that because of 1) past inefficiencies in numbering policies and practices, 2) the 10% contamination ceiling for block donations to pooling, and 3) the deferral of LNP capability for wireless carriers, 1.6 million numbers are not in use in 949 but cannot be reassigned to other carriers. Changes in contamination thresholds and requiring LNP capability for all carriers could make about 700,000 of these stranded numbers available for reassignment.

The CPUC should continue its collaborative process with the FCC and the telecommunications industry to implement Unassigned Number Porting, the development of non-geographic-specific area codes, and other measures that will more fully utilize numbers. The CPUC should begin implementation of the many number conservation and

management practices found in the Recommendations section of this report. As a public resource, it is important that our numbering supplies are used as efficiently and effectively as possible.

APPENDIX A-1

DEFINITIONS FOR UTILIZATION STUDY

Administrative: Administrative numbers are numbers used by telecommunications carriers to perform internal administrative or operational functions necessary to maintain reasonable quality of service standards. Subcategories used in the Utilization Studies are:

Internal Business Purpose/Official Numbers: A number assigned by a service provider for its own internal business purposes

Test Numbers: Telephone numbers (TNs) assigned for inter-and intra-network testing purposes

Other Administrative Numbers (include only Location Routing Number, Temporary Local Directory Number and Wireless E911 ESRD/ESRK) where

Identical to a Local Routing Number (LRN): The ten-digit (NPA-XXX-XXXX) number assigned to a switch/point of interconnection (POI) used for routing in a permanent local number portability environment

Temporary Local Directory Number (TLDN): A number dynamically assigned on a per call basis by the serving wireless service provider to a roaming subscriber for the purpose of incoming call setup

Wireless E-911 ESRD/ESRK: A ten-digit number used for the purpose of routing an E911 call to the appropriate Public Service Answering Point (PSAP) when that call is originating from wireless equipment. The ESRD identifies the cell site and sector of the call origination in a wireless call scenario. The Emergency Services Routing Key (ESRK) uniquely identifies the call in a given cell site/sector and correlates data that is provided to a PSAP by different paths, such as the voice path and the Automatic Location Identification (ALI) data path. Both the ESRD and ESRK define a route to the proper PSAP. The ESRK alone, or the ESRD and/or Mobile Identification Number (MIN), is signaled to the PSAP where it can be used to retrieve from the ALI database, the mobile caller's call-back number, position and the emergency service agencies (e.g., police, fire, medical, etc.) associated with the caller's location. If a NANP telephone number is used as an ESRD or ESRK, this number cannot be assigned to a customer.

For convenience, "other administrative numbers" are reported as a group for purposes of the Utilization Study

APPENDIX A-1 (continued)

Aging Numbers: Aging numbers are disconnected numbers that are not available for assignment to another end user or customer for a specified period of time. Numbers previously assigned to residential customers may be aged for no more than 90 days. Numbers previously assigned to business customers may be aged for no more than 360 days. For purposes of the Utilization Study, carriers are to separately report aging numbers associated with residential service from those associated with business service.

Assigned Numbers: Assigned numbers are numbers working in the Public Switched Telephone Network under an agreement such as a contract or tariff at the request of specific end users or customers for their use, or numbers not yet working but having a customer service order pending. Numbers that are not yet working and have a service order pending for more than five days shall not be classified as assigned numbers. For purposes of the Utilization Studies, numbers for non-working wireless and for interim number portability are to be considered as assigned numbers in Part 1-Section A and separately identified in Part 2. See Interim Number Portability and Non-Working Wireless for definitions.

Available Numbers: Available numbers are numbers that are available for assignment to subscriber access lines, or their equivalents, within a switching entity or point of interconnection and are not classified as assigned, intermediate, administrative, aging, or reserved.

COC Type: Three-digit element defining the use of the Central Office Code (codes such as 0XX used for access tandem and testboard addressing or a "+" symbol that indicates direct routing to the designated switch in the NPA. 2XX-9XX values are considered NXXs.) Allowable codes in the LERG Destination Code by LATA and Tandem Homing Arrangements (LERG 6/9) are:

ATC = Access Tandem Code (0/1XX)

CDA = Customer Directory Assistance only (555 line numbers are assigned by the North American Numbering Plan Administration)

EOC = End Office Code

PLN = Planned Code - non-routable

PMC = Public Mobile Carrier (Type 2 Interconnected)

RCC = Radio Common Carrier (Dedicated Type 1 Interconnected)

SIC = Special 800 Service Code

SP1 = Service Provider - Miscellaneous Service (Type 1 Interconnected)

SP2 = Service Provider - Miscellaneous Service (Type 2 Interconnected)

TST = Standard Plant Test Code

Allowable codes in the LERG Oddball file (LERG6ODD only) are:

700 = 700 IntraLATA Presubscription

APPENDIX A-1 (continued)

AIN = Advanced Intelligent Network
BLG = Billing Only
BRD = Broadband
CTV = Cable Television
ENP = Emergency Preparedness
FGB = Feature Group B Access
HVL = High Volume
INP = Information Provider
LTC = Local Test Code
N11 = N11 Code
ONA = Open Network Architecture
PRO = Protected
RSV = Reserved
RTG = Routing Only
UFA = Unavailable for Assignment

Interim Number Portability (INP): The interim ability to move telephone service from one service provider to another service provider using Remote Call Forwarding (RCF), Direct Inward Dialing (DID), or equivalent means where:

- *Remote Call Forwarding allows a customer to have a local telephone number in a distant location. Every time someone calls that number, that call is forwarded to the RCF customer in the distant location. Remote call forwarding is similar to call forwarding on a residential line, except that the RCF customer has no phone, no office and no physical presence in that location.*
- *A DID (Direct Inward Dial) trunk is a trunk from the Central office which passes the last two to four digits of the Listed Directory Number into the PBX, thus allowing the PBX to switch the call to and thus ring the correct extension" without the use of an attendant (Newton's Telecom Dictionary). Existing DID retail service is limited to PBX services. For purposes of providing INP, Pacific and GTEC will use the DID switch functionality to provide INP to any CLC customer regardless of the type of terminal equipment used on the customers' premises.*
- *For the purposes of the Utilization Study, each carrier must report the quantity of its assigned numbers that are dedicated to providing INP under Assigned Numbers in Part 1-Section A and separately identified in Part 2.*

APPENDIX A-1 (continued)

Intermediate Numbers: Intermediate numbers are numbers that are made available for use by another telecommunications carrier or non-carrier entity for the purpose of providing telecommunications service to an end user or customer. Numbers ported for the purpose of transferring an established customer's service to another service provider shall not be classified as intermediate numbers. For Type 1 donor carriers, Type 1 numbers are to be reported as intermediate numbers in Part 1-Section A and detailed information is to be provided in Part 2 for the Utilization Studies. For Type 1 recipient donors, Type 1 numbers shall be reported in the Part 1-Section B for the Utilization Studies. For definition, see Type 1 numbers.

Local Number Portability: The ability to move a telephone number from one service provider to another service provider using LRN-LNP technology

Non-Working Wireless: this category is for wireless companies only to report numbers that they have already assigned to customer equipment, but are not yet working. For example, cellular carriers often pre-package a cellular telephone with an assigned telephone number for sale to customers. Those phone numbers are assigned, but are not actually activated until after the customer purchase is made. For the purposes of the Utilization Study, each carrier must report the quantity of its non-working wireless numbers under Assigned Numbers in Part 1-Section A and separately identified in Part 2.

OCN: Operating Company Number (OCN) assignments must uniquely identify the applicant. Relative to CO Code assignments, NECA-assigned Company Codes may be used as OCNs. Companies with no prior CO Code or Company Code assignments should contact NECA (973-884-8355) to be assigned a Company Code(s). Since multiple OCNs and/or Company codes may be associated with a given company, companies with prior assignments should direct questions regarding appropriate OCN usage to the Traffic Routing Administration (TRA) on 732-699-6700

Reserved Numbers: Reserved numbers are numbers that are held by service providers at the request of specific end users or customers for their future use. Numbers held for specific end users or customers for more than 45 days shall not be classified as reserved numbers.

Special Use NXX Codes: Certain NXX codes have traditionally been reserved or designated for special uses, and have not been available for assignment by carriers for general commercial use in providing telephone numbers to customers. These NXX prefixes are restricted to such special uses as recorded public information announcements of time-of-day and weather forecasts, high-volume call-in numbers, and emergency access numbers used by the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA), etc.

APPENDIX A-1 (continued)

Type 1 Numbers: numbers pursuant to a Type 1 interconnection agreement. The Type 1 interconnection is a connection between a mobile/wireless service provider and an end office of another service provider for the purpose of originating and terminating traffic or for access to end user services (i.e. DA, Operator services, 911, etc). The interconnection consists of a facility between the mobile/wireless service provider and the end office, switch usage, and telephone numbers (only required if the mobile carrier wishes to receive originating (L/M) traffic). For the purposes of the 310 Utilization Study, both mobile/wireless service providers who have received Type 1 numbers and those service providers who have provided Type 1 numbers to mobile/wireless service providers are asked to report on those numbers at the 1000 block level.

Appendix A-2 Companies Holding Prefixes in the 949 Area Code

- 1 AB Cellular Holding, LLC dba AT&T Wireless
- 2 Airstar Paging
- 3 Airtouch Cellular - CA (Verizon)
- 4 Airtouch Paging - California (Verizon Messaging)
- 5 Allegiance Telecom, Inc.-CA
- 6 AT&T Fixed Wireless Group
- 7 AT&T Local
- 8 Cook Telecom, Inc.
- 9 Cox California Telecom, Inc.
- 10 Digitcom Services, Inc.
- 11 Firstworld So CA
- 12 Focal Communications Corp of California
- 13 Frontier Local Services, Inc.-CA (Global Crossing)
- 14 GST Pacific Lightwave
- 15 GTE Co of California - Verizon
- 16 ICG Telecom Group - CA
- 17 Intermedia Communications Inc. - CA
- 18 Level 3 Communications LLC - CA
- 19 Map Mobile Communications, Inc.
- 20 Mediaone Telecommunications of California, Inc.
- 21 Metrocall
- 22 MGC Communications, Inc.-CA
- 23 Nationwide Paging, Inc.
- 24 Network Services LLC
- 25 Nextel Communications
- 26 Nextlink of California (Now XO)
- 27 O1 Communications, Inc.
- 28 Optel California Telecom, Inc
- 29 Pacific Bell
- 30 Pacific Bell - CLEC
- 31 Pacific Bell Mobile Services
- 32 Pac-West Telecomm, Inc.
- 33 Paetec Communications, Inc. - CA
- 34 Pagenet
- 35 Pagers Plus dba Pageprompt, Inc.
- 36 Paging Plus
- 37 Prism California Operations LLC - CA
- 38 San Diego Paging
- 39 Sprint Communications Company, LP - CA
- 40 Sprint Spectrum LP
- 41 Teleport Communications Group-Los Angeles
- 42 Teligent, Inc.-CA
- 43 The Telephone Connection of Los Angeles, Inc.
- 44 The Westlink Company
- 45 Time Warner Communications Axs of California
- 46 Urjet Backbone Network Inc.
- 47 US Telepacific Corp - CA
- 48 Winstar Wireless, Inc.-CA
- 49 Worldcom Technologies, Inc.-CA

Appendix B

Table B-1

5.7 million Available Numbers

	Blocks	Numbers
Wireline Carriers	3,460	1,727,446
Wireless Carriers	930	567,964
Type 1 Carriers		40,385
Subtotal	4,390	2,335,795
Set aside for number pooling		
Available in lottery	3,370	3,370,000
Total	7,760	5,705,795

The 2.3 million available numbers assigned to carriers are broken down as:

Wireline Carriers

Blocks with 0% contamination	915	915,000
Blocks with more than 0% up to 10%	445	433,165
Subtotal: 0% to 10% contamination	1,360	1,348,165
Blocks with more than 10% up to 15%	39	34,401
Blocks with more than 15% up to 20%	67	54,204
Blocks with more than 20% up to 25%	39	30,380
Blocks with more than 25% contam.	1,955	260,296
Total	3,460	1,727,446

Wireless Carriers

Blocks with 0% contamination	366	366,000
Blocks with more than 0% up to 10%	85	82,758
Subtotal: 0% to 10% contamination	451	448,758
Blocks with more than 10% up to 15%	18	15,803
Blocks with more than 15% up to 20%	15	12,130
Blocks with more than 20% up to 25%	11	8,487
Blocks with more than 25% contam.	435	82,786
Total	930	567,964

Type 1 Carriers

Reported as Intermediate Numbers by Donors	154,401
Reported as Unavailable Numbers by Type 1 Carriers	(86,841)
Est. of Unavailable Numbers of Remaining Type 1 Carriers ¹	(27,175)
Total	40,385

1. Of the 154,401 numbers reported by donors as Type 1 numbers, Type 1 recipients only reported on 117,600 numbers: 86,841 unavailable and 30,759 available. Therefore, 36,801 numbers are unaccounted for. Staff estimated the unavailable numbers for the unaccounted numbers using the ratio from numbers that were reported, namely 86,841 divided by 117,600.

Appendix B
Table B-2
Numbers Potentially Reallocable Among Carriers

<u>Available Outside of Pooling:</u>		Running Total	
1 From lottery	3,370,000	3,370,000	
<u>Available for Pooling Under Current Rules:</u>			
2 Wireline Carriers: 10% or less contamination ¹	787,107		
3 Set aside for number pooling	<u>0</u>		
4 Subtotal -- Estimated Currently Poolable	787,107		
5 <u>Baseline reallocable numbers</u>		<u>4,157,107</u>	
<u>Other Possibilities for Pooling:</u>			Increase from <u>Baseline</u>
6 Available Numbers from non-LNP blocks of wireline carriers	89,796	4,246,903	2.2%
7 Unavailable Numbers from Special Use Codes ²	20,000	4,266,903	0.5%
8 Wireline Carriers: Up to 15% contamination	34,401	4,301,304	0.8%
9 Wireline Carriers: Up to 20%	54,204	4,355,508	1.3%
10 Wireline Carriers: Up to 25%	30,380	4,385,888	0.7%
11 Cellular & PCS Carriers: Up to 10% ³	246,368	4,632,256	5.9%
12 Cellular & PCS Carriers: Up to 15% ³	8,676	4,640,932	0.2%
13 Cellular & PCS Carriers: Up to 20% ³	6,659	4,647,592	0.2%
14 Cellular & PCS Carriers: Up to 25% ³	4,659	4,652,251	0.1%
15 Type 1 Carriers: Up to 10%	934	4,653,185	0.0%
16 Type 1 Carriers: Up to 25%	2,447	4,655,632	0.1%
17 Paging Carriers: Up to 10% ³	202,390	4,858,022	4.9%
18 Paging Carriers: Up to 15% ³	7,127	4,865,149	0.2%
19 Paging Carriers: Up to 20% ³	5,471	4,870,620	0.1%
20 Paging Carriers: Up to 25% ³	3,828	4,874,447	0.1%
21 Subtotal -- Additional Potentially Poolable Numbers	<u>717,340</u>		<u>17.3%</u>
22 Total -- Potentially Poolable Numbers	<u>1,504,447</u>		
23 Total Potentially Reallocable Numbers	<u>4,874,447</u>		

Notes:

1. Actual numbers available to pool after carriers keep the allowed 6-month inventory were estimated from the 1,348,165 available numbers in LNP-capable, non-special-use blocks that are 10% or less contaminated, using the ratio of pooling donations to total 10% or less contaminated blocks (62.55%) from the 310 pool.
2. See Chapter 2, Section D.1.c. for discussion of special use codes.
3. While cellular and PCS carriers have until November 2002 to become LNP capable, paging companies are exempted indefinitely. Therefore, TD estimated the percentages of wireless available numbers held by cellular and PCS (54.9%) vs. paging (45.1%), and applied the percentages to the total available wireless numbers.

Table B-3
949 - Wireline Carriers' Available Numbers by Contamination Level up to 25%

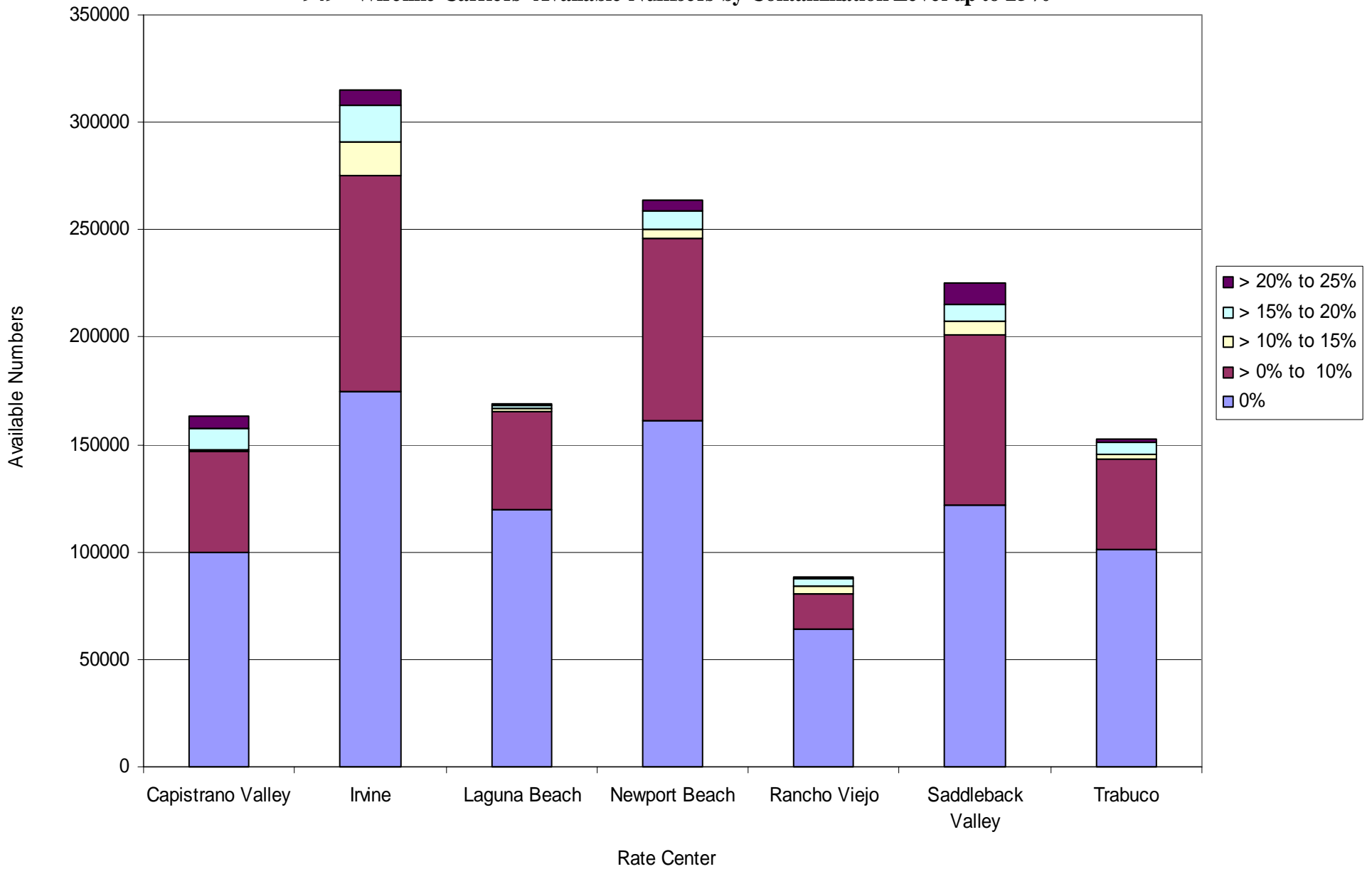
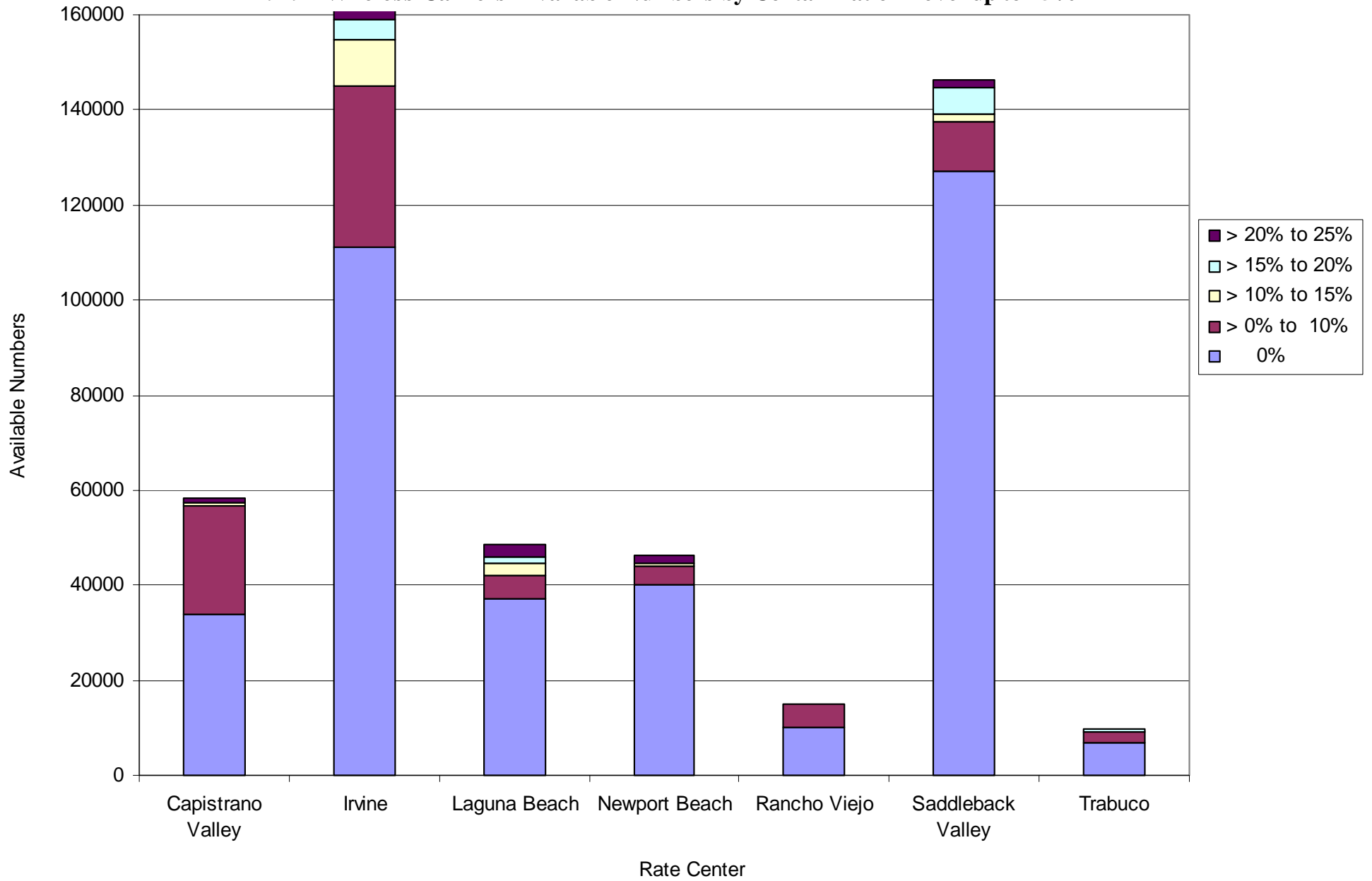
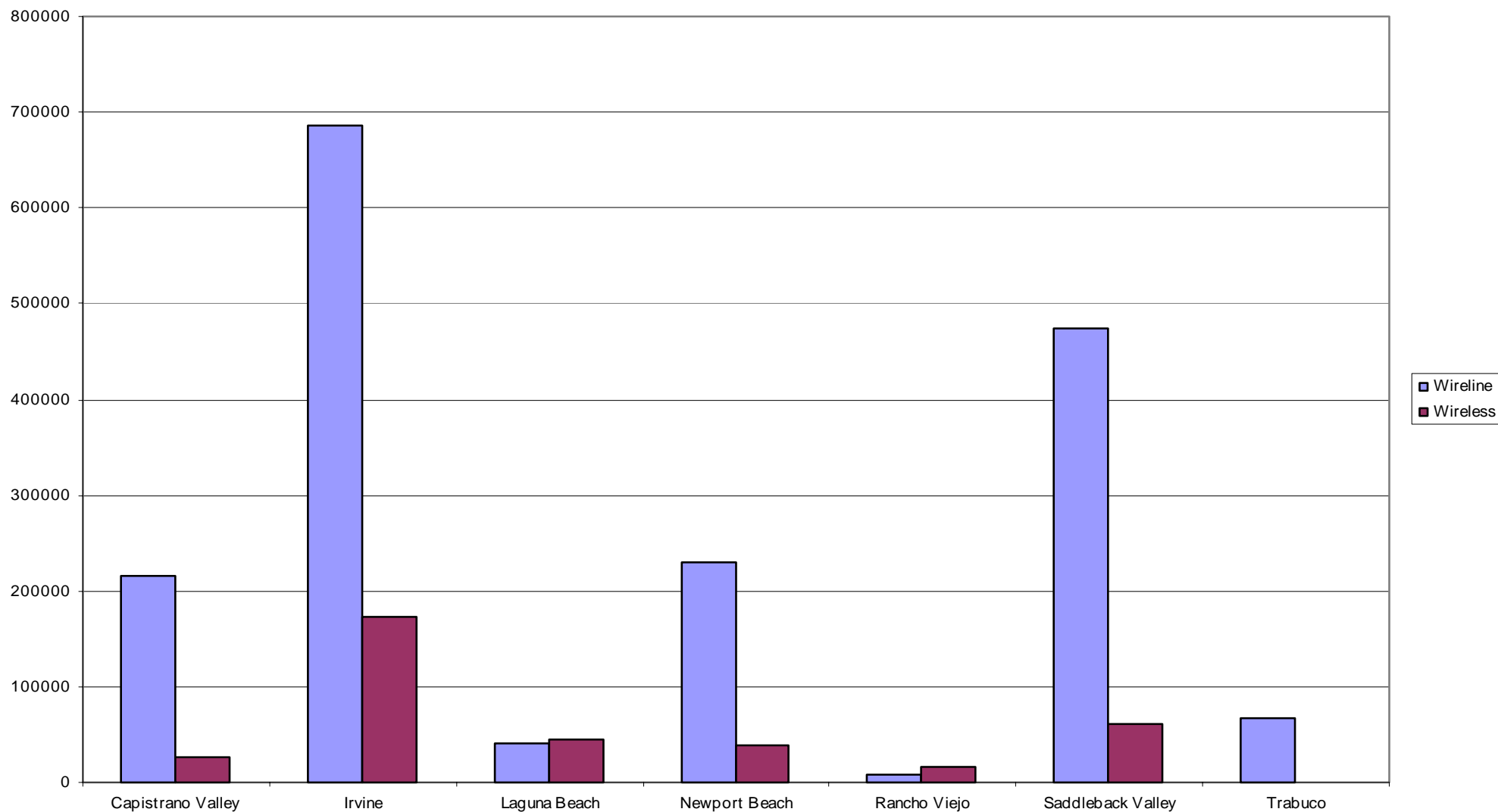


Table B-4

949 - Wireless Carriers' Available Numbers by Contamination Level up to 25%



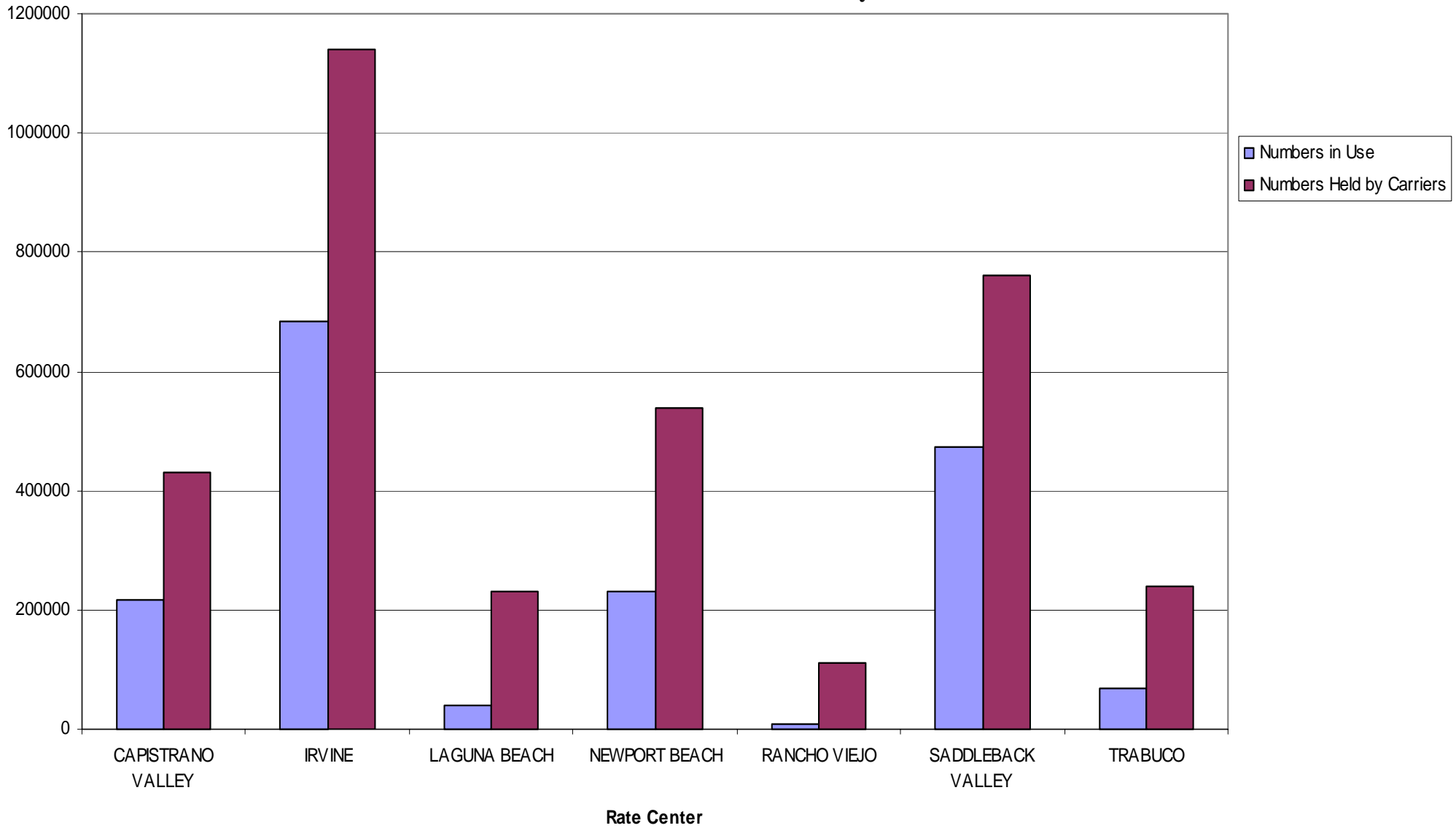
Appendix B
Table B-5
949- Numbers Assigned by Wireline and Wireless Carriers



Appendix B

Table B-6

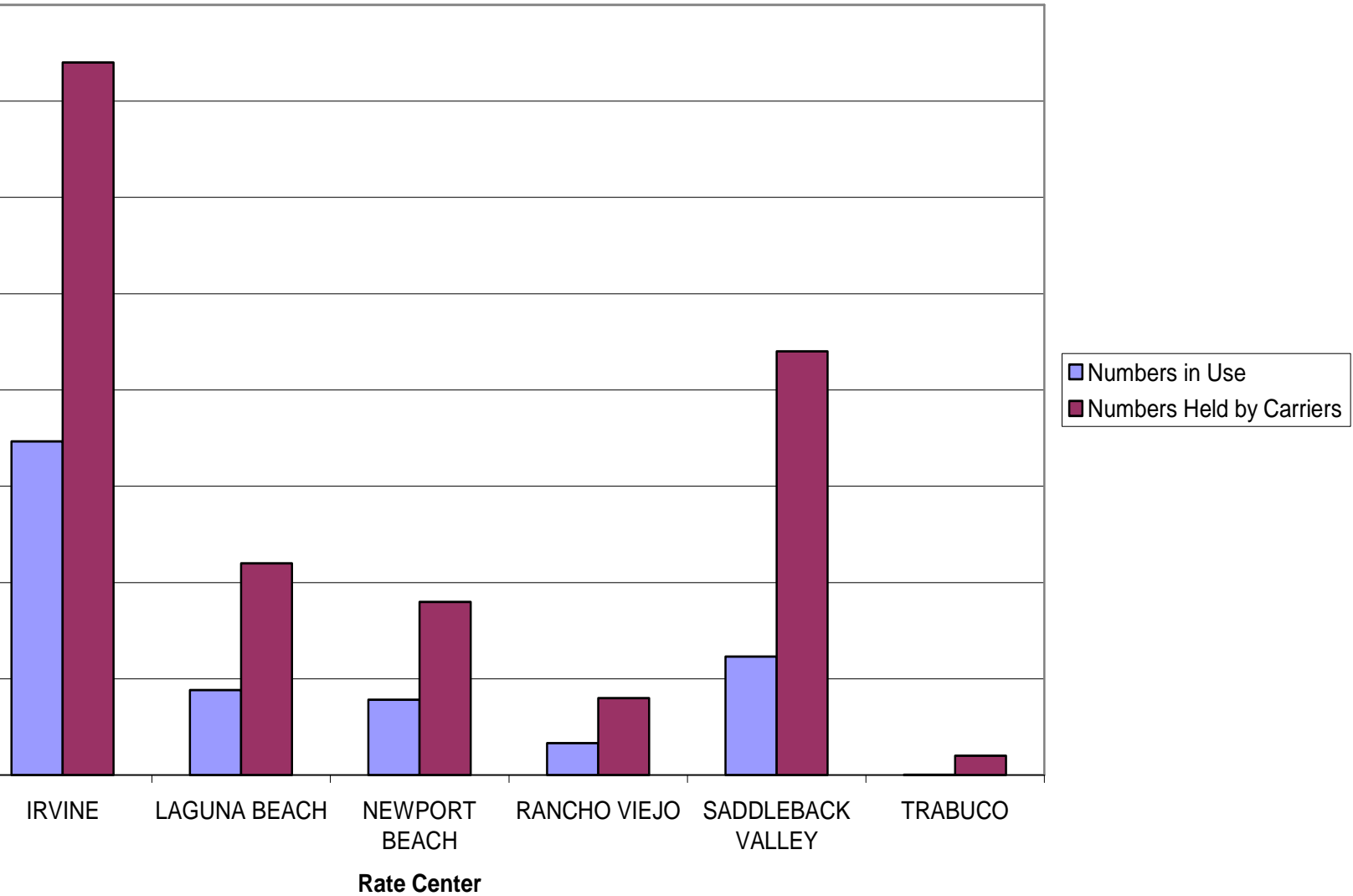
949 Numbers in Use vs. Total Numbers Held by Wireline Carriers



Appendix B

Table B-7

949 - Numbers in Use vs. Total Numbers Held by Wireless Carriers



APPENDIX C
949 Special Use Prefixes

PREFIX	PURPOSE	UNAVAILABLE	AVAILABLE
555	Directory Assistance	10,000	0
762	High Volume Calling	10,000	0
767	Time Service	10,000	0
919	Emergency Preparedness	10,000	0

Note: All special use prefixes were reported as 10,000 numbers used for administrative purposes

APPENDIX D
TABLE D-1
Wireline Reserved Numbers

Rate Center	Number of Wireline Carriers	Numbers Assigned by Wireline	Reserved Numbers
CAPISTRANO VALLEY	17	181,064	8007
IRVINE	26	517,540	52053
LAGUNA BEACH	14	35,962	383
NEWPORT BEACH	22	185,523	11211
RANCHO VIEJO	11	7,222	256
SADDLEBACK VALLEY	22	341,987	27601
TRABUCO	14	62,818	1367
949 NPA DA	1	-	0
TOTALS	127	1,332,116	100878

APPENDIX D
TABLE D-2
Wireless Reserved Numbers

Rate Center	Number of Wireless Carriers	Numbers Assigned by Wireless	Reserved Numbers
CAPISTRANO VALLEY	7	20,816	11
IRVINE	11	136,672	3074
LAGUNA BEACH	5	31,494	314
NEWPORT BEACH	4	34,934	0
RANCHO VIEJO	1	11,854	2
SADDLEBACK VALLEY	12	46,955	2518
TRABUCO	1	210	0
949 NPA DA	0	-	0
TOTALS	41	282,935	5919

APPENDIX E
TABLE E-1
Wireline Administrative Numbers

Rate Center	Number of Wireline Carriers	Employee/ Official Numbers	Test	Other	Total Administrative Numbers
CAPISTRANO VALLEY	17	397	1,163	432	1992
IRVINE	26	2,250	2,147	30237	34634
LAGUNA BEACH	14	740	684	4	1428
NEWPORT BEACH	22	538	1,523	123	2184
RANCHO VIEJO	11	182	489	2	673
SADDLEBACK VALLEY	22	1,158	1,497	81	2736
TRABUCO	14	268	622	194	1084
949 NPA DA	1	-	-	10000	10000
TOTALS	127	5,533	8,125	41,073	54,731

APPENDIX E
TABLE E-2
Wireless Administrative Numbers

Rate Center	Number of Wireless Carriers	Employee/ Official Numbers	Test	Other	Total Administrative Numbers
CAPISTRANO VALLEY	7	227	113	1,058	1,398
IRVINE	11	232	544	2,866	3,642
LAGUNA BEACH	5	249	455	1,708	2,412
NEWPORT BEACH	4	35	8	2	45
RANCHO VIEJO	1	300	3	683	986
SADDLEBACK VALLEY	12	63	28	1,002	1,093
TRABUCO	1	10	0	-	10
949 NPA DA	0	0	0	-	-
TOTALS	41	1116	1151	7319	9,586

**APPENDIX F
TABLE F-1
Wireline Intermediate Numbers**

Rate Center	Number of Wireline Carriers	Numbers Assigned by Wireline	Intermediate Numbers
CAPISTRANO VALLEY	17	181,064	14,320
IRVINE	26	517,540	45,056
LAGUNA BEACH	14	35,962	-
NEWPORT BEACH	22	185,523	15,500
RANCHO VIEJO	11	7,222	557
SADDLEBACK VALLEY	22	341,987	81,901
TRABUCO	14	62,818	-
949 NPA DA	1	-	-
TOTALS	127	1,332,116	157,334

**APPENDIX F
TABLE F-2
Wireless Intermediate Numbers**

Rate Center	Number of Wireless Carriers	Numbers Assigned by Wireless	Intermediate Numbers
CAPISTRANO VALLEY	7	20,816	3,516
IRVINE	11	136,672	17,004
LAGUNA BEACH	5	31,494	7,562
NEWPORT BEACH	4	34,934	2,497
RANCHO VIEJO	1	11,854	3,140
SADDLEBACK VALLEY	12	46,955	8,802
TRABUCO	1	210	-
949 NPA DA	0	-	-
TOTALS	41	282,935	42,521

APPENDIX G

Table G-1

Aging Numbers in the 949 Area Code

	Residential	Business	Total
Wireline	79,829	7,666	87,495
Wireless	16,445	4,630	21,075
Total Numbers	96,274	12,296	108,570

**Appendix H
Table H-1**

Pooling Updates (as of July 1, 2001)

NPA	2000 Q1		2000 Q2		2000 Q3		2000 Q4		2001 Q1		2001 Q2		Pool-to-Date	
	Blocks Forecast by Carriers	Blocks Assigned by Pooling Administrator	Blocks Forecast by Carriers	Blocks Assigned by Pooling Administrator	Blocks Forecast by Carriers	Blocks Assigned by Pooling Administrator	Blocks Forecast by Carriers	Blocks Assigned by Pooling Administrator	Blocks Forecast by Carriers	Blocks Assigned by Pooling Administrator	Blocks Forecast by Carriers	Blocks Assigned by Pooling Administrator	Initial Blocks Forecasted by Carriers Pool-to-Date	Blocks Assigned by Pooling Administrator Pool-to-Date
310 (began 3/18/00)	225	73	199	29	286	26	198	33	175	16	201	9	1284	186
415 (began 7/29/00)					164	30	193	8	244	11	164	1	765	50
714 (began 9/29/00)							224	46	156	14	84	18	464	78
909 (began 12/1/0)							143	51	122	19	166	45	431	115
818 (began 3/24/01)									94	37	55	17	149	54
408 (began 5/12/01)											81	62	81	62
650 (began 6/8/01)											7	2	7	2
510 (began 6/29/01)											no data available			
TOTAL													3181	547

One Block = 1 thousand numbers

APPENDIX I

Summary of Recommendations

Recommendation for Data Submittal

- *The CPUC should direct the NANPA to withhold issuing prefixes to Digitcom Services, and Pagers Plus dba Pageprompt until the required information is submitted. The CPUC should also consider levying fines or other penalties for failure to comply. If these prefixes are not being used for customers, the CPUC should direct the NANPA to reclaim the prefixes as soon as possible.*

Recommendation from Block Contamination Analysis of Wireline Carriers

- *The CPUC should petition the FCC to increase the contamination level for pooling to 25%. If the FCC grants the petition, the CPUC should increase the maximum contamination level of donated blocks from 10% to 25% for all LNP-capable carriers.*

Recommendations from Block Contamination Analysis of Wireless Carriers

- *When cellular and PCS companies become LNP capable in November 2002, the CPUC should direct those wireless carriers to donate to and participate in all number pooling trials in California, using the same contamination threshold for donated blocks in effect for all LNP-capable companies.*
- *The CPUC should solicit comments on the feasibility of paging companies becoming LNP capable and participating in pooling, as well as other methods of reducing the number of stranded numbers held by paging companies.*
- *If deemed feasible, the CPUC should petition the FCC to rescind the paging companies' indefinite exemption from becoming LNP capable.*

Recommendations for Block Contamination Issues Affecting All Carriers

- *The CPUC should monitor compliance with its fill rate and sequential numbering policies through future number utilization filings and audits.*
- *The CPUC should establish penalties for non-compliance with fill rate and sequential numbering policies adopted in Decision 00-07-052.⁶⁶*

Recommendations for Treatment of Non-Working Wireless

- *Non-working wireless numbers should be treated as reserved numbers and limited to 180 days, after which they should become available for assignment to customers.*

⁶⁶ See Chapter 1 for the discussion of Decision 00-07-052.

- *Companies should be required to maintain and update regularly the inventory records of all equipment assigned non-working wireless numbers along with the number assigned, and to submit such records to the CPUC upon request.*
- *The CPUC should continue to monitor non-working wireless numbers in the near term by reviewing future utilization filings, and should include this category of numbers in any audits conducted of wireless carrier number use.*

Recommendation for INP-Related Conservation Measures

- *The CPUC should adopt a schedule for transitioning INP arrangements to LNP in all California area codes.*

Recommendations for Special-Use Prefixes

- *TD recommends that the CPUC initiate an investigation into the possibility of moving the numbers for time and emergency preparedness into the 555 prefix.*
- *TD recommends that the CPUC include in its investigation the broader use of the 555 prefix in California's area codes by providing standard 555 numbers in every California area code to provide time, emergency preparedness, and weather information.*

Recommendations for Reserved Numbers

- *The CPUC should monitor reserved number use for all companies by reviewing future utilization data to ensure companies are complying with the FCC's 180-day requirement.*
- *The CPUC should adopt efficient number use practices specific to companies' reserved number holdings. In developing these practices, the CPUC should investigate various alternatives including, but not limited to, 1) limits on the quantity or percentage of reserved numbers companies can hold, and 2) requirements for using reserved numbers prior to requesting new numbers.*

Recommendations for Administrative Numbers

- *The CPUC should develop criteria by which companies assign administrative numbers. The CPUC should consider placing a limit on the quantity or percentage of administrative numbers companies are allowed to hold.*
- *The CPUC should develop rules that require companies to limit administrative number assignments within certain blocks in a given prefix. In cases in which companies hold multiple prefixes in a single rate center, the CPUC should develop rules that require companies to limit administrative number assignments within prefixes.*

Recommendation for Intermediate Numbers

- *The CPUC should monitor intermediate number use for all companies by reviewing future utilization filings to test whether potential abuses in this reporting category occur.*

Recommendations for Type 1 numbers:

- *Wireline and wireless carriers should improve Type 1 number inventory management. Wireline carriers should perform a one-time inventory check of wireless Type 1 numbers to verify their records match that of the wireless Type 1 carriers' records. Companies should make inventory data available to the CPUC upon request. Wireline carriers should recover and add to their inventories any Type 1 numbers lying dormant.*
- *Type 1 carriers should be subject to number conservation techniques such as sequential numbering and fill rates. A system to ensure compliance with Type 1 number conservation measures should be developed.*
- *The Commission should consider Type 1 numbers as potential donations to the number pool. Excess and unused Type 1 numbers should be returned to the wireline carriers and either used to serve customers or donated to the number pool*

Recommendation for Aging Numbers

- *Although the CPUC has required all companies to differentiate aging numbers between residential and business and track the two categories separately, Pacific Bell has not complied with these requirements. Pacific Bell should be redirected to differentiate aging numbers between business and residential, track them separately, and report on each category accurately. The CPUC should assess penalties for failure to comply.*

Recommendation for Audit

- *The CPUC should audit the data submitted by companies in this study and future area code number utilization studies.*

Recommendation for Number Pooling

- *The CPUC should work with industry groups and the Pooling Administrator to develop specific rules for companies pertaining to forecasting a six-month inventory when a number pool is authorized in a particular area code.*

Recommendation for LNP

- *The CPUC should continue to work with the FCC to enforce LNP capability mandates for all wireline carriers in the top 100 MSAs.*

Recommendations for UNP

- *The CPUC should petition the FCC for authority to implement UNP statewide.*
- *The CPUC should solicit comments in order to develop rules and practices necessary to implement UNP.*

Recommendation for Rate Center Consolidation

- *The CPUC should undertake further investigation by ordering the telecommunications industry to develop a plan, within 180 days, for rate center consolidation.*

Recommendation for Sharing of Prefixes

- *The CPUC should further explore sharing of prefixes as a means to more efficiently utilize numbers in all area codes.*