

# California's population tops 38 million, report says

Wednesday, Dec. 17, 2008

Staff and wire services

SACRAMENTO -- California's population has topped 38 million, and three of the state's 10 fastest growing counties are in the Valley, according to a new report from the state Department of Finance.

The department's demographics unit estimates that California's population grew by nearly 436,000, or 1.16%, in the 12 months between July 1, 2007, and July 1, 2008, reaching 38.1 million.

That is an increase of nearly 4.3 million residents since the last national census in 2000.

Los Angeles remains the state's most populous county with more than 10 million residents, but Placer County east of Sacramento had the biggest percentage increase in population in the 12-month period. It grew by 2.6%.

Tulare County had the state's fourth biggest percentage increase, growing by 1.89%, according to the state. Madera County ranked seventh, with a 1.76% growth rate, and Fresno was 10th fastest, growing by 1.68%.

Fresno remains the state's 10th largest county with a population of 936,828. Tulare County's population is now 438,276 and Madera's is 151,938, according to the Department of Finance figures.

Elsewhere in the Valley, Merced County grew by 1.53% to 256,114 and Kings County grew by 1.38% to 155,024.

Mariposa County's population was essentially static, losing two residents to bring the county's population to 18,297, according to state estimates.