

Center of Population Dedication

The U.S. Census Bureau completed the compilation and analysis of the 2000 decennial census data. Until the completion of this analysis not many people had ever heard of Buttonwillow, California. Buttonwillow, an agricultural community located approximately 30 miles west of Bakersfield near the junction of State Highway 58 and Interstate 5, has become known as California's "Center of Population".

WHAT IS THE CENTER OF POPULATION?

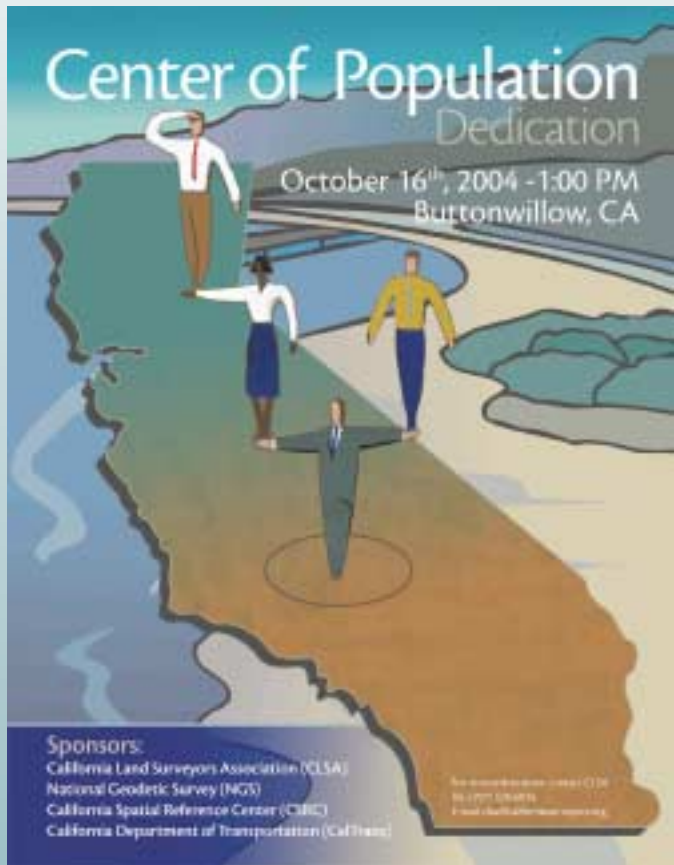
If you put the entire California population of 33,871,648 on a teeter-totter, the Center of Population would be the balance point, assuming California was flat and everyone weighed the same. This is many miles from the state's geographic center and has a special significance. The Center of Population is an indication of where the State is headed.

The California Land Surveyors Association (CLSA), in cooperation with the National Geodetic Survey (NGS), California Spatial Reference Center (CSRC), California Department of Transportation (CalTrans) and U.S. Census Bureau have set a commemorative geodetic control monument at the Buttonwillow roadside rest area along southbound Interstate 5 in Kern County.

To commemorate this event, a dedication ceremony was held at the monument site on October 16, 2004. The event provided an opportunity to showcase improvements in Global Positioning System (GPS) technology, the adaptation of that technology by Land Surveyors, and the ability to develop cooperative initiatives between the private sector, federal, state and local surveying and mapping professionals.

Special Thanks to the Bakersfield Chapter, CLSA!

The Bakersfield Chapter, CLSA generously donated their time to prepare a BBQ for attendees.





Speakers in descending order:
 - Robert C. Hart, PLS - CLSA President
 - Mart Ikehara
 - Census Bureau Rep.
 - Mark Turner
 - Don D'Onofrio