

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In re: Investigation into
telephone exchange boundary
issues in South Polk County
(Fort Meade area).

DOCKET NO. 981941-TL

In re: Investigation into
boundary issues in South
Sarasota and North Charlotte
Counties (Englewood area).

DOCKET NO. 990184-TL

In re: Request for review of
proposed numbering plan relief
for the 941 area code.

DOCKET NO. 990223-TL
ORDER NO. PSC-99-1066-FOF-TL
ISSUED: May 25, 1999

The following Commissioners participated in the disposition of
this matter:

JOE GARCIA, Chairman
JULIA L. JOHNSON
E. LEON JACOBS, JR.

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FINAL ORDER APPROVING
NUMBERING PLAN AREA RELIEF FOR THE 941 AREA CODE

BY THE COMMISSION:

I. BACKGROUND

Pursuant to the Number Plan Area (NPA) Code Relief Planning and Notification Guidelines (INC 97-0404-016), Mr. Stan Washer, Senior NPA Relief Planner for the Eastern Region of the North American Numbering Plan (NANP), notified the code holders and other industry members on June 16, 1998, that the 941 area code was approaching exhaustion. The NANP Administrator hosted an industry meeting in Tampa, Florida, on July 8, 1998, to discuss alternative relief plans. At that time, NANP Administration (NANPA) had only two plans. The industry reached a consensus to recommend Alternative Relief Plan #1, a geographic split, as the method of relief for the 941 area code. See Attachment A. On August 14, 1998, Mr. Washer notified this Commission of the industry's consensus.

Historically, we did not formally review area code relief plans unless a specific dispute over what plan should be implemented arose within the industry. In most cases, we deferred to the industry consensus. In this case and several recent ones, however, this Commission received many objections to the proposed plan from members of the public, asking that we review the proposed relief plans. As a result of reviewing the 941 situation, we also became aware of certain boundary issues associated with the proposed relief plan. Citizens and public officials alike in the Ft. Meade area of Polk County and the Englewood community in Sarasota County voiced concerns about the impact of the proposed plan on their respective communities. As a result, we established two dockets to investigate these boundary issues: Docket No. 981941-TL for the Ft. Meade/South Polk County region and Docket No. 990184-TL for Englewood area/Sarasota/Charlotte Counties.

We scheduled workshops and public hearings in each matter. The notice of public hearings and the industry's consensus plan were printed in the news media, attracting a great deal of attention and public interest in this matter. To date, we have received approximately six hundred (600) customer responses by mail, telephone calls, facsimiles, and electronic mail regarding

the proposed 941 area code relief issues. The majority of the customers filing comments were from Polk, Lee, Sarasota, and Charlotte Counties and strongly opposed the industry's consensus split plan. As a result of the workshops, we expanded the number of alternative relief plans to five, three of which included various split and overlay configurations.

Because any overlay plan, if approved, would require 10-digit dialing for all local calls¹, we determined that it was in the public interest to review not only the industry consensus plan, but also the other alternatives. Furthermore, on February 26, 1999, Wireless One (d/b/a Cellular One) filed a formal complaint pertaining to the 941 area code relief plan, which necessitated the initiation of a third docket, Docket No. 990223-TL, Request for review of proposed numbering plan relief for the 941 area code. Due to the rapidly approaching exhaust of the current NPA, Docket No. 990223-TL was put on an expedited schedule. In Order No. PSC-99-0633-PHO-TL, issued April 5, 1999, all three of the dockets were consolidated, Docket Nos. 990223-TL, 981941-TL, and 990184-TL.

Customer hearings and a full evidentiary technical hearing for the consolidated dockets were scheduled and conducted on April 8, 1999, in Sarasota and in Ft. Myers on April 9, 1999. Before the public hearings took place, there were five alternatives. The majority of the customers indicated that they would prefer a split which would keep Manatee, Sarasota, and Charlotte Counties together. At hearing, five numbering plans were examined. After the hearing, our staff developed several more plans, which were variations of the original five plans and which incorporated various testimony from the hearings, in an attempt to determine the best alternative to meet the needs of customers in the 941 area code. In addition, at the Agenda Conference, we examined another variation of the original plans. In total, we examined sixteen plans, which are described in Attachment A to this Order.

In this Order, we address which relief plan to implement for the 941 area code, including the dates for permissive and mandatory dialing. In addition, we specify the dialing patterns that will be required in order to make calls within the affected area codes.

¹Implementation of the Local Competition Provisions of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, CC Docket No. 96-98, FCC 96-333, Second Report and Order and Memorandum Opinion and Order, 11 FCC Rcd 19392 (1996).

II. RULINGS

At the beginning of the technical hearing in this proceeding, the presiding officer, the Commission Chairman, issued the following rulings:

1. The Commission Chairman granted Wireless One's petition to have Mr. Francis J. Heaton designated as its qualified representative for this proceeding under Rule 28-106.106, Florida Administrative Code.

2. The Commission Chairman granted Lockheed Martin and NANPA's petition to have Ms. Kim Wheeler designated as their qualified representative for this proceeding under Rule 28-106.106, Florida Administrative Code.

3. The Commission Chairman granted Sprint-Florida's request from Sprint-Florida to strike the April 7, 1999, letter from Mr. Dwyer of Wireless One to the Chairman.

4. The Commission Chairman approved the stipulation of the parties to consolidate Docket No. 981941-TL with consolidated Docket Nos. 990184-TL and 990223-TL for purposes of the hearing.

5. The Commission Chairman granted BellSouth Mobility's motion to substitute witness William Brown for the purpose of adopting the prefiled direct and rebuttal testimony of Ronald Burleson.

6. The Commission Chairman acknowledged that Sarasota County withdrew its witness James Ewing for purposes of the hearing.

III. 941 AREA CODE RELIEF PLAN

Commissions across the country have struggled over the past few years with the issue of whether a geographic split or some form of area code overlay is the more appropriate method of providing relief from the exhaustion of telephone numbers within an area code. This proceeding is one of the most complex to date in Florida given the number of alternatives under consideration.

A. TYPES OF AREA CODE RELIEF

Each NPA or area code requiring relief must be analyzed on the basis of its own unique characteristics with regard to demographics, geography, regulatory climate, technological considerations and community needs and requirements. The NANPA and the industry utilize the NPA Code Relief Planning and Notification Guidelines to identify relief alternatives for area codes nearing exhaustion. On January 27, 1999, the Industry Numbering Committee (INC) reissued the NPA Code Relief Planning and Notification Guidelines. See INC 97-0404-016. The INC currently identifies three relief methodologies and recognizes that combinations of these methodologies may also be appropriate.

1. NPA Split Method

By this method, the exhausting NPA is split into two geographic areas, leaving the existing NPA code to serve, for example, an area with the greatest number of customers (in order to minimize number changes) and assigning a new NPA code to the remaining area. This method divides areas by jurisdictional, natural, or physical boundaries (for example, counties, cities, or rivers) between the old and new NPAs.

This method has been the alternative chosen for nearly all NPA relief prior to 1995. At the present time, NPA splits have occurred with enough frequency that technical problems have been addressed, implementation procedures are generally understood, and public education and acceptance of the process has been made easier. This method generally provides longer term relief for an area.

2. Boundary Realignment Method

In an NPA boundary realignment, the NPA requiring relief is adjacent to an NPA that has spare NXX code capacity. A boundary shift occurs so that spare codes in the adjacent NPA can be used in the NPA requiring relief. As a result, the geographic area of the exhausting NPA shrinks and the geographic area of the NPA with spare capacity expands. Only the customers in the geographic area between the old and new boundaries are directly affected by this change. This method can provide for a better balance of central office (NXX) code utilization in the affected NPAs. This method is viewed as an interim measure because it tends to provide shorter term relief as compared to implementing a new NPA code.

3. Overlay Method

An NPA overlay occurs when more than one NPA code serves the same geographic area. In an NPA overlay, code relief is provided by opening up a new NPA code within the same geographic area as the NPA(s) requiring relief. Numbers from this new NPA are assigned to new growth on a carrier-neutral basis, that is, first-come, first-served. Since the overlay relief method could result in unequal dialing for those customers served out of the overlay NPA, the FCC requires 10-digit dialing for all of the affected customers' local calls within and between the old and new NPAs in order to ensure that competitors do not suffer competitive disadvantages².

The overlay method reduces or eliminates the need for customer number changes like those required under the split and realignment methods. It also provides the option of eliminating the permissive dialing period as part of implementation. However, this method will necessitate 10-digit dialing of local calls between the old and new NPAs as central office (NXX) codes are implemented in the new NPA.

4. Other Methods

A combination of the methods described above may be used. For example, a concentrated growth overlay could be assigned initially to a section of an NPA experiencing fast growth, and as more relief is required, the section served by two NPAs could expand into a distributed or multiple overlay as demand requires. Other combinations of relief methods may be appropriate.

B. COMPARISON OF TYPES OF RELIEF

As many witnesses testified, each type of relief plan (geographic split or overlay) has inherent advantages and disadvantages. Discussed below are some of the advantages and disadvantages that were identified for each type of plan.

²Implementation of the Local Competition Provisions of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, CC Docket No. 96-98, FCC Order No. 96-333, Second Report and Order and Memorandum Opinion and Order, 11 FCC Rcd 19392 (1996).

1. Overlay Plan

An overlay relief plan has several advantages. First, existing customers in the overlay area can retain their telephone numbers. Second, customers are not required to change stationary, business cards, and advertisements containing their existing telephone numbers. In addition, cellular carriers are not required to reprogram their customers' cellular telephones. Overall, costs to customers and carriers are minimized. Furthermore, this method is the best and simplest migration path to future NPA relief by assuring the elimination of number changes and confusion. Finally, this method is easy to implement from the telecommunications network perspective.

On the other hand, there are several disadvantages to an overlay. Foremost, 10-digit dialing is required for all local calls within the overlay area. Directories and directory assistance will be required to provide 10-digit numbers. All advertisements that contain 7-digit telephone numbers must be changed to 10-digit numbers. Alarm monitoring companies will be required to reprogram their equipment to comply with the 10-digit dialing requirement.

2. Geographic Split

Several advantages exist for a geographic split plan. As mentioned above, geographic split plans are now fairly commonplace and easy to implement. Most importantly for customers, 7-digit dialing remains for intra-NPA local calls. (This may or may not include Extended Calling Service (ECS) calls depending on Interexchange Carrier (IXC) competition.)

In contrast, there are several customer inconveniences associated with a geographic split. Customers served by the new area code must change the area code portion of their telephone numbers. In addition, customers served by the new area code must change advertisements and other items which included the 3-digit area code. Also, interNPA EAS/ECS routes would require 10-digit dialing.

C. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED FOR 941 AREA CODE RELIEF

In creating NPA relief plan alternatives for an exhausting NPA, NANPA witness Kenworthy indicated that the first consideration is to determine if there is a way to split the area code based on

the geographic area, the number of rate centers (exchanges), county boundary lines, or Local Access and Transport Area (LATA) boundary lines, and then to create two areas with approximately equal life spans.

During this proceeding, sixteen area code relief options were considered. Each alternative is explained below with a brief description. The schematic view and the exhaust years based on Assumption #1 for each plan are found in Attachment A to this Order. Exhaust years are calculated based on the assumption that the area code growth will continue at approximately the same rate as current demand for central office codes.

1. Description of Alternatives

Alternative #1:

This alternative proposes a single geographic split in the 941 area code which would follow the territorial boundary between GTE and Sprint. The split line follows the LATA boundaries between the Tampa and Ft. Myers LATAs. This is the industry's consensus plan. Many witnesses from Polk, Manatee, Sarasota, and Charlotte Counties opposed the idea of a geographic split that would divide the Englewood and Fort Meade Communities from their respective counties. Customers testified that this split would divide communities of interest. In addition, due to the splitting of EAS/ECS routes, many customers would be required to dial 10-digits, which was opposed by many customers.

Alternative #2:

This alternative proposes the same geographic split plan as in Alternative #1, but includes the Fort Meade, Cape Haze, and Port Charlotte exchanges. However, the community of interest between the Englewood community and remaining portions of Charlotte County would be divided. Many customers wanted to keep all of Charlotte County in one area code due to community of interest concerns, as well as for the provision of essential services such as water and fire management. In addition, due to the splitting of EAS/ECS routes, many customers would be required to dial 10-digits, which was opposed by many customers.

Alternative #3:

This alternative proposes a geographic split similar to Alternative #2, but includes Charlotte County. In this case, however, the life expectancy for Area A goes down to 4.1 years, which would necessitate another area code relief for this area in the near future. Customers from Manatee, Sarasota, and Charlotte Counties indicated that they did not want to be included with Polk County because there was no community of interest.

Alternative #4:

This alternative proposes the implementation of two area codes simultaneously. This is a modification of Alternative #3, which was a pure split plan. Alternative #4 divides the region in a similar fashion, but employs the use of an overlay and a split. One area code would be used as an overlay to the existing area code in Area A, and Area B would be assigned a new area code. As in Alternative #3, this relief plan was not favored due to the inclusion of Polk County and the 10-digit dialing requirement in the overlay area.

Alternative #5:

This overlay relief plan is the second alternative that NANPA proposed to be implemented. Although we note that the projected exhaust is 5.5 years, due to the 10-digit dialing requirement, customers in Manatee, Sarasota, and Charlotte Counties opposed this alternative. In contrast, many customers in Lee County favored this plan because they would retain the 941 area code.

Alternative #6:

This alternative proposes a single geographic split, dividing Polk, Hardee, Highlands, Okeechobee, and DeSoto Counties (Area A) from the rest of the 941 area code. However, in this alternative, Area B has a life expectancy of only 3.3 years, which is too short of a projected life under the current INC guidelines.

Alternative #7:

This alternative proposes a single geographic split that divides Manatee, Sarasota, Charlotte, Hardee, and DeSoto Counties from the 941 area code. In this alternative, the Boca Grande exchange is included, but not the North Fort Myers exchange. Many

citizens supported a split plan that would keep Manatee, Sarasota, and Charlotte Counties together, even if an area code change would be required. Thus, it appears this alternative meets the needs of the customers in Manatee, Sarasota, and Charlotte Counties.

Alternative #8:

This alternative is another modification of Alternative #3. This option proposes a single geographic split which divides Manatee, Sarasota, and Charlotte Counties from the rest of the 941 area code. Manatee, Charlotte and Sarasota Counties, however, have communities of interest with Hardee and DeSoto Counties. This alternative was, therefore, not favored. In this alternative, Area B has a projected life of 3.5 years which is below the standard INC guidelines.

Alternative #9:

This alternative proposes a modification of Alternative #8, but with Polk County moving to Area A. This plan is a geographic split and an overlay implemented simultaneously. Manatee, Charlotte and Sarasota Counties have communities of interest with Hardee and DeSoto Counties. This alternative was, therefore, not favored. In addition, Polk County residents did not favor an overlay plan.

Alternative #10:

This alternative proposes a geographic split that divides the current 941 area into two sections. Although the projected exhaust years are reasonable, the discontinuity of Area B would cause customer confusion.

Alternative #11:

This alternative proposes a three-way geographic split plan using two new area codes implemented simultaneously, in which (1) Manatee, Sarasota, DeSoto, and Charlotte Counties (Area A) get one area code, (2) Lee County (Area B) gets one area code, and (3) the remaining counties in Area C get an area code, as well. Although the projected exhaust years are reasonable, NANPA may be reluctant to issue two new area codes.

Alternative #12:

This alternative also proposes a three-way geographic split plan using two new area codes implemented simultaneously in which (1) Manatee, Sarasota, and Charlotte Counties (Area A) get one area code, (2) Lee, Glades, Hendry, Collier, and Monroe Counties (Area B) get one area code, and (3) the remaining counties (Area C) get a code as well. Although the projected exhaust years are reasonable, NANPA may not be willing to issue two new area codes.

Alternative #13:

This alternative proposes a geographic split and an overlay relief plan using two new area codes implemented simultaneously. Overlay Area A&B consists of Manatee, Sarasota, Charlotte, Lee, Collier, and Monroe Counties. Due to the 10-digit dialing requirement, residents of Manatee, Charlotte and Sarasota did not favor an overlay plan; however, the customers of Lee County favored an overlay plan, simply because they could retain the 941 area code. Again, Polk County residents did not favor an overlay plan.

Alternative #14:

This relief plan proposes a geographic split in which Manatee and Sarasota Counties, along with the Cape Haze and Port Charlotte exchanges retain one area code, and the remaining counties get one area code. However, due to the unbalanced life expectancy projections and community of interest considerations, this alternative does not seem to be the best solution for 941 area code relief at this time.

Alternative #15:

Using Alternative #7 as a starting point, this alternative proposes a three-way geographic split, but employs two new area codes to be implemented simultaneously. The 941 area is divided in three sections, where the projected exhaust of each area code is approximately the same. Alternative #15 keeps Hardee and DeSoto Counties with Manatee, Sarasota, and Charlotte Counties, which apparently is important for community of interest concerns. This alternative would disrupt local calling in that 10-digit dialing would be required between the three areas. Although the projected life of this relief plan is one of the best, due to the dialing requirements, this alternative is not favorable.

Alternative #16:

Using Alternative #13 as a starting point, this alternative proposes a single geographic split, whereby Polk, Hardee, DeSoto, Highlands, Okeechobee, Glades, and Hendry counties are split off from the 941 area code and assigned the new area code. This plan allows the more heavily populated area of Manatee, Sarasota, Charlotte, Lee, Collier, and Monroe Counties to maintain the 941 area code, as well as the strong community of interest among Manatee, Sarasota and Charlotte Counties. Customers at the public hearings strongly supported keeping Manatee, Sarasota, and Charlotte Counties together in the same area code. Unlike alternative #13, this plan would not require an overlay, which many customers opposed.

This alternative adequately addresses the concerns of customers in the Fort Meade and Englewood areas and is consistent with the stipulation the parties reached at the Prehearing Conference regarding the Fort Meade area. The Fort Meade area will not be divided from the remainder of Polk County; thus all of Polk County would remain in the same area code. Similarly, the Englewood area will not be divided along the Charlotte and Sarasota County lines; therefore, the entire city of Englewood would remain in a single area code.

D. ANALYSIS OF ALTERNATIVES

1. Projected Lives of Alternatives and INC Guidelines

The first area to examine is the projected lives of the relief alternatives. Table 1 summarizes each of the preceding 16 alternative relief plans. All calculations of exhaust in areas A, B, and C are based on the assumption that the area code growth will continue at approximately the same rate as current demand for central office codes.

Alternative	Type	Number of Area Codes Needed	Areas		
			A	B	C
1	Split	1	5.2	5.9	N/A
2	Split	1	4.6	6.7	N/A
3	Split	1	4.1	7.3	N/A
4	Split/Overlay	2	12		7.2
5	Overlay	1	5.5		
6	Split	1	9.3	3.3	N/A
7	Split	1	7.4	4.2	N/A
8	Split	1	8	3.5	N/A
9	Split/Overlay	2	8	11.5	
10	Split	1	7.1	4.4	N/A
11	3-Way-Split	2	7.9	12.8	6.6
12	3-Way-Split	2	9.6	7.9	8.3
13	Split/Overlay	2	10.7		8.9
14	Split	1	8.1	3.9	N/A
15	3-Way-Split	2	10.2	7.4	8.3
16	Split	1	3.5	8.9	N/A

Table 1: The projected exhaust years for the 941 area code relief plan alternatives

The guidelines established by the Industry Numbering Committee require that the new relief plan should last a minimum of five years³. As Table 1 indicates, Alternatives #2, #3, #6, #7, #8, #10, #14, and #16 do not meet this criterion; however, projections do not factor into consideration any number conservation measures that may be implemented, presently being evaluated in Docket No. 981444-TP (Number Utilization Study: Investigation into Number Conservation Measures). Alternative #8 is less of a problem than Alternative #16.

³INC 96-0308-011, Section 9.2.2.2 (h) states that in the long term, the plan shall result in the most effective use of all possible codes serving a given area. Ideally, all of the codes in a given area shall exhaust about the same time in the case of splits. In practice, this may not be possible, but severe imbalances, for example, a difference in NPA lifetime more than 15 years, shall be avoided.

The INC guidelines (INC 97-0404-016, Section 7) also state that it is not possible to identify every potential issue that may arise when planning relief for specific NPAs; each state, each metropolitan area, and each industry segment will have unique characteristics, which could introduce new and different concerns. The INC guidelines also state in Section 6.4 that a combination of the different relief plans may be used. The FCC emphasized that all state commissions continue to be responsible for making the final decision on how new area codes will be implemented, subject to FCC requirements.

Another issue that was brought up during public hearings was the question of who keeps the current 941 area code. In other words, looking at Table 1 above, who keeps the 941 area code, Area A, B, or C? Traditionally, the larger metropolitan area retains the area code in a geographic split. Because the metropolitan areas usually have the most numbers, there would be less customer impact if the metropolitan area retained the existing area code.

2. Criteria for 941 Area Code Relief Decision

In addition to examining the advantages and disadvantages discussed above, we have considered the following criteria: 1) Competitive Concerns; 2) Impacts to Customers; 3) Impacts to Carriers; and 4) Length of Relief.

a. Competitive Concerns

In its prior orders, we have determined that neither the split relief plans nor the overlay relief plans would cause any anti-competitive problems since all carriers would be treated the same. In this proceeding, witnesses from the industry indicated that they are all aware of the advantages and the disadvantages of split and overlay relief plans. They also indicated that with an overlay relief plan, 10-digit dialing would be required for all local calls. Therefore, we find that there are not any major competitive concerns for any relief options considered herein.

b. Impacts to Customers

Any geographic split plan would require some existing customers to change their area code to the new area code. With a split plan, customers keep using 7-digit dialing for all local calling within the area code. With an overlay, however, 10-digit dialing is necessary.

Seven witnesses indicated that the main advantage for customers with the split plan is that 7-digit local dialing can be maintained within each area code, and 10-digit dialing would only be required for local calling between the area codes.

The main advantage of providing relief with one of the overlay options is that no number changes are required, so that customer inconvenience and costs are minimized. However, the major disadvantage for customers is that 10-digit dialing is required by the FCC for all local calls, and customer confusion may be increased by having two area codes serving the same area. Under an overlay plan, it is possible that businesses or neighbors next door or across the street from each other could have different area codes.

Based on customer input from the public hearings, it appears that Alternative #16 best reflects the interests of the customers. We note that nearly all of the customer input from public hearings came from Polk, Manatee, Sarasota, Charlotte, and Lee County residents. The testimony of customers supports a finding that communities of interest would not be divided with the split plan in Alternative #16.

Many witnesses objected to an overlay plan because they did not want two different area codes serving Manatee, Sarasota, and Charlotte Counties. Customers in Manatee, Sarasota, and Charlotte Counties stated that they did not want to be placed with Polk County and that they should not be punished because of the growth in the North and the South. The majority of witnesses said they would prefer a new area code rather than having an overlay. Thus, we believe that the geographic split plan (Alternative #16), from the customer perspective, would provide a solution that would best satisfy the collective desires of the customers.

Alternative #16 impacts certain calling routes along the split line boundary, but only ECS routes. No EAS routes are affected. Table 2, which follows, presents the ECS routes which would become interNPA along the split line boundary. All of the routes here are Sprint to Sprint. Dialing patterns for these routes will be addressed in the implementation section of this Order.

<u>TYPE OF ROUTE</u>	<u>ROUTE</u>
TWO-WAY EAS	NONE
ONE-WAY EAS	NONE
TWO-WAY ECS	ARCADIA/PORT CHARLOTTE
	LABELLE/IMOKALEE
	LABELLE/FT. MYERS

Table 2: IntraNPA routes which would become InterNPA

c. Impacts on Carriers

With the implementation of a geographic split, the biggest identified impact to carriers is that the cellular carriers have to reprogram all cellular telephones in the new area code. In an overlay area, there are no number changes, hence no reprogramming of cellular phones. However, some modifications to operational support systems would be necessary in order to handle 10-digit dialing for all local calls. Alarm monitoring companies would be required to reprogram their equipment to comply with the 10-digit dialing requirement.

d. Length of Area Code Relief

Based on testimony provided by the NANPA witness, the projected exhaust dates for 941 and the new area code under Alternative #16 (a single geographic split), are 3.5 and 8.9 years, respectively.

E. CONCLUSION

Upon review, while we believe that Alternatives #5, #7, #12, #15, and #16 are reasonable relief plans, we conclude that Alternative #16 is the most reasonable. Considering the fact that Florida does not have a unique situation in which two new codes are necessary, we do not believe that Alternatives #4, #9, #11, #12, #13, and #15 are prudent choices.

Based on customer testimony and comments, we find that Alternative #16 is the preferable relief plan for Manatee, Sarasota, Charlotte, DeSoto, and Hardee County customers. Customers

in Lee County preferred to retain the 941 area code and to accommodate this request, they were even willing to have an overlay plan, which was opposed by the northern counties in the 941 area. Alternative #16 would serve two needs at the same time, in that Manatee, Sarasota, Charlotte, Lee, Collier, and Monroe Counties would stay together, while these same counties would retain the 941 area code. The split plan has a life span of 3.5 years (Area A) and 8.9 years (Area B), assuming no number conservation. These exhaust lives are consistent with the INC guidelines.

We note that in several instances, this area code relief plan will result in situations where exchange boundaries and county boundaries do not coincide along the geographic split boundary. Accordingly, we find it appropriate to require an exchange be assigned in its entirety to the numbering plan area corresponding to the county in which the exchange is predominantly located.

IV. 941 AREA CODE RELIEF IMPLEMENTATION REQUIREMENTS

On the basis of the immediate need for NPA relief in the 941 area, the implementation of the relief plan approved above should be accelerated. We find that an eight-month permissive dialing period, beginning Monday, September 20, 1999, is acceptable. Sprint noted that a six-month permissive dialing period is adequate, but that a longer one would be preferable to allow for two publications of the local exchange routing guide (LERG). GTEFL took a similar position. The wireless providers to this docket (Wireless One and BellSouth Mobility) supported a full overlay, on the basis that the NPA relief is immediate and no permissive dialing period is necessary. We agree with the wireless companies' assertions, but do not support the full overlay as the preferred NPA relief plan at this time. We do, however, agree that the eight-month permissive dialing period proposed for Alternative #16, while shorter than the permissive dialing period in the most recent 407 NPA relief docket, is workable and reasonable given the need for immediate relief in these circumstances.

The mandatory dialing date following the eight-month period of permissive dialing shall be May 22, 2000. GTEFL argued that implementations for permissive and mandatory dialing periods should begin on Mondays, citing operational efficiencies from other NPA relief implementations. No other parties offered any other position relative to mandatory dialing. We believe GTEFL's

assertion that permissive and mandatory dialing periods should begin on Mondays is reasonable.

Individual dialing patterns will be route specific, as shown in Table 3 below. Sprint witness Foley testified to the relationship of dialing patterns relative to NPA boundaries, discussing whether codes in use near an NPA boundary should remain 'protected' or withheld from use in those interNPA situations. We shall require that all interNPA calls be dialed on a 10 or 1+10-digit basis in order to avoid protecting codes and to improve number utilization. 10-digit dialing shall only be used on those routes which are not subject to competition from IXCs. Within a geographic area code, calls that are not subject to competition from IXCs should be dialed on a 7-digit basis, and calls which are subject to competition from IXCs should be dialed on a 1+10-digit basis. See Table 3 below.

Upon consideration, we find it appropriate to require permissive dialing to begin on Monday, September 20, 1999, with mandatory dialing to begin on Monday, May 22, 2000. In addition, the record supports that citizens and telecommunications companies alike do not want a new area code which closely resembles the current 941 NPA. During the process leading up to our decision here, certain print media sources published that we had made a request to reserve the 241 area code to be used for this relief plan. The sources named above predict the use of the 241 NPA could result in confusion for telephone subscribers, perhaps leading to misdialed calls. We agree that confusion may result if the 241 code were implemented. Accordingly, we shall request from NANPA that the 241 NPA code not be implemented in this relief proceeding, and further, we shall request that the NPA code implemented bear no resemblance to the current 941 area code.

Type of Calls	Type of Plans		
	Within Geographic Area Code	Within Overlay	Between Area Codes, Outside Overlay
Local/EAS	7	10	10
ECS without IXC Competition	7	10	10
ECS with IXC Competition	1 +10	1 +10	1 +10
Toll	1 +10	1 +10	1 +10

Table 3: Dialing patterns for area code relief plans

In addition, Sprint and GTEFL shall send letters to alarm companies and all city and county representatives notifying them of the area code change resulting from this Order. Companies shall provide copies of these letters to our staff for review and approval within 30 days of the issuance of this Order. The companies shall also place notices in the customers' bills of the need to reprogram any equipment which is area code sensitive.

Based on the foregoing, it is

ORDERED by the Florida Public Service Commission that Alternative #16, as described in the body of and Attachment A to this Order, is the appropriate relief plan for the 941 area code. It is further

ORDERED that the permissive dialing patterns specified in the body of this Order shall begin on September 20, 1999, and become mandatory on May 22, 2000. It is further

ORDERED that Sprint-Florida, Incorporated and GTE Florida Incorporated shall send letters to alarm companies and all city and county representatives regarding the area code change resulting from this Order. These companies shall provide copies of the letters to our Staff for review and approval within 30 days of the issuance of this Order. The companies shall also place notices in

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the customers' bills of the need to reprogram any equipment which is area code sensitive. It is further

ORDERED that the affected companies shall implement the dialing patterns specified in Table 3 of this Order. It is further

ORDERED that these dockets are closed.

By ORDER of the Florida Public Service Commission this 25th day of May, 1999.

BLANCA S. BAYÓ, Director
Division of Records and Reporting

By: Kay Flynn
Kay Flynn, Chief
Bureau of Records

(S E A L)

WPC

NOTICE OF FURTHER PROCEEDINGS OR JUDICIAL REVIEW

The Florida Public Service Commission is required by Section 120.569(1), Florida Statutes, to notify parties of any administrative hearing or judicial review of Commission orders that is available under Sections 120.57 or 120.68, Florida Statutes, as well as the procedures and time limits that apply. This notice should not be construed to mean all requests for an administrative hearing or judicial review will be granted or result in the relief sought.

Any party adversely affected by the Commission's final action in this matter may request: 1) reconsideration of the decision by filing a motion for reconsideration with the Director, Division of

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Records and Reporting, 2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850, within fifteen (15) days of the issuance of this order in the form prescribed by Rule 25-22.060, Florida Administrative Code; or 2) judicial review by the Florida Supreme Court in the case of an electric, gas or telephone utility or the First District Court of Appeal in the case of a water and/or wastewater utility by filing a notice of appeal with the Director, Division of Records and reporting and filing a copy of the notice of appeal and the filing fee with the appropriate court. This filing must be completed within thirty (30) days after the issuance of this order, pursuant to Rule 9.110, Florida Rules of Appellate Procedure. The notice of appeal must be in the form specified in Rule 9.900(a), Florida Rules of Appellate Procedure.

Figure 1

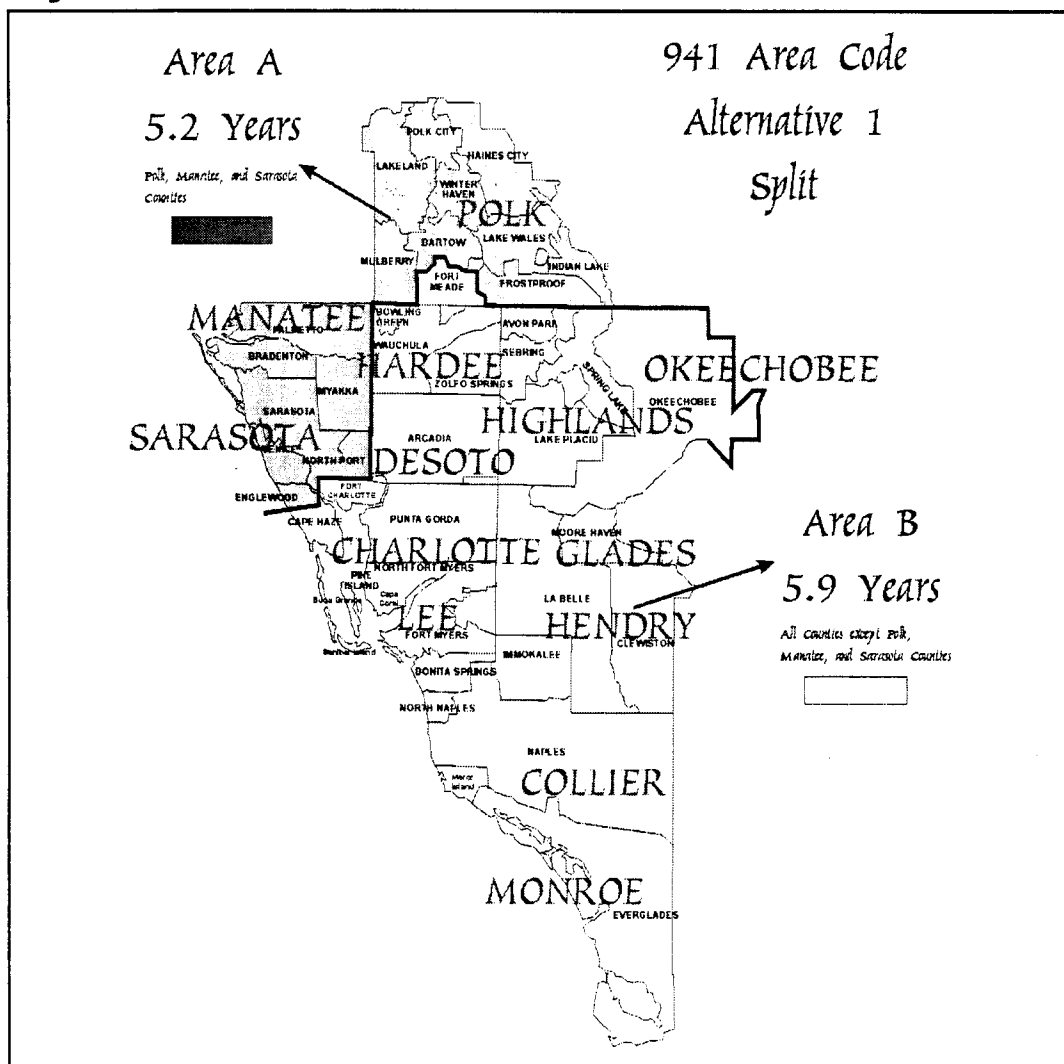
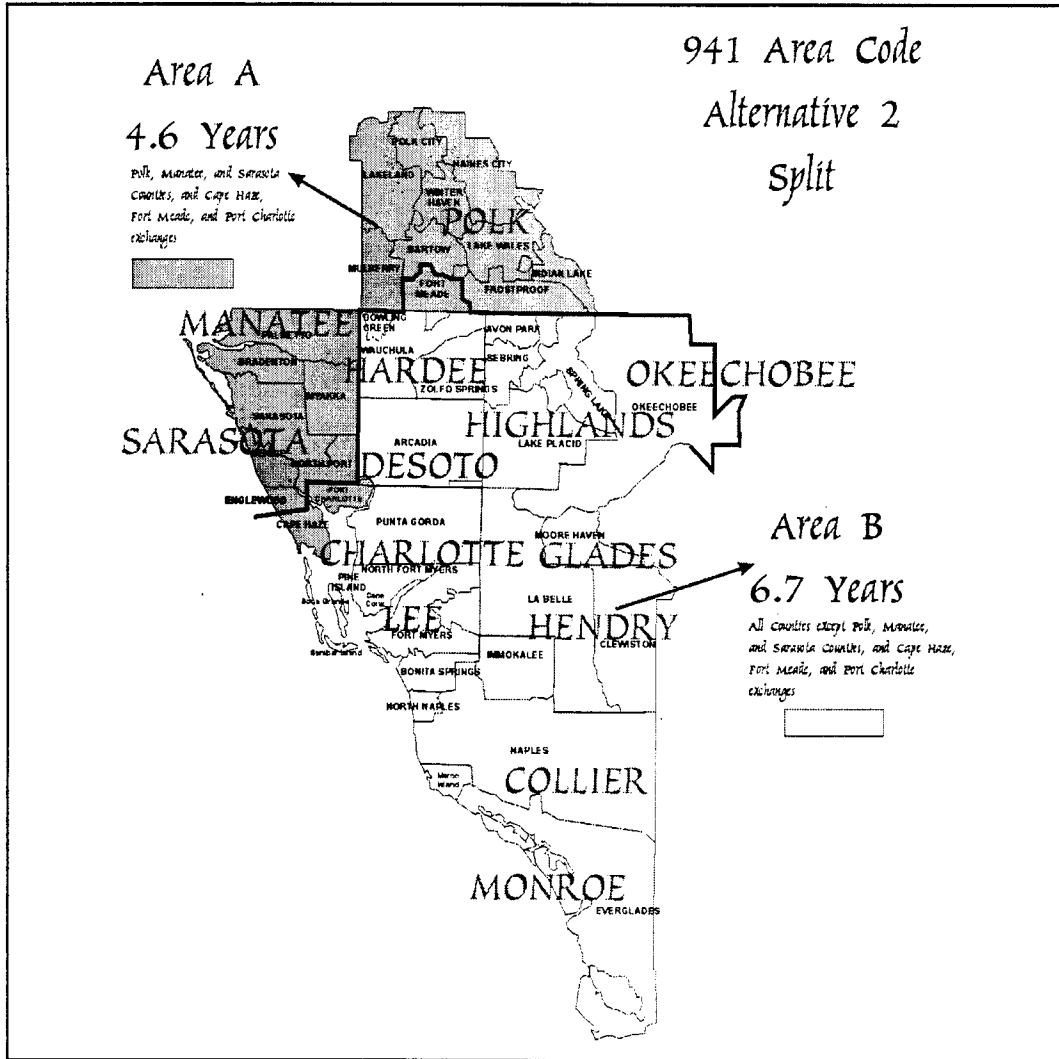


Figure 2



ATTACHMENT A

Figure 3

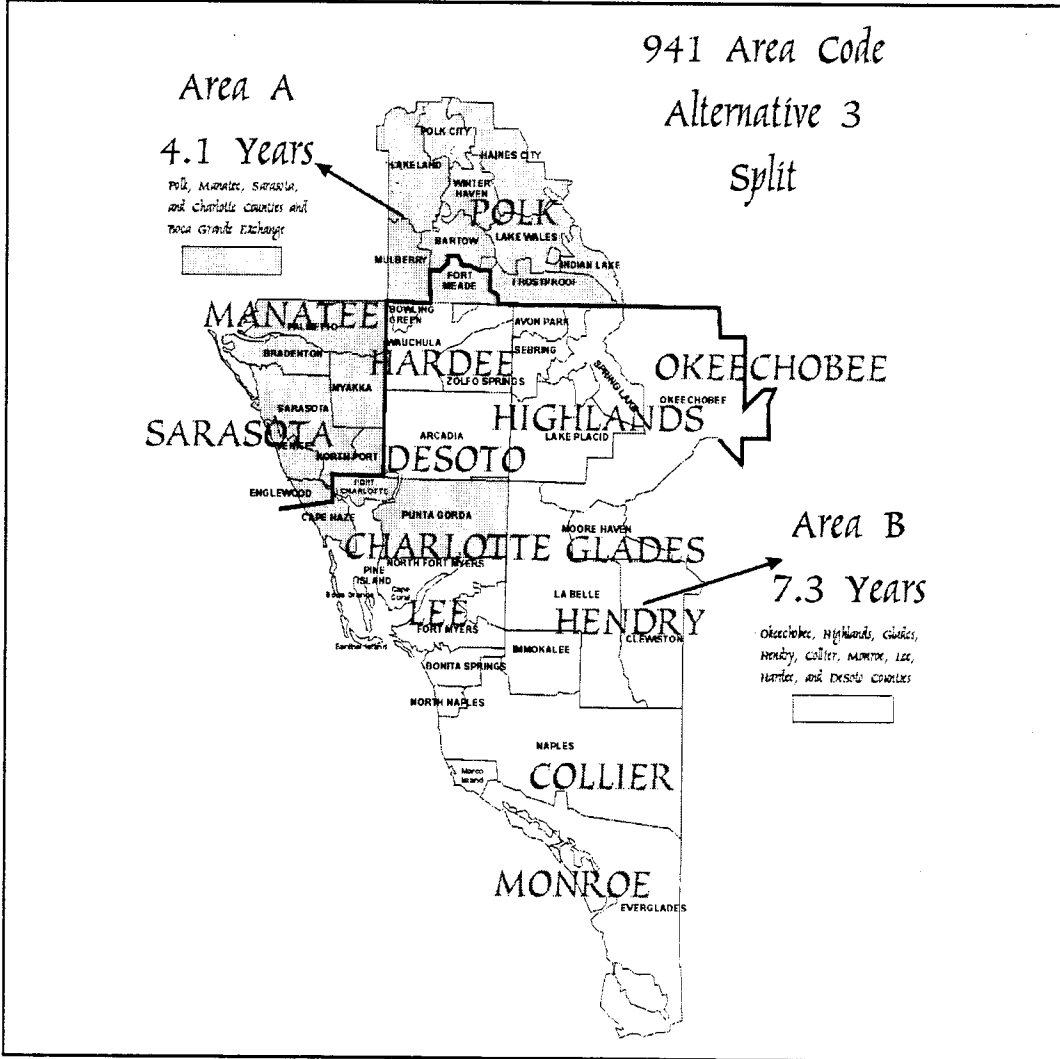


Figure 4

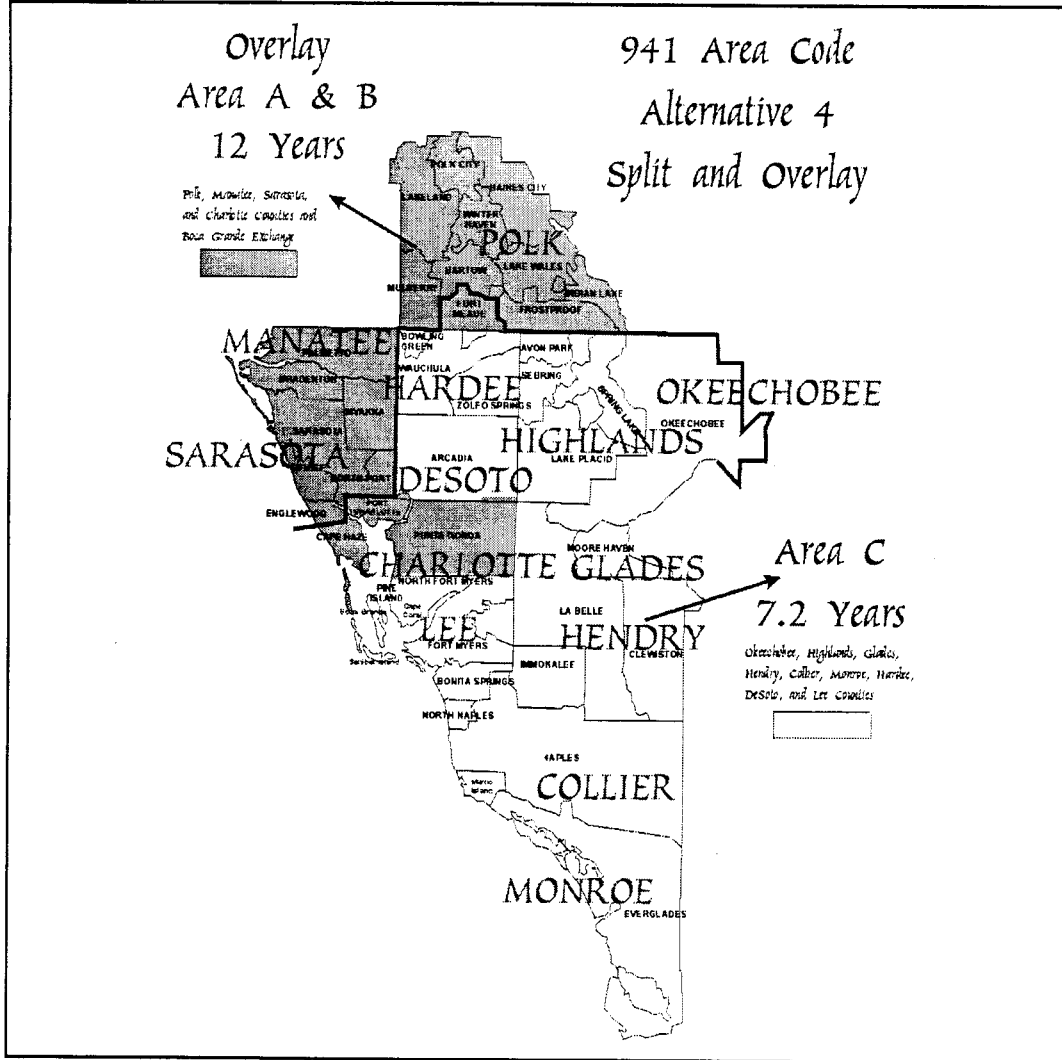


Figure 5

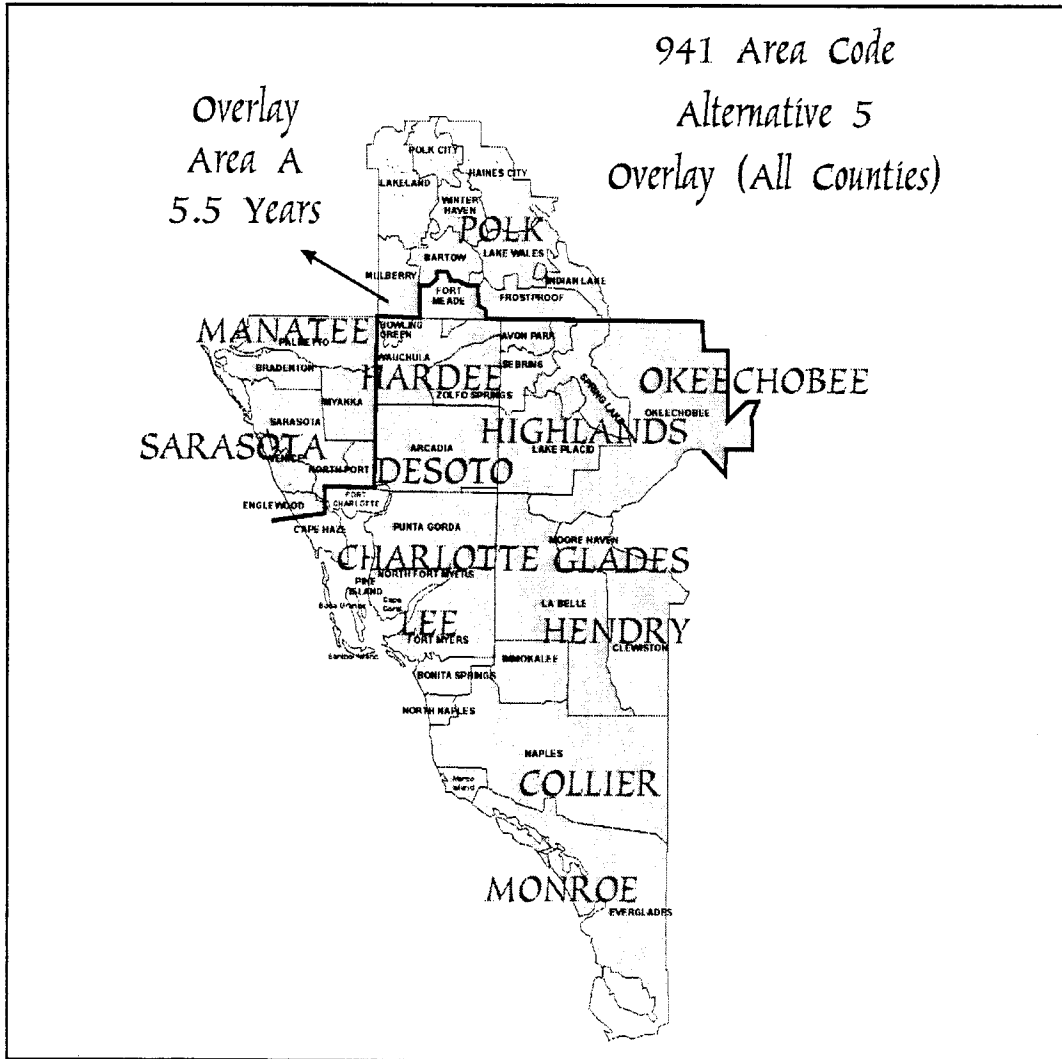
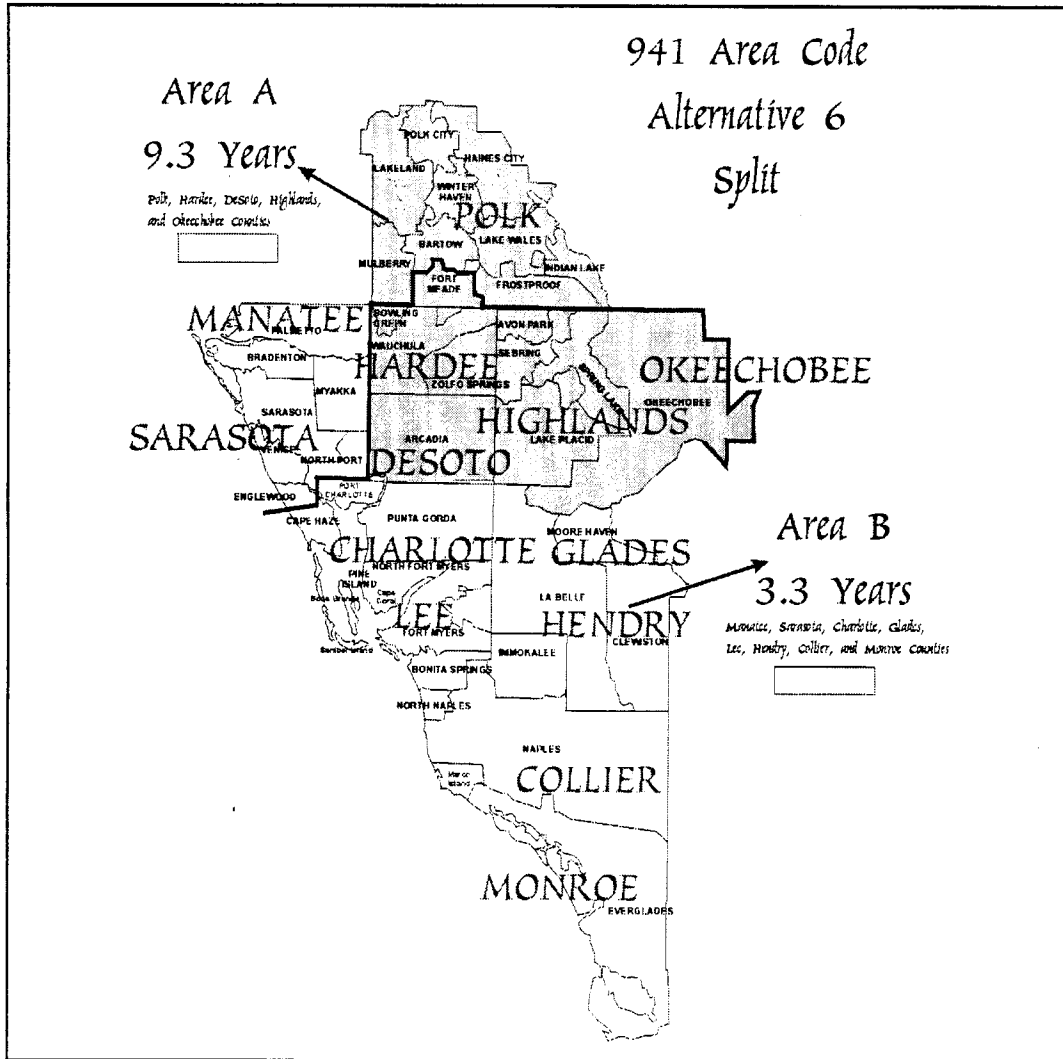


Figure 6



ATTACHMENT A

Figure 7

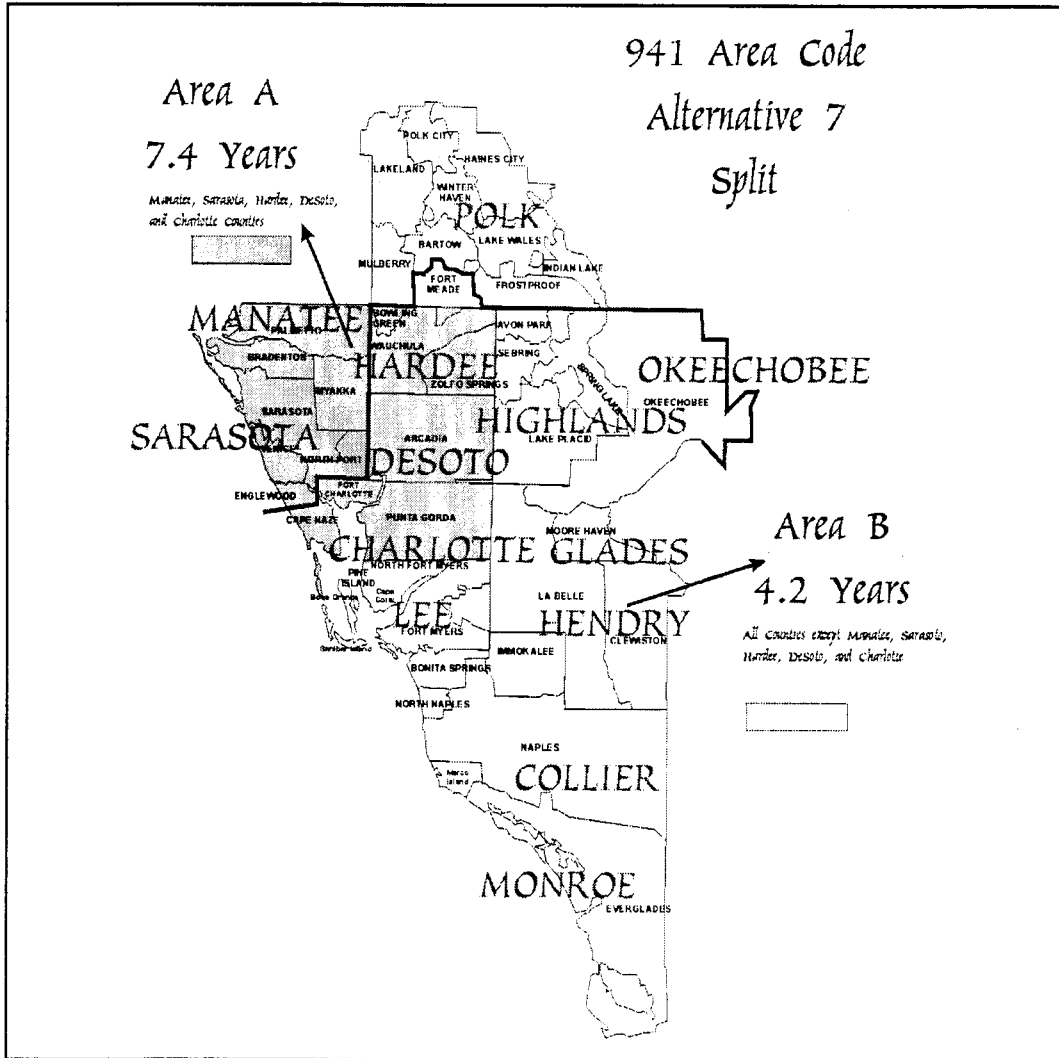
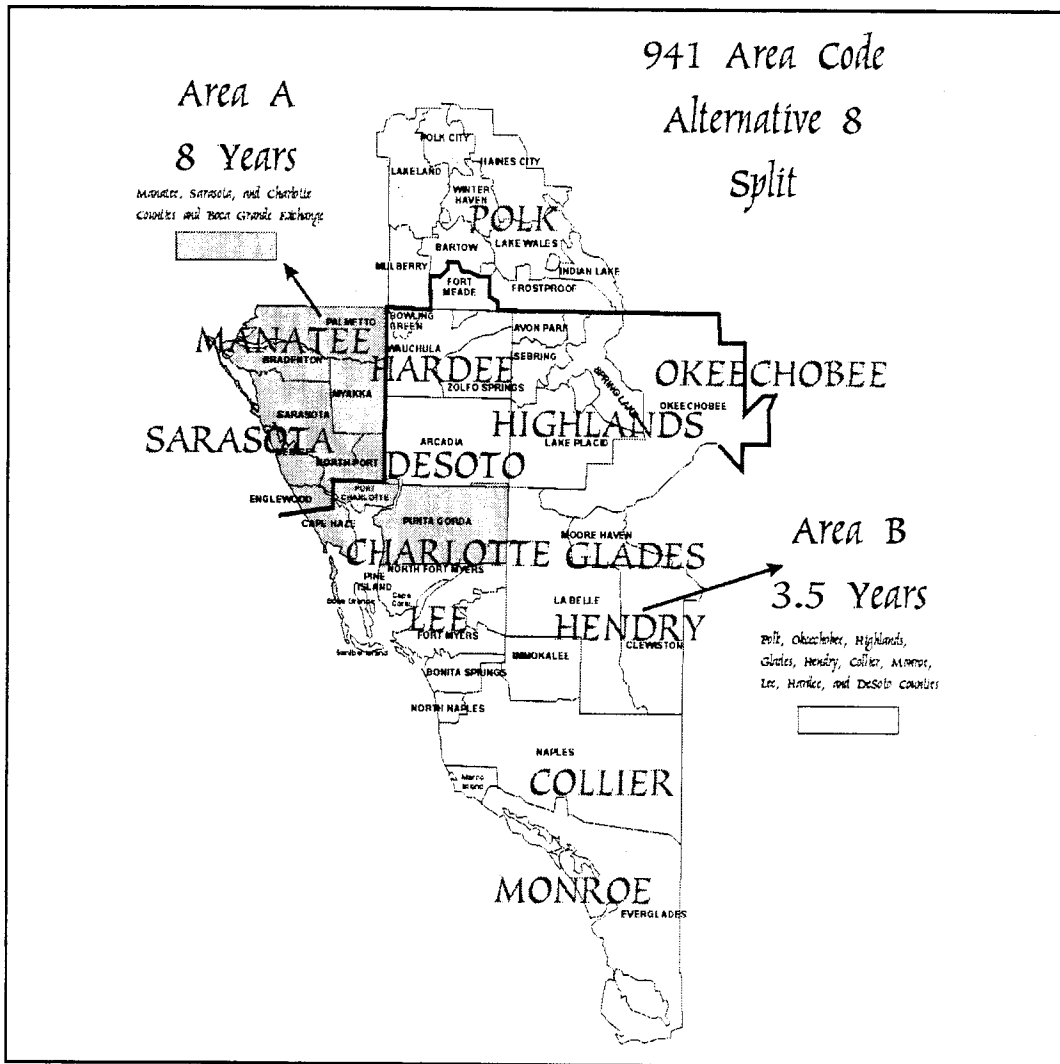
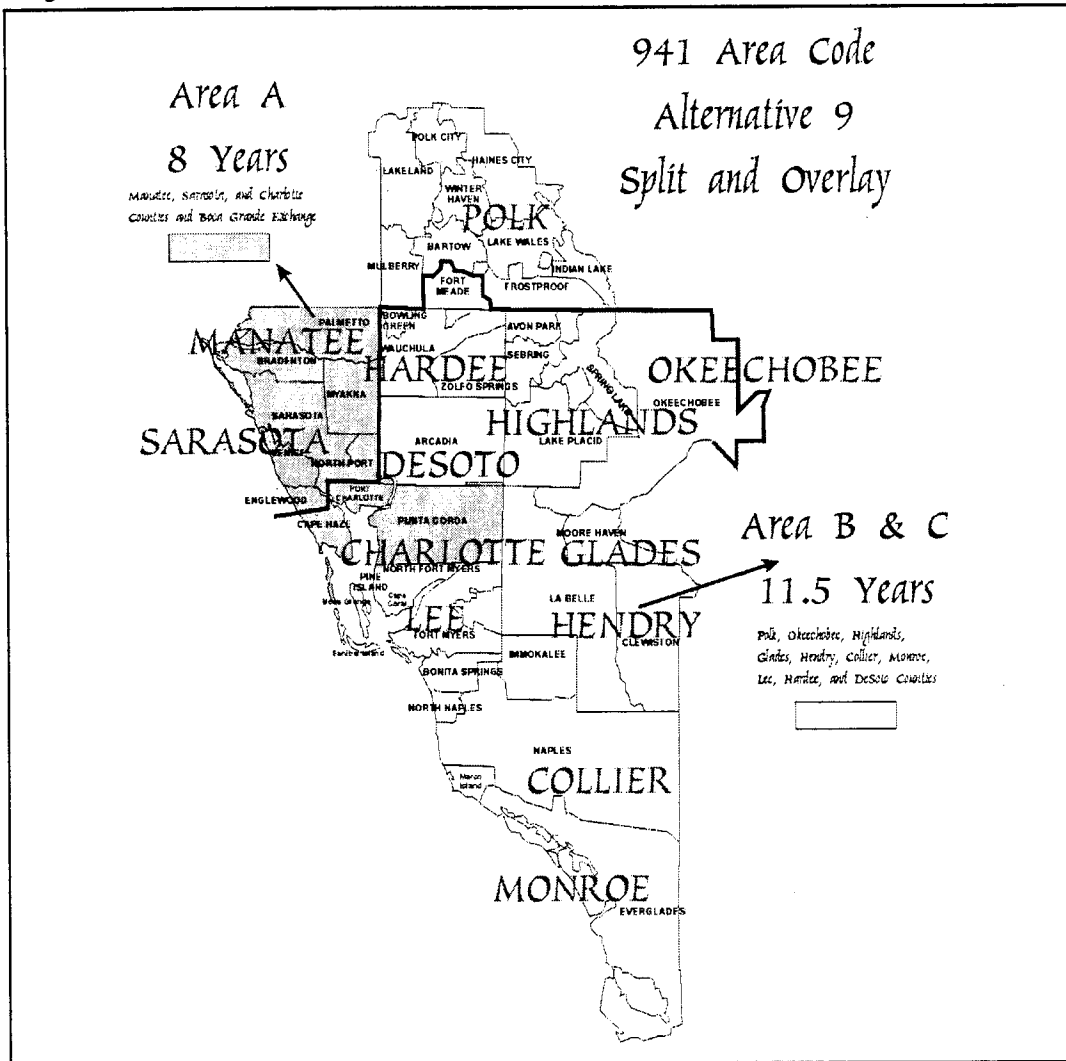


Figure 8



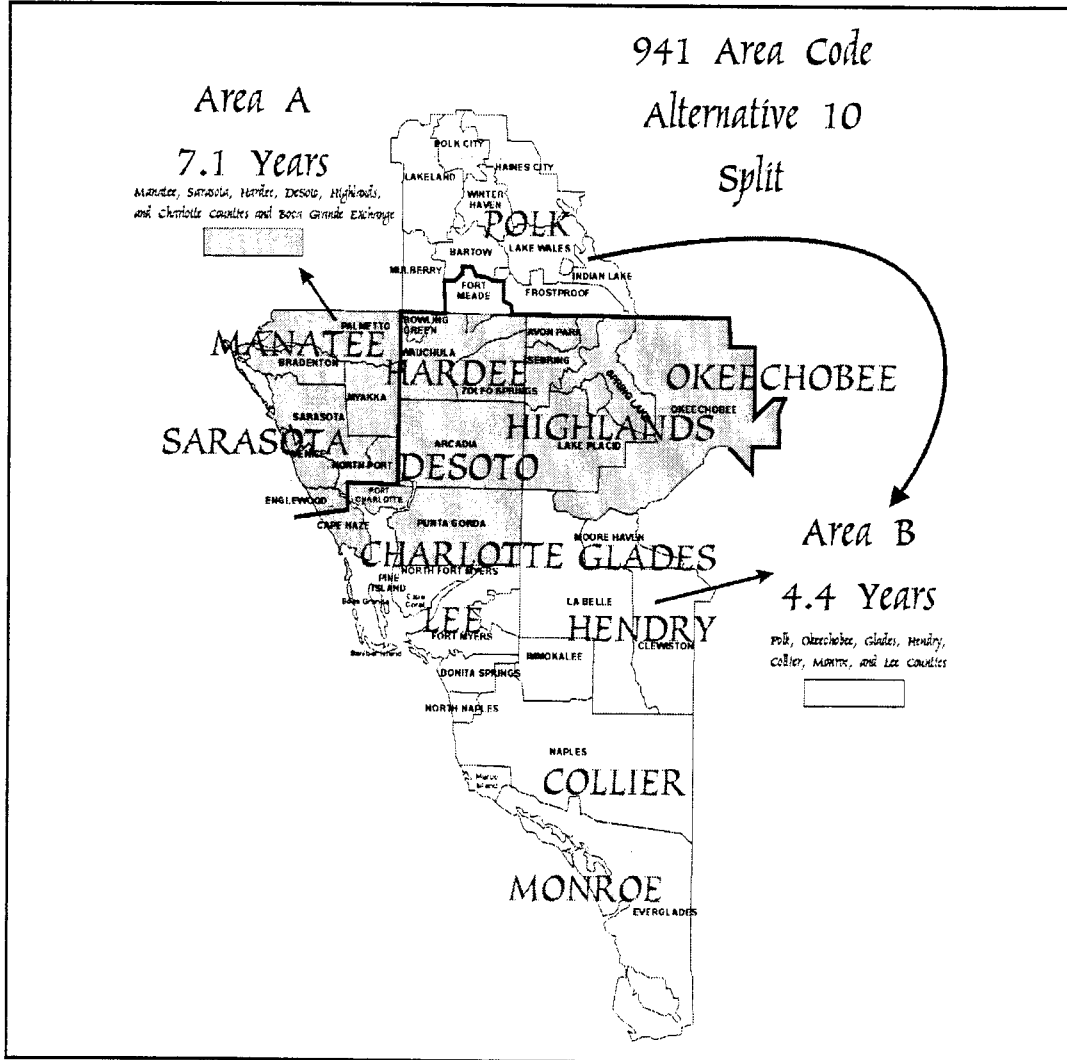
ATTACHMENT A

Figure 9



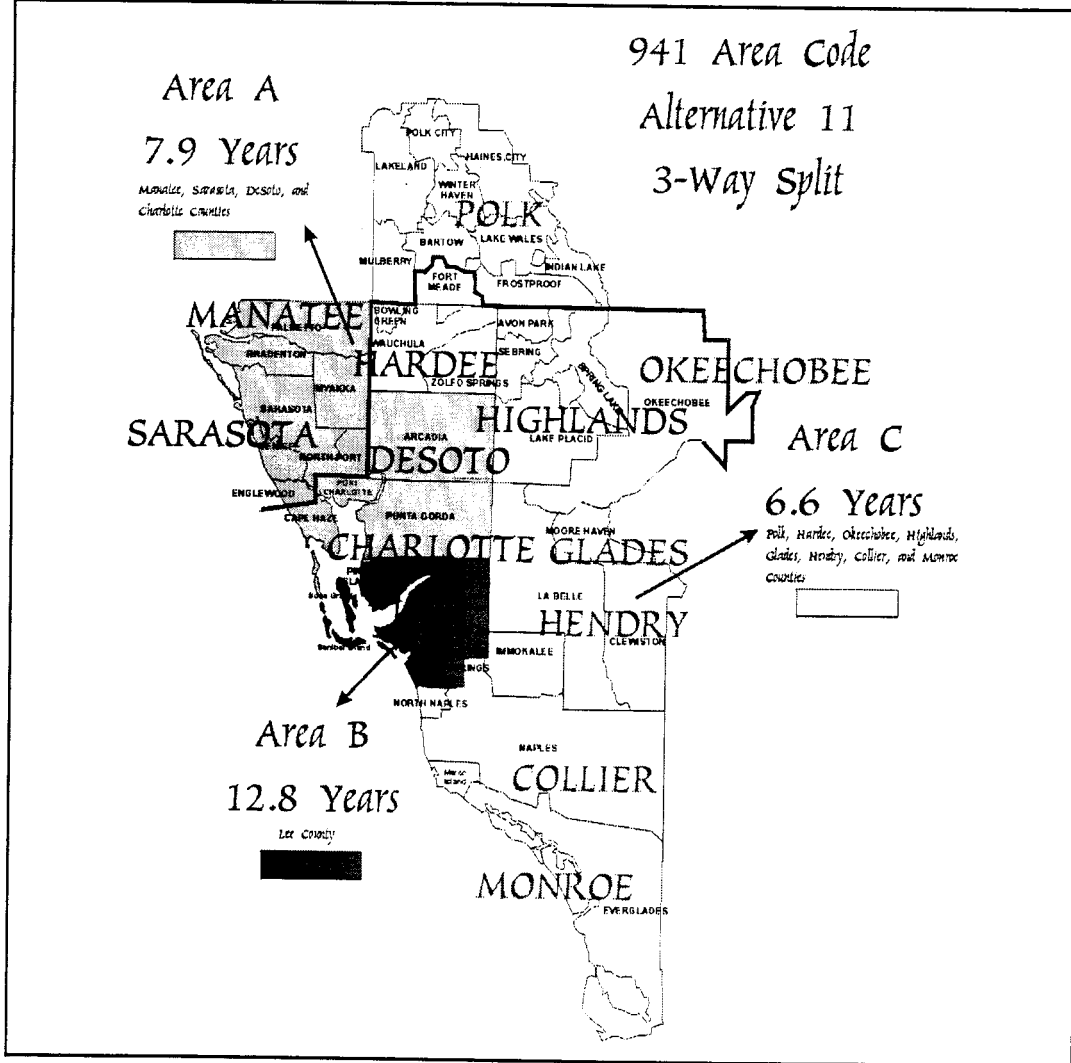
ATTACHMENT A

Figure 10



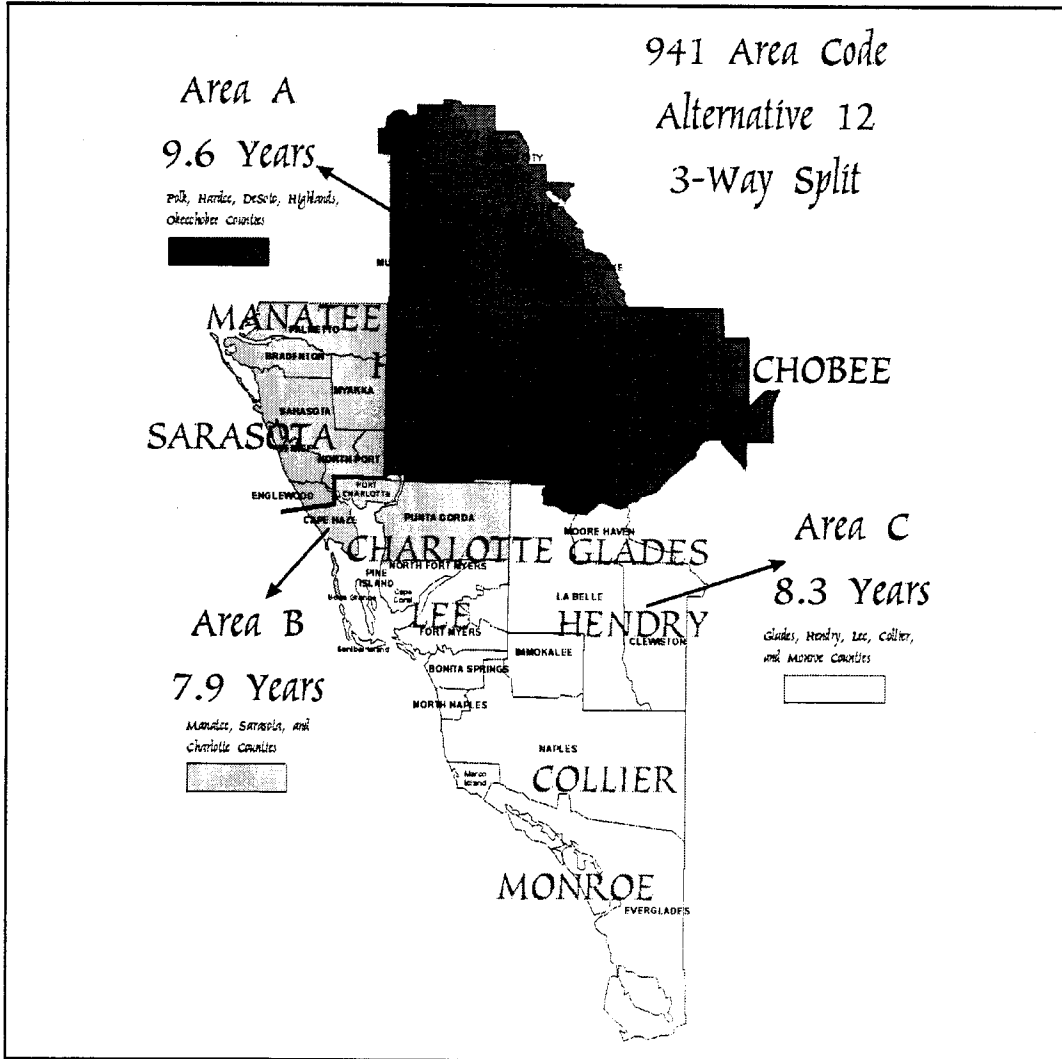
ATTACHMENT A

Figure 11



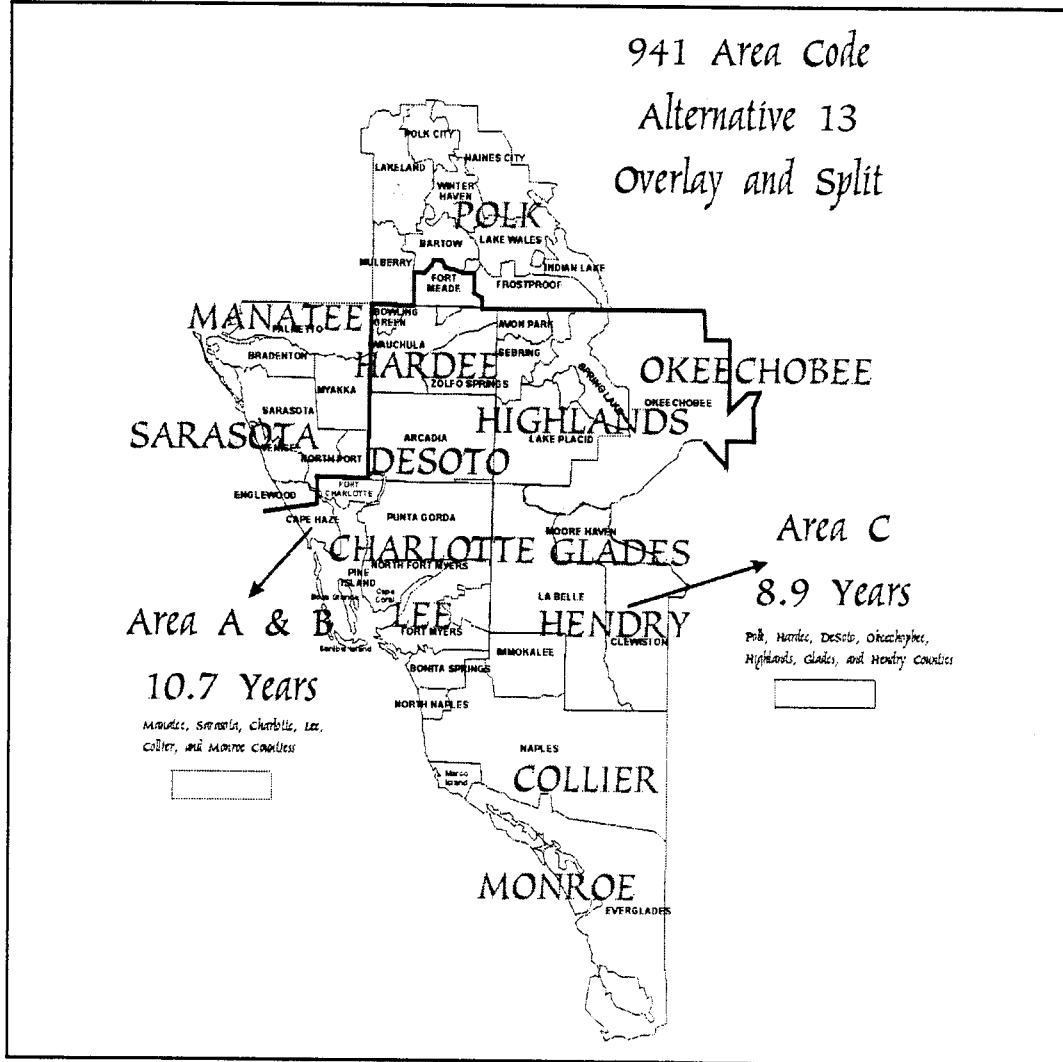
ATTACHMENT A

Figure 12



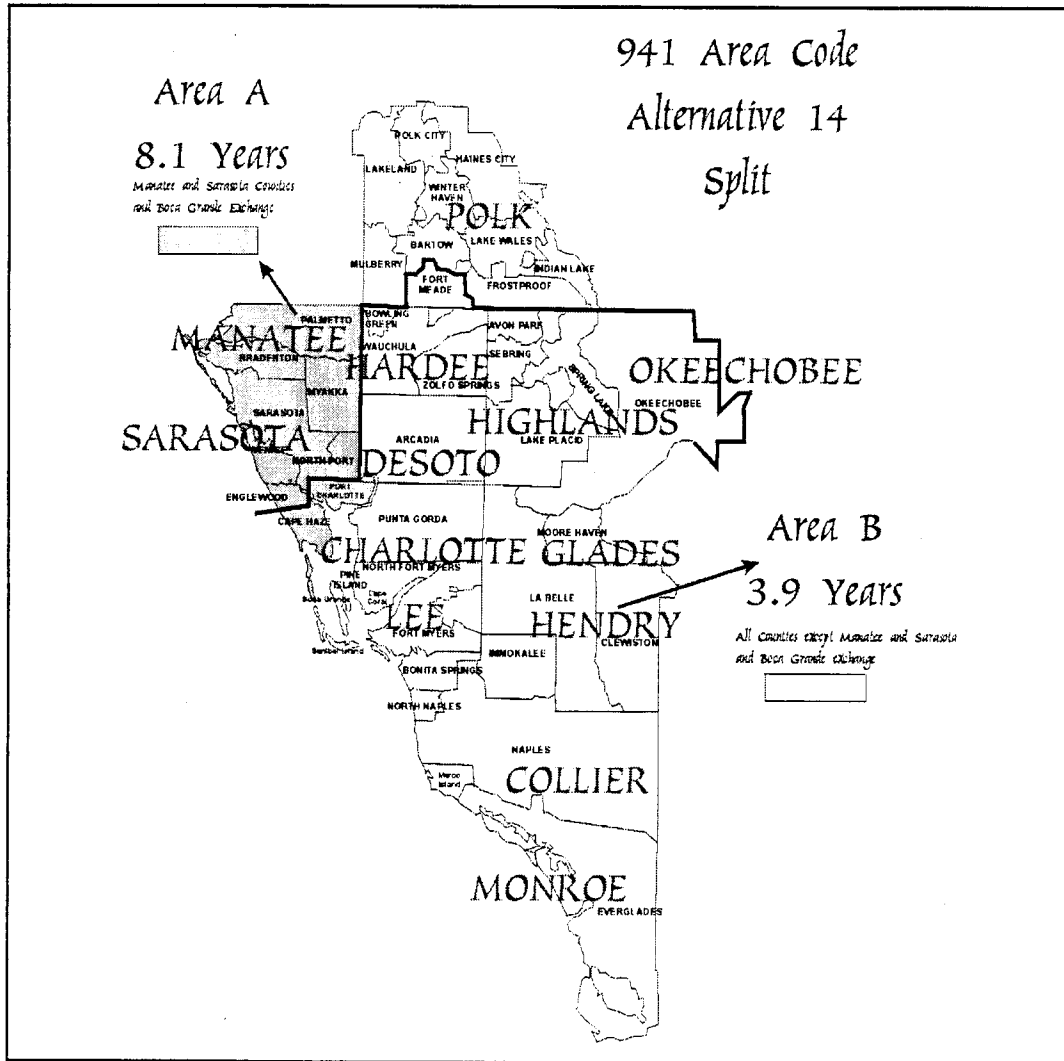
ATTACHMENT A

Figure 13



ATTACHMENT A

Figure 14



ATTACHMENT A

Figure 15

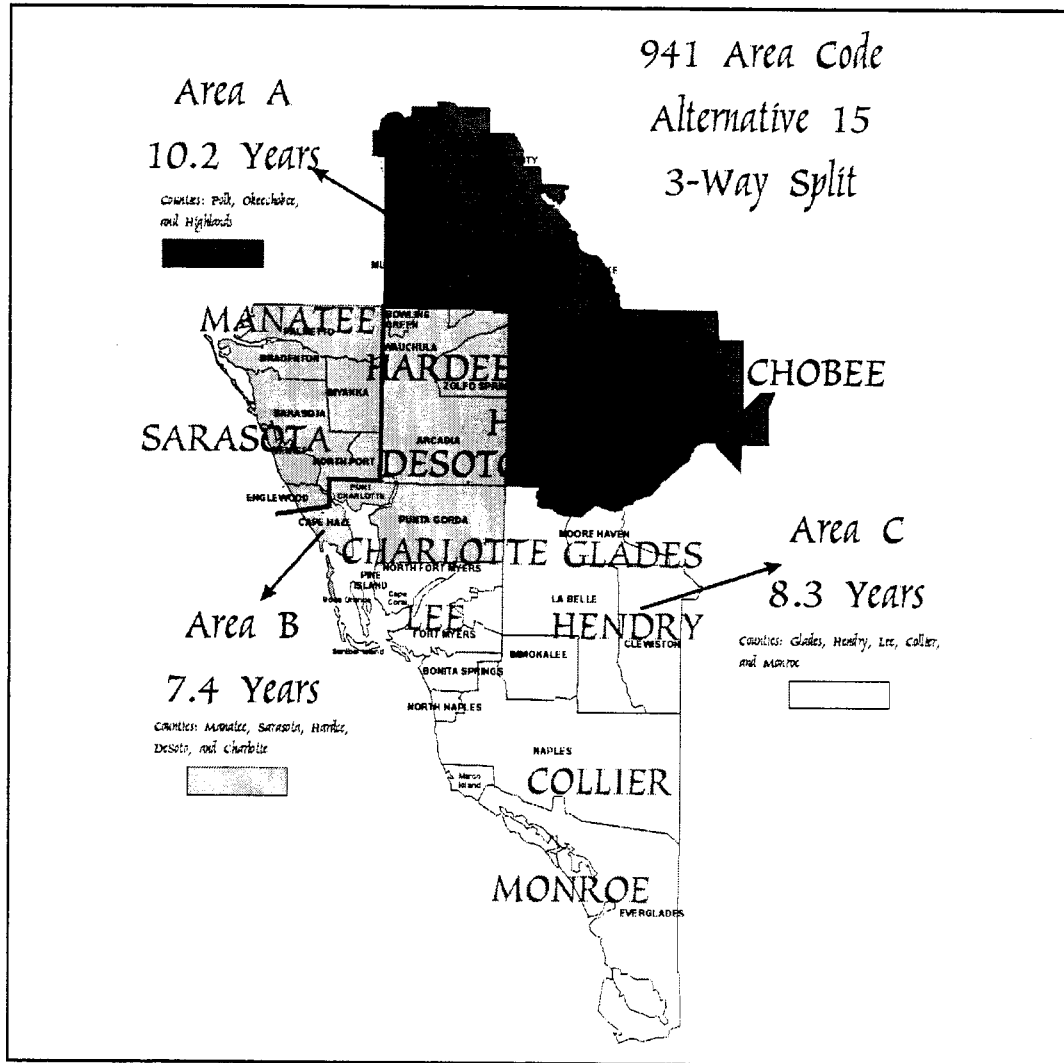


Figure 16

