

SPECIAL REPORT

MARCH 2000 NO. 6

**FLORIDA
PUBLIC
SERVICE
COMMISSION**

Request for review of proposed numbering plan relief for the 561 Area Code

In Florida and around the country, the demand for new telephone numbers has been growing at a rapid rate in recent years, resulting in a shortage of available numbers in many areas. There are a variety of factors involved in this growing demand, including population increases and the development of new technology in the form of fax machines, cellular phones, computer modems and pagers. We are using more kinds of telecommunications devices that require phone numbers.

Another problem is the increase of competition throughout the local telephone industry, and the method used to distribute phone numbers to those companies. The Federal Communications Commission, the federal regulatory agency for the telephone industry, requires that every local phone company licensed to do business in a state be assigned phone numbers in blocks of 10,000 -- whether they need that many numbers or not. So, if a small company needs only 1,000 phone numbers to meet the needs of its customers, the excess numbers -- 9,000 -- go unused and are not assignable to another carrier.

Recently, the Florida Public Service Commission (PSC) was advised by the North American Numbering Plan Administration, the organization that assigns area codes, that the 561 area code is in danger of exhausting its available supply of phone numbers. For this reason, the PSC has begun considering several possible ways of alleviating the number shortage problem in the area. The area code hearings listed at right have been scheduled to give consumers, businesses and organizations an opportunity to share their opinions on the proposed area code relief plans for the 561 area code. We encourage those who are affected by the proposed changes to attend the hearing.

PSC staff is scheduled to make a recommendation to the Commission on August 3, 2000, and the Commission vote on this matter is scheduled for the August 15, 2000, Agenda Conference.

CUSTOMER HEARINGS

DOCKET NO. 990456-TL

March 23, 2000 - 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.
West Palm Beach City Commission Chambers
200 2nd Street
West Palm Beach, Florida

March 24, 2000 - 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
St. Lucie County Commission Chambers
Administrative Building
2300 Virginia Avenue
Fort Pierce, Florida

PSC Staff & Reference Numbers

For legal questions:

Donna Clemons (850) 413-6216

For technical questions:

Levent Ileri (850) 413-6562

Michael Barrett (850) 413-6544

For general information:

Barry Ray (850) 413-6111

Robby Cunningham (850) 413-6129

or call toll-free 1-800-342-3552

1-800-511-0809 to fax

E-Mail: contact@psc.state.fl.us

Home Page: <http://www.floridapsc.com>

**AUDIO
ACCESS
PSC EVENTS
on the
INTERNET**

SEE PAGE 3

FPSC Commissioners



Joe Garcia

Chairman Garcia was appointed by the late Governor Lawton Chiles in August 1994 to complete a term ending in January 1998, and was then reappointed by Governor Chiles to a new term ending in January 2002. He was installed as Chairman of the Florida Public Service Commission in January 1999. Prior to his service on the Commission, he was Executive Director of the Cuban Exodus Relief Fund, the Cuban American National Foundation's private sector resettlement program, and was Assistant Director of the Salvadoran American Foundation, where he coordinated fund-raising efforts for humanitarian relief campaigns. Chairman Garcia is currently Chair of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners' (NARUC) Committee on International Relations and serves on the NARUC Committees on Telecommunications and Consumer Affairs. In addition, he was appointed to NARUC's Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service. He is Second Vice-Chair of the Southeastern Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (SEARUC). He has also served on the Department of Energy's National Electric and Magnetic Fields Advisory Committee. He received a bachelor of arts degree in politics and public affairs, as well as a law degree, from the University of Miami. He is a director of The Beacon Council and the Latin Chamber of Commerce of USA (CAMACOL).



J. Terry Deason

Commissioner Deason was first appointed by the Florida Public Service Commission Nominating Council in February 1991 for a term ending in January 1995. He has been reappointed to consecutive terms by the late Governor Lawton Chiles and Governor Jeb Bush. Commissioner Deason's current term ends in January 2003. He served as Commission Chairman from January 5, 1993, through January 2, 1995. Commissioner Deason is an active member of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC). He currently serves on NARUC's Board of Directors, its Finance and Technology Committee, and its Utility Association Oversight Committee. Prior to his appointment, he served as Chief Regulatory Analyst in the Office of Public Counsel. In that capacity, he was responsible for the coordination of accounting and financial analysis used by the Public Counsel in cases before the Public Service Commission, presented testimony as an expert witness, and consulting with the Public Counsel on technical issues and ratemaking policies concerning regulated utilities in the State of Florida. From 1981 to 1987, he served as Executive Assistant to PSC Commissioner Gerald L. Gunter, during which time he reviewed and analyzed staff recommendations and advised the Commissioner on those recommendations and other pertinent policy determinations. From 1977 to 1981, he served as a Legislative Analyst with the Office of Public Counsel. He attended the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, and in 1975 received his bachelor of science degree in accounting, summa cum laude, from Florida State University. Deason also received his master of accounting degree from FSU in 1989.



Susan F. Clark

Commissioner Clark was first appointed to the Commission in August 1991 and was recently reappointed to a term ending in 2003. She served as Commission Chairman from January 2, 1995, through January 7, 1997. She served the Commission as General Counsel, representing the Commissioners in all state and federal courts, from 1988 until she was appointed Commissioner. Prior to that, she served as Associate General Counsel and Deputy General Counsel. Before her employment with the Public Service Commission, she was staff attorney with the Florida Joint Administrative Procedures Committee, and was staff attorney for Florida Senate Legislative Services. She received her bachelor's degree in political science and her juris doctor degree from the University of Florida. She is a member of the Florida Bar and is admitted to practice in several federal courts, including the U.S. Supreme Court. She serves as Chair of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners' (NARUC) Committee on Electricity, and Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on Electric Industry Restructuring. She represents NARUC on the North American Electric Reliability Council, and is a member of the Electric Power Research Institute Advisory Council and the Steering Committee of the National Council on Competition.



E. Leon Jacobs, Jr.

Commissioner Jacobs was appointed by the late Governor Lawton Chiles to a four-year term beginning in January 1998. Prior to his appointment, he was a staff attorney for the House Committees on Tourism and Economic Development, Insurance, and Financial Services in the Florida House of Representatives, where he authored reforms to the state's minority business enterprise programs and managed health insurance and workers' compensation issues. He was staff counsel to the Florida Senate Committee on Reapportionment addressing redistricting issues, which involved support of court appeals of the political districts up through the U.S. Supreme Court. He also was an attorney with the Florida Public Service Commission, where he served as counsel to Commission staff and litigator of administrative proceedings. He is a member of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners' (NARUC) Committee on Water, chairs NARUC's Ad Hoc Task Force on Y2K Readiness, and is a member of the Environmental Protection Agency's Small Systems Working Group under the National Drinking Water Advisory Council. He is also a board member of Child Advocates II of Tallahassee, and a volunteer guardian in the Guardian Ad Litem Program in the Second Judicial Circuit. He formerly served as President of the Board of Directors of the Tallahassee affiliate of Habitat for Humanity. Commissioner Jacobs is a member of the Florida Bar. He received a bachelor of technology degree, with honors, in data processing from Florida A&M University, and his juris doctor degree from the College of Law at Florida State University.



Lila A. Jaber

Commissioner Jaber was appointed to the Florida Public Service Commission (PSC) by Governor Jeb Bush in February 2000 to complete a term ending in January 2001. From April 1999 to November 1999, she served as Assistant to PSC Commissioner Julia L. Johnson. From 1994 to 1999, Jaber served as a Bureau Chief with the PSC's Division of Legal Services, Bureau of Water and Wastewater, implementing law and policies on the regulation of more than 1,500 water and wastewater facilities throughout the state of Florida. She also served as an attorney with the Division of Legal Services from 1991 to 1994. She was presented with the PSC's Extraordinary Accomplishment Award in 1993 and was presented the Great Manager Esquire Award by the Florida Bar in 1997. She is a member of the Florida Bar Administrative Law Section, the Florida Bar Government Lawyer Section, the Florida Bar Public Utilities Law Committee, and the Florida Barristers Association. She is a court-certified mediator and a member of the Florida Bar and the National Bar Association. She also serves on the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners' Committee on Consumer Affairs and Committee on Water. She received a bachelor of arts degree in political science and business from Stetson University in Deland, FL, and a juris doctorate from the Stetson University College of Law in St. Petersburg, FL.

Consumer Statements at PSC Hearings

The PSC is interested in what consumers have to say about the request for review of proposed numbering plan relief for the 561 area code. The main purpose of these hearings is to receive comments from the public.

Anyone may make a statement, and speaking is an effective way to let the Commission know how you feel about the case under review. Those consumers who wish to speak should arrive early. The hearings will begin as scheduled and continue until all consumers have been heard.

At the beginning of the hearings, procedures will be set up to establish an order for testimony. PSC staff will have sign-up sheets, and consumers will be called in the order of those sheets. PSC staff will be available to coordinate consumer comments and assist members of the public.

Any person who wishes to comment or provide information to the PSC staff may do so at the hearings, orally or in writing. Written comments may be sent to the Commission at: Division of Records and Reporting, 2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850. Your letter will be placed in the correspondence file of this docket (Docket No. 990456-TL). For your convenience, a comment form is attached to this Special Report. You may also call the Commission's toll-free number, **1-800-342-3552**, or dial **1-800-511-0809** to fax.

Any person who is unable to attend and who wishes to obtain a copy of the recommendation or the order may do so by writing to: Director, Division of Records and Reporting, Florida Public Service Commission, 2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard, Tallahassee, Florida, 32399-0850.

Florida Public Service Commission

BUREAU OF

Consumer Information and Conservation Education

2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Betty Easley Conference Center-Room 184
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850

The Public Service Commission's Bureau of Consumer Information and Conservation Education provides a staff of information specialists who are available to answer questions from the media and from Florida consumers.

To reach a PSC media representative, please call the Bureau of Consumer Information and Conservation Education during business hours at (850) 413-6100 or send a fax to 1-800-511-0809. See the PSC's Internet home page at <http://www.floridapsc.com>.

Audio Access to PSC Events on the Internet

When possible, Public Service Commission hearings are accessible as live audio broadcasts on the PSC's Internet home page. To access a hearing, you must have a computer equipped with a soundboard and speakers. The necessary helper application software, Progressive Networks' Real Player, may be downloaded at the PSC Web site.

The PSC's Internet home page address is <http://www.floridapsc.com>. After logging on to the home page, the listener must choose the option "Audio Access to PSC Events" and follow the prompts.



Definitions

To Help You in Reading the Maps on the Following Pages

Concentrated Growth Overlay - A process for relieving a shortage of available phone numbers in an existing area code. This process is sometimes considered in situations where the majority of new telephone numbers are expected to be concentrated in one section of the area code. For example, a fast-growing metropolitan area and a sparsely populated rural area could exist within the same area code. The overlay area code would be assigned initially to the section of the area code experiencing the fastest growth, and new phone numbers in that section would be assigned from the new area code. As more relief is required, the geographic area served by multiple area codes could expand. An example of a concentrated growth overlay is shown on page 11. (Also see the definition of "Overlay.")

Exhaust - The expected life of an area code in years; when the exhaust date is reached, the area code will have run out of available NXXs. (Also see the definition of "NXX" below.) This calculation is based on a survey performed by the North American Numbering Plan Administration.

Geographic Split - The process of geographically dividing an area code, usually with one portion keeping the original area code and the other portion receiving a new area code.

ILECs (Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers) - The traditional local telephone companies that, prior to deregulation of the telephone industry, had the exclusive right and responsibility to provide local telephone service within a specific area.

LATA ("Local Access and Transport Area") - A geographic telephone service boundary. There are 10 LATAs and part of another in Florida; the 561 area code is located within the Southeast LATA.

NANPA (North American Numbering Plan Administration) - The organization responsible for the assignment of phone numbers and area codes in the United States.

NPA ("Numbering Plan Area") - More commonly known as an area code. When the three-digit area code, or NPA, is combined with the first three digits of a seven-digit local telephone number (also called the NXX code), a geographic address is formed that routes calls through the telephone network. The first six digits "tell" the call where to go, and the final four digits identify the specific customer. (Also see the definition of "NXX" above right.)

NXX - The first three digits of a seven-digit local telephone number, the NXX routes calls to a specific central office. Each NXX code contains 10,000 telephone numbers, and each NXX is assigned to a specific rate center. Typically there are 792 NXXs available for assignment to telephone companies in a single area code.

Overlay - The process of assigning a new area code to a geographic area where another area code is already in existence. In an overlay, all new local telephone numbers in the geographic area will be assigned to the new area code once available numbers are exhausted in the old area code, and 10-digit dialing (area code + seven-digit phone number) is required for all local calls.

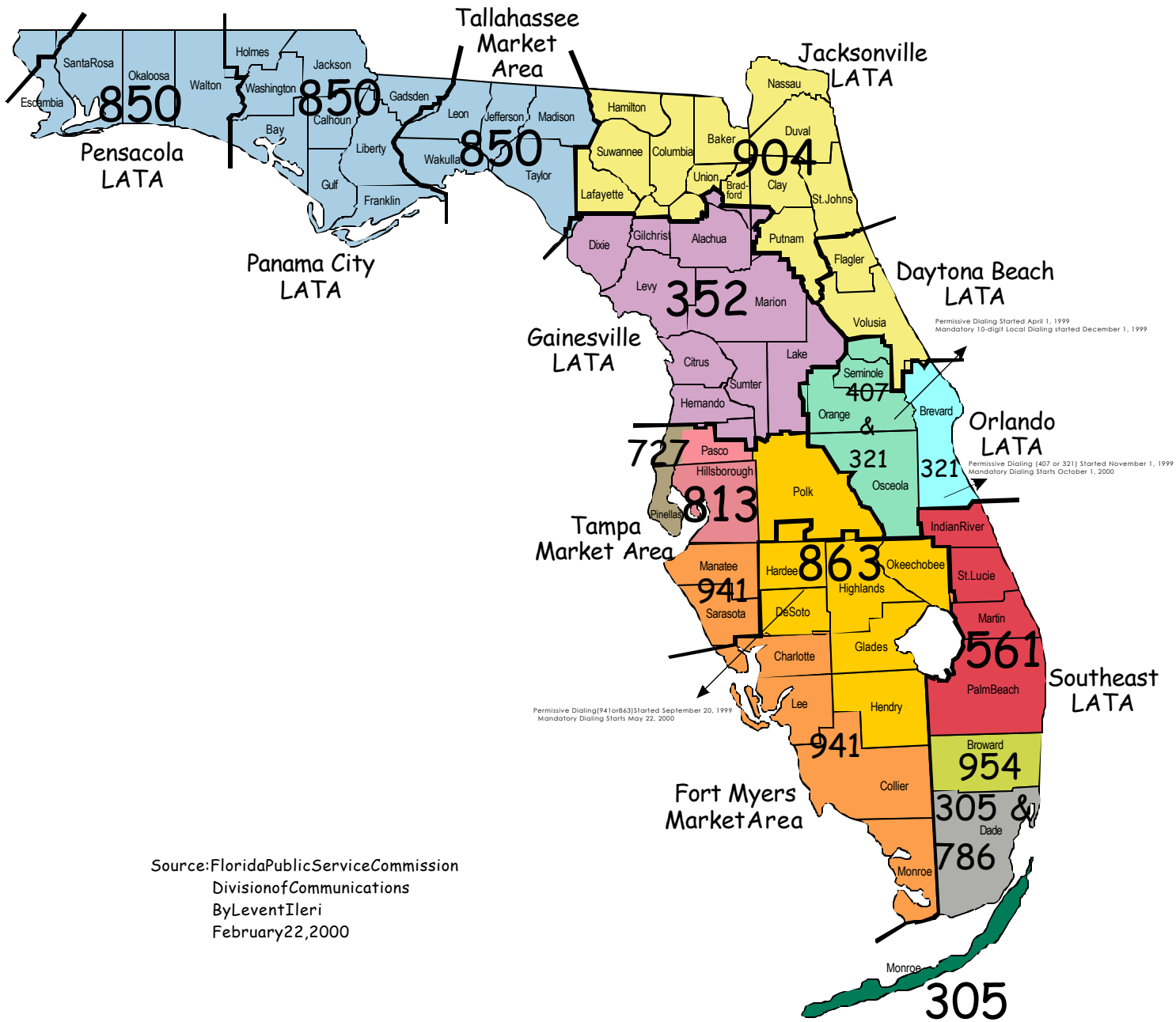
Rate Center - A geographic area served by a local telephone company. Telephone numbers currently are allocated to phone companies in blocks of 10,000 for each rate center. There are 15 rate centers in the 561 area code.

Rate Center Consolidation - A process in which the number of rate centers in a geographic area is reduced by combining them. In some situations, it can help slow the exhaustion of available phone numbers within an area code. For example, in Palm Beach County, there are currently seven rate centers. If those seven rate centers were consolidated into a single rate center, a local phone company would be able to request a single block of 10,000 numbers at a time to serve all of Palm Beach County, rather than having to request seven separate blocks of 10,000 numbers.

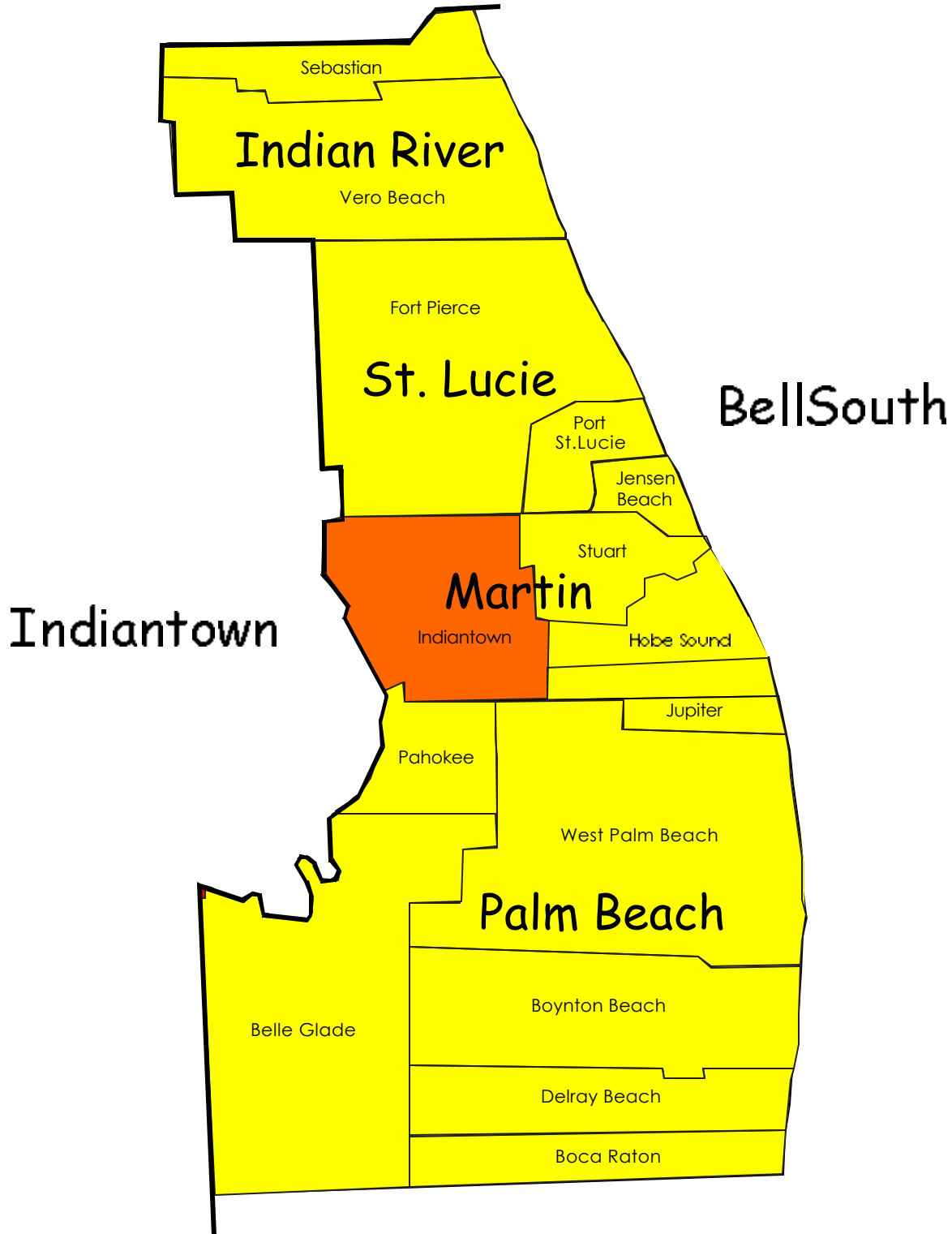
Reclamation - A phone number conservation measure in which local telephone companies are required to return unused or reserved NXX codes if one of the following conditions is met: the NXX code has not been put into use within a specified period of time, or the phone company no longer requires the NXX code for the purpose it was originally intended. (Also see the definition of "NXX" above.)

Thousand-Block Number Pooling - The process of allocating available telephone numbers within an NXX at the rate of 1,000 at a time to phone companies, rather than allocating all 10,000 numbers to a single company. This tends to reduce the number of local phone numbers that go unused and are, therefore, wasted.

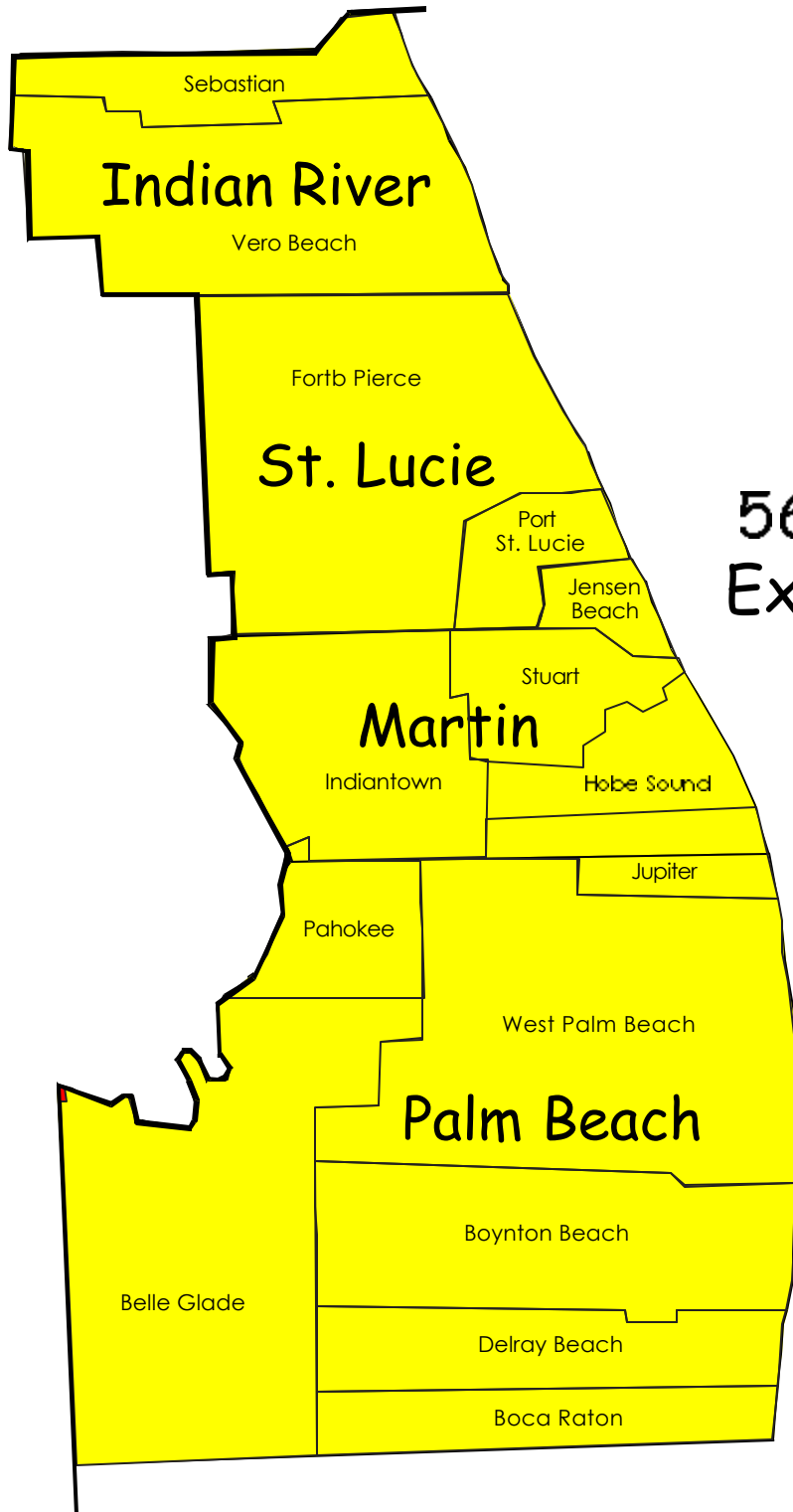
Florida Area Codes by County and LATA Boundaries



Source: Florida Public Service Commission
 Division of Communications
 By Levent Ileri
 February 22, 2000



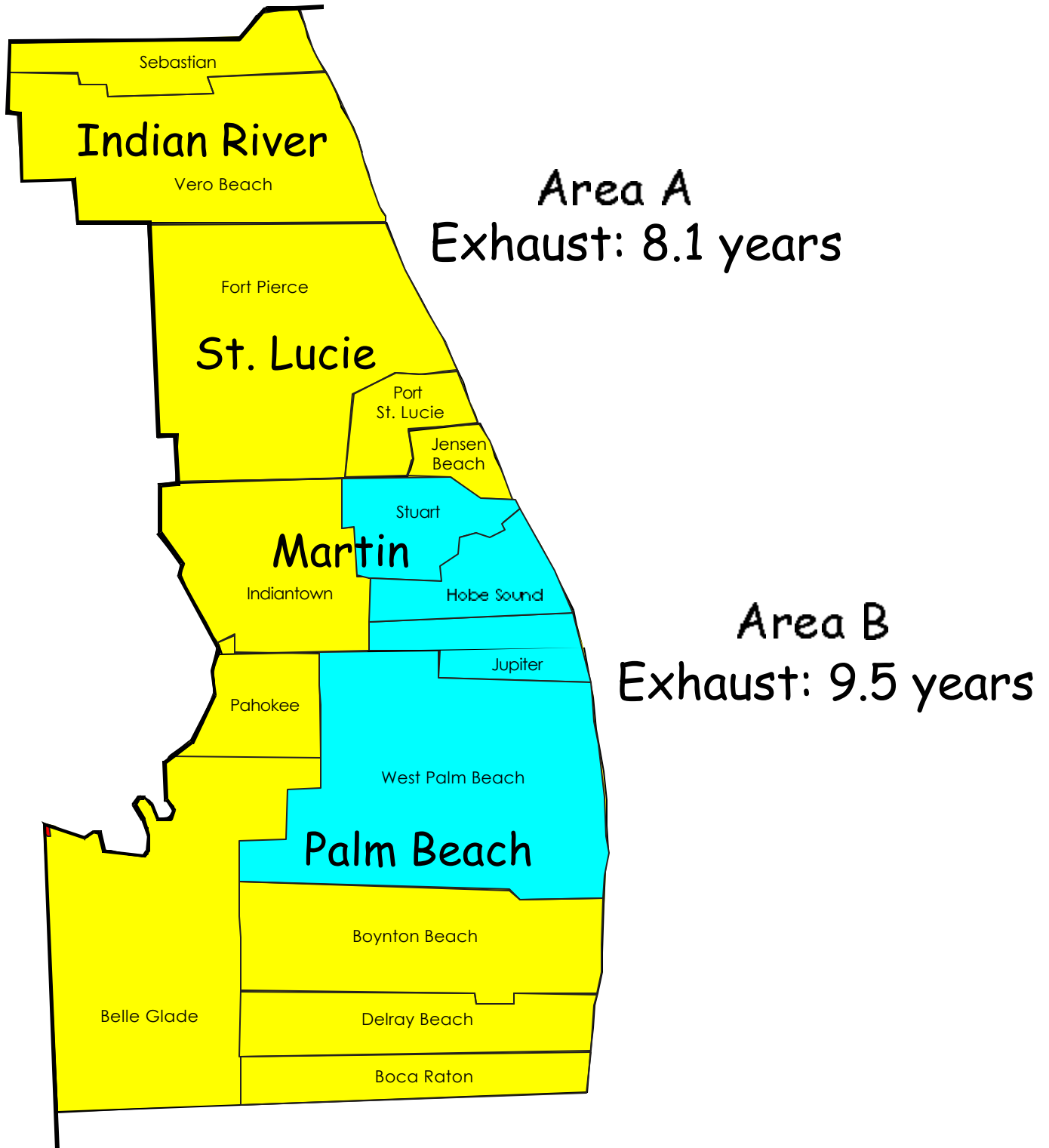
Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers (ILECs)



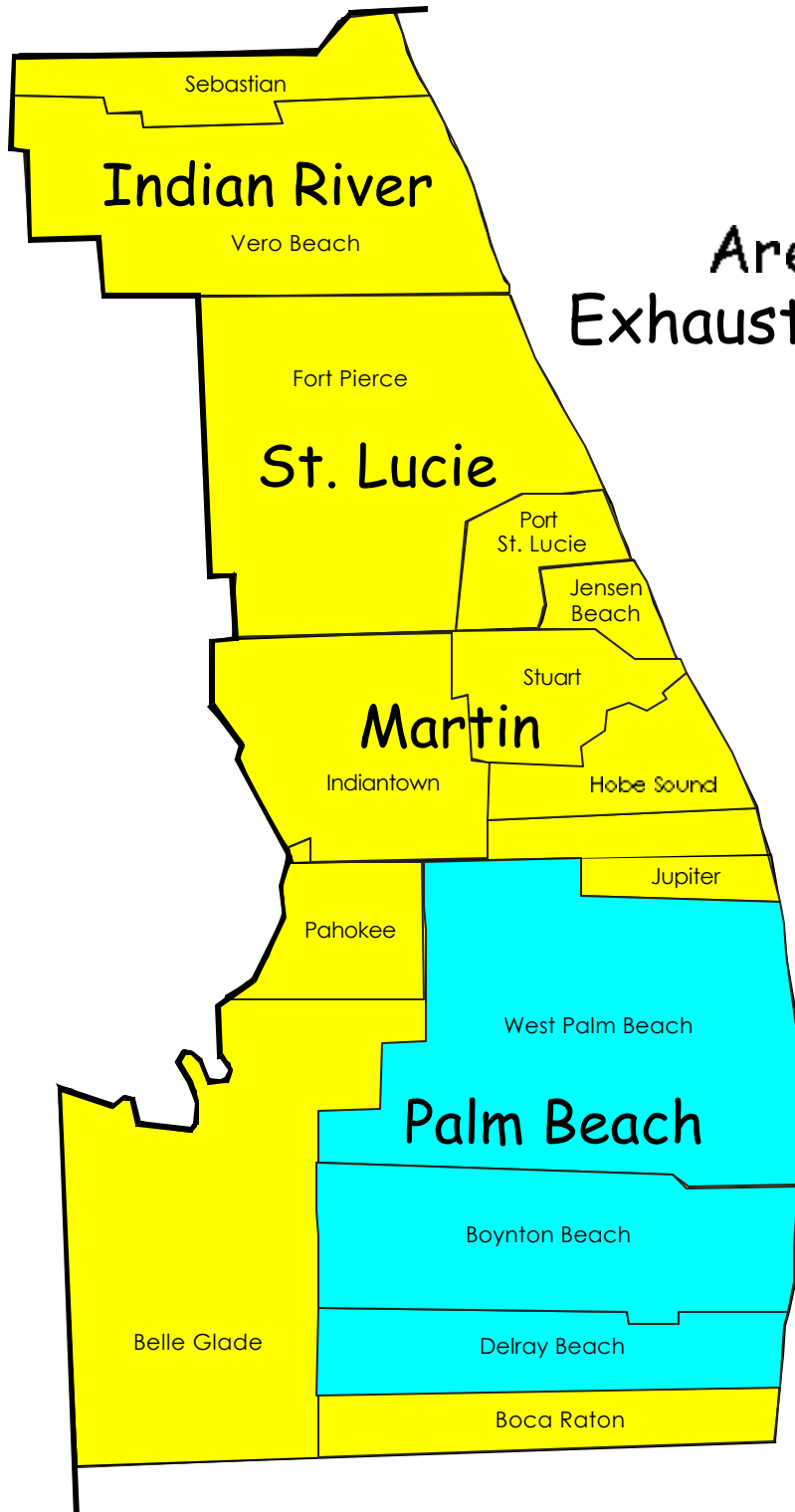
561 and New NPA
Exhaust: 8.8 years

Alternative #1 Overlay*

*Recommended by the Industry



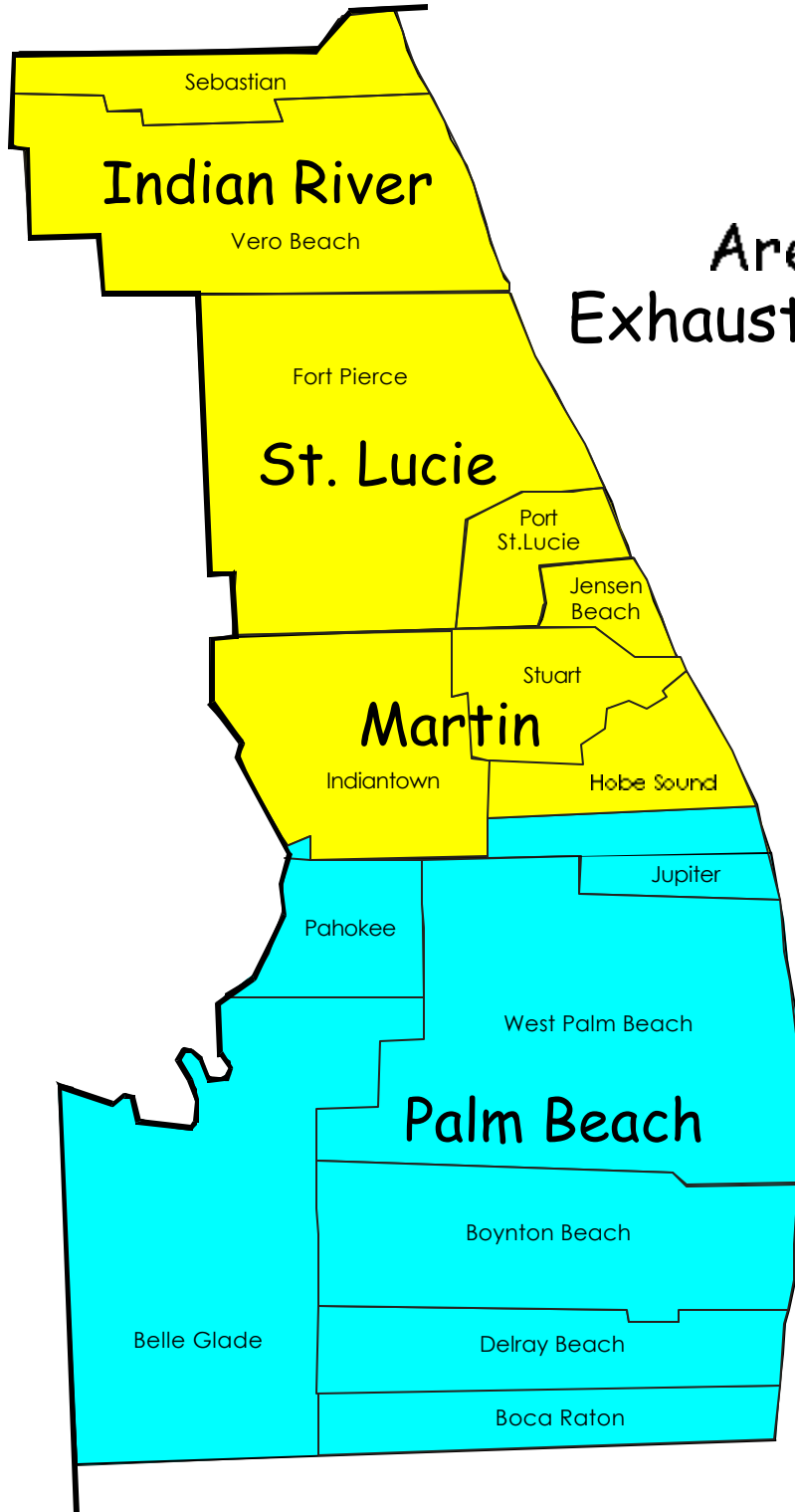
**Alternative #2
Geographic Split**



Area A
Exhaust: 9.5 years

Area B
Exhaust: 8.1 years

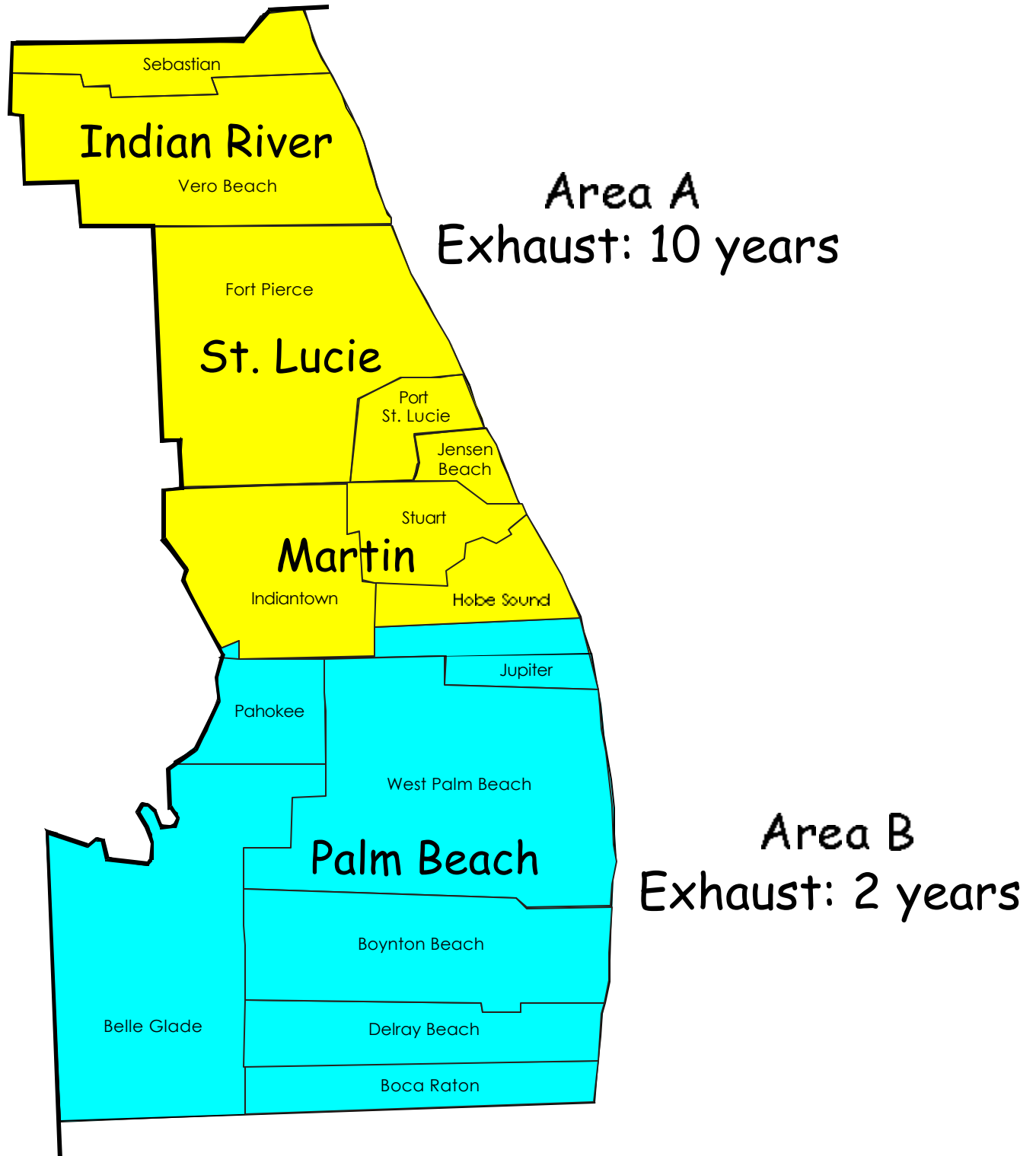
Alternative #3
Geographic Split



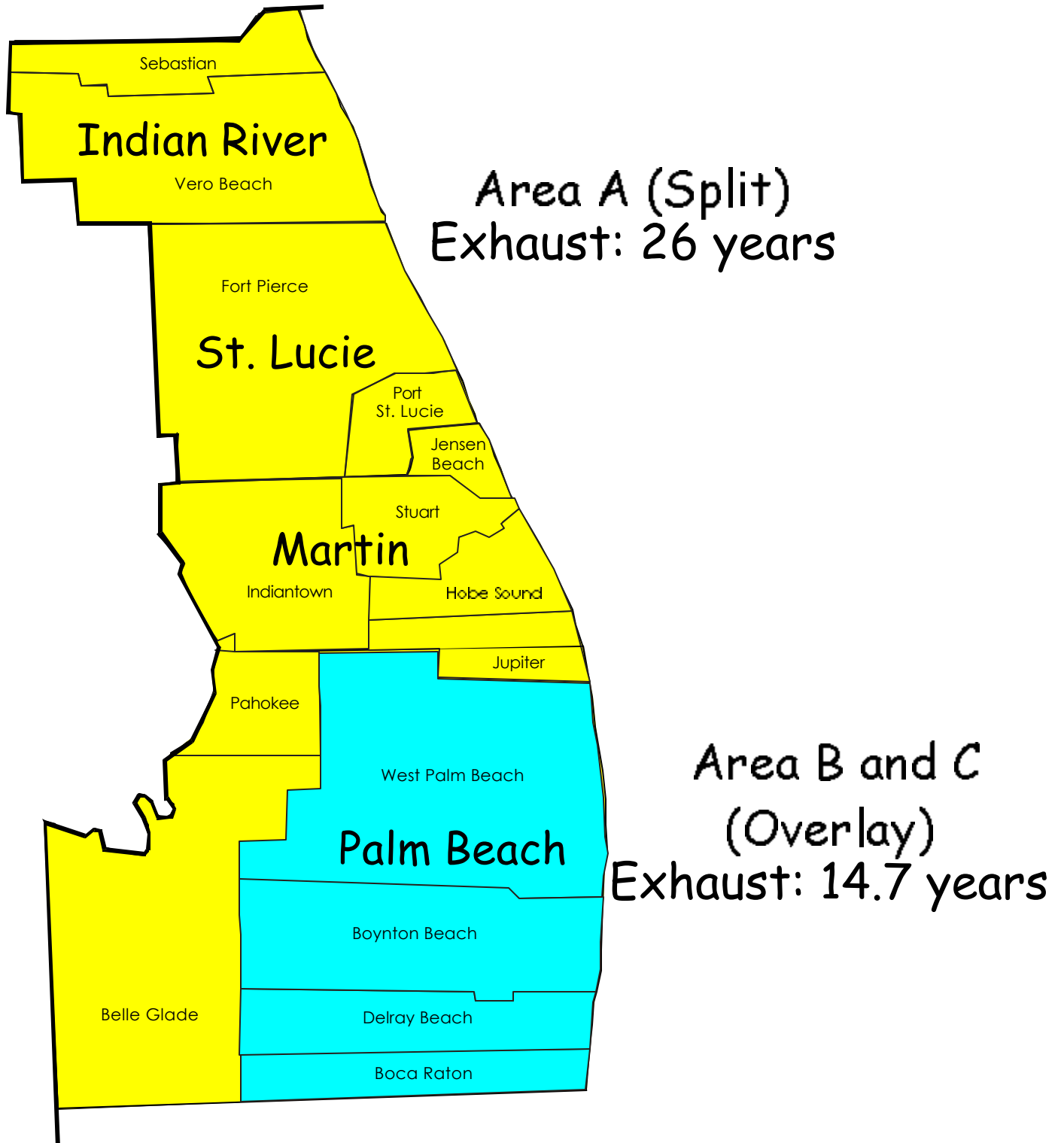
Area A
Exhaust: 24.6 years

Area B
Exhaust: 3.1 years

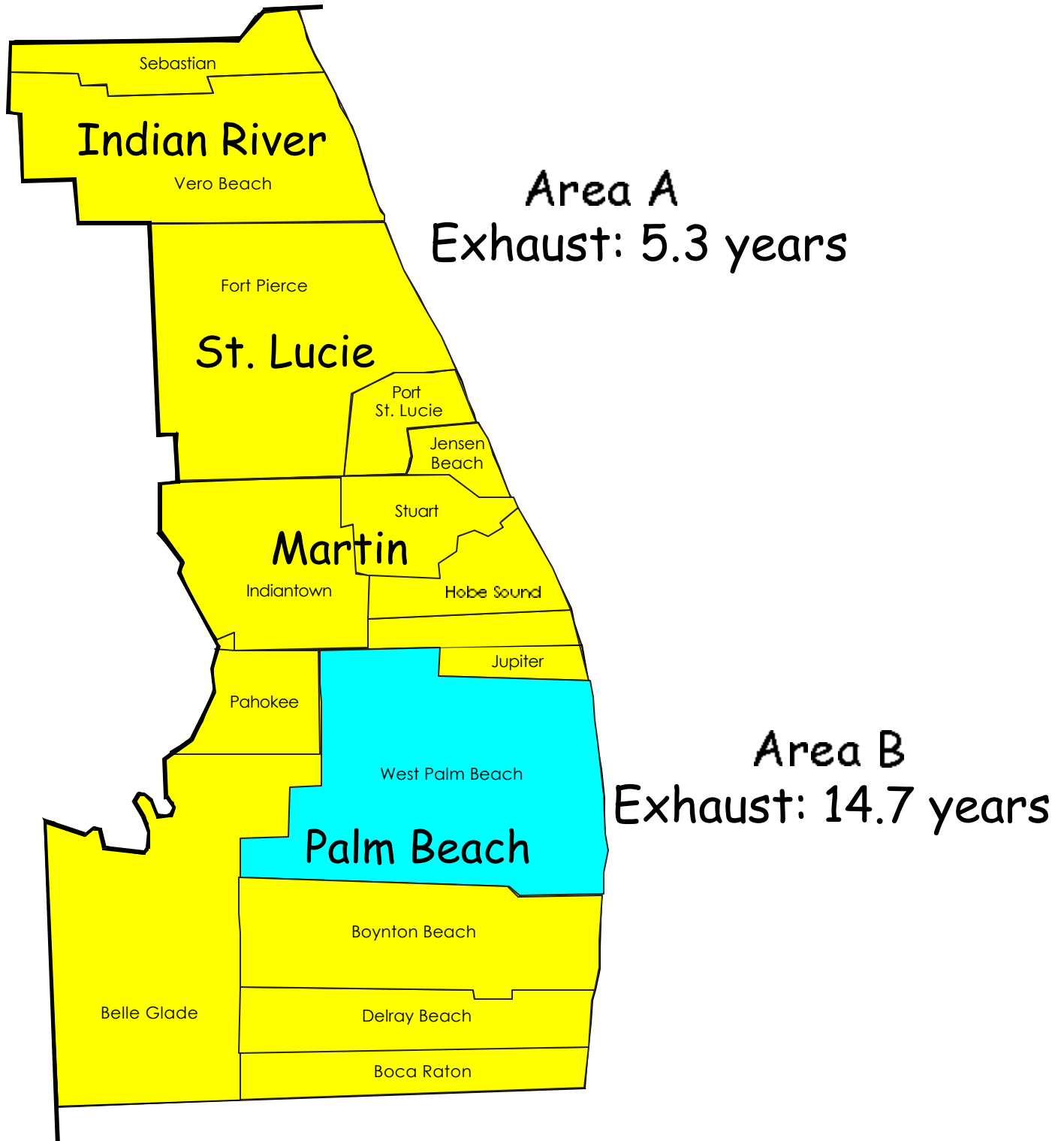
Alternative #4
Geographic Split



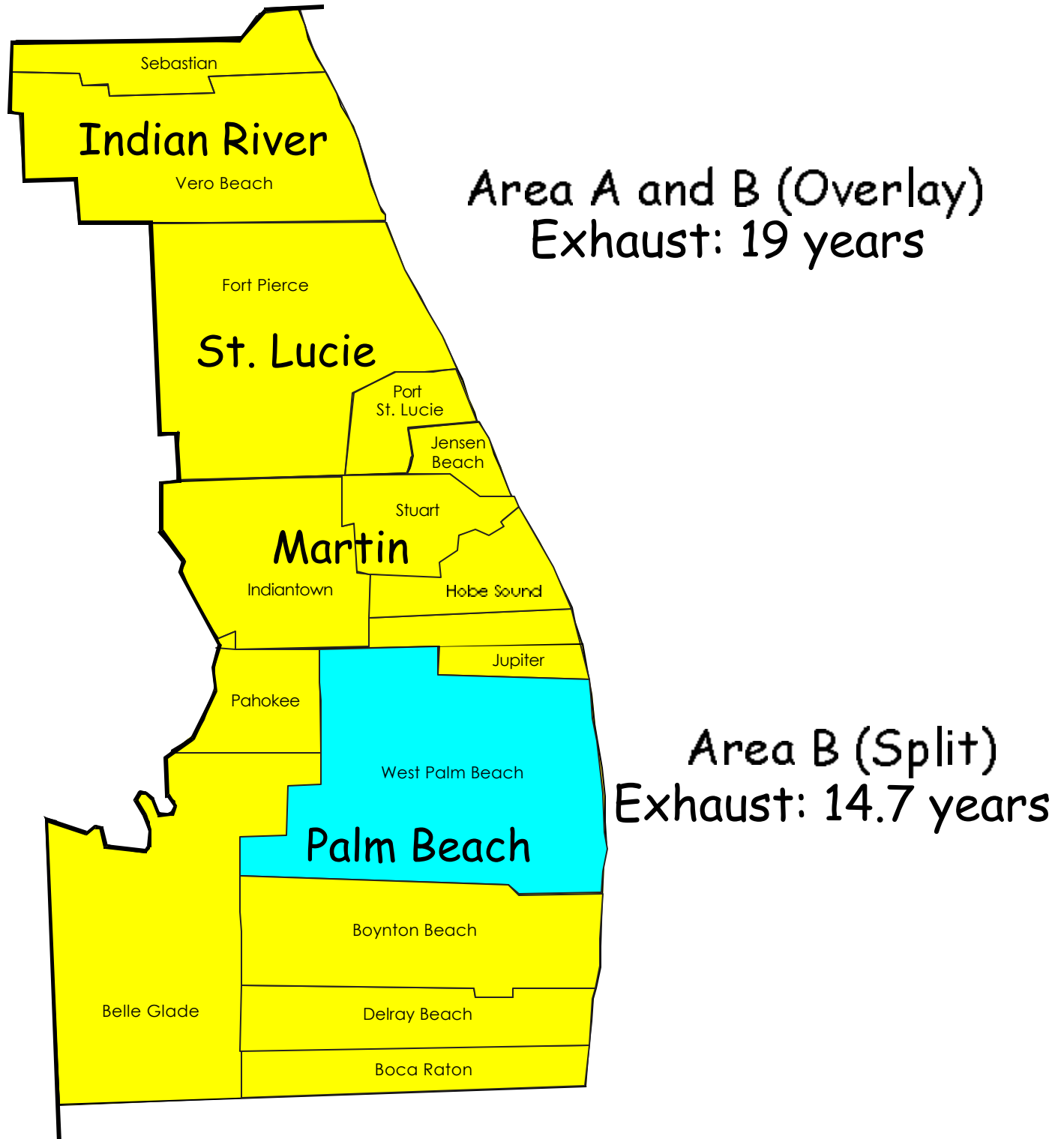
Alternative #5
Concentrated Growth Overlay



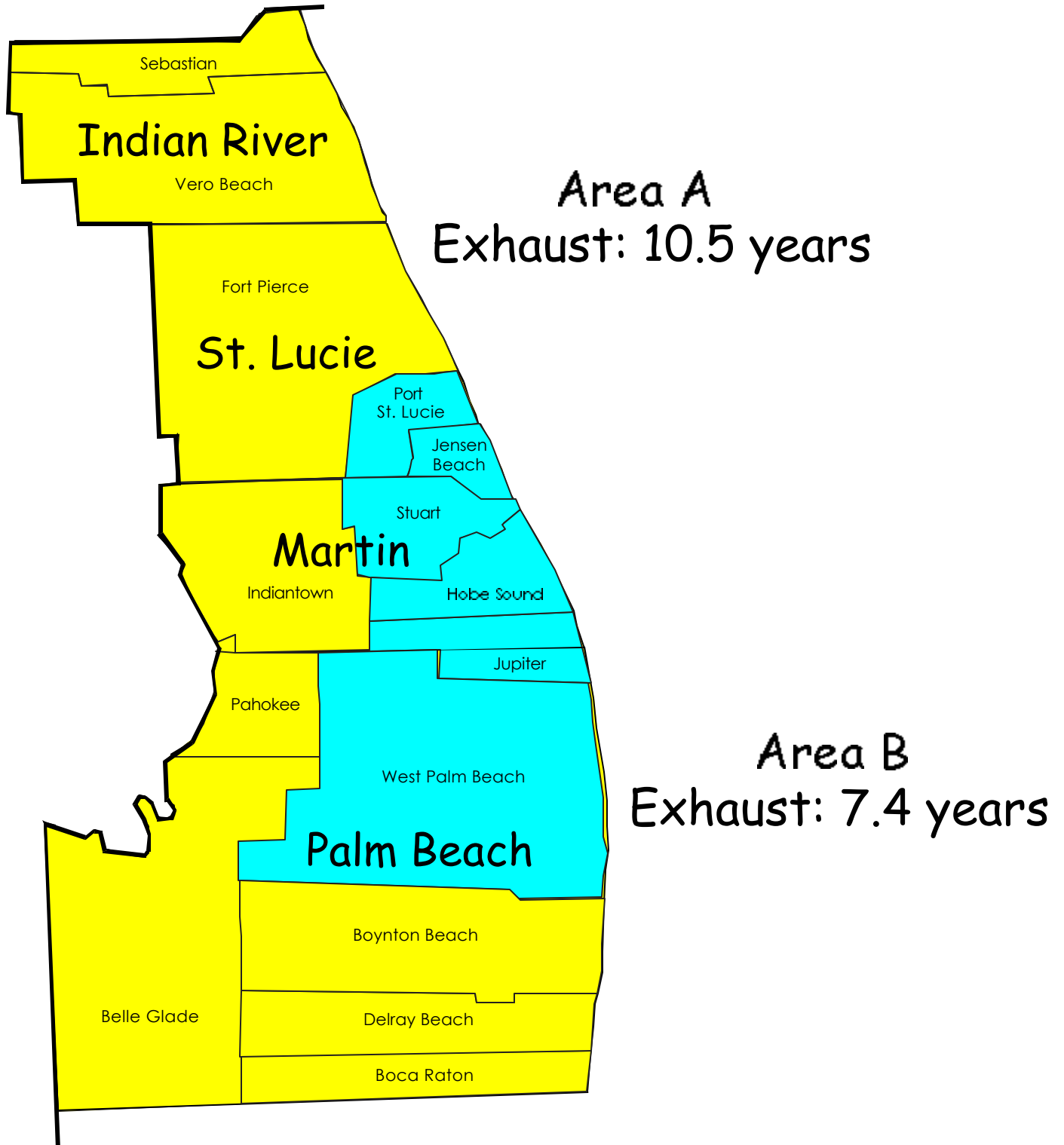
Alternative #6
Geographic Split and Overlay



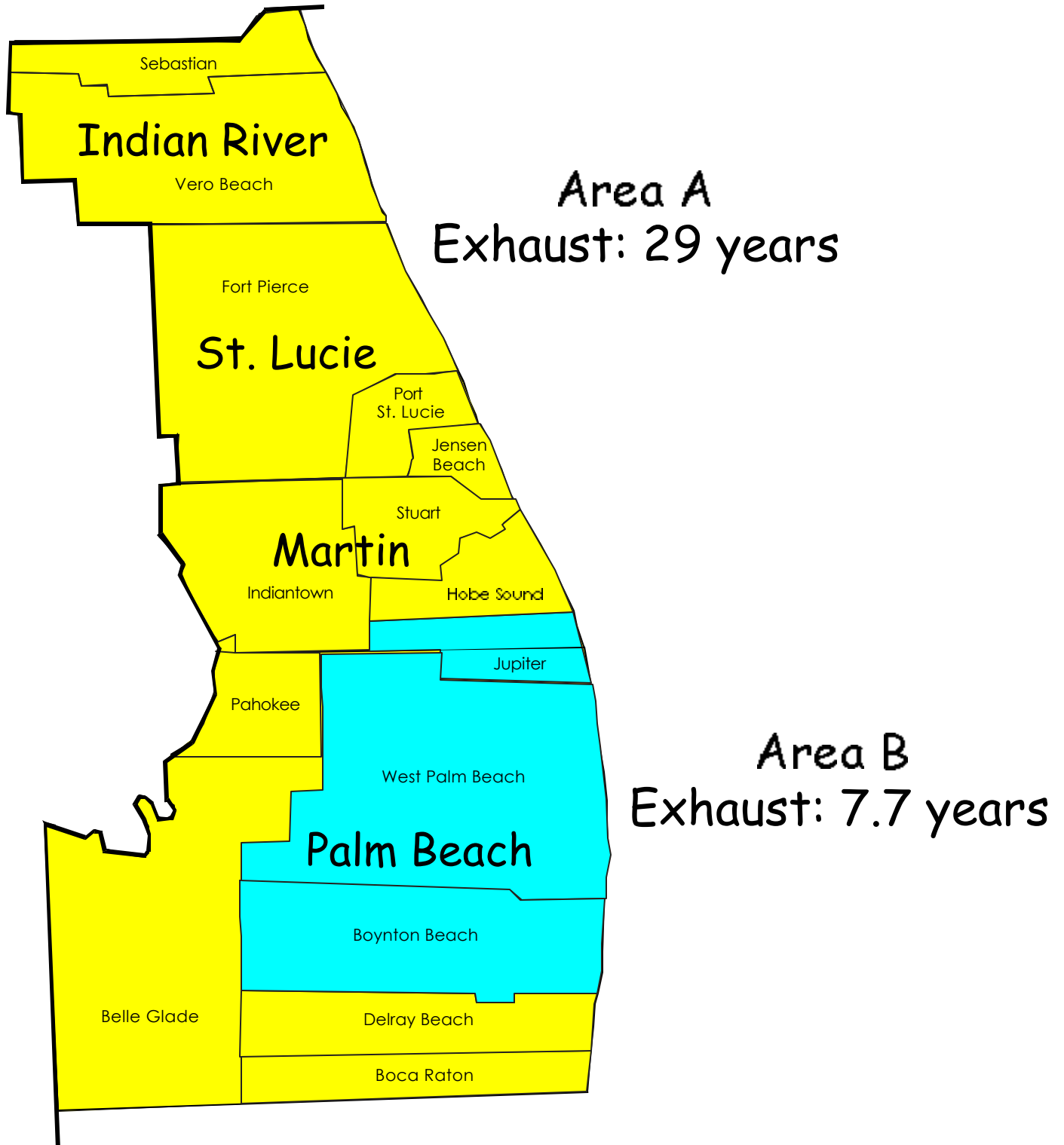
Alternative #7
Geographic Split



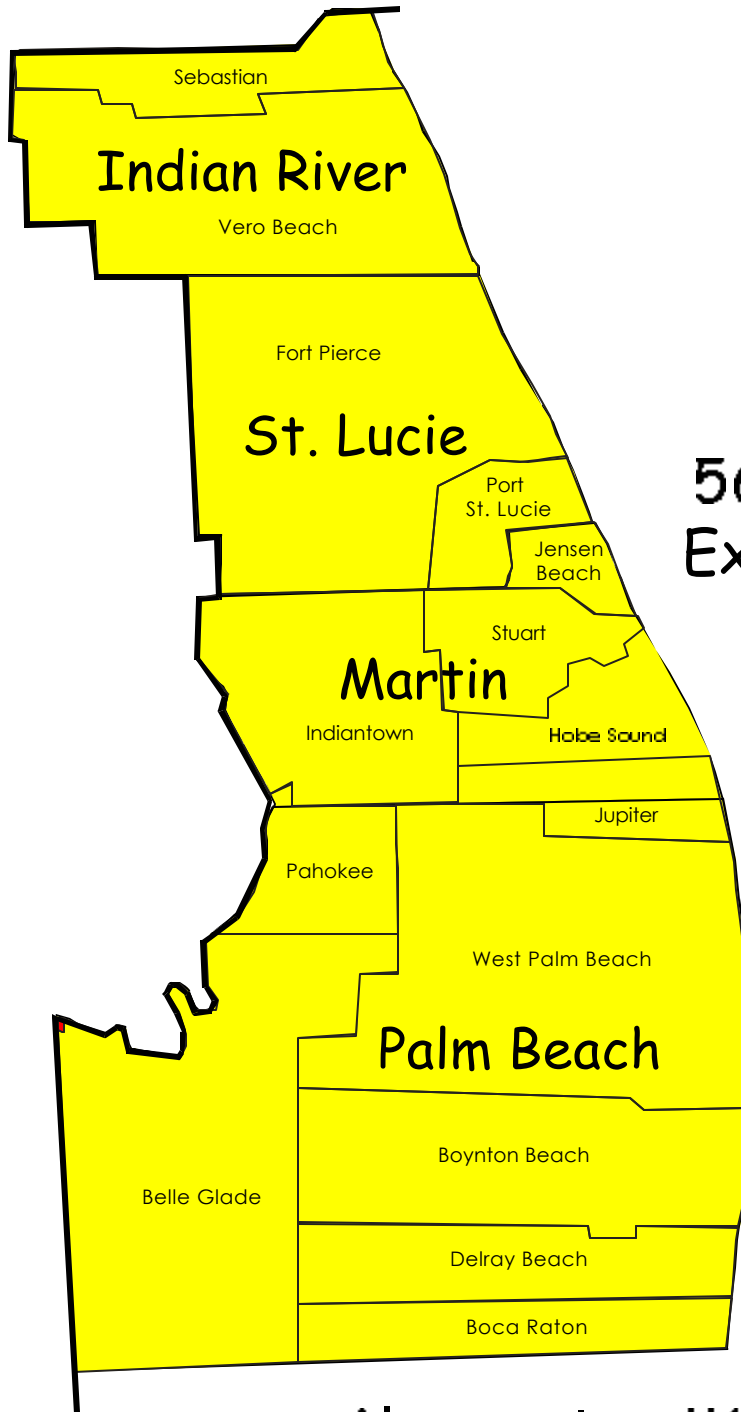
Alternative #8 Geographic Split and Overlay



Alternative #9
Geographic Split



**Alternative #10
Geographic Split**

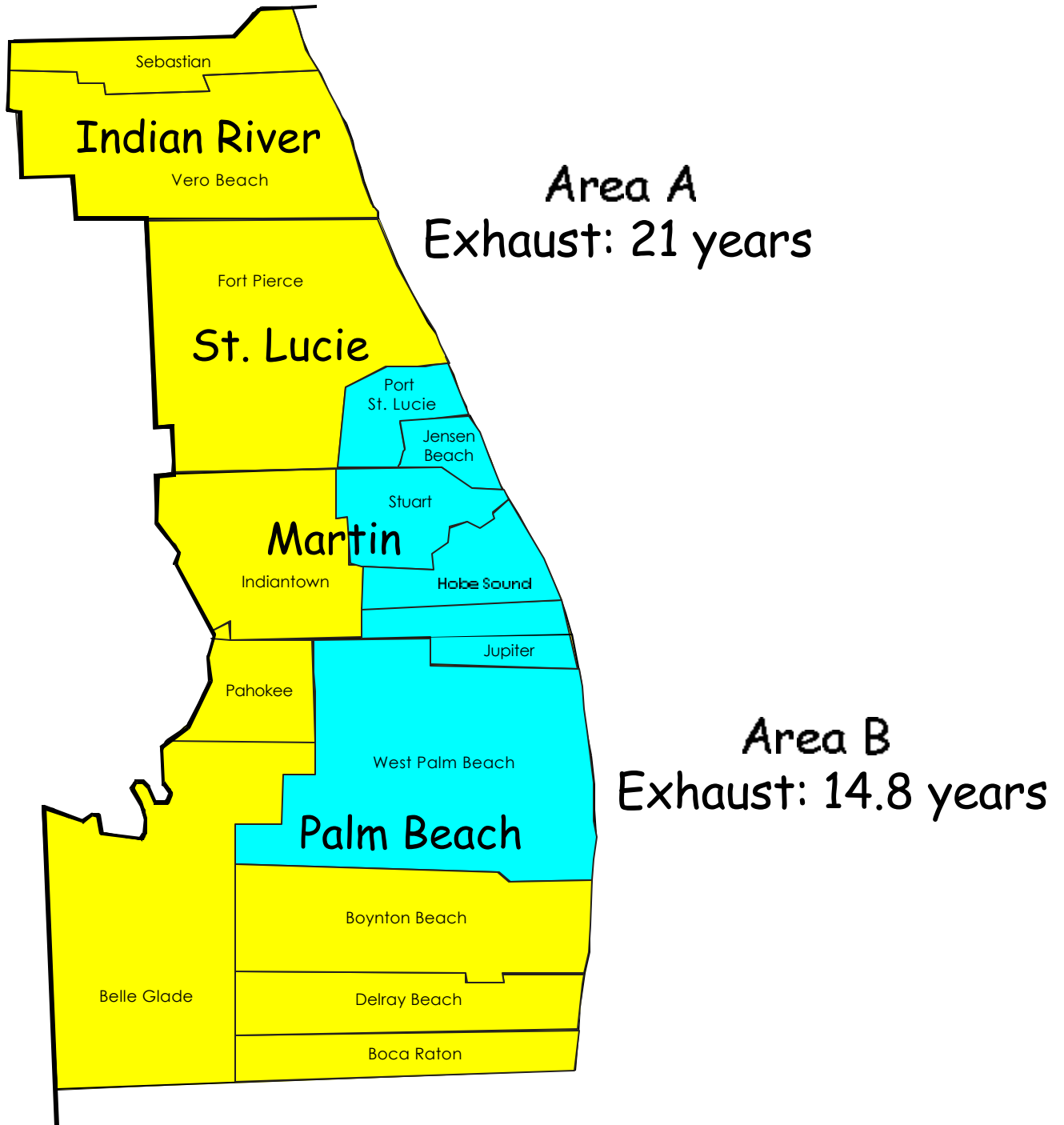


561 and New NPA
Exhaust: 20 years

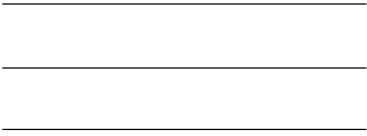
**Alternative #11
Overlay with**

Number Conservation Measures

(e.g., Thousand-Block Number Pooling, Reclamation of Unused and Reserved NXXs, and Rate Center Consolidation)



Alternative #12
Geographic Split with
Number Conservation Measures
(e.g., Thousand-Block Number Pooling, Reclamation of Unused and Reserved NXXs, and Rate Center Consolidation)



STAMP

Florida Public Service Commission
Division of Records and Reporting
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850

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