



## LOCATION

- ◆ **Integral part of Kern County:** Ridgecrest is the county's 3rd largest incorporated city and 2nd largest urban area. Population in January 2006 was 26,515, a decline of 151 persons from the previous year.
- ◆ **Located in Indian Wells Valley:** Ridgecrest is situated at the center of four mountain ranges.
- ◆ **Ridgecrest is a regional hub:** Ridgecrest serves the East Kern and Eastern Sierra Region with commercial services, entertainment, recreation, filming, and tourism.



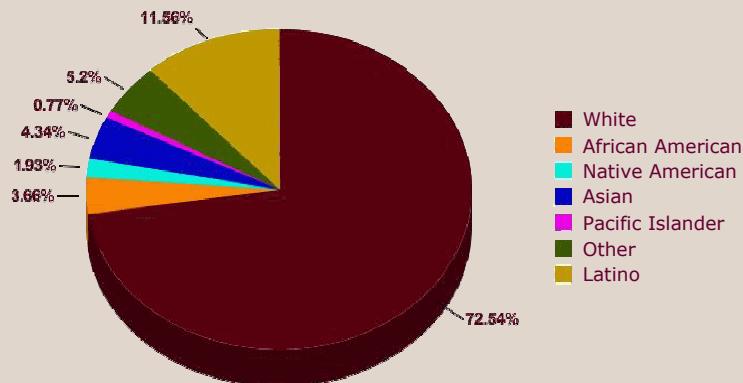
## INTERESTING STATISTICS

- ◆ Average Household Size: **2.72 persons**
- ◆ Median Age: **33 years old**
- ◆ Average Sunny Days/Year: **350 days**
- ◆ Median Home Price  
Ridgecrest (2006): **\$175,000**  
Kern County (2006): **\$278,000**  
*(Source: DataQuick, March 2007)*



## DEMOGRAPHICS

### Racial Demographics



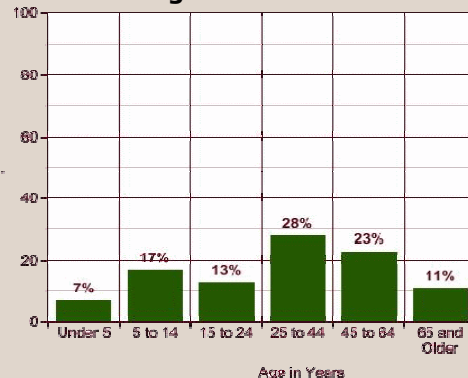
Source: U.S. Census 2000



## EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT and INCOME

- ◆ **Ridgecrest is the educational center for the region:** Ridgecrest has an outstanding public school system and the Cerro Coso Community College. The City has a 93.5% high school graduation rate, compared to 86% for Kern County and 85% for the State.  
*(Source: CA Dept of Education, 2004/05)*
- ◆ **Naval Air Weapons Station (NAWS) China Lake :** NAWS China Lake is a major economic engine in the area. They are the largest employer in the area, employing over 3,700 persons directly (more than the combined employment of the other employers in the top ten). Spin off employment from visitors, contractors, and supply purchases is significant.
- ◆ **Ridgecrest has a highly educated workforce:** Over 37 percent of the population has four or more years of a college education.
- ◆ **Median household income:** Median income for the city is \$44,971, below the \$47,493 reported for the State  
*(Source: Census 2000)*

### Age Distribution





## HOW MUCH WILL WE GROW?

Looking at the tables on population and housing, Ridgecrest has been growing at a rate slower than Kern County as a whole, but 2006 showed increasing growth potential. In 2006, the City approved lots for 1,766 dwelling units. By comparison, a total of 540 lots were approved between 2002 and 2005.

From 2001-2006, the City grew at 1 percent annually and the County grew at 3 percent annually. Using a range of potential growth rates, the City's 2030 population could be:

1 percent/year	33,667	+7,152
2 percent/year	42,648	+16,133
3 percent/year	53,900	+27,385



## Housing Trends

2000—2006 Housing Stock Profile for the City of Ridgecrest

	RIDGECREST	KERN COUNTY
2001 HOUSING	11,310	234,059
2002 HOUSING	11,313	237,650
2003 HOUSING	11,342	242,231
2004 HOUSING	11,382	247,918
2005 HOUSING	11,419	254,417
2006 HOUSING	11,529	262,934
HOUSING % INCREASE	1.9%	13.5%

Source: State of California Department of Finance, 2007



## Population Trends

2000—2006 Population Profile for the City of Ridgecrest and Kern County

	RIDGECREST	KERN COUNTY
2001 POPULATION	25,232	673,634
2002 POPULATION	25,598	690,570
2003 POPULATION	25,858	710,005
2004 POPULATION	26,154	733,376
2005 POPULATION	26,666	757,882
2006 POPULATION	26,515	779,869
POPULATION % INCREASE	6.4%	17.9%

Source: State of California Department of Finance, 2007



## TRANSPORTATION

- ◆ **Highways:** Located along Highway 178 Scenic Corridor. Intercity access from Highways 395 and 14.
- ◆ **Regional transit service:** Provided by the Inyo-Mono County bus service. Connects Ridgecrest with California City and Mojave. Dial-a-Ride available to Randsburg and Inyo-kern.
- ◆ **Regional airports:** Inyokern (10 mi); Trona (20 mi); California City Municipal (41 mi); Ontario International Airport (124 mi); Burbank Airport (143 mi).



## INFRASTRUCTURE and SERVICES

Current Ridgecrest infrastructure can support growth

- ◆ **Sewage facilities are expanding capacity that will support four times the current population:** Current plant is running at 68% capacity. A new plant is planned, offering services to over 65,000 residents.
- ◆ **Ridgecrest's has water to support growth:** Indian Wells Valley Water District can serve 50,000 people without using the California Aqueduct.
- ◆ **Ridgecrest has a low crime rate:** Police and public services meet operating standards for a population of 34,000.
- ◆ **Healthcare is plentiful:** There are several medical services in Ridgecrest. Ridgecrest Regional Hospital serves all of the Eastern Sierra area.