

# FAQs

## Unincorporated Community Identity and USPS Mailing Addresses

Alameda County Community Development Agency

For more information, visit: <https://www.acgov.org/cda/USPSproject/>

FAQs:	<b>Option 1: Place Name Change (PLL)</b>	<b>Option 2: Alternate Preferred Last Line (APLL)</b>	<b>Option 3: ZIP Code Boundary Review</b>
<b>How long will it take?</b>	Approximately 6 months from time of request	Approximately 1 month from time of request	1 year or more from time of request
<b>Will USPS approve this change?</b>	Very likely	Extremely likely	Not likely, because it would change established USPS mail routes
<b>Would it be the default on USPS.com?</b>	Yes, unincorporated community names would become the official/default Place Names	No, the official/default Place Names would not change. San Leandro and Hayward would still be Place Names in unincorporated	Yes, this change would be official/default if approved
<b>Would this change be optional for residents?</b>	Yes. This change is official, but residents can choose to use either the new or old Place Name (PLL) as long as they used the correct street address and ZIP	Yes. This change is not official, so residents can use either the official or Alternate Place Name as long as they used the correct street address and ZIP	Not optional. Residents within a new ZIP boundary would need to use new ZIP code (and associated Place Name) to continue receiving mail
<b>Does this help with the community identity issue?</b>	Yes. This would strengthen unincorporated community identity because USPS default Place Names would accurately reflect unincorporated community names and boundaries.	Not much. This would do little to improve unincorporated community identity because it does not remove City names from unincorporated mailing addresses.	Yes. If approved, this would strengthen community identity by aligning official mailing addresses and ZIP codes with unincorporated communities.
<b>Would it impact mail delivery?</b>	No, mail delivery would not be impacted as long as you use the correct ZIP	No, mail delivery would not be impacted as long as you use the correct ZIP	Yes, mail delivery would be impacted for a year or more because ZIP realignments change how mail is delivered
<b>Would I have to buy new address labels?</b>	No. You could continue to use labels with the old Place Name (PLL) as long as the ZIP and street address are correct.	No. Your official Place Name (PLL) would not change, so there is no need to change address labels.	Yes. Mailing labels with an old ZIP would need to be discarded. Businesses may also need to change advertising or signage.
<b>Are there other potential impacts of this change?*</b>	This could result in possible improvements to data collection that uses Place Name (e.g., Census, others?)  Unknown impacts outside of County and USPS uses.	None anticipated.	This would improve public health data collection in unincorporated areas.  Other impacts are possible impacts where ZIP is used (e.g. insurance rates, district boundaries, annexations)
<b>What is the cost to County?</b>	Some cost: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Address list purchase</li> <li>Mailing to inform residents (optional and good practice)</li> </ul>	Low to no cost: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mailing to inform residents (optional)</li> </ul>	Highest cost: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Address list purchase</li> <li>Survey mailing to all addresses and</li> <li>Door-to-door outreach to reach 50% required survey response</li> </ul>

\* Regardless of the option the County pursues, USPS has indicated that the County would need to wait 10 years before pursuing additional changes.