



2018

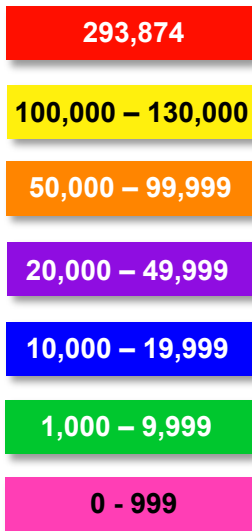
CARCGA

Incident Event Report

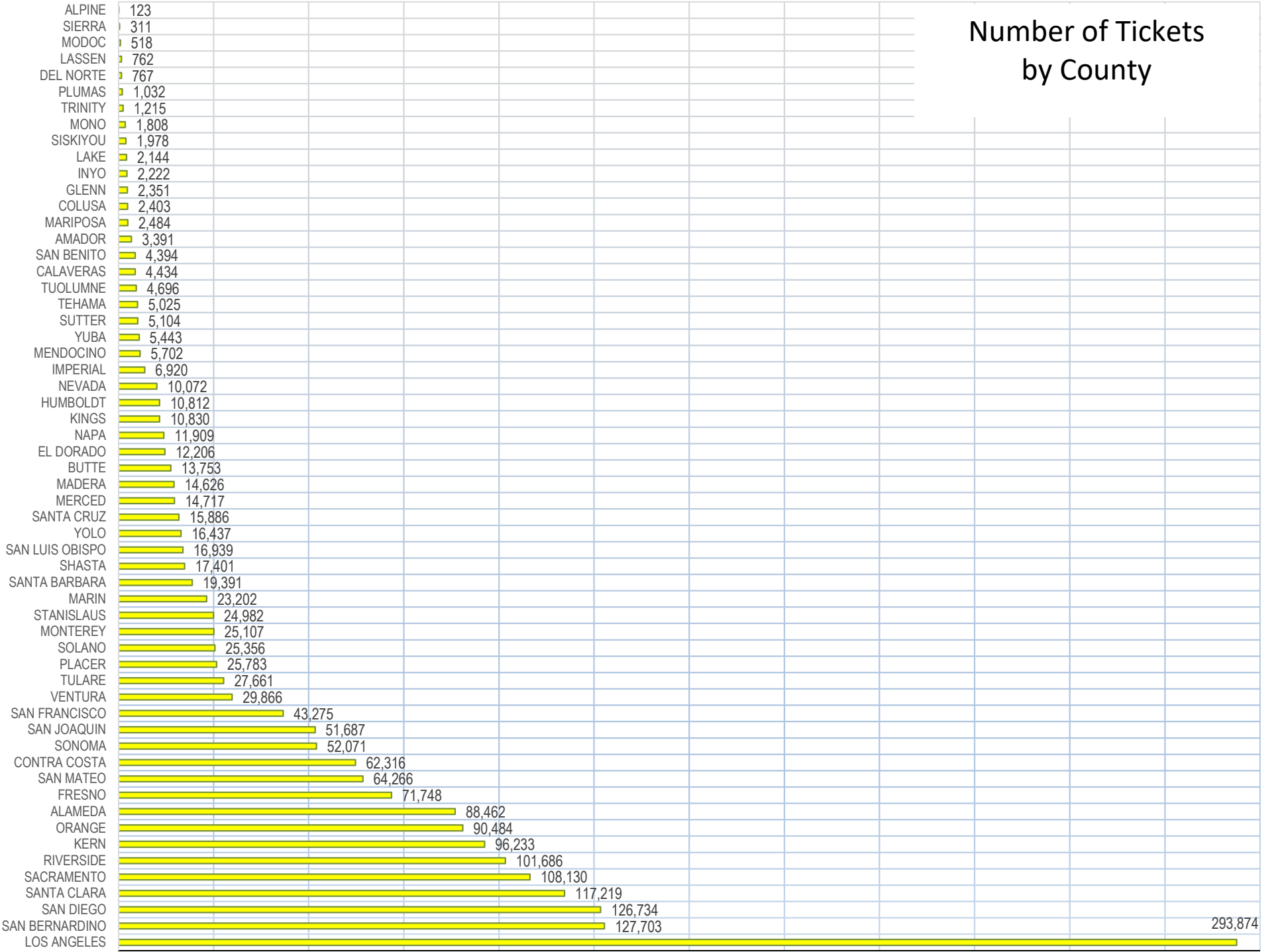
2018 Distribution of Tickets



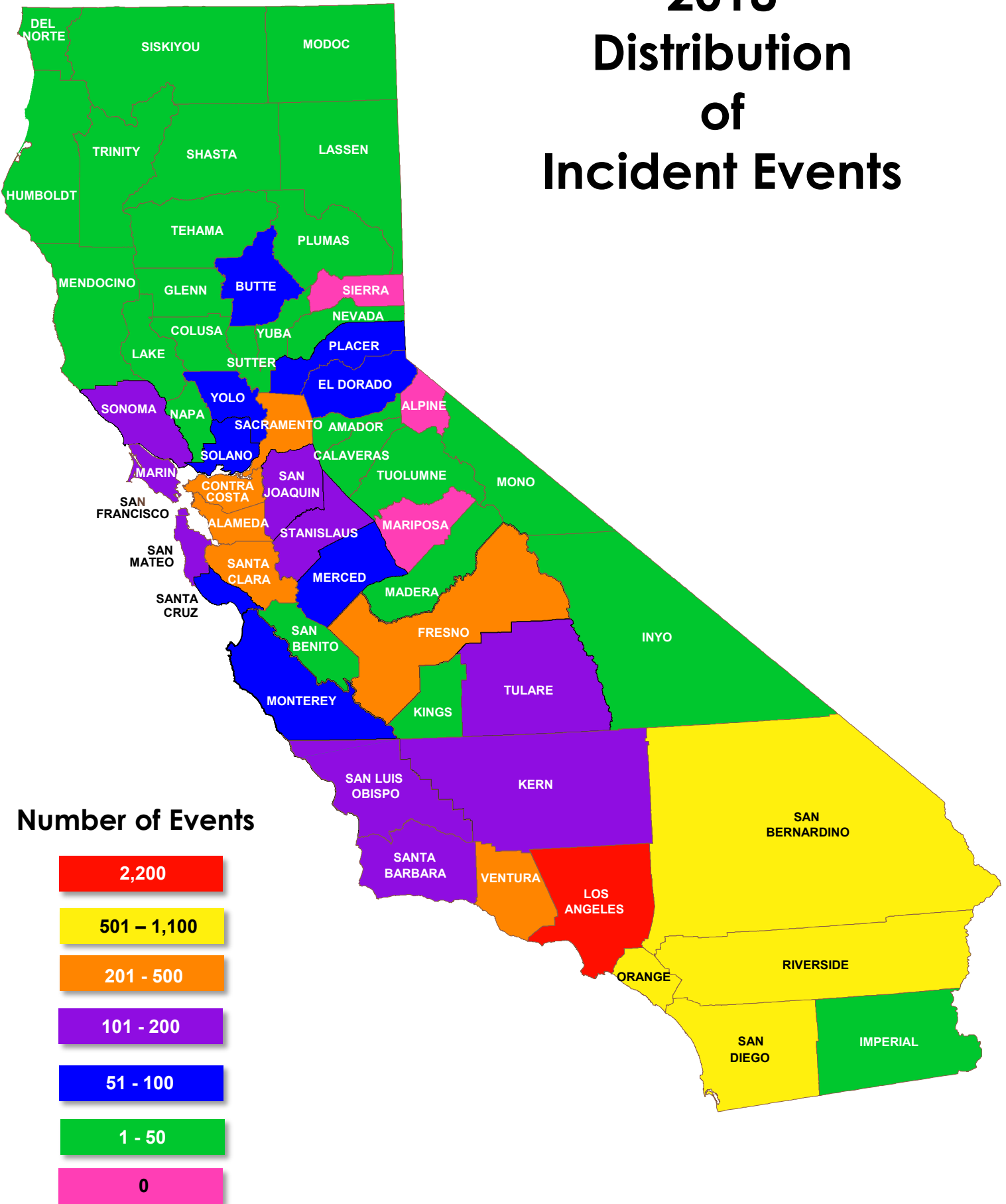
Number of Tickets



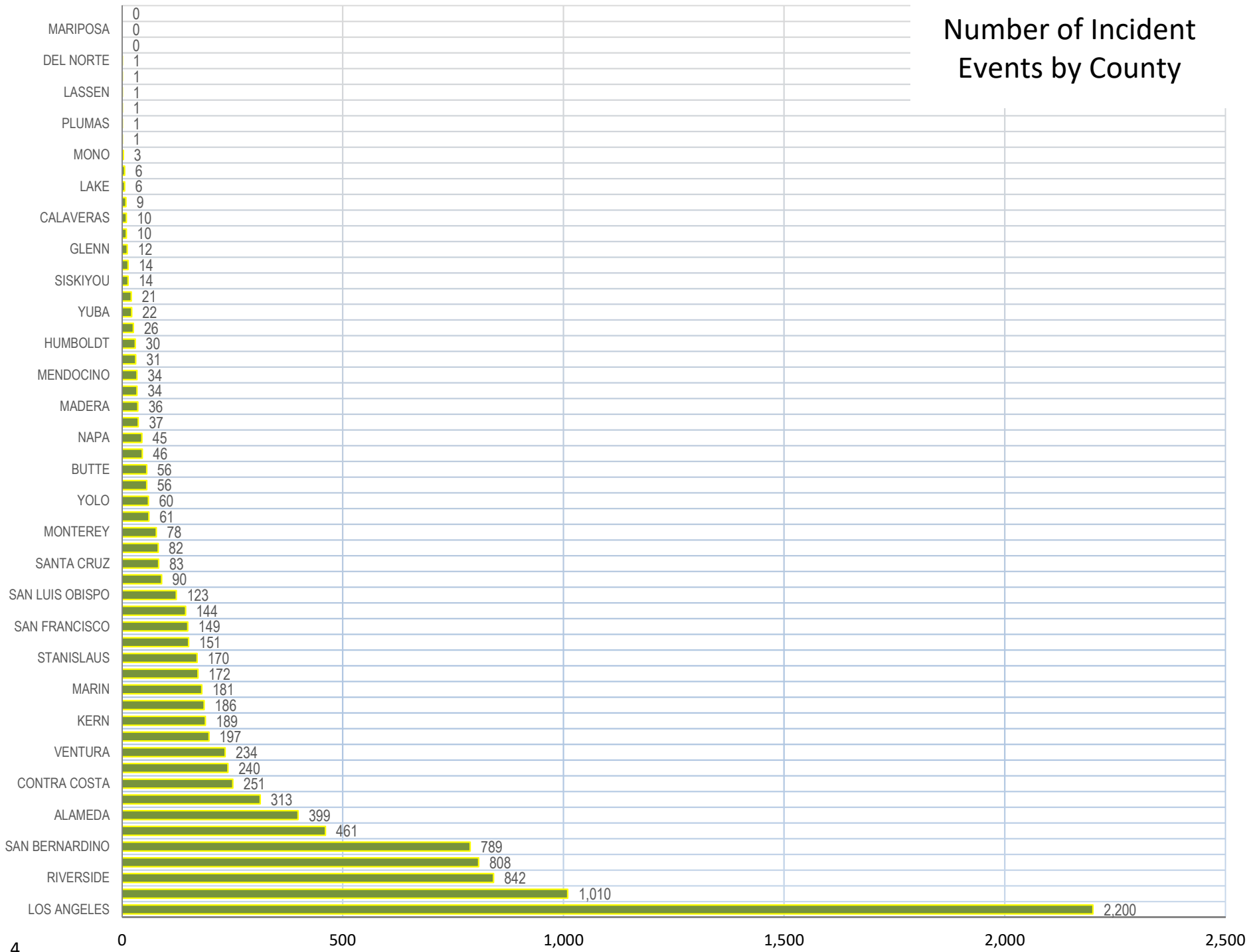
Number of Tickets by County

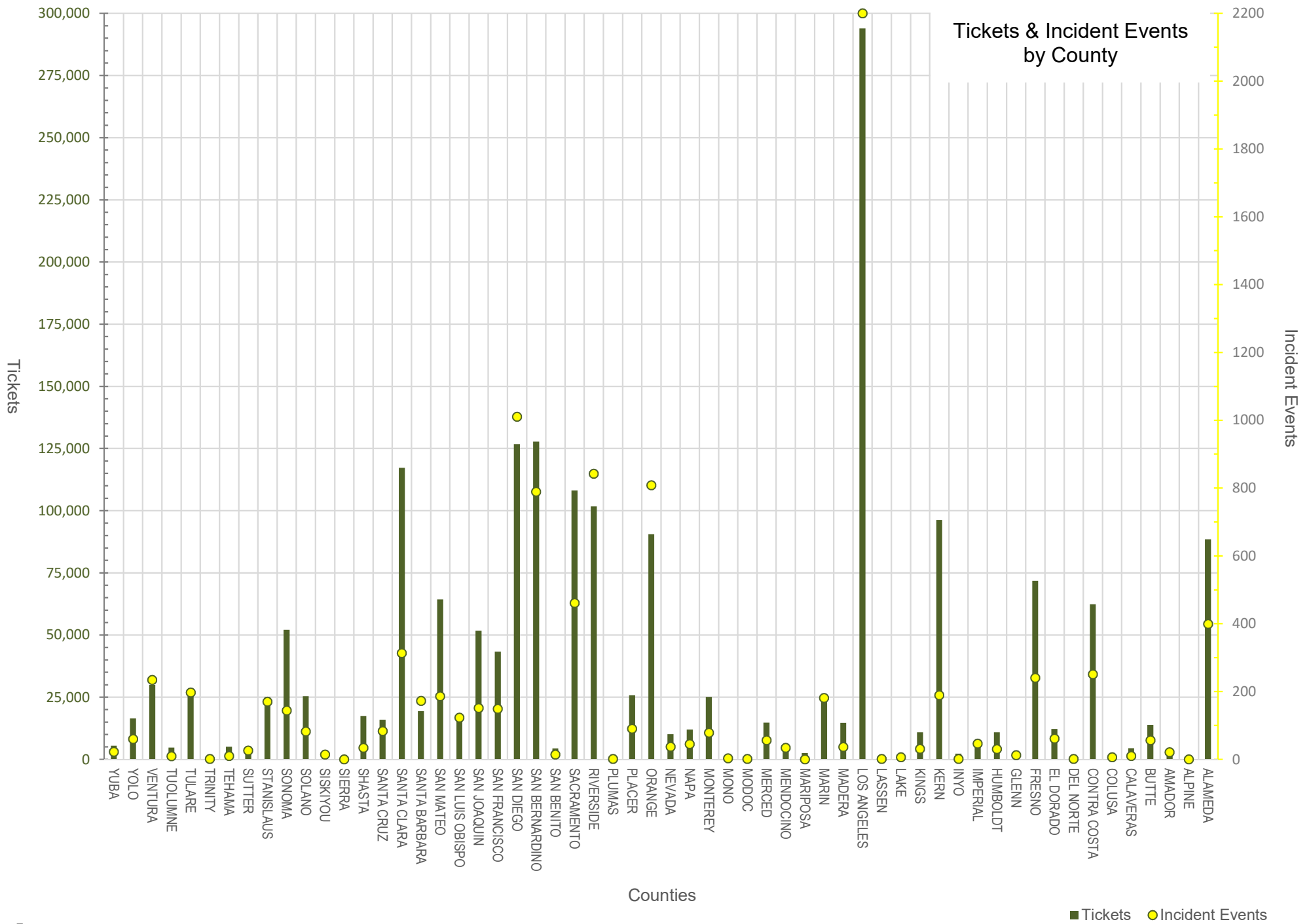


2018 Distribution of Incident Events



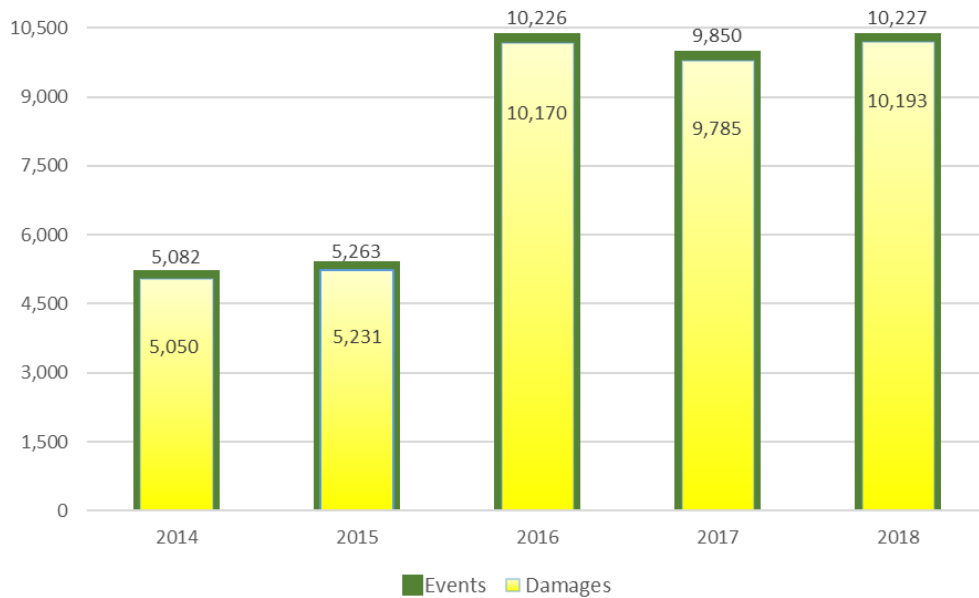
Number of Incident Events by County



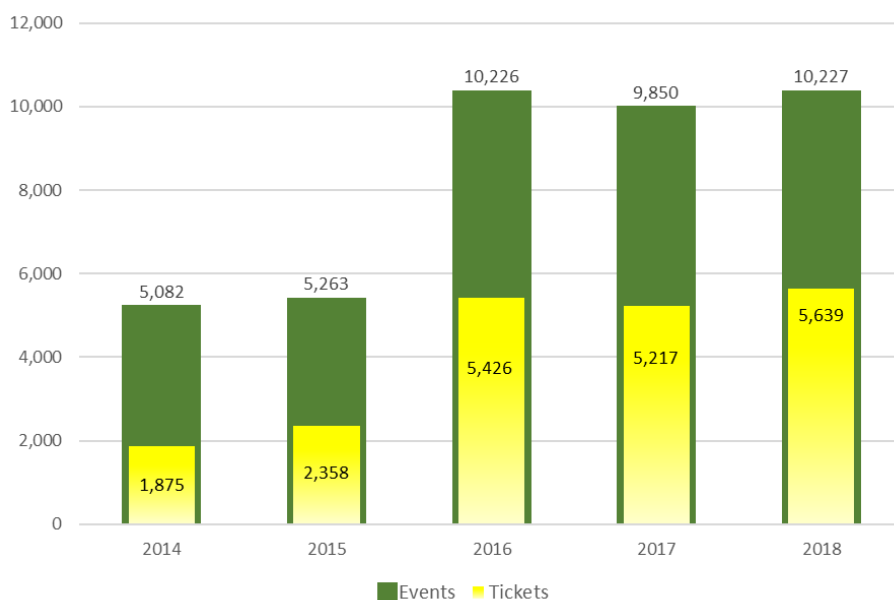


2018 marked the 5th year the California Regional Common Ground Alliance (CARCGA) Virtual Private Damage Information Reporting Tool (aka California 811 Virtual Private DIRT) had incident events reported. There were 10,227 reports. An incident event is the occurrence of excavator downtime, damages, near misses and other violations of California Government Code section 4216 et seq. This statewide information is voluntarily provided by operators and excavators. All statistics following are garnered from the voluntarily provided information.

99% of the incident events reported are damages – which has been consistent over the last 5 years of reporting.

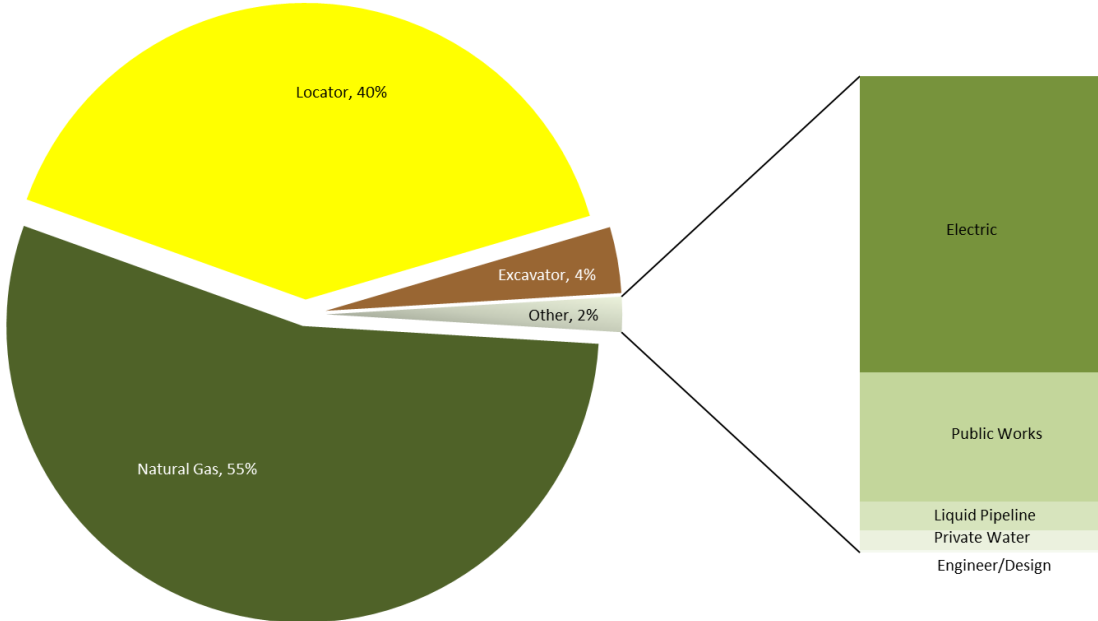


In 2018, 55% of the incident events had a ticket.



“Natural Gas” & “Locator” reported 95% of the 2018 incident events. 2018 saw an increase in “Excavator” stakeholders reporting.

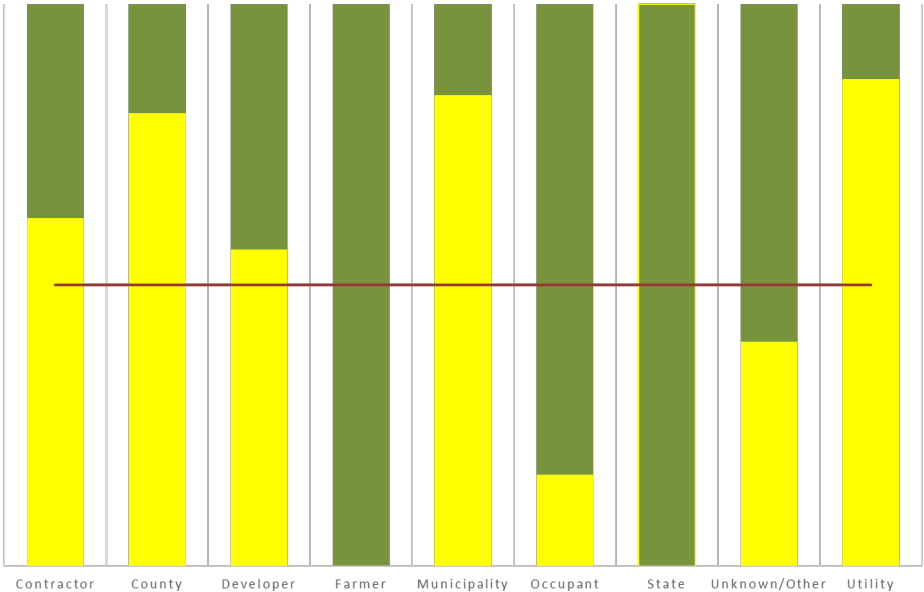
2018 Reporting Stakeholder Distribution



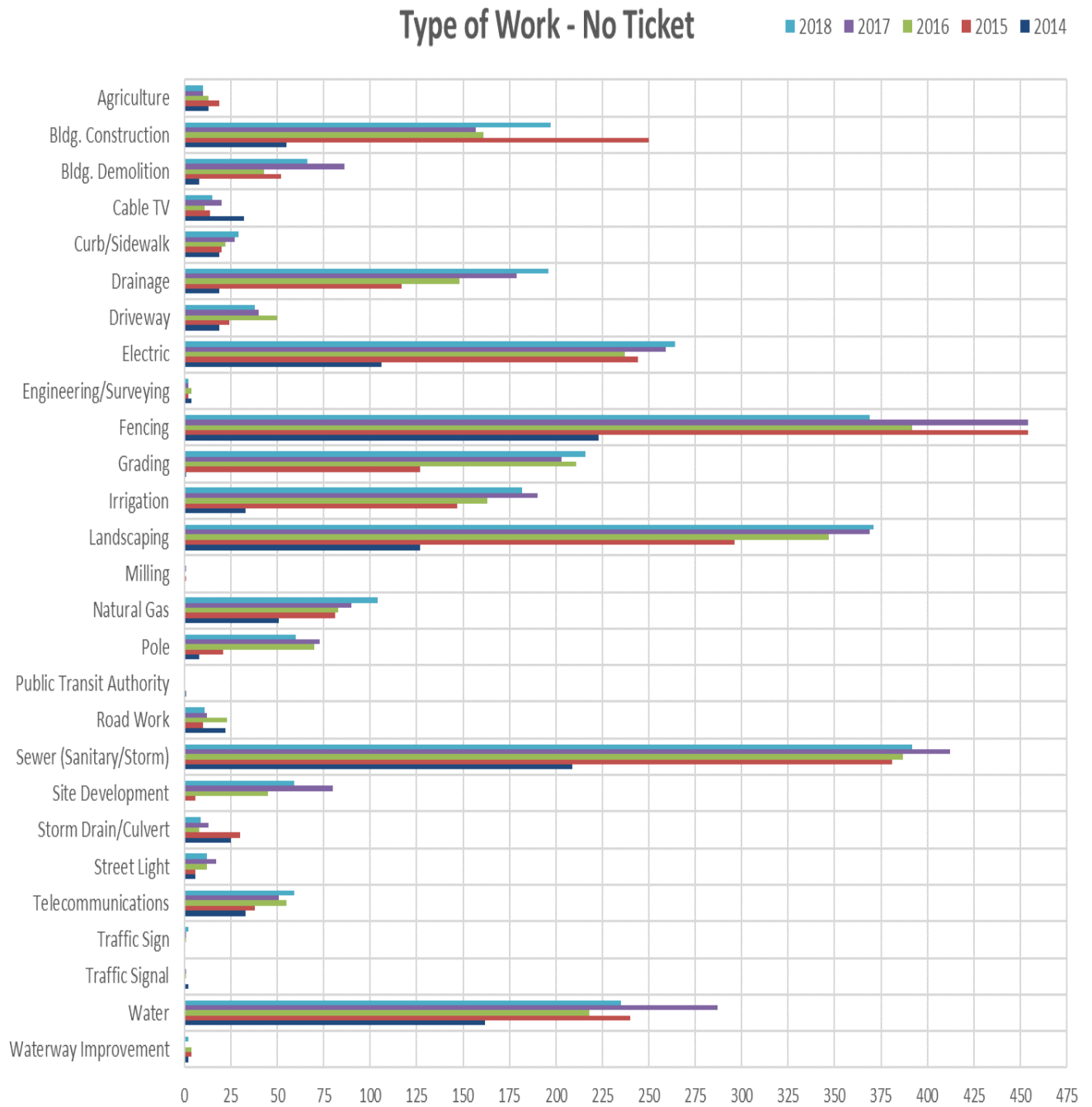
Excavator types most likely to get a ticket are counties, municipalities and utilities, while occupants are least likely to get a ticket. There were six incident events reported with the excavator type of “Farmer” and there were no tickets. From the reported incident events in 2018, contractors obtained a ticket 63% of the time.

Excavator Type

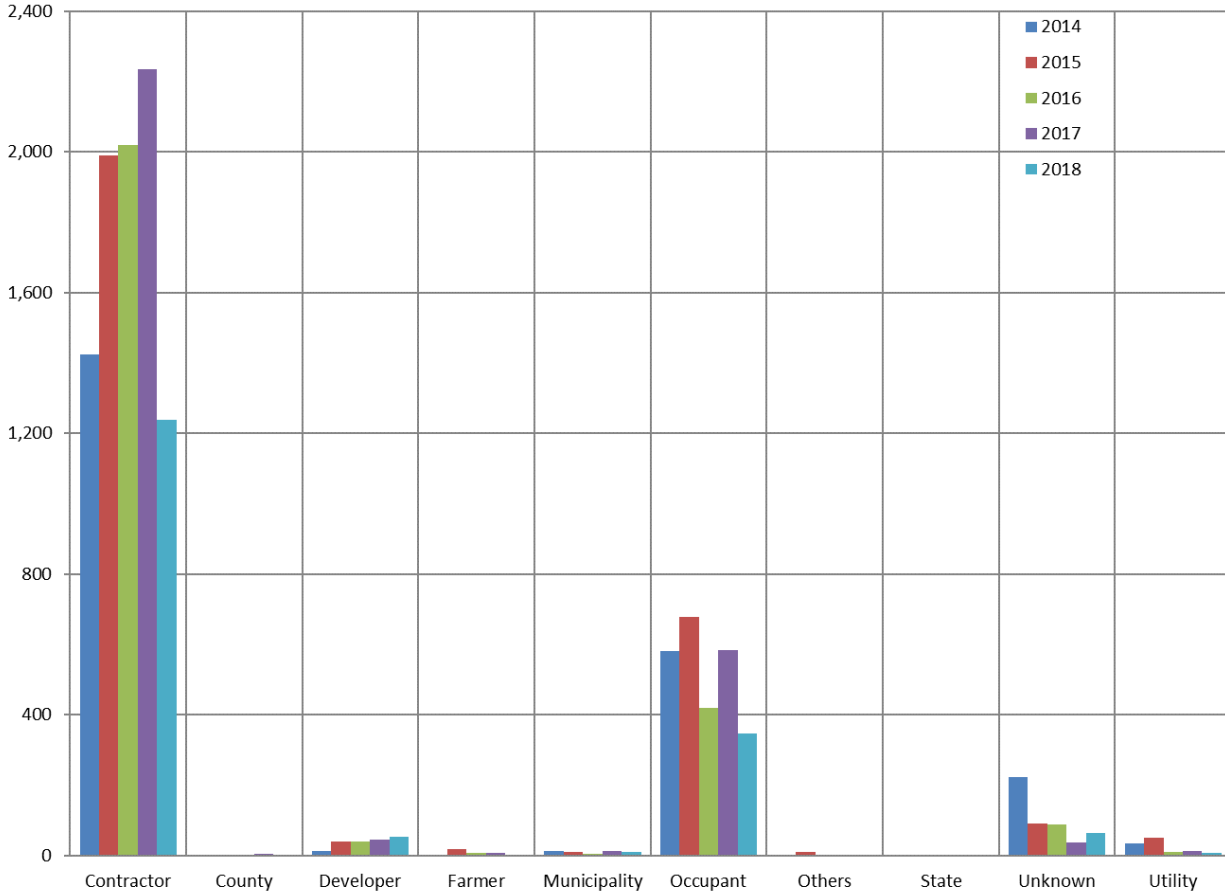
Tkt Yes Tkt No 50%



Over the last 5 years of data collected, the top three types of work that do not obtain a ticket before digging are: sewer, landscaping and fencing. This is after removing data not collected, unknown and other (which was the largest data set).

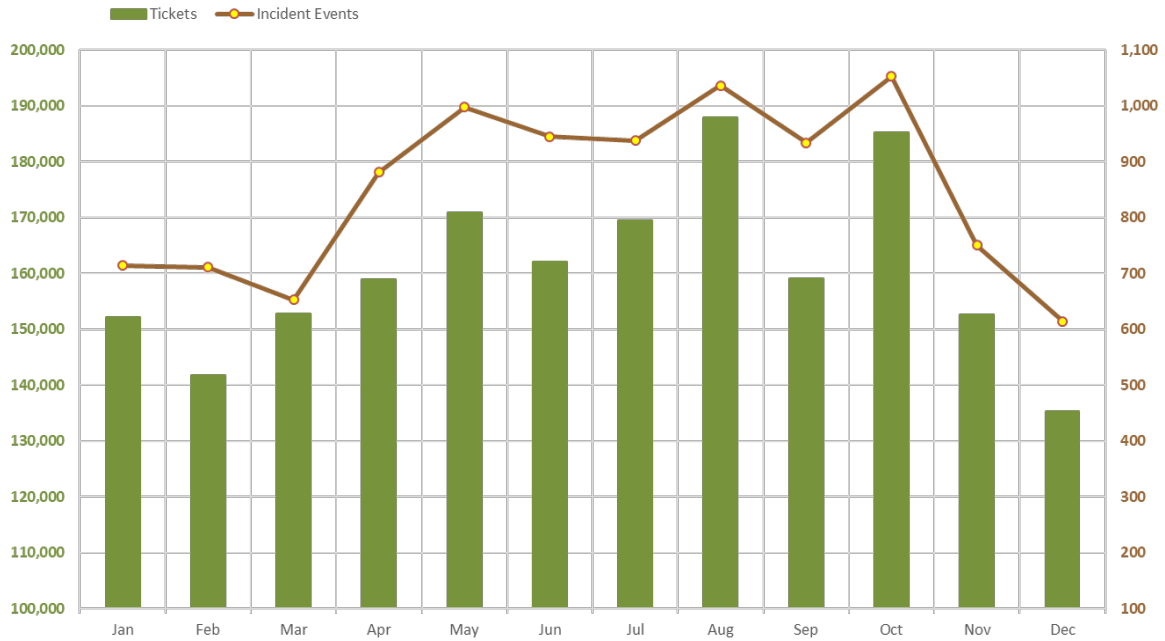


Excavator Type Working on Private Property



2014 – 2018 shows that of the incident events listed as work on private property, the work is predominately done by contractors. In 2018, excavation by contractors resulted in 71% of the incident events reported on private property. Of those incident events, 66% were without tickets. California Government Code Section 4216.8 exempts owners of real and residential real property from obtaining a ticket if the work does not require a permit. Contractors doing work are required to get a ticket no matter the type of right of way.

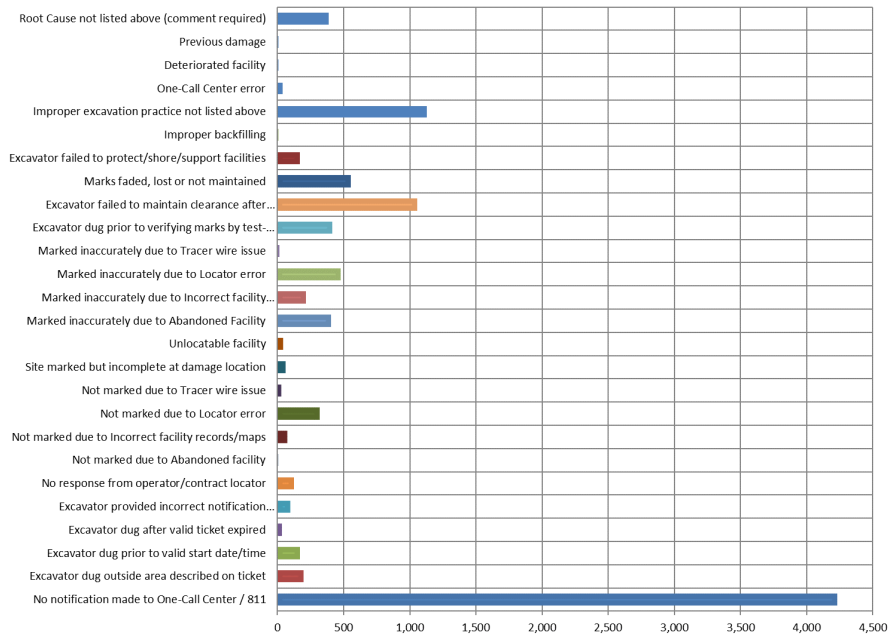
Tickets & Incident Events by Month 2018



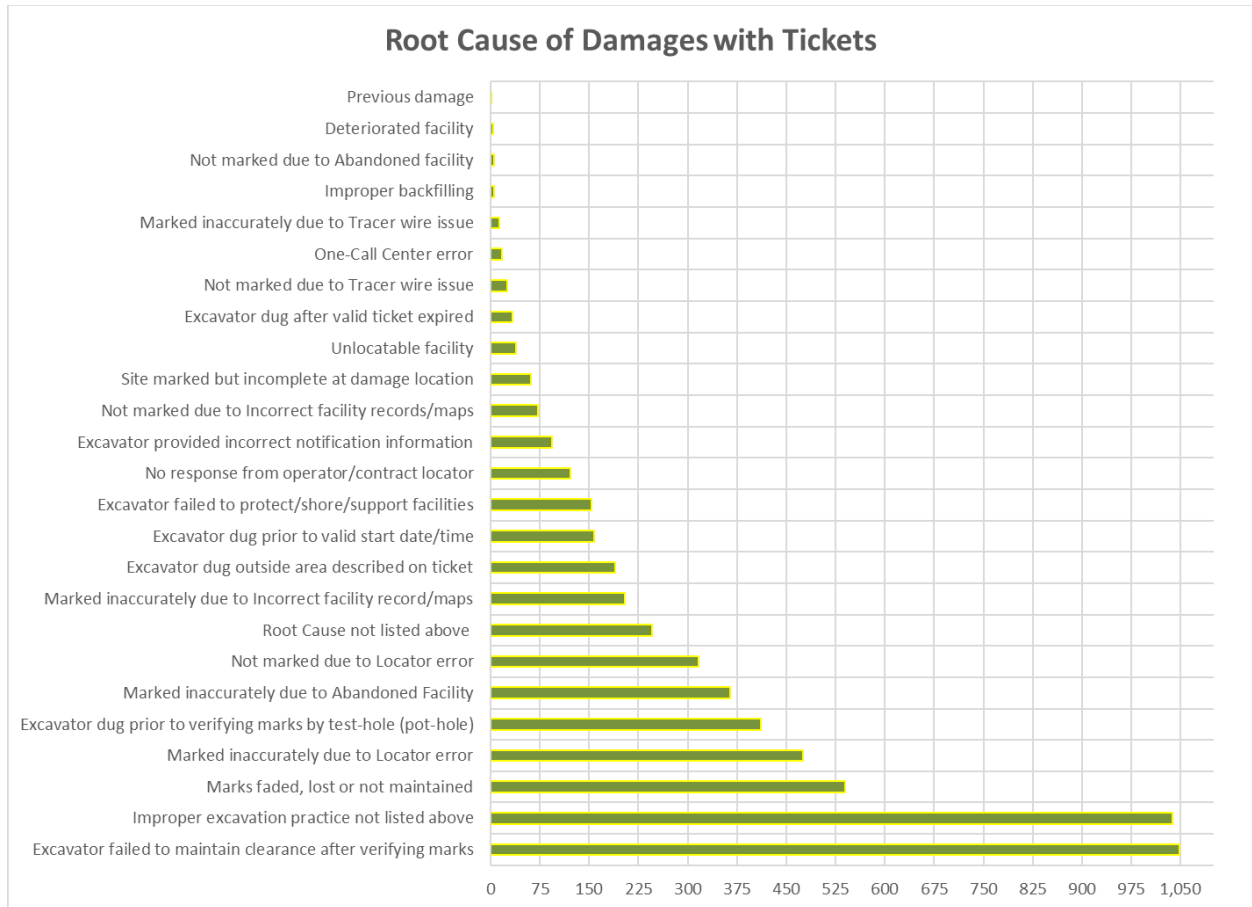
While Californians can excavate almost year-round, there are monthly fluctuations between the number of tickets taken and incident events.

In 2018 the Common Ground Alliance (CGA) changed the root causes to reflect a more accurate picture of excavation or locating practices not followed that caused the incident event. In 41% of the incident events reported, the root cause was no notification made to 811.

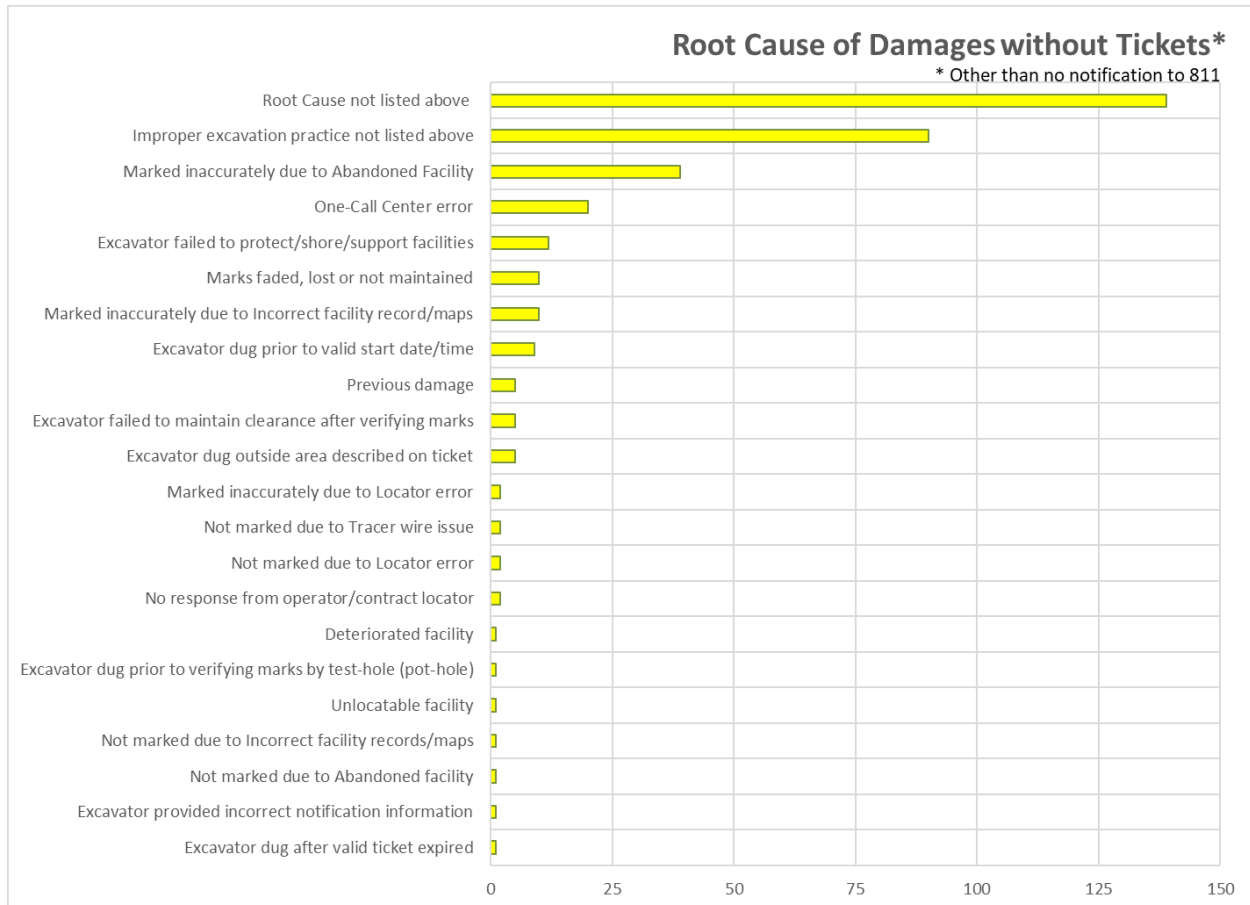
2018 Incident Event Root Causes



Looking at the breakdown of root cause of damages with tickets, the excavator failing to maintain clearance after verifying marks was the number one cause. Improper excavation practice not listed above was a close second.



The top two root causes of damages other than no notification to 811 were “root cause not listed above” and “improper excavation practice not listed above.”



8% of the incident events that were listed as “No ticket” did not list the root cause as “No notification made to One-Call Center / 811.”

Of the 10,227 reports voluntarily supplied, 4% listed the root cause as not listed above and of that 4%, 61% were internal company causes such as negotiated settlement. This type of data does not lend itself to accurate analysis. Nor does data that inflates the total number of incidents when the only difference in the data is the root cause, which should be listed as a secondary cause. Again, this year it was interesting to see that the locator and facility owner did not always have the same root cause listed for the “same incident.”

Accurate data input continues to be an issue for determining trends. Use of Unknown/Other as a response makes it difficult to evaluate what is truly happening with California’s excavation community. Until mandatory reporting of incident events happens, true trends will not be easily ascertained.

To ensure all Californians go home at the end of the day, safe excavation practices by all stakeholders need to become part of their safety culture. It all starts with getting a ticket every time there is digging.