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Area Code Splits and Overlays Compared

Area Code Splits	Overlays
Splits designate a single area code for each geographical region.	Overlays designate more than one area code for a particular geographical region.
Splits require an area code change for approximately one-half of the rate centers within a geographical region in a two-way split. Consumers may have a different area code for their residence telephone numbers compared to their cell phone or business telephone numbers. This depends on the rate center associated with the telephone number.	Overlays will not require consumers with existing telephone numbers to change their area code. Consumers that want new telephone numbers may receive telephone numbers with the new area code. Consumers may be assigned a different area code for telephone numbers within the same residence or business location. Adjoining houses, buildings, etc. may also have different area codes even though they are next to each other.
Splits maintain 7-digit dialing within a geographical region. Consumers do not have to dial the area code when making calls to and/or from telephone numbers with the same area code.	An overlay requires consumers to use a new dialing procedure whereby the area code must be dialed for all calls. Currently, in California, when one dials the area code, one must dial "1" before the area code.
Consumers receiving the new area code will need to change stationery, business cards, advertising, etc. Consumers may need to notify others of the new area code, if their area code changed. Manual or over-the-air reprogramming of cell phones may be needed too.	Consumers may need to revise stationery, business cards, advertising materials, etc. regardless of the area code if the area code was not already identified on them. Consumers may need to reprogram their automatic dialing equipment or other types of equipment that are programmed with only a 7-digit number to ensure that they can handle dialing the new dialing procedure. Consumers will need to notify others of the new dialing procedure.
Future splits will reduce the size of the geographical region associated with an area code.	Overlays do not reduce the size of the geographical region associated with an area code.