

Study: Victorville among top four fastest-growing cities

By TATIANA PROPHET Staff Writer

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Victorville is one of the four fastest-growing cities in California under 300,000, according to a new study by the Southern California Association of Governments.

The other three are Fontana, Santa Clarita and Irvine.

Percentage-wise, the top three fastest-growing cities were Beaumont, Imperial and Lake Elsinore. Those cities added fewer raw numbers than Victorville, but made a bigger leap from their prior numbers.

The State of the Region report looked at changes in a variety of areas from 2005 to 2006, and the population numbers are based on a raw increase.

Whereas the population growth in Los Angeles County is solely due to foreign immigration and natural births, San Bernardino County experienced the second-highest domestic migration from elsewhere in Southern California, next to Riverside.

The county added more than 20,000 people between 2000 and 2006 from within the region, while Riverside County added more than 50,000. By contrast, Los Angeles County lost 60,000 people during the same period, many of them to the Inland Empire.

The number of violent crimes in the county, as is the case in rest of the region and the state, has steadily declined since 1992, because of higher rates of incarceration, more resources toward law enforcement and improvement in economic conditions, the report stated.

However, the number of juvenile felony arrests has crept upward between 2005 and 2006 in San Bernardino, Riverside and Los Angeles counties — after steadily declining since 1990.

In San Bernardino County, juvenile felony arrests grew by 7 percent, while in Riverside they grew by 17 percent and in Los Angeles, only 1 percent.

The Southern California region includes Los Angeles, Orange, San Bernardino, Riverside, Ventura and Imperial counties.

Tatiana Prophet may be reached at 951-6222 or at tprophet@vvdaily press.com.