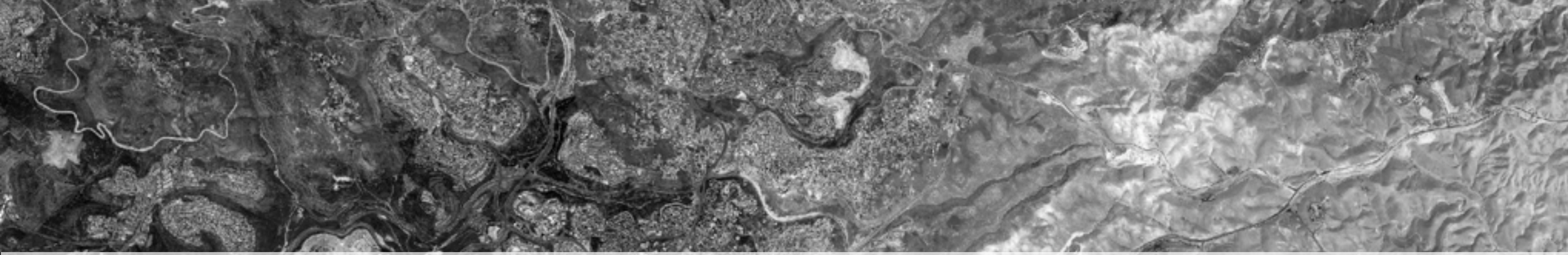
القدس الدنيوية
ירושלים דלמטה
Terrestrial Jerusalem

Spatial Shaping:

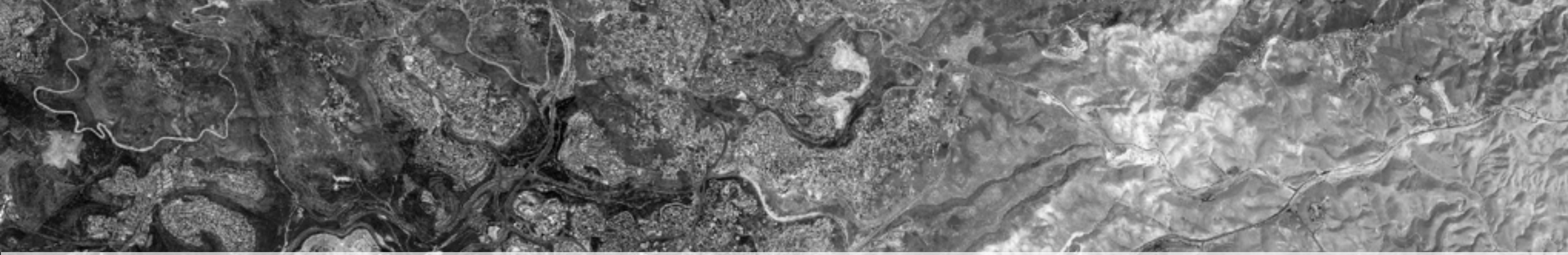
Unilaterally Determining Israel's Base-Line Border

February 2013



2013 has witnessed a settlement surge unprecedented in scope and intensity since 1967.

No mere tactical move, this surge constitutes a strategic thrust to unilaterally determine a baseline border between Israel and “Palestine, and has been euphemistically dubbed by Israeli authorities “Spatial Shaping”.



Spatial Shaping

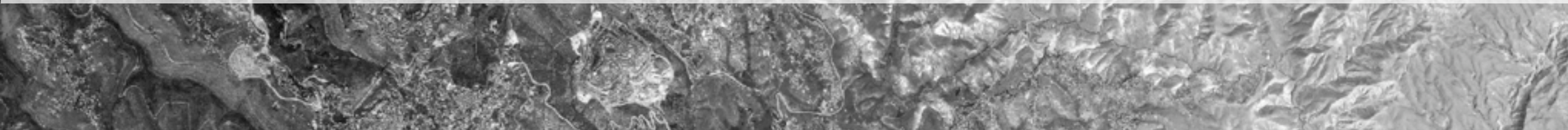
is being achieved by four, complementary components:

I. **Delineating** the base-line border, by means of the **route of the barrier**

II. **Consolidating** the newly defined border by means of **settlements**

III. **Neutralizing** the **Palestinian presence** within the new borders

IV. **Creating infrastructures** that **integrate** the new “Israeli” areas into pre-1967 Israel, and functionally **detach** the Palestinian population in these areas



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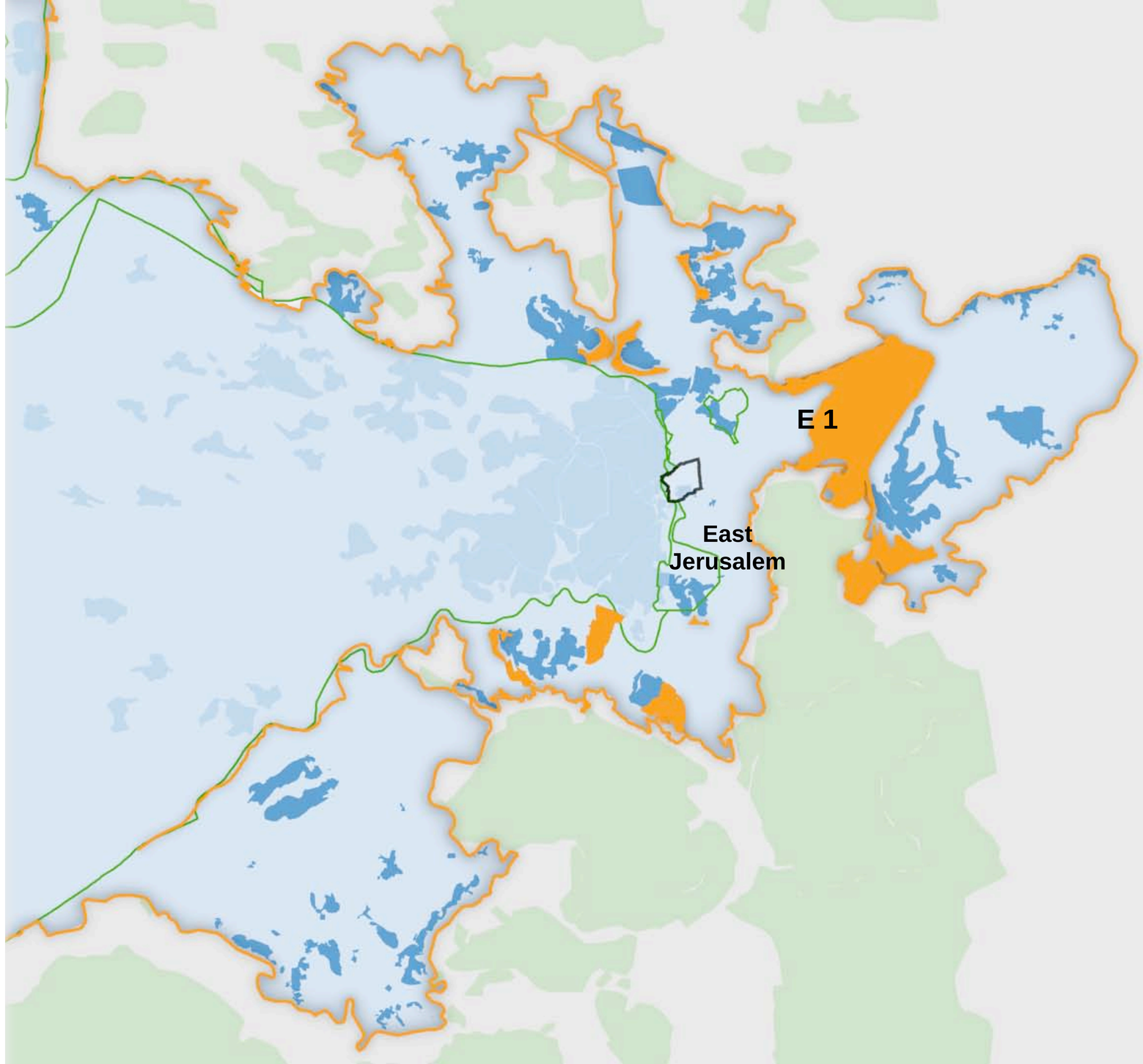

Route of the Barrier

Old City

Green Line

Israeli Built-up Area Beyond Green Line

Palestinian Built-up Area

***We deem construction to be pending if they are under construction, or ground-breaking is anticipated in the near future.**

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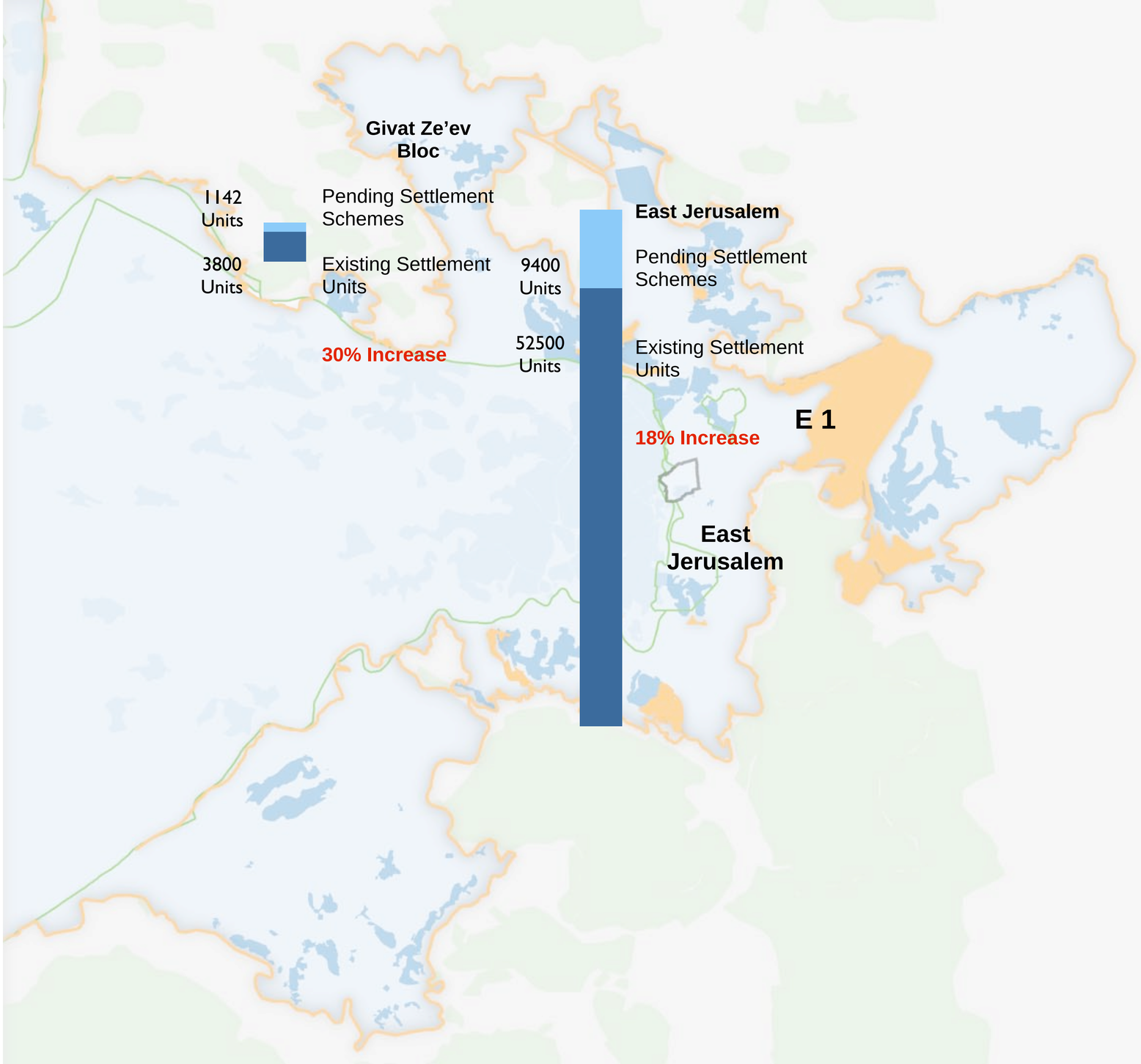

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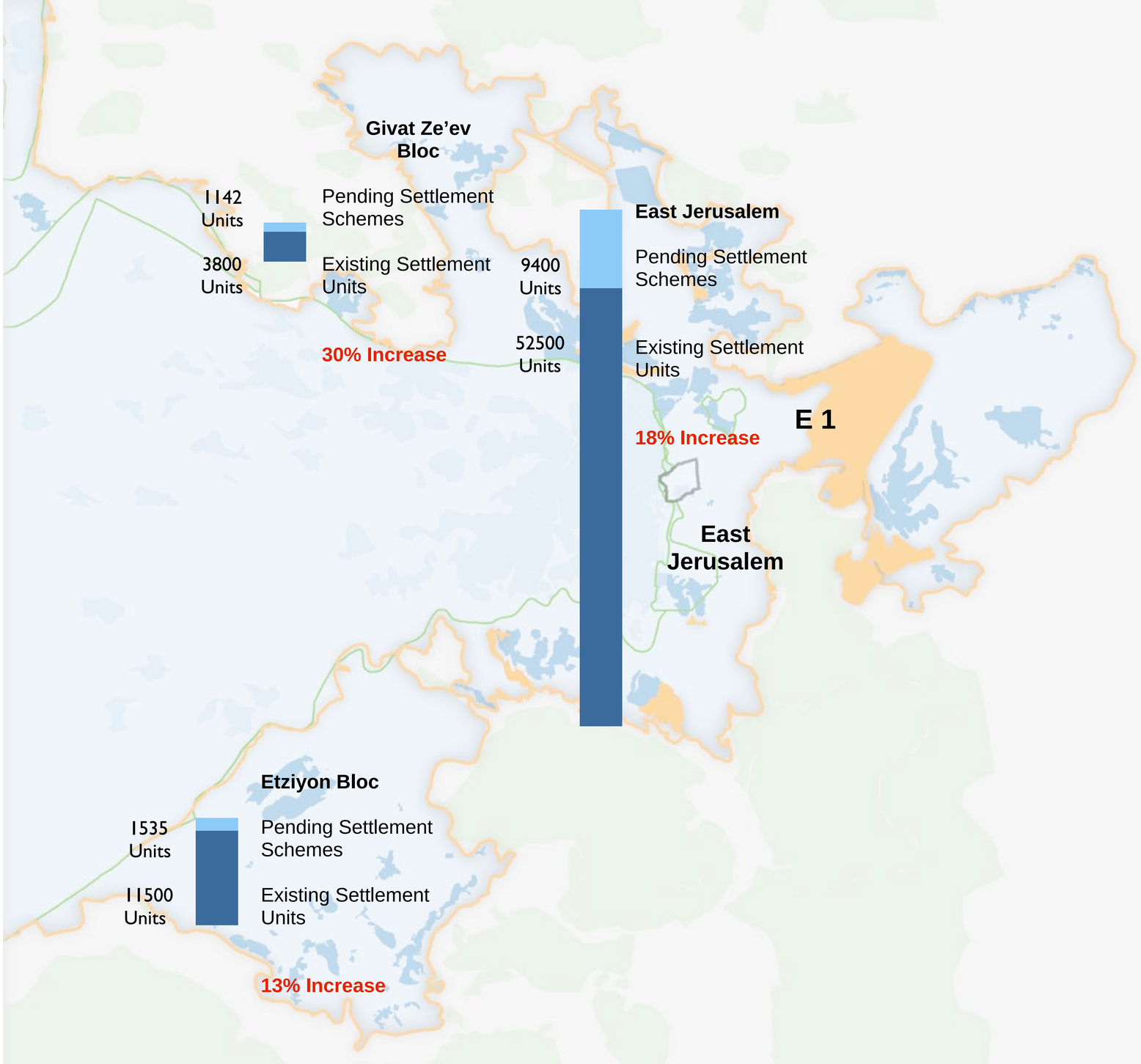

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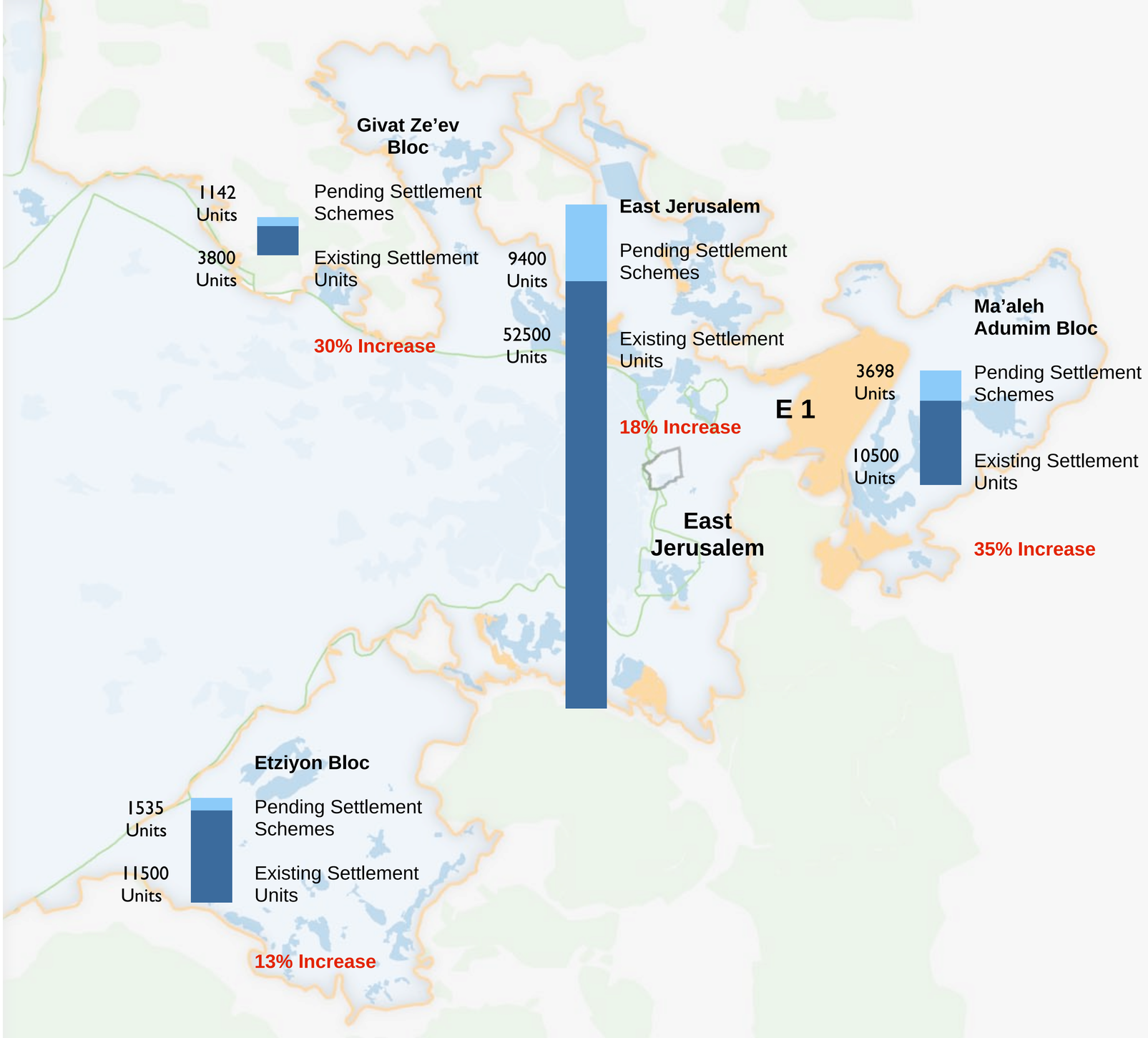

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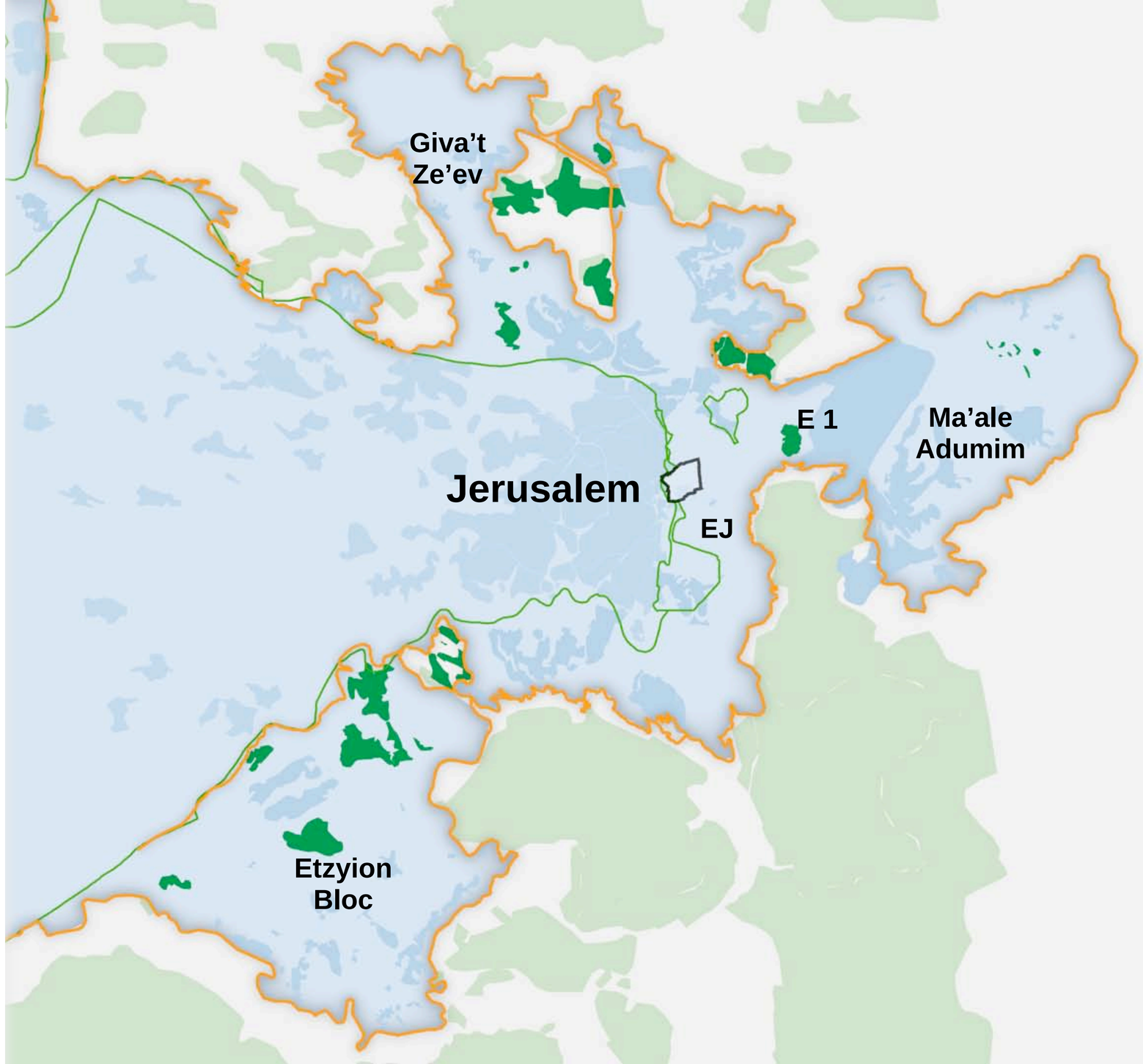

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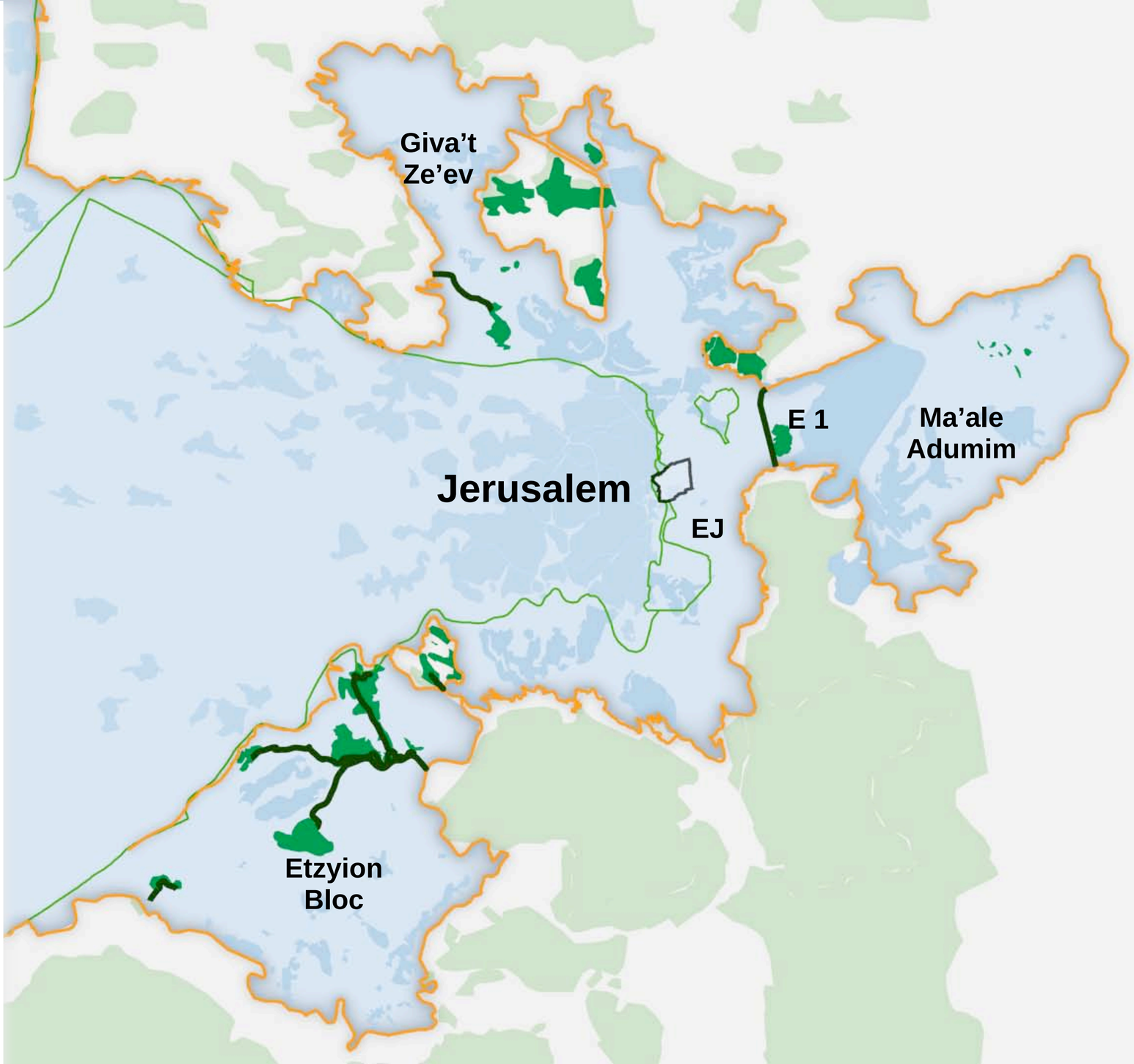

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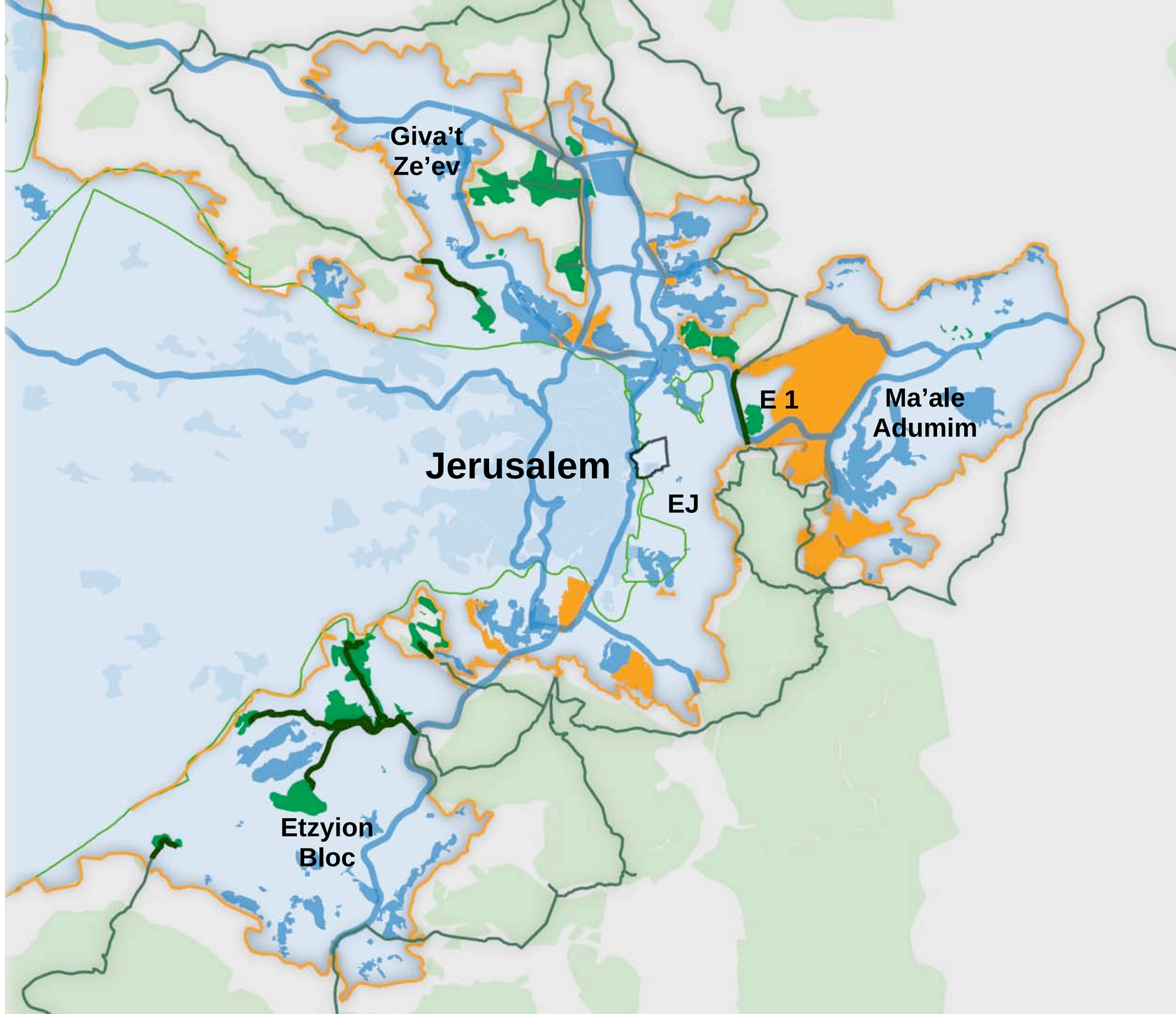
The new border is a “base-line” border, that is: Israel’s minimal border, but not necessarily final one:

* filled with tens of thousands of settler units, augmented by large-scale infrastructures, and neutralizing Palestinian demography, the new border aspires to irreversibility.



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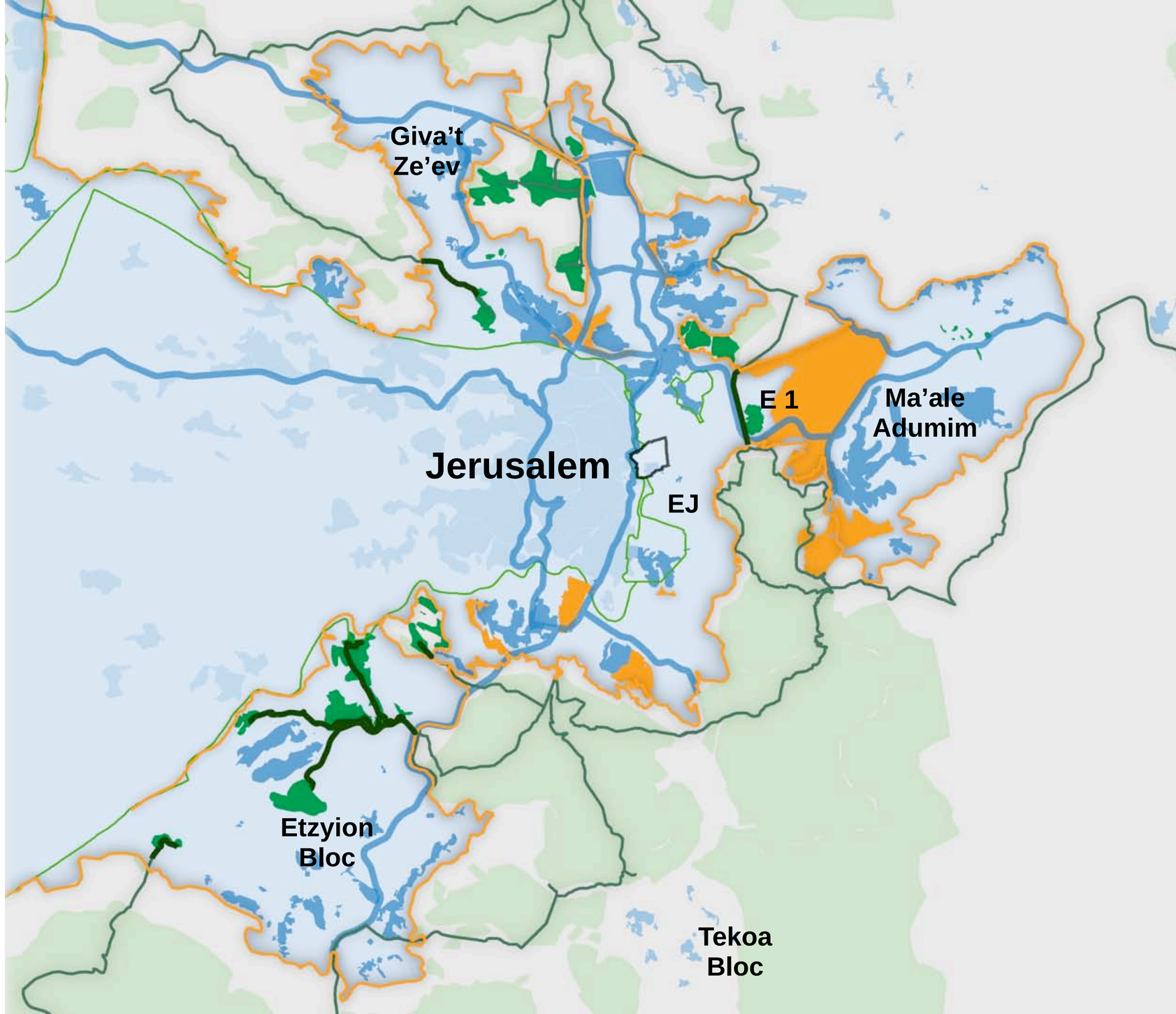
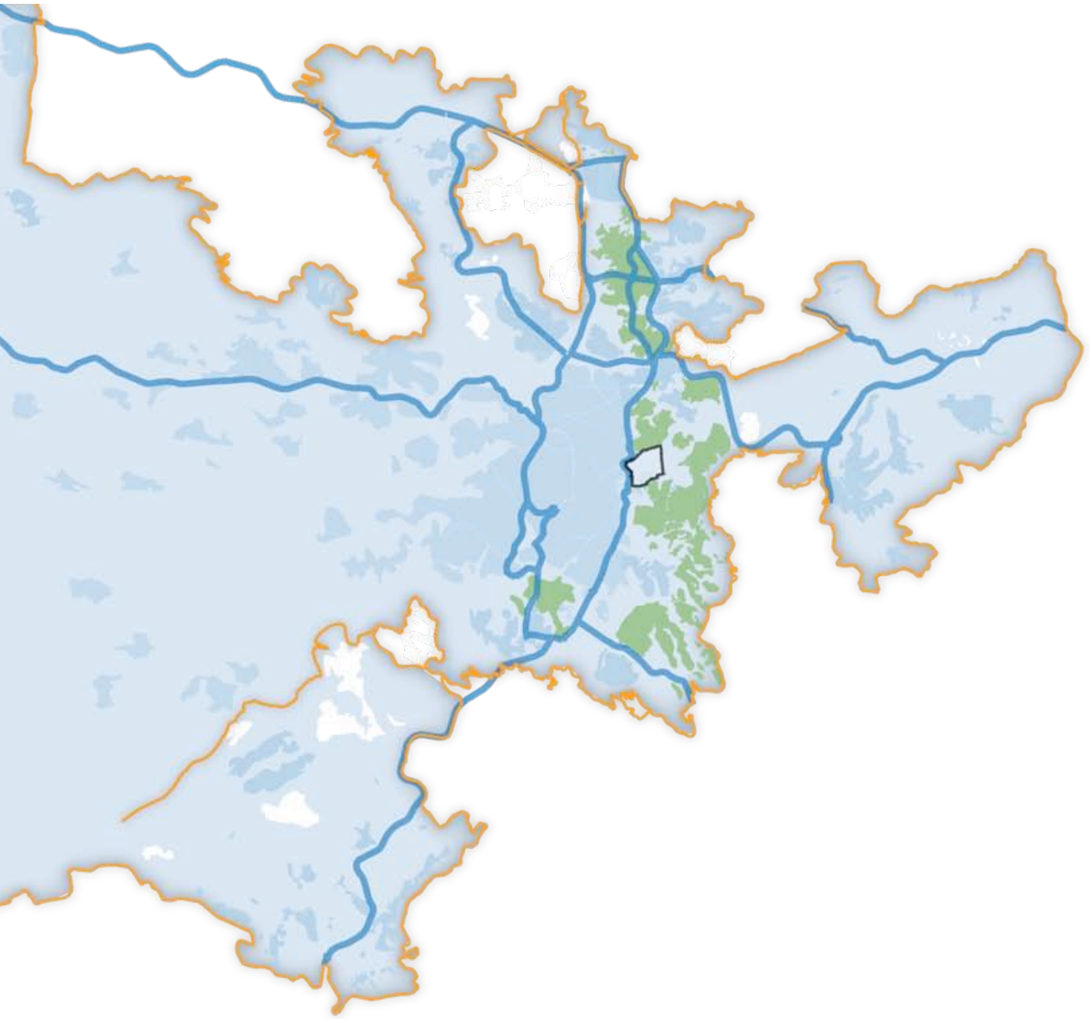
* the base-line border allows for additional spatial shaping, so as to include the smaller. more isolated settlement blocs beyond its boundary: i.e. the Ofra/Beit El Bloc, the Tekoa bloc, etc.



The new base-line border creates:

A large area in East Jerusalem and its environs in the West Bank, virtually indistinguishable from Israel proper, with a large Israeli population, and a Palestinian population limited to East Jerusalem



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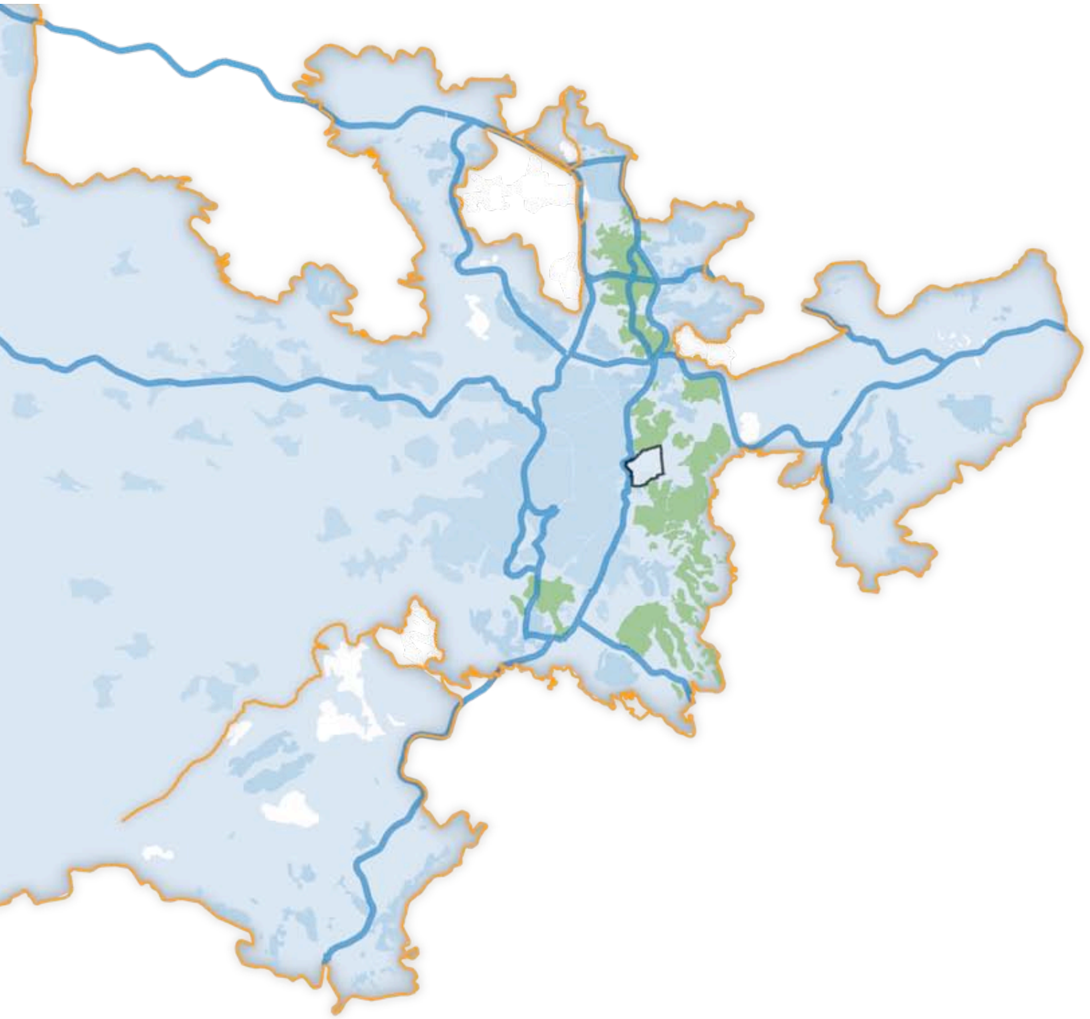
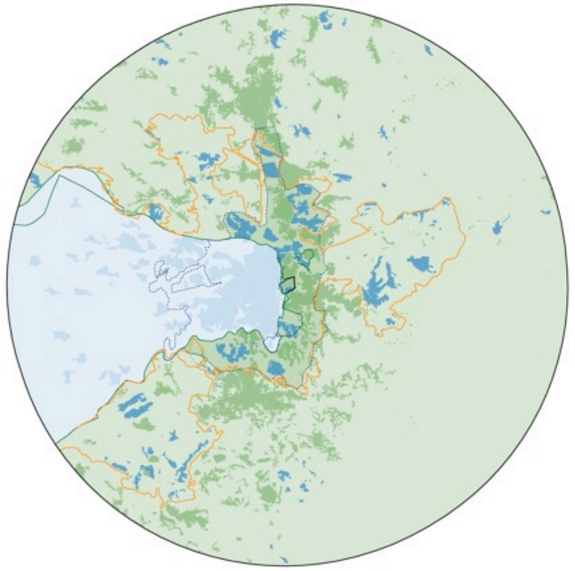


The Geographical Realities within a 20 km. radius of the Old City

Pre-1967 metropolitan Jerusalem was:



17% Israel, including West Jerusalem

83% West Bank, including East Jerusalem

The new, baseline borders create a reality which is:

39% Israel, including “united Jerusalem and three large settlement blocs

22% Palestinian West Bank

61% undetermined, and subject to future spatial shaping or negotiations

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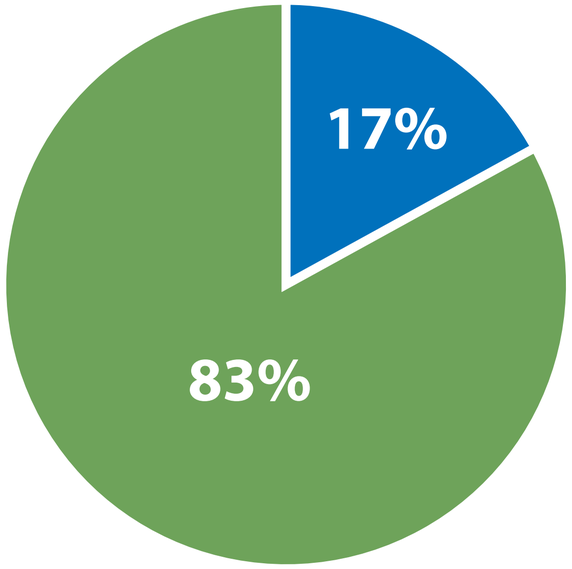

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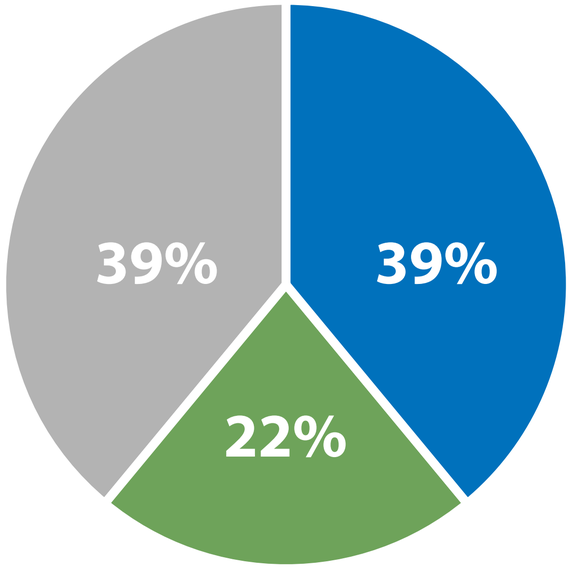

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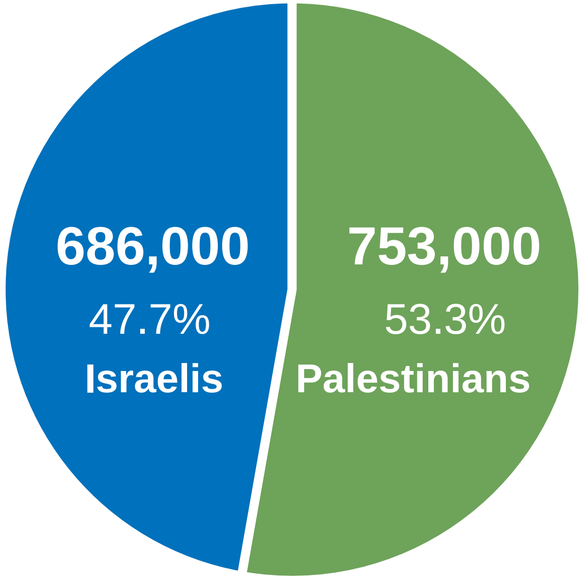
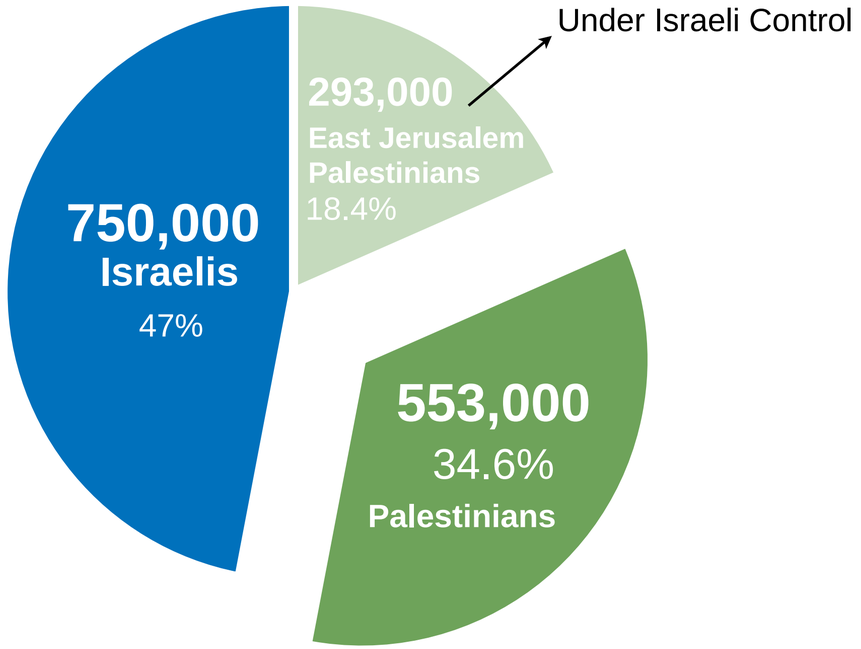


After “Spatial Shaping, and within the new “base-line” boundaries:



In base-line Israel:
750,000 Israelis
293,000 Palestinians non-citizens of Israel

In fragmented Palestine:
453,000 Palestinians evenly divided between the discontinuous cantons of Ramallah in the north and Bethlehem in the south
100,000 Palestinians within isolated enclaves

Our analysis is limited to our area of expertise: Jerusalem and its immediate environs. It is quite possible that an examination of developments elsewhere in the West Bank will reveal that "Spatial Shaping" is taking place there as well.

Regardless, the base-line border being created in Jerusalem and its environs is so antithetical to the requisites of any contiguous, viable Palestinian State, that once implemented - and we are talking in terms of months, not years - the two-state solution will be a virtual impossibility.

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There are those who say: “the two-state solution is already dead”; others assert: “nothing is irreversible, and the two-state solution cannot be destroyed”.

We believe that neither of these claims are correct.

The current developments matter very much. They pose an unprecedented threat to the very possibility of a permanent status agreement between Israel and the Palestinians, now and in the foreseeable future.

Halting the settlement surge and “Spatial Shaping” is imperative if the two-state solution is to survive.

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