

MINUTES OF THE
MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
POPULATION TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

August 28, 2007
MAG Office, Saguaro Room
302 North 1st Ave, Phoenix

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

George Pettit, Gilbert, Chairman	Wahid Alam, Mesa
*Bryant Powell, Apache Junction	John Verdugo, Maricopa County
John Vater, Avondale	A Molly Hood, Paradise Valley
Brian Rose, Buckeye	Caroline Ruiz for Chad Daines, Peoria
*Gary Neiss, Carefree	Tim Tilton, Phoenix
* Usama Abujbarah, Cave Creek	Shawny Ekadis, Queen Creek
David de la Torre, Chandler	*Bryan Meyers, Salt River Pima-Maricopa
Mark Smith, El Mirage	Indian Community
*Terry Yergan, Gila River Indian Community	*Harry Higgins, Scottsdale
Thomas Ritz, Glendale	Janice See, Surprise
A Katie Wilken, Goodyear	* Lisa Collins, Tempe
Mark Johnson, Guadalupe	*Miles Johnson, Wickenburg
* Sonny Culbreth, Litchfield Park	Ratna Korepella, Valley Metro
*Ken Valverde, Fountain Hills	A Vince Micallef, Youngtown

* Not in attendance

A Participated via audioconference

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Sam Andrea, Chandler	Peter Burnett, MAG
Hakon Johanson, Gilbert	Bonnie Finnegan, MAG
Max Enterline, Phoenix	Anubhav Bagley, MAG
Roy Nourse, Phoenix	Steve Gross, MAG
James Clancy, CAAG	Amanda Tovey, MAG
Don Worley, MAG	Jeff Romine, MAG
Jason Howard, MAG	Harry Wolfe, MAG

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Chair George Pettit.

2. Call to the Audience

There were no requests to address the audience.

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes of April 24, 2007

David de la Torre said that he attended in person the meeting of April 24, 2007 although the minutes indicated that he was on audioconference. David de la Torre moved, Tim Tilton seconded and it was unanimously recommended to approve the meeting minutes of April 24, 2007.

4. Census 2010 Update

4a. Local Update of Census Address Program

Mr. Tilton indicated that in August jurisdictions received an invitation to participate in and registration materials for the Census Local Update of Census Address (LUCA) program. He said that the registration materials went directly to the Highest Elected Officials, but staff received a copy of the invitation letter.

Mr. Tilton urged that the registration materials be brought to the Census LUCA workshop. He said that in order to have the full 120 day review period, jurisdictions would need to register for LUCA by November 19, 2007. He added that the final deadline for LUCA registration was December 31, 2007.

Tim Tilton distributed and referred to a brief definition of group quarters from 2000 Summary File 3 and a detailed explanation from Summary File 1.

Mr. Tilton said that he had forwarded to MAG staff a list of licensed group quarters from the Department of Health Services. He mentioned that MAG had geocoded the group quarters and would make the information available to MAG member agencies.

Harry Wolfe cautioned that the data were in draft form and were not complete. He said that when the DHS group quarter information was distributed MAG would include a number of caveats. This includes the fact that some of the Assisted Living Facilities on the DHS list were not group quarters by the Census Bureau definition, and that there could be group quarters which were shown by the local jurisdiction as a housing unit/units.

Thomas Ritz asked whether the group quarter update was separate from LUCA. Tim Tilton responded that it would be undertaken in conjunction with LUCA.

Janice See asked when the geocoded group quarters would be ready. Harry Wolfe estimated in about two weeks.

Tim Tilton pointed out that the Census Bureau would be holding a LUCA workshop at MAG on Thursday, September 27, 2007 at 1:00 p.m.

4b. Statistical Areas Program

Tim Tilton explained that new Census Bureau size criteria for census tracts and block groups was intended to make them more statistically accurate and was needed for the American Community Survey. Mr. Tilton continued that the minimum population size of a block group was increased from 600 persons to 1200 persons; and that the change in criteria would require that Phoenix combine existing block groups to achieve the new threshold. Mr. Tilton stated that Phoenix would attempt to

make its block groups coincide with neighborhood boundaries so that census data would be available by neighborhood.

Tim Tilton said that he compared 1990 and 2000 Census Tracts in Phoenix and noted that 29 census tracts in Phoenix were not numbered in accordance with Census Bureau criteria. He provided some examples of Phoenix census tract problems and indicated that the Census Bureau acknowledged that the problems needed to be addressed. He said that a staff member from the Denver Census office would be visiting Phoenix to discuss corrections to tracts.

It was also pointed out that some Census Tract boundaries had changed from 1990 to 2000 but that the Census 2000 data associated with the tracts was correct. Mr. Tilton pointed out that because of numbering problems and changing boundaries it was difficult to compare 1990 and 2000 data for certain census tracts.

Jeff Romine announced that Heidi Pahl would be the MAG staff person working on Census 2010. He pointed out that she had experience coordinating the 2005 Census Survey.

5. Update of Arizona Data Estimates and Projections Task Force Activities and Recommendations

Jeff Romine said that MAG was waiting for the redraft of the ADEPT recommendations and that they should be received sometime in the next two weeks. He would provide an update to POPTAC at the next meeting.

6. Status of July 1, 2007 Maricopa County Resident Population Estimates

Anubhav Bagley explained that DES would be using the same methodology to develop the 2007 Maricopa County estimates that was used in 2006. He also noted that two working groups had been created by DES to further explore estimates issues. One working group headed by Jeff Romine of MAG would deal with methodology issues related to potential metropolitan effects between counties. The Pima Association of Governments would be leading a group that will examine (1) linkages of economic, residential, and demographic data, and (2) seasonal population and labor.

7. Data Collection Efforts and Time-Line

Heidi Pahl reviewed the data that MAG was collecting and explained why it was needed. She indicated that agenda Attachment Two identifies the documents received by category and that she had recently sent out an e-mail with the detailed information collected.

Ms. Pahl said that Attachment Three was a draft timeline identifying various POPTAC related tasks and approximate due dates.

8. Estimating Public Employment

Peter Burnett thanked POPTAC members for help in reviewing residential completion data. He said that the review contributed to a more accurate database.

He said that databases from Dunn and Bradstreet and the Maricopa County Trip Reduction program were used to establish the MAG employment database. He said that an examination of these databases

identified that information on public employment was incomplete. The Trip Reduction Program only has public employment data in seven cities, while Dunn and Bradstreet focuses primarily upon the private sector.

Mr. Burnett indicated that member agencies could assist MAG in reviewing public employment. He said that MAG would use POPTAC members as the contact for obtaining input on public employment. He asked that the POPTAC member identify contact at their individual jurisdictions who MAG staff need to communicate with to review public employment.

Mr. Burnett emphasized that public employment was a major component of the employment database and that it needed to be as accurate as possible for use in modeling. He said that MAG staff would make a data request and would send out what we currently have in the MAG database.

George Petitt inquired if Public Employment only includes cities. Peter Burnett responded that it covered federal, state and local government employees.

Tim Tilton said that the ride-share program has already collected public employment locations that account for close to 14, 000 employees in Phoenix.

Wahid Alam asked whether the employment data was collected for all firms. Anubhav said MAG collects employment database has data on employers with 3 or more employees.

9. Aerial Imagery

Jason Howard announced that MAG was going out to bid for specifications on aerial imagery. He said that the aerials provide an excellent counterpart to county maps.

10. Regional Economic and Growth Outcomes

Jeff Romine thanked committee members for assisting in the update of the job center data to be used in the Regional Economic and Growth Outcomes (REGO) analysis and report. He said that MAG staff have to follow-up to complete the job center update.

He provided a brief summary of the REGO project. The focus of the current staff work is on understanding existing work commuting patterns based on job centers and other employment locations. At the next POPTAC meeting, Mr. Romine will provide an update on the work plan and the analysis completed on existing jobs/housing connections. The REGO project is scheduled to be completed in early 2008, and there will be several opportunities for review and comment prior to the analysis and report being presented for consideration to MAG Management Committee and Regional Council.

11. Internet Map Server

Jason Howard provided a demonstration of the enhanced MAG Internet Map Server (IMS).

Thomas Ritz asked if software was required to use the site. Mr. Howard responded that it was not.

Wahid asked what type of data were included in the MAG IMS. Jason Howard responded that Census 2000 data by Census Tract and 2007 socioeconomic projections data by Regional Analysis Zone.

Brian Rose asked if the new IMS was in addition to the other IMS. Jason responded that it replaces the other IMS.

Brian asked if the IMS has aeriels. Jason Howard responded that it did not, but that Maricopa County did have aeriels on its website.

12. Regional Updates

George Pettit asked if anyone had any updates on what was happening in their jurisdiction.

Brian Rose said that Buckeye was nearing the end of its 60 day review period for its general plan amendment and that he would appreciate any jurisdiction that wishes to provide comments.

David DeLaTorre said that Chandler was updating its General Plan and were holding three public meetings. He said that Wednesday (August 29) was the last meeting.

13. Economic Updates

Jeff Romine provided a general economic update for MAG POPTAC members. He discussed the growth of employment, population and housing value in the region. During the past year, population has grown by 3.5% and employment grew by 3.1% over the last year. Both these growth rates place the MAG region as one of the fastest growing regions in the country and one of the fastest growing areas compared to our peer regions.

Romine discussed the growth of employment in the region over the past six years. The region has grown across all sectors, with the exclusion of manufacturing. However, manufacturing job loss was much lower in the region - then most other regions across the U.S. Overall, most of the job growth was in the Construction, Retail and Hospitality industry firms - which accounted for almost 43% of all new jobs. Nevertheless, the share of job growth focused in higher paying occupation industries was greater then most of our comparable regions.

The focus of the discussion turned to the housing market, with emphasis on values, appreciation and general housing activity. Romine pointed out the housing permit activity is generally slowing throughout the region. The number of existing and new homes on the market has been rising, with the number of home purchases falling. Analysts are suggesting that there is about one years supply of single family houses on the market.

Housing prices and rate of appreciation have both fallen, according to the most recently released data. Within the region, the year over year housing prices have fallen by 6.6% (S&P/Case-Shiller Housing Index). Lowering housing value, weak market demand, and timing of Adjustable Rate Mortgages (ARMs) triggers are leading a growing number of the region's homeowners in difficult financial conditions. The most recently released data on foreclosures is showing a rapid increase in the share of regional housing facing pre-foreclosure - which is similar to a number of other places throughout the country. While the Maricopa County foreclosures rate is a growing concern, the level in Pinal

County is rising at a much higher share of total housing units. Finally, Romine pointed out one of the bright spots in the strengthen in the rental and multi-family residential markets, demonstrated with a conversations of condos to apartments.

14. Next Meeting of MAG POPTAC

George Pettit noted that the next meeting of the MAG POPTAC would be held on Tuesday, September 25, 2007 at 10:00 a.m. in the Suagaro room. The meeting adjourned at 11:05 a.m.