

MINUTES OF THE
MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
POPULATION TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

March 5, 2002
MAG Office, Suite 200, Saguaro Room
302 North 1st Avenue
Phoenix, Arizona

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

George Pettit, Gilbert, Chairman	Janeen Hollomon Goodyear
Lauren Brooks, Avondale	*Horatio Skeete, Litchfield Park
*James Crean, Buckeye	Tom Ellsworth, Mesa
*Usama Abujbarah, Cave Creek	Matt Holm, Maricopa County
Bob Pazera, Chandler	Prisila Ferreira, Peoria
*Shirley Berg, El Mirage	Tim Tilton, Phoenix
*Jesse Drake, Fountain Hills	Harry Higgins, Scottsdale
*Terry Yergan, Gila River Indian Community	*Rosa Herrera, Surprise
*Ralph Vasquez, Gila Bend	Mark Elma, Tempe
*Kate Langford, Glendale	*Dick Gregory, Youngtown
Mary Hoy, Guadalupe	
*Duncan Miller, Paradise Valley	

*Those members neither present nor represented by proxy.

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

John Zupon, Chandler	Rita Walton, MAG
Anubhav Bagley, MAG	Harry Wolfe, MAG
Mele, Koneya, MAG	

1. Call to Order

_____ The meeting was called to order at 1:35 p.m. by Chairman George Pettit.

2. Call to the Audience

There were no requests from the audience to address the MAG POPTAC.

3. Approval of Minutes of December 4, 2001

It was moved by Harry Higgins, seconded by Bob Pazera and unanimously recommended to approve the meeting minutes of December 4, 2001.

4. 2005 Special Census

Harry Wolfe noted that with rapid population growth in the region, MAG is currently investigating whether to pursue a Special Census in 2005, or consider alternatives to the Special Census for deriving a mid-decade population count. He added that the Special Census would be used to distribute about \$1 billion in state-shared revenue annually between 2005 and 2010 and to provide data for local human services, land use, transportation and air quality planning programs. Mr. Wolfe said that based on information from the Census Bureau, a 2005 Special Census for the entire County is estimated to cost \$30 million. He explained that an alternative to undertaking a Special Census is to use a population estimate.

Rita Walton reviewed the assumptions and various scenarios that were developed to gauge the benefits of undertaking a Special Census versus preparing an estimate.

Harry Higgins asked what portion of the cost of the Special Census would remain in the local economy. Rita Walton responded that the majority of the costs would remain in the local economy since enumerators would be hired from the local area to carry out the Special Census.

Bob Pazera asked about the per capita financial benefits of undertaking a Special Census. Rita Walton referred Mr. Pazera to one of the tables that identified the per capita benefits depending on which jurisdictions participated in a Special Census. She noted that if no one pursued a Special Census in 2005, the each person counted would be worth \$249.50.

Bob Pazera asked if we would be able to find a sufficient number of enumerators to carry out a Special Census. Harry Wolfe responded he didn't know.

Harry Higgins mentioned that Scottsdale had gone through a lengthy process to verify census housing unit counts by block using aerial photographs. He said that the final census counts undercounted housing units in specific blocks. He estimated that the Census underestimated housing units by one percent and population by two percent.

George Pettit asked if we had heard back from the Census Bureau that they would be updating the address file for the 2005 Special Census. Harry Wolfe said that he would check with the Census Bureau on the matter.

Rita Walton indicated that MAG staff would be doing more research on what it would take to conduct a survey in lieu of a Special Census for obtaining 2005 population counts.

5. Other Census Issues

Harry Wolfe briefly recounted three Census issues that arose since the last meeting of the MAG POPTAC in December 2001. These were:

1. A decision by the Census Bureau to adjust the Town of Buckeye Census 2000 population count
2. The distribution of the 2002 Boundary and Annexation Survey to MAG member agencies

3. A District Court ruling requiring the Census Bureau to release adjusted 2000 Census Bureau figures under the Freedom of Information Act.

6. Resident Population Estimates 1990 -2000

_____ Harry Wolfe reported that the annual resident population estimates for Maricopa County and associated municipalities had been revised to reflect the results of the 1995 Census and 2000 Decennial Census and forwarded to the Arizona Department of Economic Security.

7. Revisions to MAG Geography

Rita Walton explained that in order to accommodate MAG transportation modeling requirements, the TAZ geographies have been revised. She said that input from transportation staff of MAG member agencies were incorporated into the revisions.

Ms. Walton stated that the revised system, TAZ 2002, contains 1947 TAZs compared to the 1516 that were used to produce the last set of socioeconomic projections in June 1997. This includes 67 additional TAZ zones in Pinal County and one additional TAZ in Yavapai County. She also mentioned that there have also been revisions to the Gilbert, Chandler, Surprise, Fountain Hills, Gila Bend and Queen Creek Municipal Planning Area boundaries to take into account recent annexations and/or other new information received. A map of the geography was presented.

8. Implications of the MAG GIS and Database Enhancement Project by TAZ

Rita Walton noted that last year, MAG staff collected a variety of data from MAG member agencies and/or requested member agencies to review data that would form the base from which MAG projections would be developed. She added that these data are being distributed to Traffic Analysis Zones and would be circulated to members of the MAG POPTAC for further review and comment. She noted that specific data to be distributed by TAZ include 2000 base year population and employment, build-out population and employment, new developments and post high school enrollment. Ms. Walton said the data would be sent out on CD shortly with a comment deadline specified.

Matt Holm asked if he could obtain shape files that showed the data that MAG had collected. Rita Walton responded that we would be able to provide the data as shape files.

John O'Hare asked whether any of the MAG data would be posted on our website. Rita Walton responded that it would be placed on the website through our interactive GIS system.

Tim Tilton indicated that Phoenix would want to obtain the data in NAD 27.

9. Maricopa County Resident Population Projections

Harry Wolfe reported that the Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES) is currently in the process of preparing new Maricopa County resident population projections for 2005-2055; and that these projections would serve as control totals for the next round of subregional socioeconomic projections prepared by MAG. He said that he would keep the MAG POPTAC briefed as new drafts were developed.

10. Amendment to Executive Order Covering the Development of Socioeconomic Estimates and Projections

Harry Wolfe explained that Executive Order 95-2, issued in 1995, specified the process by which official population estimates and projections are to be prepared and the role of DES and Councils of Governments in the development of those estimates and projections. He said that the Executive Order provided for estimates to be prepared annually and projections to be prepared once every five years and that DES is currently considering changes to the Executive Order.

Mr. Wolfe reported that over the past several years, MAG member agencies have expressed concern about the frequency with which the projections are prepared. MAG and other COGS have recommended that the projections be submitted to the Director of DES annually to allow for revisions to the projections based on known development and changes in the policies of local jurisdictions. He added that MAG has recommended specific changes to Executive Order 95-2 which were circulated at the February meeting of the State POPTAC.

11. Building Permit Completion Status Report

Harry Wolfe commented that building permit completions for the quarter ending December 31, 2001 were due on February 1, 2002. He asked members that had not already the completions for this quarter or the previous quarter to forward them as soon as possible.

12. Review and Approval of Assumptions and Methods for the Next Round of Socioeconomic Projections.

Rita Walton explained that in order to develop 2000 Employment estimates and Projections for employment by land use sectors modeling, methods had been established for employment allocation. She noted that this included the definitions of employment sectors, methods for allocation construction employment for the base and projections and methods dealing with geographic differences in FARs.

Mr. Walton stated that the methods and assumptions were reviewed and recommended for approval by members of the MAG POPTAC Ad Hoc Subcommittee. It was moved by Bob Pazera, seconded by Prisila Ferreira and unanimously recommended to approve the methods and assumptions.

13. Adjournment