

MINUTES OF THE  
MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS  
POPULATION TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

January 23, 2007  
MAG Office, Saguaro Room  
302 North 1<sup>st</sup> Ave, Phoenix

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

George Pettit, Gilbert, Chairman	Wahid Alam, Mesa
*Bryant Powell, Apache Junction	John Verdugo, Maricopa County
**Scott Wilken, Avondale	**Molly Hood, Paradise Valley
Brian Rose, Buckeye	* 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 Indian Community
Mark Smith, El Mirage	Harry Higgins, Scottsdale
*Terry Yergan, Gila River Indian Community	Janice See, Surprise
Thomas Ritz, Glendale	**Lisa Collins, Tempe
**Katie Wilken, Goodyear	*Miles Johnson, Wickenburg
**Gail Acosta, Guadalupe	Ann McCracken, Valley Metro
Sonny Culbreth, Litchfield Park	*Lloyce Robinson, Youngtown
**Ken Valverde, Fountain Hills	

\* Not in attendance

\*\* Participated via audioconference

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Shawn Murray, Mesa	Petya Maneva, MAG
Max Enterline, Phoenix	Jeff Romine, MAG
Anubhav Bagley, MAG	Rita Walton, MAG
Steve Gross, MAG	Harry Wolfe, MAG
Jason Howard, MAG	Don Worley, MAG

1. Call to Order

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

2. Call to the Audience

There were no requests to address the audience. New staff members Petya Maneva and Jason Howard were introduced.

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes of November 21, 2006

No comments were provided on the minutes. It was moved by Sonny Culbreth, seconded by David de la Torre and recommended to approve the meeting minutes of November 21, 2006. The motion passed unanimously.

4. July 1, 2006 Maricopa County Resident Population Estimates

Jeff Romine provided an update on the status of the July 1, 2006 Maricopa County resident population estimates. He reported that at the December meeting of the Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES) action was taken to label the July 1, 2006 populations estimates as tentative population estimates and forward the estimates to the Director of DES to comply with state deadlines for submitting the estimates. He noted, however, that there were concerns about the data and methodology used to prepare the estimates. Mr. Romine added that the estimates are placeholders and that DES is making an aggressive effort to improve the data and re-estimate the population. He stated that a revised set of estimates would be developed and distributed to the POPTAC next month.

Tim Tilton said that the development of the final July 1, 2006 estimates could continue until April 2007. He said that he hoped that this would not happen in the future.

5. Recommendation of Arizona's Data Estimates and Projections Task Force

Jeff Romine provided a report on the work of the Arizona Data Estimates and Projections Task Force (ADEPT). He explained that the Task Force had developed a set of recommendations to improve the population estimates and data collection process. He added that one of the recommendations provided for the establishment of an Independent Office of State Demographer.

Harry Higgins asked in what agency the State Demographer's Office would be located. Mr. Romine responded that it could be within the Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES), the Governor's Office, or it could be an independent agency.

Jeff Romine stated that DES staff is examining the principle of transparency to ensure that people understand how the population estimates were derived.

6. 2007 Boundary and Annexation Survey

Harry Wolfe reported that the Census Bureau had recently distributed to member agencies the 2007 Boundary and Annexation Survey (BAS). He said that responses to the survey are due to the Census Bureau by April 1, 2007.

Mr. Wolfe indicated that the purpose of the BAS is to obtain information from local jurisdictions on changes in corporate boundaries and/or features. He stated that because the Census Bureau is still working on rectifying the street file for the region, MAG member agencies need to submit handwritten changes on hard copy maps instead of submitting electronic files. He also noted that in 2008 MAG member agencies should be able to submit the BAS electronically.

Harry Wolfe explained that: MAG will be holding a Boundary and Annexation Survey workshop to coordinate the submission of annexations to the Bureau and provide technical support as needed; and

that MAG jurisdictions will have an opportunity to schedule time during the afternoon of February 27<sup>th</sup> or the morning of February 28<sup>th</sup> in conjunction with adjoining jurisdictions.

7. Enhancements to Annexation Data Collection Process

John Verdugo summarized a set of proposed enhancements to the annexation data collection process that had been reviewed and discussed at the January 13, 2007 meeting of the MAG Annexation Working Group Meeting. He summarized key features of the proposal including: making annexation data more easily accessible; MAG member agency review of and input on the digitized boundary file prepared by Maricopa County; written documentation of deadlines for submitting annexation and more coordination in the annexation data collection process.

Harry Wolfe stated that after review of the proposed enhancements to the annexation data collection process and any additional comments received, a proposal would be brought forth to the MAG POPTAC Ad Hoc Subcommittee for consideration

8. Census 2010

Tim Tilton from the City of Phoenix reviewed a schedule of major activities that needed to be undertaken by local jurisdictions to prepare for Census 2010. He called attention to the Local Update of Census Address (LUCA) program whereby the Census Bureau provides an opportunity for local jurisdictions to review and update the address file for their jurisdiction. He also mentioned that local jurisdictions could also provide input on updates to Census geography through the Participant Statistical Area Program.

Tim Tilton discussed the importance of the LUCA program to local jurisdictions. He noted that a lot of money was distributed based upon the Census. He also pointed out the difficulties in updating information on population in Special Places.

Mr. Tilton noted that the Census Bureau was planning to increase the size of Block Groups which have significant implications. He also mentioned that Phoenix had 306 Census Tracts and that there were errors made in the splits for Census 2000 that needed to be corrected.

9. MAG Geography

Don Worley stated that MAG prepares socioeconomic projections by three levels of geography: Municipal Planning Area (MPA), Regional Analysis Zone (RAZ) and Socioeconomic Analysis Zone (SAZ). He explained that in preparation for the development of a new set of projections, MAG has made revisions to MPAs and SAZs. A map showing the new geography – SAZ 2007 -- was displayed. Mr. Worley discussed the process for making changes to SAZs.

10. Preparation of MAG Socioeconomic Projections

Anubhav Bagley reported that MAG is in the process of developing a new set of socioeconomic projections for 2010 to 2035. He added that MAG has distributed draft buildout of population and employment by Municipal Planning Area (MPA) base information to members of the MAG POPTAC for review and comment. Mr. Bagley added that MAG staff had also distributed to MAG POPTAC

members input base data on hotels/motels, mobile homes and RV Parks and post high school enrollment. Mr. Bagley discussed the tasks and calendar for the next set of projections.

#### 11. Assumptions for MAG Socioeconomic Projections

Tim Tilton, Chair of the MAG POPTAC Ad Hoc Subcommittee indicated that the Subcommittee had reviewed the proposed assumptions for preparing a new set of projections and recommended that the POPTAC approve the assumptions.

David de la Torre inquired about the method used for developing the Base 2005 population. Anubhav Bagley explained the method.

Harry Higgins asked if the employment projections would be produced by sector and if the Database for NAICS (October, 2005) would be used. Anubhav Bagley responded that the employment projections would be done by land use category. He added that assumptions would be made about the relationship between NAICS Code and land use sector.

With regard to the SF/MF housing split, Tom Ritz asked about the fact that the assumptions make reference to the 1995 Special Census plus completions to 2000. He asked if the completions to 2005 could be used to update the analysis. This would extend the Single Family/Multifamily split for 2005. Mr. Bagley said that MAG staff was identifying areas where assumptions and analysis need to be updated.

Mark Smith recommended against the use of Census 2000 occupancy rates and persons per household. Anubhav Bagley explained that MAG was using those occupancy rates by SAZ because the Census Survey did not have small area occupancy rates, and would then be adjusting the occupancy rates to be consistent with the 2005 Census Survey.

It was moved by Tim Tilton and seconded by Harry Higgins to accept the recommendation of the MAG POPTAC Ad Hoc Subcommittee on the assumptions for the MAG Socioeconomic Projections. The motion passed unanimously.

#### 12. Economic Update

Jeff Romine gave a brief report on the current conditions in the regional and national economy. The national Gross Domestic Product (GDP) continues to grow at a reasonable level. The primary change in this indicator has been the strength of new job creation and continued employment growth. Recent productivity gains by firms and employees have softened, with wage/salary growth rising at a faster rate.

The MAG region has been the fastest growing metro area in the nation during the last year. These continued employment growth provides the primary driver for new residents in the region, and the longer term strength in the regional commercial and housing markets.

Romine briefly noted the current changes in consumer, energy and producer prices. Most people have noticed the fall in vehicle fuel prices, both gasoline and diesel. While this has been good news for the consumers, fuel prices are expected to rise in the spring and into the prime travel seasons - although not to last year's levels. The consumer price index (CPI) for December have resulted in an

annual price change of 3.2%, which is used for a number of budget and contract purposes by member agencies and others.

More importantly, the primarily watched Core CPI rate (CPI less energy and housing) rose 2.6%. This rate is monitored by a number of analysts and economist to better understand the current change in the rate of inflation. The Open Markets Committee of the Federal Reserve Board, as example, is assumed to target a 2.5% core CPI in their interest rate setting decisions.

Finally, Romine noted that Producer Prices (PPI) are up just slightly from last year. This indicator suggests an easing of prices for materials used in commercial and residential construction, as well as the costs of inputs into manufactured goods. In all the prices changes reflect a moderating level of demand, which reflects the GDP estimate.

### 13. 2007 MAG POPTAC Meeting Schedule

Harry Wolfe referred MAG POPTAC members to the schedule for meetings in 2007. He said meetings would be held on the fourth Tuesday of each month unless notified otherwise.

### 14. Next Meeting of MAG POPTAC

George Pettit stated that the next meeting of the MAG POPTAC would be on February 27, 2007 at 10:00 a.m.

The meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.