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May 8, 2006

TO: Members of the MAG POPTAC

FROM: Harry P. Wolfe, Senior Project Manager

SUBJECT: ANNEXATIONS

During the past month the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) has been collecting annexation information from member agencies. POPTAC members and/or the jurisdiction annexation contact have been very helpful in supplying us in a timely manner with the needed information for the period from June 1, 2005 through March 31, 2006. The purpose of this memo is to explain the various uses of annexation information so that member agencies have a clear understanding of why the information is requested.

Annexation information is important to MAG because it is used to:

1. Compute annual population estimates. Often newly annexed areas contain housing units which need to be added to a jurisdiction's housing stock. The annexations we have been collecting will be used to calculate the July 1, 2006 resident population update for MAG jurisdictions. We have recently collected annexations that became effective between July 1, 2005 and March 31, 2006. We will be collecting annexation information for April 1 through June 30th shortly.
2. Determine the number of housing units in the annexed area for the purpose of revising the previous year's resident population updates. This is done to ensure that the population updates reflect the latest boundaries for each jurisdiction. MAG collaborates with the Arizona Department of Economic Security in the revision of the July 1 population estimates that were approved the previous year by adding to them any housing units and associated population that occurred from July 1 of that year up to June 30th of the following year. This revised figure is then submitted by the Arizona Department of Economic Security to the Economic Estimates Commission.
3. Revise any Municipal Planning Area (MPA) where the annexed area falls outside the boundary of the jurisdiction's MPA; or where a deannexation falls within an MPA boundary. The MPA reflects a jurisdiction's future corporate limits and therefore any annexed or deannexed areas need to be accounted for in the MPA boundaries.

Attachment Two

4. Update jurisdictional boundaries for use in a Census or a Census Survey. Annexation information is provided by cities and towns to the Census Bureau through the Bureau's Boundary Annexation Survey (BAS) which is normally conducted near the beginning of each calendar year. The Census Bureau modifies its electronic files to reflect the new boundaries. This is particularly important to ensure that a jurisdiction is credited with all the housing units that fall within its corporate limits. Since Census population figures are used to distribute billions of dollars of state-shared revenue, it is crucial that boundaries are properly defined. MAG works with member agencies to facilitate this process which includes holding workshops on an as-needed basis to avoid overlaps among jurisdictional boundary submittals.
5. Update your boundaries for use by Maricopa County which maintains a file of municipal boundaries. Annexations are required to be filed with Maricopa County.

Member agencies are also required to provide Maricopa County and the Census Bureau with updated boundaries. Maricopa County records the annexations provided and uses them to maintain an electronic file of municipality corporate limits. The Census Bureau needs updated boundaries for its Census counts and surveys. The Bureau obtains this information through its Boundary and Annexation Survey which is generally conducted in January of each year.

A presentation will be provided on the use of annexation information by MAG and a representative from Maricopa County. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at 602-254-6300.