

**Process for Establishing Municipal Planning Areas (MPAs)**

When MAG prepares resident population estimates for the member agencies in the fall of each year, staff uses the corporate limits for each member agency. However, when MAG prepares projections of population housing and employment, it is necessary to define the potential future corporate limits of each member agency. To accomplish this, MAG staff, working with its member agencies, defines “Municipal Planning Areas” (MPAs). An MPA must include all of the existing corporate limits of a city or town and any other areas that are anticipated to be a part of the corporate limits in the future. In the MAG 208 Water Quality Management Plan, MPAs are used as wastewater planning areas.

In the past, local governments used strip annexations to stake their claim to a piece of unincorporated area, and strip annexations often formed the boundary of a jurisdiction’s MPA. However, the practice of strip annexations has been eliminated. Typical additional factors that enter into the establishment of the MPA include identification of the land in a General Land Use Plan, contiguity to current corporate limits or other factors that suggest that territory falls within the region of influence of a particular city or town.

The last set of MPA boundaries were used for preparing the July 2003 MAG Interim Socioeconomic Projections. The current MPA boundaries were established by member agencies in the 2005/2006 time period.

MAG uses the following process to define MPA boundaries:

1. Prior to the development of a new set of socioeconomic projections, MAG reviews the MPA boundaries with each member agency through the MAG Population Technical Advisory Committee (POPTAC). Maps are distributed showing the MPA boundaries from the last set of projections and input is requested.
2. Any areas that have been annexed by a jurisdiction which falls outside the current MPA is automatically added to the MPA. Areas which have been deannexed are removed.
3. Where a jurisdiction requests a change to its MPA, MAG sets up a meeting with the parties involved. Normally this meeting would include the jurisdiction requesting the MPA boundary enlargement, and affected other member agencies if involved and possibly adjoining jurisdictions. The County is always invited to participate.
4. If there are no objections from the other entities involved, the change to the MPA is made.
5. If there are objections to the expansion of the MPA, and no consensus compromise is reached by the jurisdictions, MAG will leave the MPA boundaries as they existed in the last set of projections. Ultimately, whichever jurisdiction annexes the territory, will have it included in its MPA.
6. A jurisdiction is responsible for reviewing and providing input on land use, base data, surveys, assumptions and draft socioeconomic projections for the entire MPA.