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TO: Members of the MAG Continuum of Care Committee

FROM: Heidi Pahl, 2005 Census Survey Coordinator

SUBJECT: PREPARATIONS FOR CONDUCTING THE 2005 CENSUS OUTDOOR LOCATION COUNT

The Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) has contracted with the U.S. Census Bureau to conduct the 2005 Census Survey of Maricopa County Arizona. The 2005 Census Survey begins September 1, 2005. At that time, we will be conducting a survey of population in households and a full count of population in group quarters (e.g. college dorms, prisons, nursing homes, etc.) and outdoor locations (homeless). This survey is being conducted to update the 2000 population counts. It is also important because it determines how much State funding is provided to cities, towns and areas within the County based on the number of people living in each community. This funding is used to pay for services such as police, fire, water, sewer and streets. The Census Bureau has requested your input on outdoor locations within Maricopa County and the Census Bureau's outdoor location enumeration process.

To accommodate their request, MAG has scheduled a meeting with the: Census Bureau, the Continuum of Care committee members and participants of the MAG 2005 Street Count. The meeting agenda is enclosed. At the meeting we will discuss the MAG 2005 Street Count and then the Census Bureau staff will explain what they will be doing and what support they need from us.

The Census Bureau's definition of an outdoor location is a geographically identifiable area that is open to the elements where there is evidence that people might be living without paying to stay there. Examples of outdoor locations are: street corners, under bridges, by river beds, in woods, parks and alleys. A site must have a specific location description that will allow an enumeration team to physically locate it; for example, "the 8th Street Bridge at the corner of Bristol Drive" or "the 700 block of Taylor Street behind the old warehouse."

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me or Amy St. Peter at 602-254-6300.