

Regional Growth Forecast & Subregional/ Local Input

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SCAG Subregional Boundaries



- **14 in Total**
- **SCAG provides funding and assistance to subregions to facilitate planning activities**
- **Part of SCAG's commitment to inclusive, participatory planning**



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Main Questions

- How to effectively communicate with local jurisdictions re. small area estimates and projections?
 - Effective communication system?
 - Technical issues?



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Regional Growth Forecast Process

Step 1
Analyze Recent Regional Growth Trends and Collect Significant Local Plan Updates

Step 2
Review and Update Regional Growth Forecast Methodology and Assumptions

Step 3
Develop or Update Regional Baseline Growth Forecasts with Small Area Distributions

Step 4
Review and Update Regional Growth Policies and Strategies

Step 5
Develop and Evaluate Regional Growth Forecast Scenarios with Small Area Distributions

Step 6
Select and Adopt a Preferred Regional Growth Forecast with Small Area Distributions

- Panel of Experts
- Subregional or Local Review
- Input from Stakeholders /Data Users
- Public Outreach
- Technical Committee
- Policy Committee
- Regional Council



Purpose of Subregional/ Local Review

- Enhance accuracy of estimates based on limited reliability or availability of data.
- Understand projections, methodologies, and assumptions proposed by local jurisdictions.
- Increase local acceptability.



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Subregional/Local Review Procedure

- Provide local jurisdictions with estimates & projections of major variables along with methodology, assumptions, and sources of data.
- Estimates & projections contain major variables at different levels of geography during the projection period.
- Response rate: very high



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Challenges

1. Quality of City/Small Area Estimates and Projections by Local Jurisdictions:

- City/Small Area Estimates: U.S. Census, DOF, private vendors.
- City/Small Area Projections:
 - 1) Trend extrapolation
 - 2) Relationship
 - 3) Convert land use plan to projections. No regional context. Employment projection.



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Challenges

2. Regional Assumptions vs. Locally Specific Growth Environment

- Core assumptions drive forecasts.
- Fertility, Mortality, Migration, Labor Force Participation, Unemployment Rate, Headship Rates.



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Challenges

3. Relational Consistency

- Population vs. Employment (P/E ratio)
- Population vs. Households (P/H ratio)
- Employment vs. Households (E/H ratio)



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Challenges

4. Spatial Consistency

- The large area population is the sum of small area population.
- Region, County, City, Census Tract, TAZ



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Challenges

5. Temporal Consistency

- Monotonous trend
- Regional model (temporal) vs. small area model (non-temporal/allocation oriented)



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Challenges

6. Accuracy & Uncertainty

- Forecasts errors are larger for 1) small size areas 2) fast growth areas 3) longer projection period 4) different beginning year of the projection horizon.



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Conclusion

- Establish reasonable communication mechanism
- Resolve technical issues in an effective communication framework



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