



MEMORANDUM

To: Planning Coordinating Committee

Date: January 7, 2009

From: Bob Dean, Principal Regional Planner

Re: Regional Snapshot Reports

Handwritten signatures in black ink, including a large signature that appears to be 'Bob Dean' and several other smaller, less legible signatures.

Regional Snapshot reports are presented to the Planning Coordinating Committee at two points: once when initial findings have been developed, and again when a draft report is ready to be released publicly.

The Regional Snapshot report on **jobs-housing balance** (attachment 7.1) was presented to the committee last year, and the committee asked for staff to do additional work before the report was released. In particular, the committee asked that the report address fuel prices, add more rigorous analysis when discussing regional travel patterns, refer to work already conducted by the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus concerning affordability, and overall clarify why jobs-housing balance was being addressed. The report has been modified substantially based on these comments. Beyond responding to the comments summarized above, a method for measuring regional jobs-housing balance over time using a single indicator has been developed.

The purpose of this report, and of all Regional Snapshot reports, is to explore complex issues to enhance CMAP's understanding of them. The report does not make clear recommendations for policies or investments. However, the analysis in the report will be used to inform the recommendations of the *GO TO 2040* plan, and the jobs-housing balance indicator will be used to evaluate the effectiveness of the plan at addressing this issue.

The Regional Snapshot report on **Latino population growth** (attachment 7.2) provides general demographic information concerning the region's growing Latino population. The report focuses on this demographic group because of the extremely high recent and forecasted growth of the Latino population. The report provides basic statistics concerning demographics, education, employment, and housing for Latinos in the region. The report describes these important issue areas, but stops short of making recommendations for action. However, as

other Regional Snapshots have done, it does provide a wealth of information that will inform the recommendations of the *GO TO 2040* plan.

The third Regional Snapshot report, on **air quality** (attachment 7.3), is in an earlier stage in its development. Staff will provide a very brief (5-minute) presentation on the initial findings of the research for committee feedback. In short, initial research has shown that recent years have seen modest improvements in regional air quality, but that federal standards have simultaneously been tightened. Improving air quality may become more challenging in future years, as warming temperatures caused by climate change create more days that are conducive to the formation of harmful pollutants. Also, research has shown that the transportation sector is decreasing in its contribution to air quality problems, meaning that although improvements in this sector should continue, other sources will need to be targeted to continue to improve air quality.

ACTION REQUESTED: Approval to release the Regional Snapshots on jobs-housing balance and Latino population growth, and discussion of the direction of the Regional Snapshot report on air quality.

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