

## TTAC/JTAC/TPAC STAFF REPORT

**SUBJECT:** TTAC/JTAC/TPAC Announcements ITEM: 5

**RECOMMENDATION:** Receive information on items of interest to committee members.

**STAFF CONTACT:** SBCAG staff

### **DISCUSSION:**

Below is a summary of items of interest to committee members with the corresponding SBCAG staff contact person.

### **CENSUS URBANIZED AREAS FINAL RULE**

The Census Bureau's urban areas represent densely developed territory, and encompass residential, commercial, and other non-residential urban land uses. The boundaries of the urban areas have been defined primarily by using measures based on population counts and residential population density. The Census Bureau has made modifications to urban areas in the past and boundaries have changed based on new criteria and updated population counts. The changes for the 2020 urban area *draft* definition and *final* definition include:

- Adopting a housing unit-based census block density (385 units/sq. mile) vs. the prior 2010 urban area population-based density (1,000 persons/sq. mile). The most significant change in the final definition relative to the draft definition is the increase in the housing unit density from 385 units/sq. mile to 425 units/sq. mile. This increase in density will make it more difficult for areas to qualify as urban thus potentially reducing the size and population of an urban area.
- The draft definition qualified as urban an area that contains at least 4,000 housing units or 10,000 population vs. the final definition requiring 2,000 housing units or 5,000 population. This change could potentially qualify the City of Guadalupe as an urban area as its 2020 housing unit count is 2,119 and population is 8,057.
- The final definition added a low-density fill requirement that allows blocks with a housing unit density of 200 units contiguous to an urban area be added to that area. This change would allow less dense blocks to be added to an urban area increasing the overall size and population.
- Including nonresidential areas with high degree of imperviousness within .25 miles of urban area has been revised in the final definition to within .5 miles and to also include blocks with at least 1,000 jobs regardless of imperviousness. This change will not affect urban area population significantly as these areas are employment centers without significant population.
- The final definition includes a maximum 3.5 square mile area of low-density territory within indentations that are formed during the delineation process when densely developed, qualifying territory surrounds low-density territory on three sides. This change should not significantly affect the overall population of urban areas.

- The final definition includes merging territory of an urban area that does not contain a high-density nucleus and is within .25 miles of another urban area with a high-density nucleus. This criterion could add area to an existing urbanized area, for example, the Nipomo and Santa Maria Urbanized Areas could be combined. This was the case in 2000.
- Reducing jump distances between dense areas from 2.5 to 1.5 miles and eliminating low density areas between the jumps. This has not changed in the final definition and will reduce the overall size and population of an urbanized area.

In delineating urban areas, the Census Bureau does not consider or attempt to meet the requirements of any nonstatistical uses of these areas or their associated data. The Census Bureau recognizes that some federal and state agencies use the Census Bureau's urban area classification for nonstatistical uses such as allocating program funds (FTA 5307 and 5311, for example), setting program standards, and implementing aspects of their programs. The agencies that use the classification and data for such nonstatistical uses should be aware that the changes to the urban area criteria also might affect the implementation of their programs. If a federal, tribal, state, or local agency uses the urban area classification for nonstatistical purposes, it is that agency's responsibility to ensure that the classification is appropriate for such use.

Final Urban Area Criteria for the 2020 Census

WEB SOURCE: Final Criteria [\[TEXT\]](#) [\[PDF\]](#)

**Staff Contact: Mike Becker**