

2.0 Plan Area Description and Setting



1980, State of California, Department of Finance Web site at <http://www.dof.ca.gov/HTML/DEMOGRAP/rependat.htm>, accessed April 2002). By 1980, Riverside County's total population increased to 663,199. Approximately 291,313 people lived in western County Cities, and 276,565 lived in the unincorporated County (Population Estimates for California Cities and Counties, 1970-1980, State of California, Department of Finance Web site, accessed April 2002). The County's total population grew from 663,199 in 1980 to 1,170,413 by 1990; western County Cities were populated by 594,046 people with an additional 385,384 people living in the unincorporated County (Revised Historical City, County, and State Population Estimates, 1991-2000, with 1990 and 2000 Census Counts, State of California, Department of Finance Web site, accessed April 2002). The County's total population grew from 1,170,413 in 1990 to 1,545,387 in 2000. By 2000, a total of 848,413 people resided in western County Cities, and an additional 420,721 resided in unincorporated County areas (Revised Historical City, County, and State Population Estimates, 1991-2000, with 1990 and 2000 Census Counts, State of California, Department of Finance Web site, accessed April 2002).

2.3.2 Forecast Growth

The Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) and Western Riverside County Cities have historically prepared regional growth forecasts in an effort to allocate resources in the most efficient manner. Forecasts include population, housing, employment, and other economic data. SCAG estimates that by 2025 almost 7 million people and 4 million jobs -- the equivalent of adding two cities the size of Chicago -- will be added to the Southern California region (SCAG 1998, with draft update 2001). This would bring Southern California's regional population from 16 million to 22.8 million (SCAG 2001). Most of the population growth is expected to occur in north Los Angeles, Riverside, and San Bernardino Counties; however, experts believe job growth will also occur in Los Angeles and Orange Counties.

SCAG released Riverside County's population forecasts for 2020 in 1998; Riverside's population is projected to reach upwards of 2.8 million. This population growth equates to approximately 2.8% a year from now until 2020. Population will continue to increase within the County beyond the 2020 horizon; the County's population will reach 3.5 million by 2030 and 4.5 million by 2040. A total of approximately 569,600 housing units will be needed to accommodate this anticipated growth (approximately 426,400 in Western Riverside County and approximately 143,200 in Eastern Riverside County).