



Meeting Date: 12/11/2007

ACTION	TYPE OF ITEM
<input type="checkbox"/> Approved Recommendation	<input type="checkbox"/> Info/Consent
<input type="checkbox"/> Res. No(s).	<input type="checkbox"/> Report
<input type="checkbox"/> Ord. No(s).	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Hearing (Info/consent)
<input type="checkbox"/> Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Council Business

Prepared By: Christopher Williamson, Senior Planner Agenda Item No. N-2

Reviewed By: City Manager [Signature] City Attorney Rupp Finance SW Other (Specify): N/A

DATE: November 30, 2007

TO: City Council

FROM: Matthew G. Winegar, AICP, Development Services Director [Signature]

SUBJECT: Adoption of 2040 Population Forecast for Inclusion in the Ventura Council of Governments (VCOG) Decapolis Forecast.

RECOMMENDATION

That City Council adopt a 2040 population forecast of 292,000 to be included as part of the VCOG Decapolis Forecast.

DISCUSSION

Periodically, VCOG prepares population projections for each of Ventura County's 10 cities and the county unincorporated areas. In the last six months, staff from each city and the county prepared a series of eight population projections contained within the attached document entitled "The Decapolis 2040 Forecast and Comparative Population Projections" (Attachment A). Projection No. 3, "General Plans Capacity," is being recommended to VCOG for adoption as the official VCOG 2040 Forecast at an upcoming meeting. The General Plans Capacity projection represents each jurisdiction's current planned capacity plus an allowance for future General Plan updates in the next 33 years. The City Council is being asked to formally adopt Oxnard's 2040 population forecast prior to VCOG's consideration of the entire report. An adopted VCOG forecast does not represent a target population that the city is agreeing, or mandated, to achieve. As projections inherently increase in error as the time frame is extended into the future, VCOG will undoubtedly prepare new projections that will reflect Oxnard's evolving actual growth trends and policies.

The proposed VCOG 2040 Forecast population for Oxnard is 292,000, about 100,000 higher than our 2007 population of 192,997. This increase represents an average annual population increase of 3,000 people, slightly less than the 3,200 annual average increases of the past seven years. The average annual percentage growth rate is 1.55% in 2008 and declines to 1.04% by 2040, both of which are lower than the average annual recent growth rate of 1.80%. More growth is likely to occur in the near future than after 2020 due to the build-out of areas within the current City Urban Restriction Boundary. Future growth may also change due to economic and

demographic events and/or Oxnard's future planning decisions and policies. By comparison, both California and Ventura County are growing at an annual rate of about 1.3%.

Oxnard's proposed overall growth roughly parallels the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) recently completed projection used for the Regional Housing Needs Assessment that assumes population growth in tandem with sustained economic growth and job creation. Under the proposed VCOG Forecast, Oxnard's share of the county's total population would increase from 23.5% in 2005 to 27.8% in 2040 (an 18.3% increase). Given the relatively large and young Oxnard population, these growth rates reflect an assumption that Oxnard will house and employ most of its currently young population as part of our continued economic growth.

The proposed Oxnard 2040 forecast is also consistent with the June 2006 General Plan Update projection that assumed adding 750 housing units per year (Baseline +750, page 2-20) and projected a 2030 population of 259,996 (approximately 2,800 persons per year). If the 2030 projection is extended another 10 years to 2040 under the same assumption, the 2040 population would be 287,996. This figure is only 1.3% less than the proposed VCOG 2040 forecast of 292,000, an insignificant difference that far in the future. The current VCOG 2025 Forecast, prepared in 2002, shows Oxnard with a population of 200,086 which the city will probably reach in 2010.

The other seven projections in the *Decapolis* report show 2020 and 2040 populations under a variety of scenarios designed to place the VCOG Forecast in context. The adopted VCOG Forecast will be submitted to the SCAG for use in air quality, housing, transportation, and other long-range regional planning efforts. Having a relatively high forecast for regional planning purposes allows Oxnard to be found consistent with future air quality, transportation, and other regional plans should the city decide to grow at any rate up to the forecasted rate.

Planning studies are statutorily exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act under PRC §21102.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There is no financial impact from adopting a population forecast.

Attachments:

1 – *The Decapolis 2040 Forecast and Comparative Population Projections* DRAFT

Note: Attachment No. 1 has been provided to the City Council under separate cover. Copies are available for review at the Circulation Desk in the Library after 6:00 p.m. on the Thursday prior to the Council meeting and at the City Clerk's Office after 8:00 a.m. on Friday, December 7, 2007.