

Appendix A: Accuracy of Past AMBAG Forecasts

The Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments has been producing forecasts for Monterey and Santa Cruz Counties since 1979. AMBAG included San Benito County in its 1997 forecasts due to the requirement to perform metropolitan planning in San Benito County per 1994 Memorandum of Understanding. Not unexpectedly, AMBAG's population forecasts have in the past been shown to be close to accurate at the regional and county levels and less accurate at the city and Transportation Analysis Zone (TAZ) levels. A summary of the accuracy of the past four AMBAG forecasts as compared to the 2000 U.S. Census is shown below in Table A-1. A city level comparison between the 1997 AMBAG forecast and the 2000 U.S. Census is shown in Table A-2. Forecasts are disaggregated to Transportation Analysis Zones for use in the Regional Travel Forecast Model. The inaccuracies of the 1997 AMBAG forecast at the Transportation Analysis Zone level are summarized in Table A-3.

TABLE A-1

Comparison of Past AMBAG Forecasts to the 2000 Census

Forecast	Monterey County % Variance from 2000 Census	Santa Cruz County % Variance from 2000 Census	San Benito County % Variance from 2000 Census	Regional % Variance from 2000 Census	Combined County Average Absolute % Error from 2000 Census
1997 AMBAG Forecast	-0.21%	0.84%	-5.77%	-0.25%	2.27%
1994 AMBAG Forecast	-1.89%	1.68%	n/a	-0.50%	1.79%
1991 AMBAG Forecast	5.21%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
1988 AMBAG Forecast	6.56%	9.51%	n/a	7.70%	8.03%

n/a = not available, county population not forecasted

TABLE A-2

**Comparison Between AMBAG's 1997 Forecast and the
Census by City**

Area	1997 Forecast Population 2000	Census Population 2000	Numeric Difference	Percent Variation
Carmel	4,477	4,081	-396	-9.7%
Del Rey Oaks	1,709	1,650	-59	-3.6%
Gonzales	8,265	7,525	-740	-9.8%
Greenfield	10,810	12,583	1773	14.1%
King City	11,600	11,093	-507	-4.6%
Marina	20,618	19,163	-1455	-7.6%
Monterey	33,130	29,673	-3457	-11.7%
Pacific Grove	17,392	15,522	-1870	-12.0%
Salinas	130,196	143,776	13580	9.4%
Sand City	243	260	17	6.5%
Seaside	29,832	31,695	1863	5.9%
Soledad	26,483	24,489	-1994	-8.1%
Unincorporated	106,152	100,252	-5900	-5.9%
Monterey Co. Total	400,907	401,762	855	0.2%
Hollister	29,841	34,413	4572	13.3%
San Juan Bautista	1,703	1,549	-154	-9.9%
Unincorporated	18,619	17,272	-1347	-7.8%
San Benito County Total	50,163	53,234	3071	5.8%
Capitola	11,172	10,033	-1139	-11.4%
Santa Cruz	55,013	54,593	-420	-0.8%
Scotts Valley	11,218	11,385	167	1.5%
Watsonville	43,620	44,265	645	1.5%
Unincorporated	136,714	135,326	-1388	-1.0%
Santa Cruz County Total	257,737	255,602	-2135	-0.8%
AMBAG Region Total	708,807	710,598	1791	0.3%

TABLE A-3

Comparison of Forecast to Census 2000 by Traffic Analysis Zones							
County	Error Type	Observed Error					All TAZs
		0 - 100	100 - 500	500 - 2000	2000+		
Monterey	Average Percent	529.7%	24.6%	-1.0%	-25.5%	167.8%	
	Average Absolute Percent	563.1%	61.5%	30.1%	27.8%	202.9%	
	Root Mean Squared	5438.6%	97.4%	44.4%	46.7%	130.6%	
San Benito	Average Percent	107.6%	3.1%	-34.8%	1.1%	60.6%	
	Average Absolute Percent	134.2%	54.3%	40.1%	16.2%	99.4%	
	Root Mean Squared	448.8%	90.6%	52.3%	16.6%	110.2%	
Santa Cruz	Average Percent	242.1%	23.3%	2.7%	-23.4%	57.7%	
	Average Absolute Percent	269.7%	53.0%	25.9%	25.9%	84.6%	
	Root Mean Squared	704.4%	68.6%	36.1%	36.8%	53.2%	
Region	Average Percent	314.3%	19.4%	-1.3%	-24.2%	108.8%	
	Average Absolute Percent	344.0%	56.9%	28.8%	27.0%	141.9%	
	Root Mean Squared	3369.9%	85.4%	41.8%	45.0%	114.8%	