

AMBAG

Board of Directors Meeting

August 9, 2023



Item #1: Call To Order

Item #2: Pledge of Allegiance

Item #3: AB 2449 Vote On “Just” and “Emergency” Cause

Recommended Action: Approve

Item #4: Roll Call

Item #5: Oral Communications from the Public on Items Not on the Agenda

**(A maximum of three minutes on any
subject not on the agenda)**

Item #6: Oral Communications from the Board on Items Not on the Agenda

Item #7A: Executive/Finance Committee

Recommended Action: Information

Item #7B: Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (MBNMS) Advisory Council (SAC) Meeting

Recommended Action: Direct

Item #8: Executive Director's Report

Recommended Action: Information

Item #9: Consent Agenda (Items #9A – 9D)

Recommended Action: Approve

Item #10: Items Removed from Consent Calendar for Discussion and Possible Action

Item #11A: Draft 2023 Public Participation Plan

Recommended Action: Public Hearing



Draft 2023 Public Participation Plan

ASSOCIATION OF MONTEREY BAY
AREA GOVERNMENTS

HEATHER ADAMSON, AICP
DIRECTOR OF PLANNING
AUGUST 9, 2023



Background

15

- Guides regional efforts in the public participation process
- Emphasizes the transportation decision making process
- Federally required update every 4 years
- Required guide for all federally funded public involvement activities

Key Sections

16

- Requirements for public participation
- Requirements as it relates to interested parties & engagement
- Public Participation Best Practices Guide
- Significant regional information listed in Appendices

Next Steps – AMBAG

17

- Public comment period: June 14 – August 23, 2023
- Presentations to Committees and Working Groups:
 - SCCRTC's E&D TAC – 6/13
 - SCCRTC's ITAC – 6/15
 - MST's MAC – 7/26
 - TAMC's TAC – 8/3
 - San Benito COG's TAC – 8/3
- Public Hearing at AMBAG Board:
 - August 9, 2023

Next Steps – Regionally

18

- Public comment period: June 14 – August 23, 2023
- RTPA Public Hearings:
 - SCCRTC – 8/3
 - San Benito COG – 8/17
 - TAMC – 8/23
- PPP Adoption:
 - San Benito COG – 9/21
 - TAMC – 9/27
 - SCCRTC – 10/5
 - AMBAG – 10/11

Comments on the Draft 2023 PPP

19

- Public comment period: June 14 – August 23, 2023
- Submit comments via email, letter or in person at a public hearing
- Send comments to: Heather Adamson at hadamson@ambag.org or 24580 Silver Cloud Court, Monterey, CA 93940
- Comments will be compiled and reviewed, and changes will be incorporated into the Final 2023 PPP document, as appropriate

Recommendation

20

- Hold a public hearing on the *Draft 2023 Public Participation Plan* to accept public comment



ASSOCIATION OF MONTEREY BAY AREA GOVERNMENTS



DRAFT 2023 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN

WWW.AMBAG.ORG

**HEATHER ADAMSON, AICP
HADAMSON@AMBAG.ORG**

Item #11B: 2026 Regional Growth Forecast

Recommended Action: Information



2026 Regional Growth Forecast

Heather Adamson, AMBAG
Beth Jarosz, Population Reference Bureau

August 9, 2023

Overview

- Background and purpose of forecast
- Development of the Regional Growth Forecast
 - Historical Trends, Pandemic, 2020 Census
- Next Steps



What is the Forecast?

- Forecast for tri-county area:
 - Population
 - Housing
 - Employment
- Base Year – 2020
- Horizon Year – 2050
- Basis for planning for growth in the MTP/SCS, transportation project level analysis, corridor studies, economic analysis, etc.
- Input for the Regional Travel Demand Model which forecasts travel patterns



Growth Forecast vs. General Plans

- Purpose of regional growth forecast is to show what is likely to occur
- General Plans often look at full potential build out in order to address potential environmental impacts
- Regional forecast is being developed on a different timeline than General Plans
- Due to different goals and different timelines the numbers will not match exactly with any given General Plan

Growth Forecast vs. RHNA Allocation

- Forecast is an expectation of growth; Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) is an assessment of and plan for addressing housing need
- Current state guidelines:
 - Regional RHNA must be accommodated within long-range plan horizon
 - Jurisdiction RHNA and forecast may differ
- Housing elements will be considered during subregional discussions with jurisdictions



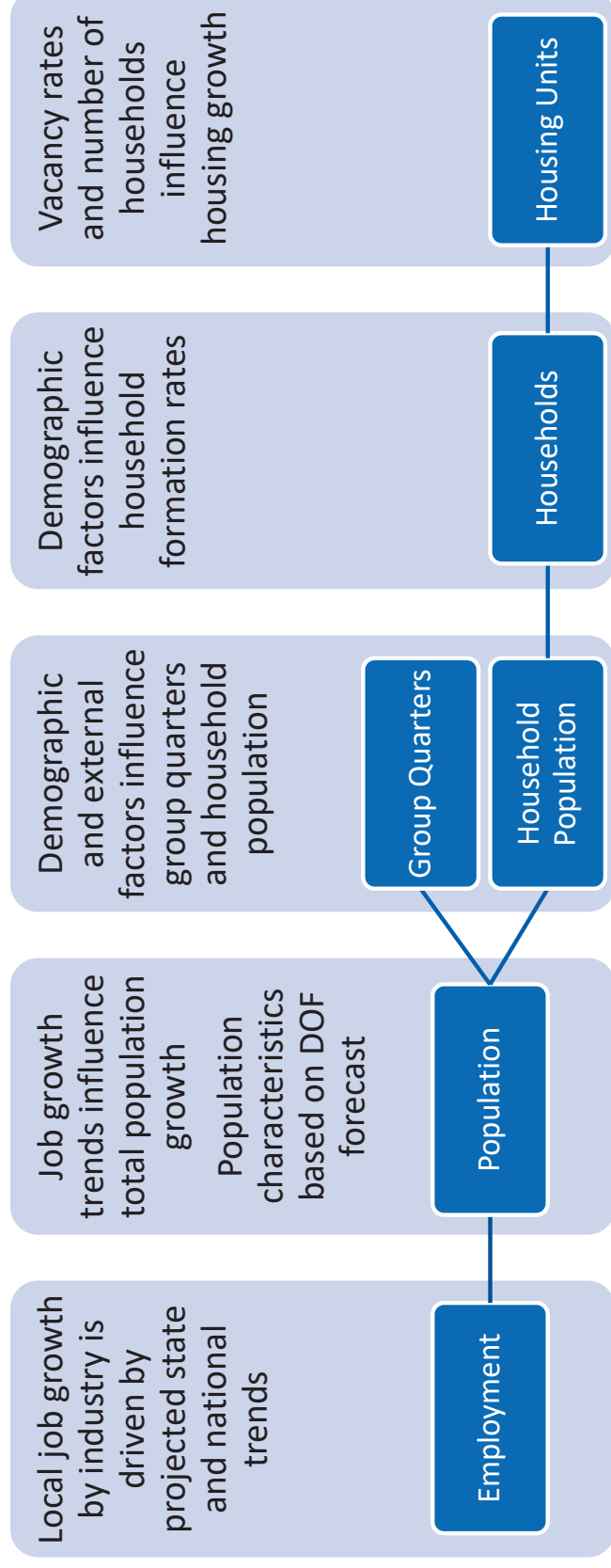
Regional Forecast Development Historical Context

- For 2014 RGF staff reviewed various methodologies
 - Selected a model that bases population growth on employment growth
 - Forecasts employment growth based on national and statewide trends
- 2018 RGF and 2022 RGF used same method
 - PRB provided comparison population forecasts based on different techniques and sources
- Today: reviewing methods for 2026 RGF

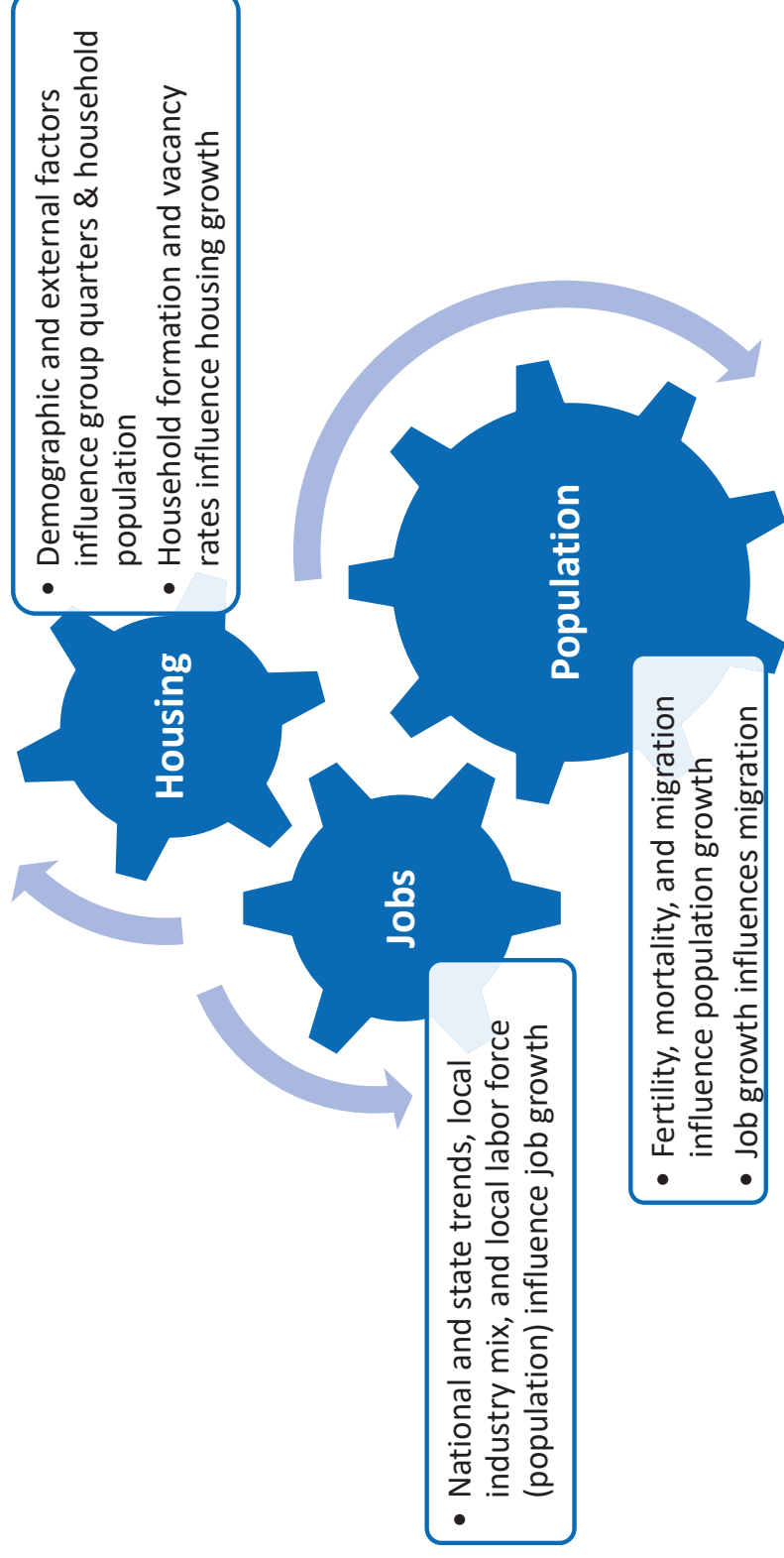
Three Methodology Options for Consideration

- 1. Use employment-driven methodology similar to 2022, 2018, and 2014 RGF
- 2. Update population model to a cohort-component model
- 3. Use DOF population forecast

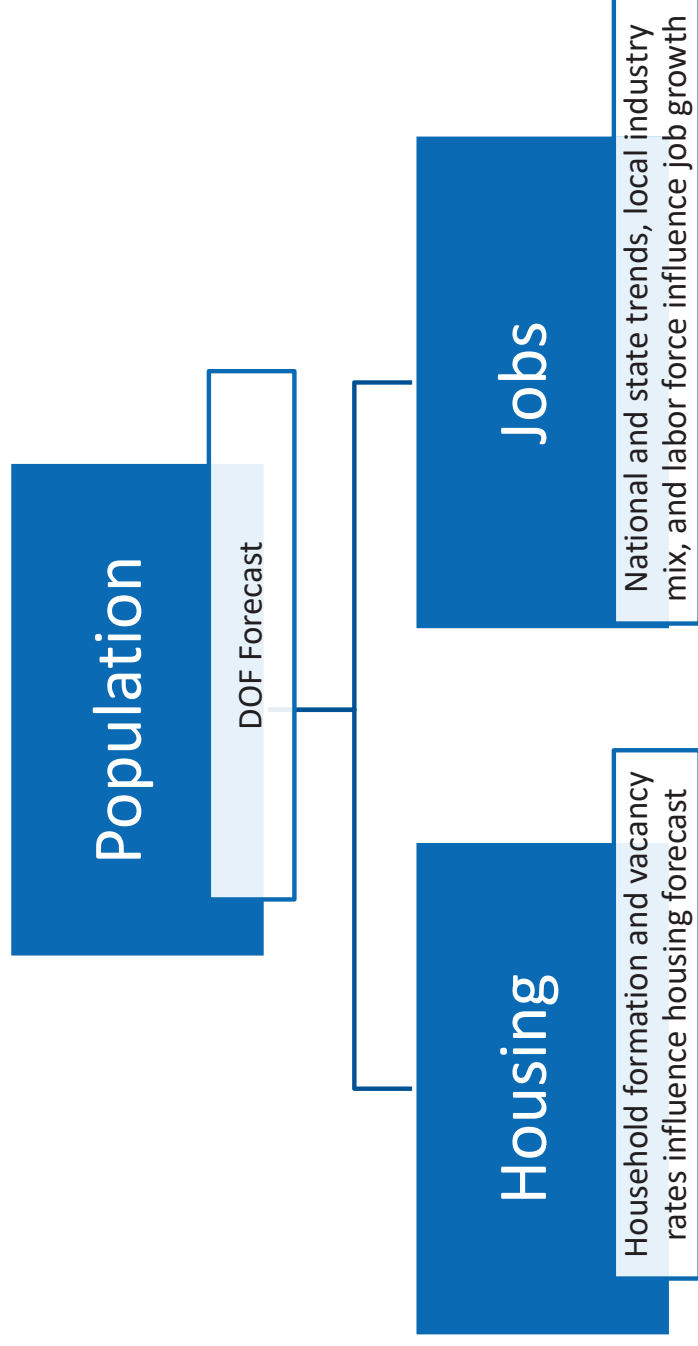
1. Employment-Driven Forecast Model



2. Cohort-Component Model



3. DOF Population Forecast



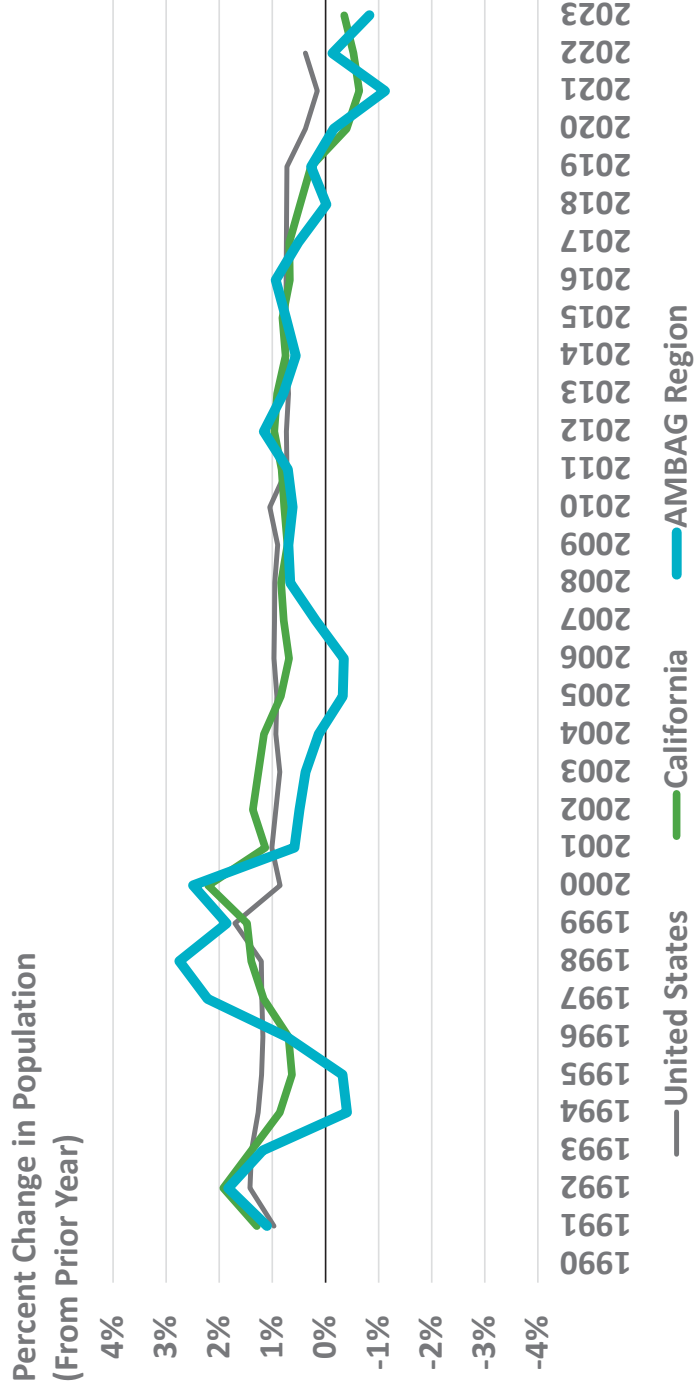
Three Methodology Options

- 1. Use employment-driven methodology similar to 2022, 2018, and 2014 RGF
 - Pro: Consistent with prior AMBAG MTP/SCSs
 - Con: Weaker linkage model components and relies on DOF for age/race/sex
- 2. Update population model to a cohort-component model
 - Pro: Consistent with other California COGs, allows closest linkages between model components
 - Con: Slightly more labor-intensive
- 3. Use DOF forecast for population
 - Pro: Saves consulting time
 - Con: No local input and weak linkage between population and jobs forecast, DOF forecast release date is summer 2023 and DOF forecast for small counties varies widely between releases

Regardless of Method... New data

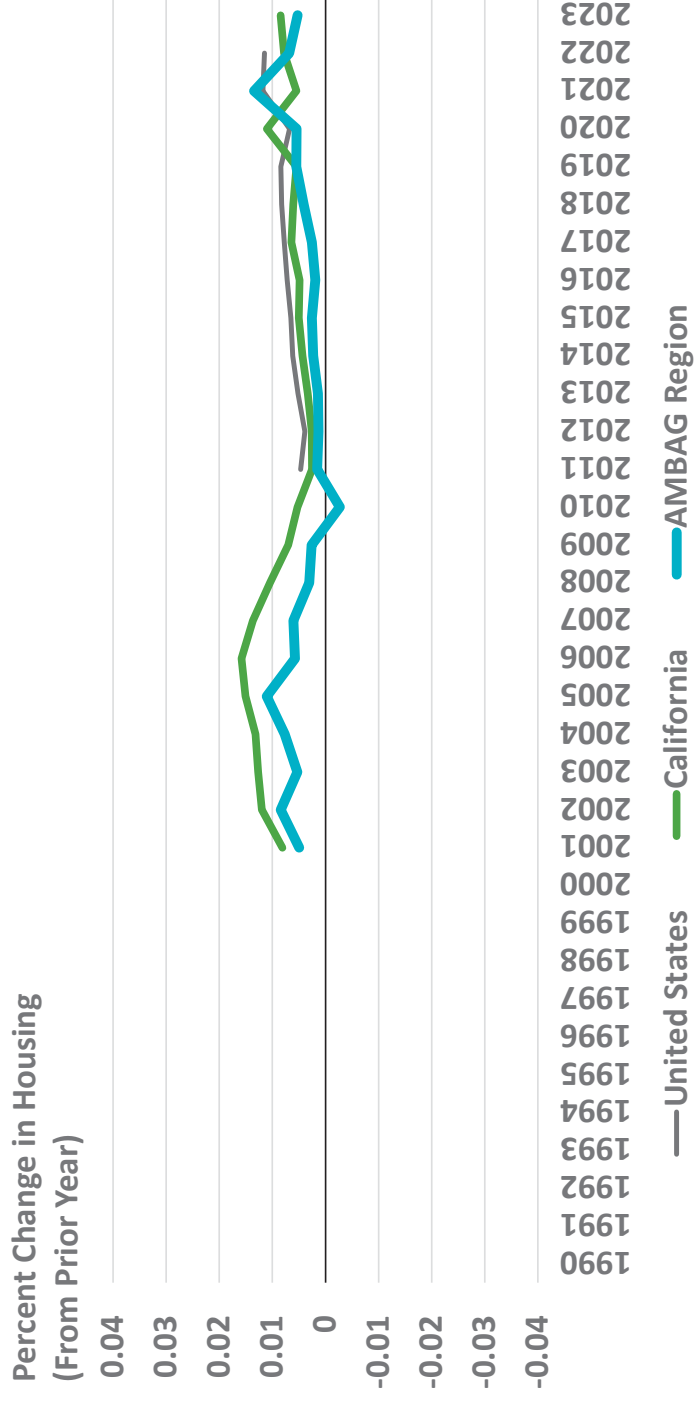
- 2020 base year, with latest info through 2022 where possible
 - Census
 - Jobs (2019 or 2022 for model calibration)
 - Housing
- Team is reviewing base year jurisdiction-level jobs data

Region and State Lost Population in Recent Years, But Pandemic-era Trends Are Easing



Sources: U.S. Census Bureau; California Department of Finance

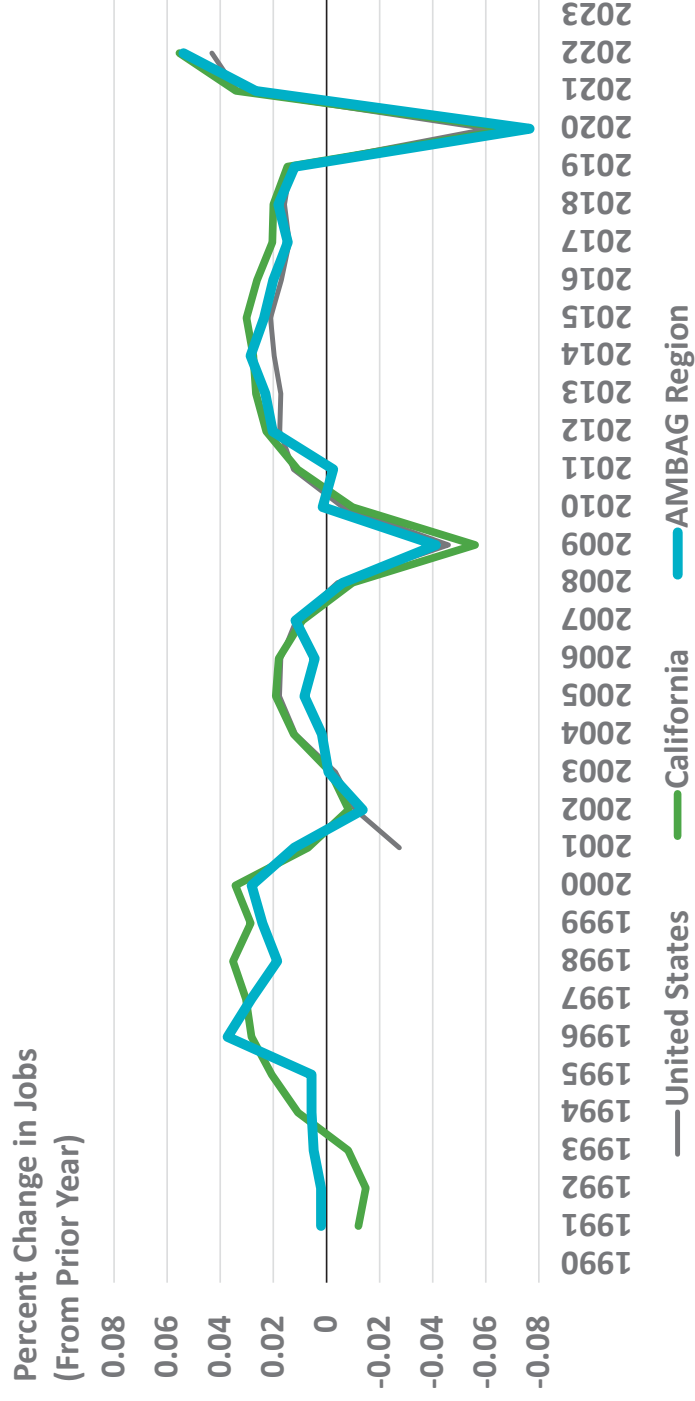
Strong Housing Growth in Recent Years, Despite Population Loss



Sources: U.S. Census Bureau; California Department of Finance



Strong Job Growth in Recent Years, Despite Population Loss



Sources: California Employment Development Department, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Expectations for the 2026 RGF

- Slow population growth
- Return to “normal” job growth
- Gradual easing of housing crisis

Input from Planning Directors Forum

- The three options to the Planning Directors Forum on July 31, 2023
- Many Planning Directors expressed support for Option 2 (Cohort Component Population Forecast Method)
 - Aligns AMBAG with other regional agencies
 - Provides the region with the most local input
 - Importance of linkages between population, jobs, and housing

Timeline

- Summer/early Fall 2023 – Select a method and produce preliminary draft forecast
- Fall 2023 – Complete draft regional growth forecast
- Early 2024 – Begin subregional allocation



Next Steps

- The AMBAG Board of Directors will be asked to select a methodology at its September 13, 2023 meeting
- A draft of the regional forecast will be ready for review and discussion in October 2023
- AMBAG will continue to work closely with local jurisdictions and gather information to ensure that the most current local data is incorporated into the forecast

Questions



Item #11C: Rural Regional Energy Network Update

Recommended Action: Information





Rural Regional Energy Network Update

AMBAG Board of Directors Meeting

August 9, 2023

Amaury Berteaud, Sustainability Program Manager





Background



- In California, every electricity bill contains a public goods charge. These are funds collected from ratepayers and used to implement public purpose programs.
- All ratepayer funded energy efficiency programs are overseen by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC). The goal of these programs is to reduce energy use so that costly power plants do not have to be built.
- In our region from 2006 to 2020, the AMBAG Energy Watch Program, a partnership between PG&E and AMBAG, provided rebates for energy efficiency projects as well as turnkey assistance to public agencies and small businesses.
- Since 2020, AMBAG has worked with jurisdictions to ensure access to PG&E programs. A number of jurisdictions have been able to electrify water heaters at no cost through these offerings.



California Public Utilities Commission & Regional Energy Networks



- Regional Energy Networks (RENs) were first envisioned as an innovative framework for local governments to design and administer energy efficiency programs.
- In 2012 the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) allowed two RENs to begin operations as pilot programs. The goal was for the RENs to serve customers not currently served by other energy efficiency programs.
- By launching new programs, RENs bring energy efficiency incentives and increased technical support to previously underserved communities.
- RENs are allowed to design innovative programs which focus on serving communities in ways traditional energy efficiency programs do not.



California Public Utilities Commission & Regional Energy Networks



- In 2018 and 2019, the CPUC issued decisions opening the way for the creation of new RENs and making the two pilot RENs permanent.
- In order to create a new REN a detailed business plan must be submitted to the CPUC and demonstrate how the new REN provides new and unique value towards meeting California's energy, climate, and equity goals.
- Since 2019, two new RENs have been formed and the process for creating new RENs is now well established.



- Since 2015 AMBAG has been collaborating with partners working on energy efficiency in other rural regions.

- The Rural and Hard to Reach Working Group (RHTR) participates in CPUC regulatory process to represent the rural regions of California.
- From 2019 to 2020 AMBAG worked with RHTR partners to explore the concept of serving rural customers with a REN.

- Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments
- High Sierra Energy Foundation
- Kern County
- Redwood Coast Energy Authority
- San Joaquin Valley Clean Energy Organization
- San Luis Obispo County
- Sierra Business Council
- Ventura County



RuralREN Development



- AMBAG first collaborated with RHTR partners to create a Memorandum of Understanding for the development of the RuralREN, which was approved by the AMBAG Board of directors on June 9, 2021.
- RHTR partners worked together to draft a business plan and portfolio application for the Rural Regional Energy Network.
- In March 2022, the Redwood Coast Energy Authority (RCEA) submitted a motion for the creation of the RuralREN as well as the RuralREN 2023-2031 strategic business plan and the RuralREN 2023-2027 Portfolio Application
- After submitting the motion, the partners engaged in the CPUC regulatory process, filing data requests, comments, reply comments, and hosting ex-parte meetings with CPUC commissioner staff.



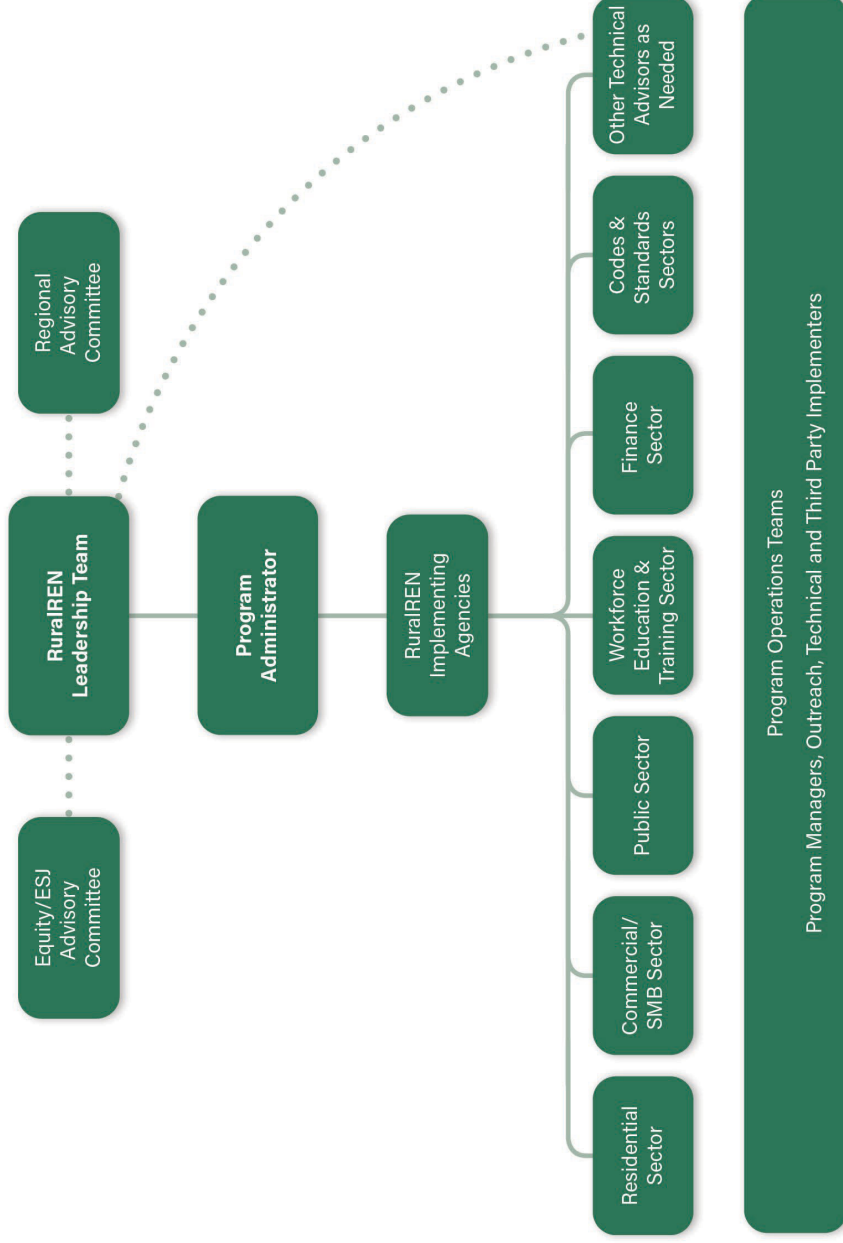
RuralREN Approval



- On June 29, 2023, the California Public Utilities Commission voted 5-0 to approve Decision D.23.06.055 which approved the 2024-2027 portfolio applications and 2024-2031 business plans for 10 portfolio administrators.
- The decision found that: “RCEA’s proposal for R-REN meets the criteria outlined in D.12-11-015 and D.19-12-021 and should be approved. R-REN’s program proposals, budgets, and funding authorizations in Table 6 are reasonable, in the public interest, and make a unique contribution to the state’s energy efficiency goals.”
- The decision approved the formation of the RuralREN with a 2024-2027 budget of \$84 million and an 2028-2031 preliminary budget of \$93 million.



RuralREN Governance Structure



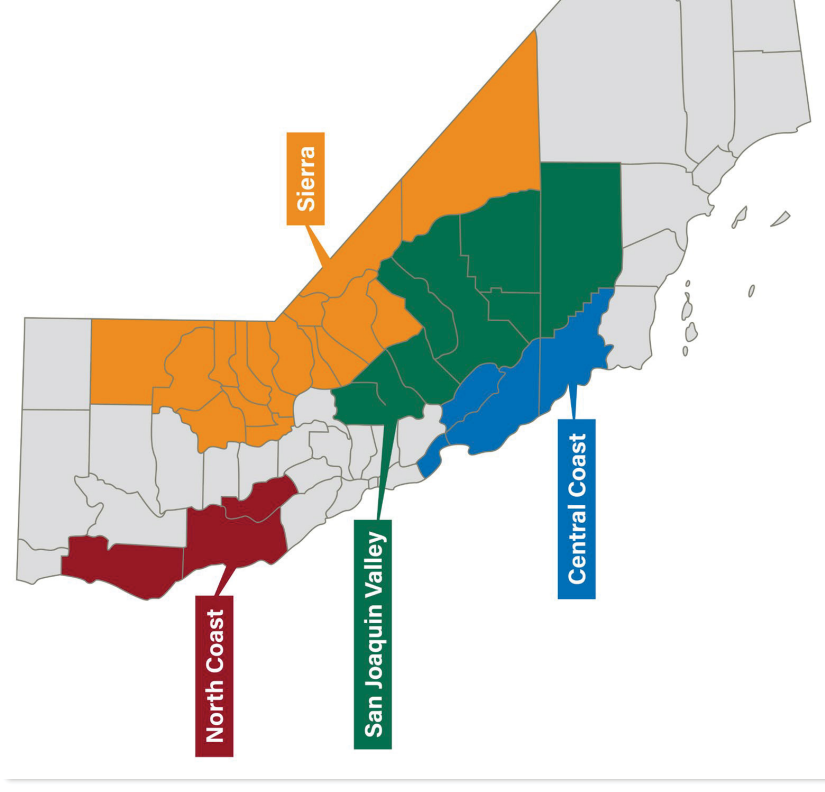


RuralREN Territory and Leadership



Leadership Team Members

- AMBAG
- County of San Luis Obispo
- County of Ventura
- High Sierra Energy Foundation
- Redwood Coast Energy Authority
- San Joaquin Valley Clean Energy Organization
- Sierra Business Council





RuralREN Implementation



- The RuralREN Leadership team, makes broad strategy decisions around 4-year portfolio applications and 8-year business plans.
- The program administrator for the RuralREN files regulatory submissions and reporting documents to the CPUC as well as provides RuralREN budget oversight.
- RuralREN implementing agencies work in their regions to implement programs, supported by consultants and contracted program implementation teams.
- Advisory committees provide input on existing programs, and community needs, to inform program improvements and new program development.



RuralREN Approved Budget

RuralREN Budget – Total Four-Year Portfolio					
Year	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total 2024-2027
Commercial	\$954,842	\$1,226,927	\$1,450,222	\$1,426,712	\$5,058,703
Residential	\$7,975,018	\$8,450,336	\$9,224,142	\$9,381,084	\$35,030,579
Public	\$578,553	\$581,413	\$534,954	\$534,522	\$2,229,442
Codes & Standards	\$1,442,036	\$1,498,271	\$1,620,119	\$1,736,439	\$6,296,865
Finance	\$3,695,941	\$3,889,106	\$3,406,666	\$3,167,551	\$14,159,264
WE&T	\$5,107,594	\$5,138,691	\$5,149,953	\$5,163,377	\$20,559,615
EMV	\$207,417	\$218,240	\$224,554	\$224,802	\$875,012
Total	\$19,961,401	\$21,002,983	\$21,610,610	\$21,634,486	\$84,209,480

RuralREN Budget – 2028-2031 business plan budget forecast				
Year	2028	2029	2030	2031
Total	\$ 22,266,164	\$ 22,939,821	\$ 23,619,033	\$ 24,328,149
				93,153,166



RuralREN Approved Programs

	Central Coast		North Coast		San Joaquin Valley		Sierra	
	AMBAG	SLO	RCEA		SJVCEO	HSEF	SBC	
Commercial RA			✓					✓
Residential RA			✓					✓
Public	✓		✓*					
Codes & Standards	✓		✓		✓	✓		✓
Finance	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓
WE&T	✓		✓		✓	✓		✓
Residential Equity	✓		✓		✓	✓		✓
*Lake and Mendocino counties only								



Public Equity Program



- Focus on serving public agencies in hard to reach, disadvantaged and, underserved communities.
- Provide complementary services to PG&E and 3CE programs to support jurisdictions, school districts. and special districts through the process of upgrading their facilities.
- Assist local agencies with identifying and accessing funding sources such as rebates, grants, and financing.



Codes and Standards Program



- Provide services to jurisdictions and contractors to better understand and implement the California building energy efficiency code (title 24).
- Organize Education and outreach activities such as virtual and in person regional forums.
- Provide on demand expert code support to resolve code questions.
- Provide reach code support and resources for jurisdictions.



Finance Equity Program



- Deploy an Energy efficiency bridge loan product to incentivize contractors to work in the RuralREN territory.
- Deploy an energy efficiency microloan product to support projects in hard to reach, underserved, and disadvantaged communities.
- Deploy a loan concierge service to help customers select the best financing and incentives for their project and assist with loan and incentive applications.



Workforce Education and Training Equity Program



- Deploy a Clean Energy Academy offering throughout the RuralREN territory with a combination of in-person and virtual training. The academy includes a job placement component to ensure outcomes after participation
- Deploy a Climate Careers offering to train youth to perform energy auditing activities in connection with the residential equity program, and encourage the creation of a local clean energy workforce
- Both the Clean Energy Academy and Climate Careers offerings will focus on serving hard to reach, underserved, and disadvantaged communities as well as disadvantaged workers.



Residential Equity Program



- Conduct Virtual energy efficiency, net zero energy, and carbon audits using an interactive modeling platform.
- Conduct In home energy audits with local program staff and climate career trainees.
- Provide energy efficiency opportunity awareness toolkits and energy efficiency reports.
- Focus on serving residents in hard to reach, disadvantaged and, underserved communities.



RuralREN Timeline and Next Steps



- RuralREN Partners are working to meet regulatory deadlines that were created as part of the CPUC approval decision.
- RuralREN Partners are identifying staffing and consultant support needed to ramp up capacity for program implementation.
- Contracting mechanisms for the Program Administrator receive CPUC funding and disburse funding to RuralREN partners are being drafted.
- RuralREN programs will launch in early 2024.



Questions?

Item #12: Adjournment

Next meeting: September 13, 2023