



California State Department of Finance  
 California State Department of Housing and Community Development  
 Association of Bay Area Governments

## Overview of the Regional Housing Need Determination, DOF Population Projections and Plan Bay Area Forecast

This document was prepared by the **California Housing and Community Development Department (HCD)**, the **California Department of Finance (DOF)**, and the **Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG)**. It provides key points regarding the differences across the Regional Housing Need Determination (RHND), the DOF Population Projections, and the Plan Bay Area Forecast as described by each of the responsible agencies. The chart below summarizes how the three efforts vary in purpose, methodology and timing.

	<b>RHND (Housing Need Projections)</b>	<b>DOF Population Projections</b>	<b>Plan Bay Area Population Forecast</b>
<b>Period Covered</b>	2014-2022 (8 years)	2010-2060 (50 years)	2010-2040 (30 years)
<b>Purpose</b>	Establish housing need for local housing elements	Project population by future fertility, mortality, and migration trends	Inform long term comprehensive regional strategies
<b>Release Date</b>	February 2012	January 2013	May 2012
<b>Growth</b>	187,990 housing units between 2014 and 2022	1.3 million people between 2010 and 2040	2.1 million people between 2010 and 2040

### Key Points

- HCD, DOF and ABAG agree that economic trends need to be addressed in Plan Bay Area. ABAG’s 2.1 million population growth projection is directly tied to employment growth.
- DOF’s 2013 projections do not take into account the high job, migration, and population growth from 2010 to 2012.
- The RHND was finalized in February 2012. It was based on the most current information available at the time. By statute, the RHND cannot be changed.
- DOF and the regional planning agencies are working toward better ways to incorporate job growth forecasts into the DOF migration assumptions. DOF acknowledges that ABAG employment methodology and its impact on migration is reasonable.
- The ABAG growth forecast for population relies on DOF assumptions about births and deaths, and the ethnic composition of the population. ABAG will share the job growth forecast and land use trends analysis with DOF for its next projections.

## **California Housing and Community Development Department (HCD): Regional Housing Need Determination (RHND) based on Population Projections**

In consultation with ABAG, HCD developed the RHND based on the partial availability of 2010 Census data, DOF 2011 interim population projections, and ABAG's draft forecast. It took into account the abnormally high vacancies and unique market conditions due to prolonged and atypical recessionary conditions and an unprecedented national foreclosure crisis.

The purpose of the RHND is to ensure the appropriate local planning for the supply and affordability of housing to meet the region's needs for its population and workers by income level. HCD finalized ABAG's regional housing need determination for the 2014-2022 projection period on February 24, 2012. There is no statutory provision authorizing HCD to amend a final RHND and/or change the RHND projection period.

## **California Department of Finance (DOF): 2013 Population Projections**

DOF uses a baseline cohort-component method to project population by age, gender, and race/ethnicity. The baseline projection recognizes people have the right to migrate where they choose and no major natural catastrophes or war will befall the state or the nation. The migration projections for the Bay Area were based primarily on the 2000-2010 period.

A cohort-component method is a demographic model that traces people born in a given year through their lives. As each year passes, cohorts change due to mortality and migration assumptions. Applying fertility assumptions to the women of childbearing age forms new cohorts.

The DOF population projections depict only one possible course of future population change, i.e., the one reflecting assumed trends in fertility, mortality, and migration. The model does not consider employment, which is a major driver of migration. Thus, it is not a forecast of the most likely outcome. These projections do not necessarily show what is most desirable but rather what can be reasonably expected if recent historical trends continue until the year 2060.

## **Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG): Plan Bay Area Forecast**

Job growth is the main determinant of population growth in the ABAG regional growth forecast as in all major regional forecast modeling in California and around the nation.<sup>1</sup> ABAG job growth to 2040 is estimated as a share of U.S. projected job growth, based on an assessment of regional competitiveness by major industry sectors.

ABAG projections use DOF fertility and mortality assumptions to determine the amount of natural increase in the population. Migration, rather than being tied to recent trends, is a function of job growth. The theory of deriving migration forecasts linked to job growth is that most migration is the result of people moving to regions where job growth exceeds the number of workers supplied by the local economy and vice versa. For the Bay Area, the best example is the large number of people who migrated to the region from other parts of the state, nation and world during the high-tech and dot.com boom of the late 1990s and the exodus out of the region in the years when job losses occurred after 2000 when the boom ended.

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<sup>1</sup> Population growth is tied to job growth in the regional projections produced by other regions (SCAG, SANDAG, SACOG, AMBAG, and SBCAG). In addition, job growth is the primary determinant of regional population growth in the models used by the three major national forecasting firms – IHS Global Insight, Regional Economic Models, Inc., and Moody's.