



To: RCRC Board of Directors
From: Maggie Chui, Governmental Affairs Coordinator
Paul A. Smith, Vice President Governmental Affairs
Date: January 8, 2019
Re: Recent Population Shifts in RCRC Counties - **Informational Item**

Summary

This memo highlights recent population changes in RCRC member counties, and other population changes over the past year.

Background

The California Department of Finance (DOF) tracks and provides estimates of California's population and breaks it down by county. This data is measured against prior years to provide growth projections, as well as anticipate various caseloads for state services. Since the last national census in April 2010, the state population has increased by 2.6 million people.

Issue

In December 2018, the DOF released their "California County Population Estimates and Components of Change." This document provides population changes between July 1, 2017, and July 1, 2018.

Based on the findings, California's population grew by 215,000 to a total of 39.8 million, which represents a growth rate increase of 0.54 percent. Leading the increase with the highest rates of growth are Amador¹, Del Norte², Kings, San Benito, Placer, and Merced Counties. Each of these counties had the largest percentage increases in population - growing by 1.50 percent or more.

Natural increase – births minus deaths – remains the primary source of California's population growth. California's inland counties had the highest population growth rates, urban coastal counties gained population at a slower pace, and smaller counties in more remote areas either lost population or grew very little.

Of importance to RCRC member counties are the following observations:

¹ A main contributor to the high population growth rates in Amador County was due to increases in group quarters population at the Mule Creek State Prison

² A main contributor to the high population growth rates in Del Norte County was due to increases in group quarters population at the Pelican Bay State Prison

- Thirteen RCRC member counties lost population in the past year. It should be noted that the decline in population in Napa and Sonoma Counties were mainly due to people moving after the wildfires of 2017;

COUNTY	JULY 2017	JULY 2018	TOTAL POPULATION Loss / %
Alpine	1,146	1,141	-5/-0.44%
Calaveras	44,656	44,637	-19/-0.04%
Humboldt	135,865	135,627	-238/-0.18%
Inyo	18,566	18,526	-40/-0.22%
Lassen	30,604	30,563	-41/-0.13%
Mariposa	17,992	17,918	-74/-0.41%
Mendocino	89,071	89,027	-44/-0.05%
Napa	141,205	140,491	-714/-0.51%
Plumas	19,550	19,517	-33/-0.17%
Siskiyou	44,240	44,082	-158/-0.36%
Sonoma	503,634	501,427	-2,207/-0.44%
Trinity	13,453	13,407	-46/-0.34%
Tuolumne	52,862	52,790	-72/-0.14%

- For the past seven consecutive years, six RCRC member counties have seen a decline in population;

COUNTY	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	TOTAL / %
Alpine	-4	-2	-3	-7	-3	-5	-5	-29/-2.47%
Calaveras	-103	-179	-103	-107	-144	-107	-19	-762/-1.67%
Mariposa	-17	-67	-22	-49	-20	-74	-74	-323/-1.77%
Plumas	-51	-110	-54	-88	-42	-40	-33	-418/-2.09%
Siskiyou	-24	-111	-41	-169	-122	-178	-158	-803/-1.79%
Trinity	-1	-46	-59	-70	-67	-36	-46	-325/-2.36%

- Out of the thirty-six RCRC member counties, eleven exceeded the statewide average growth rate of 0.54 percent: Amador (1.76%), Del Norte (1.73%), El Dorado (1.31%), Imperial (0.81%), Madera (0.86%), Merced (1.50%), Placer (1.58%), San Benito (1.61%), Tulare (0.95%), Yolo (0.82%), and Yuba (0.95%). Amador and Del Norte Counties ranked first and second for percentage change in the state, respectively;
- Although natural increase was a significant source of growth in the state, seventeen counties (all RCRC member counties) experienced natural decreases: Alpine, Amador, Butte, Calaveras, Del Norte, El Dorado, Humboldt, Inyo, Lake, Mariposa, Napa, Nevada, Plumas, San Luis Obispo, Shasta, Siskiyou, and Tuolumne Counties;
- The total aggregate population of the thirty-six RCRC member counties is 4,309,501, representing 10.82 percent of the state's population (as of July 1, 2018, the state had 39,825,181 residents); and,

- The majority of RCRC member counties are experiencing positive growth, but the rate of growth is significantly lower than the 0.54 percent being experienced by the state as a whole.

Staff Recommendation

Information Only.

Attachment

- Data from the Department of Finance