



**STAFF REPORT**  
Board Meeting of May 19, 2021

**AGENDA ITEM:** 4-E

**PREPARED BY:** Jeff Findley, Principal Regional Planner

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**SUBJECT:**

Comment Letter on Urban Areas for the 2020 Census – Proposed Criteria (Docket Number 210212-0021)

**Enclosure:** Yes

**Action:** Information and Discussion Only

**SUMMARY:**

On February 19, 2021, the Bureau of the Census (Census Bureau) requested public comment on the proposed criteria for defining urban areas based on the results of the 2020 Decennial Census. The Madera County Transportation Commission (MCTC) strongly recommends that the Census Bureau consider applying a methodology where local population characteristics are considered when designating urban areas, such as utilizing county level data for persons per household in identification of initial urban area cores. Generalizing population characteristics would be counterintuitive to the Census Bureau's goal of delivering quality data products. The methodology should be further explored with test results presented to stakeholders for better clarification. Additionally, the impacts of the pandemic should be carefully considered over the upcoming years as part of any new proposed methodology. The Census Bureau should re-examine its methodology considering COVID-19 impacts and extend the comment period to provide stakeholders more time to review any methodology and calculation methods when the 2020 data is made available.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

No fiscal impact to the approved 2020-21 Overall Work Program and Budget.