



STAFF REPORT
Board Meeting of March 17, 2021

AGENDA ITEM: 4-D

PREPARED BY: Jeff Findley, Principal Regional Planner

SUBJECT:

Letter of Opposition: Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Proposed Change to Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) Threshold

Enclosure: Yes

Action: Information and Discussion Only

SUMMARY:

The United States Office of Management and Budget (OMB) issued a Federal Register Notice on Recommendations from the Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Area Standards Review Committee to the Office of Management and Budget Concerning Changes to the 2010 Standards for Delineating Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas. The OMB is proposing to change the population threshold for MSAs from 50,000 to 100,000.

The Madera Region would no longer be considered an MSA and would drop in status to a Micropolitan Statistical Area. The proposed change may adversely impact the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) status for the Madera Region. Certain transportation funding, including transit may be in jeopardy due to a change in MSA status. The proposal would also adversely impact the funding for MPOs and transit providers in these other California counties (with MSA name): Butte (Chico), Kings (Hanford-Corcoran), San Luis Obispo (San Luis Obispo-Paso Robles) and Napa (Napa).

Real estate developers and industrial site selectors study population movement, spending patterns, unemployment rates, per capita income and housing patterns. MSA designations are often used as a benchmark in such studies. For job creation, industry recruitment and community identity, it is important that the Madera Region retain the MSA designation. The loss of the MSA designation could have a detrimental impact on growth and economic development throughout the entire Madera Region. The deadline to submit comments in March 19, 2021.

FISCAL IMPACT:

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