



May 9, 2010

Diana Hynek
Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer
Department of Commerce, Room 6616
14th and Constitution Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Ms. Hynek,

In response to the request for comments regarding the "Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; The American Community Survey" in Federal Register / Vol. 76, No. 46, the Demographic Research Unit (DRU) of the California Department of Finance strongly supports the continuation of the American Community Survey (ACS) and the recent proposal to increase its sample size to compensate for population growth.

The ACS is the primary source of current demographic, socioeconomic, and housing data for all geographic areas in California. These data are used in the continuous evaluation, testing, and improvement of DRU's population estimates and projections programs. The population data from these DRU programs are used by the State to develop budgets, allocate funds, plan infrastructure, and evaluate programs. The ACS data are also used by many state agencies and local jurisdictions for formulating and evaluating public policy, assessing program impacts, and distributing grant funding.

We support the ACS in its current framework, but we agree with the recent proposal to expand the ACS sample size in order to maintain data reliability and preserve the integrity of the survey vis-à-vis population and housing stock growth. The proposed increase in sample size would keep the sample size the same relative to the overall population.

Any reduction in the relative size of the ACS sample or the number of questions asked in the survey will greatly jeopardize the quality and usefulness of the data. We believe that the benefits to policymakers and data users of having timely and detailed data outweigh the time required for respondents to answer the ACS questionnaire and the overall costs of the collection of ACS data.

Thank you for affording us an opportunity to express our comments.

Sincerely,

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