

Appendix II-B: PSRC Guidance for Aligning Local Growth Targets with the Regional Growth Strategy

The PSRC offers the following guidance to counties and their cities as they work to align their local growth targets with the *Regional Growth Strategy*:

- PSRC recognizes that the path from now to 2040 is three decades long, and that the path to 2040 may not be linear. Jurisdictions in some regional geographies will likely be planning for targets that are above or below the policy direction set by the *Regional Growth Strategy* because they are on a front- or back-loaded growth trajectory toward 2040.
- However, in some regional geographies, recent growth has been at such significant odds with the policy direction set by the *Regional Growth Strategy* (i.e., recent growth from 2000 to 2007 has already accounted for more than half of the 40-year growth allocation), that the 2040 goal will likely not be met. In such cases, jurisdictions are asked to try their best to set any new targets as close to VISION 2040 as reasonably possible.
- In turn, the PSRC will remain flexible by recognizing good faith efforts in its review of targets as guidance for growth and comprehensive plans for consistency with the *Regional Growth Strategy* and VISION 2040 for those regional geographies. The PSRC will also provide guidance and technical assistance to counties and their cities as they work to prepare their targets and plan updates.
- In developing their comprehensive plan updates, jurisdictions will be asked to explain what steps they are taking to “bend the trend” of recent growth to align with the concepts in VISION 2040.
- PSRC’s review and certification of plans will be based on the actions and measures already taken or proposed to be put in place to bend the trend, and not just on an assessment of the targets alone. Jurisdictions whose growth targets are higher or lower than what would be expected from a straight-line application of the *Regional Growth Strategy*, should show the actions and measures that are being undertaken, or it expects to take, to bend the trend.
- Tracking the efforts by counties and their cities as they work to update their targets will help to identify the specific local challenges that may be faced in implementing the *Regional Growth Strategy*. Lessons learned as these processes move forward will be presented to the Regional Staff Committee and Growth Management Policy Board as progress reports for review and discussion.
- Lastly, PSRC will consider whether to revisit the allocations in the *Regional Growth Strategy* following local plans updates and also following target updates as required in the schedule provided in the Growth Management Act. In this way, the practical experiences of local jurisdictions gained from working with the current *Regional Growth Strategy* through upcoming updates can be brought to bear in making informed adjustments to the *Regional Growth Strategy*.