Spotlight – Center for Demographic Research, CSU Fullerton (from the September 2015 CSDC Network News)

The Center for Demographic Research (CDR) was established at California State University, Fullerton (CSUF) in 1996 to ensure that Orange County continued its strong tradition of a presence in the development and support of demographic information within the Southern California region. The primary goal of the CDR is to provide accurate and timely information regarding population, housing, and employment characteristics to public agencies, local jurisdictions and regional planning authorities, as well as to private citizens and businesses. The CDR's activities are located at CSUF, ensuring data consistency through the maintenance of a centralized data source of Orange County demographic characteristics. Academically, the CDR is housed within the College of Humanities and Social Sciences and operationally, the CDR is run as a research center within the Auxiliary Services Corporation (CSUF ASC). As a bridge between public and private agencies, the CDR fosters mutual cooperation and achievement of goals in an efficient, cost-effective manner. The CDR is a joint partnership between the County of Orange, the Orange County Council of Governments, the Orange County Sanitation District, the Transportation Corridor Agencies, the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA), the Municipal Water District of Orange County, the Orange County Water District, the Orange County Local Agency Formation Commission, the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG), and California State University, Fullerton.

CDR staff pictured from left to right, top to bottom: Deborah Diep, Kathy Rinos, Ruby Zaman, Ian Boles, Scott Martin, Elizabeth Agredano, Claudia Garcia, Sandra Sandoval

The CDR produces several products under its annual work program funded by its sponsors, utilizing a wide variety of data including key sources such as the U.S. Census Bureau and State Department of Finance. The Orange County Progress Report is published annually by the center. This 200-page document is a comprehensive compilation of data about Orange County. Some of the more important information is a social and economic profile of the county, each city, and the unincorporated communities, as well as sections devoted to population and economic trends in Orange County.

The Orange County Projections (OCP) series was developed to provide county agencies and departments with a consistent set of projections of population, housing and employment for use in their operations and planning activities. The uses and applications have expanded over time and the OCP is now used by numerous private and public agencies for planning Orange County's future. Some applications include forecasting traffic demand; sewer demand; water

demand; public service needs such as fire, police, social, and health; pollution from mobile sources; and revenues.

In addition, the requirements for local and regional planning efforts such as Transportation and Infrastructure planning, Congestion Management, Air Quality Management, Integrated Waste Management and Growth Management, have all emphasized the importance of an accurate, uniform set of projections for use by all jurisdictions, agencies and programs. The OCP is used as the official growth forecast for countywide, area-wide and regional planning purposes, including SCAG's Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy growth forecasts, which are used in Environmental Impact Reports and transportation planning. After receiving an invitation from the State to join the SDC, the CDR and its sponsoring agencies recognized the natural fit as an affiliate office since the responsibilities were services CDR already provided. The CDR officially joined the SDC network in May 2015.