Spotlight – Sacramento Area Council of Governments (from the July 2011 CSDC Network News)

The Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG) is a Metropolitan Planning Organization that serves as the Regional Census Data Center for the six-county Sacramento Region. As an association of local governments, its members include the counties of El Dorado, Placer, Sacramento, Sutter, Yolo and Yuba as well as 22 cities within those counties.

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SACOG was originally established as the Sacramento Regional Area Planning Commission (SRAPC) in 1963 and transitioned to SACOG in 1980. The organization provides transportation planning and funding for the region and serves as a forum for the study and resolution of regional issues. In addition to preparing the region's long-range transportation plan, SACOG approves the distribution of affordable housing in the region and assists in planning for transit, bicycle networks, clean air and airport land uses. Notable projects over the last decade include the Sacramento Region Blueprint and the Rural Urban Connections Strategy (RUCS). The Blueprint originally began in 2002 and, through tremendous outreach and interactive workshops, engaged thousands of local area stakeholders into the process of linking land use and transportation planning to address quality of life issues. In the same way that the Blueprint is an economic development strategy for urban areas, the RUCS project is an economic and environmental sustainability strategy for rural areas. Renowned for their work in regional collaboration, SACOG launched the RUCS project in early 2008. RUCS looks at the region's growth and sustainability objectives from a rural perspective.

SACOG was one of the original affiliates of the SDC network. From 1978 to 2001, Bob Faseler was the manager of the data center, followed by Gillian Biedler from 2001-2005. Tina Glover (Demographer/Research Analyst) has managed the data center since 2005, with the assistance of a variety of long-term interns and now with the assistance of Laura Bell (GIS Analyst).

Although data requests requiring various census data make up more than half of the data center's requests, SACOG also fills special requests on an array of other data topics. Most requests require the use of government statistical data sources: federal, state, and local.