Subcommittee on Long-Term Regional Planning Processes and Business Modeling

CAMP4W Task Force – Service Area Population Data

Item 3c

August 28, 2024

Population as a Driver of Change for Water Reliability

- Population growth is a primary driver of water demand
- Past IRPs had used a single demographic scenario based on official regional growth forecasts
  - Past projections have proved to be inaccurate when used as predictions
  - Metropolitan moved towards capturing uncertainty under a range of plausible outcomes
  - For planning, understanding the consequences under a range of outcomes is more useful than relying on a single prediction
- The 2020 IRP Needs Assessment used a dual set of customized demographic growth projections for use in scenario planning
  1. High Growth projection
  2. Low Growth projection

Population Data Sources

Historical

CA Department of Finance

- Annual population estimates
- Subject to revision

Census

- Decennial years (e.g. 2000, 2010, 2020)

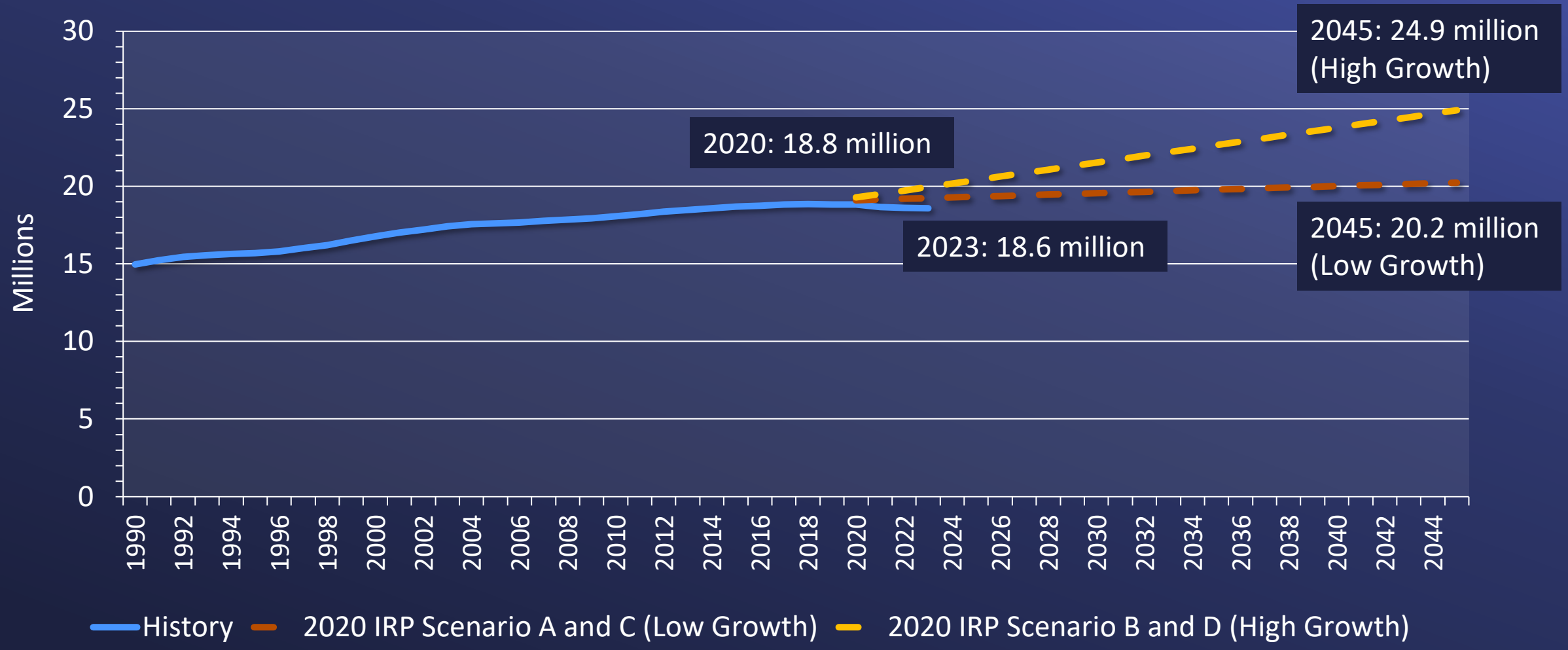
Projections

- **Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG)**
  - Every 4 years
  - RTP 24 adopted April 2024
- **San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG)**
  - Every 4 years
  - Draft 2025 Regional Plan to be adopted in 2025
- **Center for Continuing Study of the California Economy (CCSCE)**
  - Scenarios for 2020 IRP Needs Assessment
  - Demographic projection in May 2021

2020 IRP Scenario Demographic Growth Projections

- CCSCE considered 3 main drivers for population growth in Metropolitan's service area:
  - Immigration
  - Competitiveness for jobs
  - Housing availability
- CCSCE developed 2 demographic growth projections for the IRP scenarios:
  - Low growth projection
    - Assumed that a continuation of the relatively low levels of immigration seen in recent years (applied to 2020 IRP Scenarios A and C)
  - High growth projection
    - Assumed a significant increase in immigration, prompted by aging of the U.S. population (applied to 2020 IRP Scenarios B and D)

Population in Metropolitan's Service Area:
Historical and 2020 IRP Projections



Understanding Population Estimates and Projections in the Context of Long-Term Planning

- Historical population estimates are provisional and subject to revision
  - Uncertainties accumulate over time as new annual estimates move further from the last Census count
  - With each Census, DOF recalibrates population models to the new Census and revises estimates for the years going back to the previous Census
  - Recalibration can result in significant changes
- Newer projections from SCAG and SANDAG do not invalidate the 2020 IRP's scenarios for high and low population growth
  - Under scenario planning, exact projections are less important than an examination of assumptions for the drivers of population growth
  - Staff will explore SCAG and SANDAG's latest assumptions for insights into refinements for the scenarios

Discussion


THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
1928