



May 17, 2016

Kimberly L. Leonard  
Committee Liaison Officer  
National Advisory Committee on Racial, Ethnic and Other Populations  
Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census  
Room 8H179, 4600 Silver Hill Road  
Washington, DC 20233.

Re: May 2016 NAC Meeting Comment

Dear Members of the National Advisory Committee:

The Pueblo of Laguna appreciates the opportunity to comment on the topics to be discussed at the National Advisory Committee's May 26-27, 2016 meeting.

The Pueblo of Laguna participated in the Census Bureau's consultation process for the 2020 Census, and expressed concern about the proposed method of self-response. The proposed approach relies on mailing invitations and postcards to each household asking them to complete the questionnaire on the internet. This approach is not an acceptable data collection method on the Pueblo of Laguna's lands because it cannot accurately determine the location of homes being surveyed. There is no house-to-house U.S. Postal Service mail delivery at the Pueblo, nor is there a list that matches mailing addresses to physical addresses. The Pueblo does have official physical addresses, but many households still regularly refer to other types of addresses, such as Housing and Urban Development subdivision house numbers, and may not be able to easily provide their official physical address. Therefore, no method that relies entirely on self-response could ensure correct information regarding physical addresses on the Pueblo of Laguna's lands. This geographic information is critical to the validity of the U.S. Census and to the usefulness of the data nationally and locally.

The Pueblo has also commented to Ms. Dee Alexander, Intergovernmental Tribal Affairs Specialist with the Census Bureau, regarding the proposed tribal enrollment question for an upcoming census test. The Pueblo of Laguna believes that the U.S. Census should not ask questions regarding tribal enrollment. Census data on this topic will most likely not match tribal data, which could lead to disputes. Federal agencies should obtain enrollment data directly from tribal governments as needed.

Finally, the Pueblo wishes to comment on the American Community Survey (ACS). The sample sizes in small communities, such as the Pueblo of Laguna and its six villages, do not provide accurate data. Results are often meaningless in statistical terms. For example, in the Laguna Census Designated Place, which is roughly comparable to the Village of Laguna, according to 2010-2014 ACS data, the unemployment rate is 31.2% +/- 13.2%. The population employed in "professional, scientific, and management. . ." fields is 1.0% +/- 2.2%, leading to a range between -1.2% and 3.2%, which is not possible. We request that the Census Bureau continue to increase the sample sizes in small communities, to provide the valid data that is necessary for community and economic planning.

If you have any questions regarding these comments, please contact Dr. Sharon Hausam, Planning Program Manager, at [shausam@lagunapueblo-nsn.gov](mailto:shausam@lagunapueblo-nsn.gov) or (505) 552-1204. Thank you.

Sincerely,

PUEBLO OF LAGUNA



Virgil A. Siow  
Governor

Cc: Amadeo Shije, U.S. Census Bureau, Denver Regional Office  
Jim Hooper, Jr., Chief of Operations  
Jaye Chissoe, Administrative Services Director  
Sharon Hausam, Planning Program Manager  
Lorraine Alonzo, Enrollment Manager  
Ethel Abeita, Government Affairs Director  
James Burson, In-House Counsel