Premier Thoughts: The CSUB Business Blog

Demographic Shifts in California and Bakersfield

California is expected to add 4.3 million people by 2020. While this increase is short of the pre-recession projection of 6.8 million, it is still a significant gain of 11.5 percent.

Meanwhile, the Bakersfield metropolitan area is projected to grow 20 percent for more than 100,000 new residents. It sounds like a lot, and it is, but it is merely one-half the rate of growth we experienced over the last decade.
Now, let us do the math. As of the beginning of 2011, population of the Bakersfield metropolitan area stood at 508,100 with 351,443 of them living within the city limits. This number makes our metro area the 63rd largest in the country. Add 20 percent and that grows Bakersfield’s metro area by more than 101,000 people and our city by 70,000 residents. All these people would require more goods and services, housing, improved infrastructure, accommodating business services, and expanded government services in living their lives. That’s a lot of multiplier effect.

Currently, Bakersfield’s average household size is 3.12 people, meaning metro Bakersfield will require some 32,400 additional housing units over the next eight years, while the city itself will require 22,400 additional housing units. Entering 2011, the city had 9,642 vacant housing units available. Bakersfield would also need a lot more commercial and industrial real estate units to accommodate the projected population growth.

Source:
California Department of Finance, Reports and Periodicals, http://www.dof.ca.gov/reports_and_periodicals/