

Chapter 5 Growth Inducement Effects

This section presents potential growth inducement effects of the PWIMP or Proposed Program/Project. The scope of the analysis and key attributes of the analytical approach are presented below to assist readers in understanding the manner in which the impact analyses have been conducted in this Program EIR.

5.1 Determination of Growth Inducement Effects

Section 15126.2(d) of the CEQA Guidelines requires that an EIR discuss “the ways in which the proposed project could foster economic or population growth, or the construction of additional housing, either directly or indirectly, in the surrounding environment. This discussion should include an analysis of how the proposed project might remove barriers to population growth and characteristics of the project that might encourage and facilitate other activities that could significantly affect the environment, either individually or cumulatively. (CEQA Guidelines §15126.2(d)). In discussing potential growth, it should not be assumed that growth in any area is necessarily beneficial, detrimental, or of little significance to the environment.

Case law interpreting section 15126.2(d) of the CEQA Guidelines suggests that a program EIR is not required to make a detailed analysis of the project's impacts on growth. (*Napa Citizens for Honest Government v. Napa County Bd. of Supervisors* (2001) 91 Cal.App.4th 342, 369.) “Nothing in the Guidelines, or in the cases, requires more than a general analysis of projected growth.” (*Id.*) Nonetheless, a general discussion and analysis is important to fully informing the decision makers and the public regarding the potential impacts of a project (*Laurel Heights II* (1993) 6 Cal. 4th. 1112.).

Growth can potentially impact the environment in a variety of ways. These impacts may include the following:

- Increasing pressure to convert agricultural resources to residential and commercial uses;
- Reducing air quality due to increased traffic, use of fireplaces etc.;
- Harm to biological resources due to increasing pressure to develop habitat;
- Hydrology/water quality impacts due to increases in impervious surface and sources of pollutants
- Land use planning impacts;
- Population/housing;
- Public services impacts due to increased demand;
- Transportation/traffic impacts; and/or
- Utilities/service systems impacts

However, many of these potential impacts of growth can be avoided or minimized by through good land use planning practices.

5.2 Assessment Methods and Conclusions

The main objective of the PWIMP is to make significant improvements to the City’s water related utilities

including the City's water, wastewater, recycled water, and stormwater systems in order to meet current demand and planned growth as identified in the City's 2030 General Plan which was approved by the City Council in 2011. The potential indirect and direct growth inducement effects are discussed below.

Indirect Growth Inducement Potential Effects. The General Plan EIR identified several significant unavoidable impacts associated with the implementation of the 2030 General Plan, which include significant unavoidable impacts to agricultural resources, air quality, noise, and traffic and transportation. As a result, implementation of the PWIMP could be considered to have indirect growth inducing effects as it would remove a barrier to growth by providing improved water supplies and utilities to support the current, planned, and 2030 growth. In as such, it would then be reasonable conclude that the implementation of the PWIMP would contribute to the same indirect significant and unavoidable growth inducing impacts as identified in the 2030 General Plan EIR. These include, but not limited to, the following:

- Lack of transportation facilities for the population to travel between their place of employment, recreational facilities, service facilities, shopping and their homes;
- Lack of educational facilities including elementary and high school facilities, secondary education facilities, and vocational institutions;
- Employment patterns such as high unemployment or limited employment opportunities within the region;
- Availability of housing to accommodate all income categories;
- Availability of wastewater treatment capacity;
- Availability of emergency services such as police, fire, and medical facilities;
- Availability of electricity; and/or
- Availability of water supply and distribution.

Water availability removes a barrier to growth. However, it is but one of many such barriers, all of which combine to control where and to what extent growth occurs.

Direct Growth Inducement Potential Effects. The PWIMP does not directly create or induce growth in the Oxnard area because it does not provide a significant number of additional permanent jobs nor does it approve land development. Only the City or the County, through their general planning, zoning and permitting authority can directly induce growth. Therefore, the PWIMP, in and of itself, does not directly effect or foster growth in the surrounding environment.