

CHAPTER 5

Growth Inducement

The *CEQA Guidelines* (§15126.2(d)) require that an EIR evaluate the growth inducing impacts of a proposed action. A growth-inducing impact is defined as follows:

[T]he way in which a proposed project could foster economic or population growth, or the construction of additional housing, either directly or indirectly, in the surrounding environment. Included in this are [public works] projects which would remove obstacles to population growth.... It must not be assumed that growth in any area is necessarily beneficial, detrimental, or of little significance to the environment.

A project can have direct and/or indirect growth inducement potential. Direct growth would result if a project, for example, involved construction of new housing. A project would have indirect growth inducement potential if it established substantial new permanent employment opportunities (e.g., commercial, industrial or governmental enterprises) or if it would involve a substantial construction effort with substantial short-term employment opportunities and indirectly stimulate the need for additional housing and services to support the new employment demand. Similarly, a project would indirectly induce growth if it would remove an obstacle to additional growth and development, such as removing a constraint on a required public service.

The environmental effects of a proposed project's induced growth are secondary or indirect impacts. Secondary effects of growth can result in significant increased demand on community and public service infrastructure; increased traffic and noise; degradation of air and water quality; and conversion of agricultural land to urban uses.

The objectives of the proposed project are essentially to upgrade the existing infrastructure to meet current seismic standards and restore public safety while maintaining the beneficial uses of the Lake Perris SRA. Implementation of the proposed project would allow DWR to continue the safe operation of Perris Dam and Lake Perris at the pre-drawdown reservoir level. This project purpose and implementation of the proposed project would have no potential to directly foster population growth or to result in the construction of additional housing.

Project construction is not expected to involve employment opportunities substantially beyond the level normally available to construction workers in the area, and, in general, workers are expected to be drawn from the local labor pool. The project may require a limited amount of accommodations for construction workers during construction. However, this impact would be less than significant due to the available rental housing that exists in the area relative to the potential temporary increase in demand.

The proposed project would restore Lake Perris to its pre-drawdown level, which would not expand the local water supply. Lake Perris was designed to have an operating volume of 127,000 acre-feet and the proposed project would not result in an expansion of the lake beyond the pre-drawdown capacity. Without expanding the water supply, the proposed project has no potential to directly foster population growth.