

CHAPTER 5

Growth Inducement

5.1 Introduction

The *California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines* (§15126.2(d)) require that an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) evaluate the growth inducing impacts of a proposed action. Section 15126.2(d) calls for the EIR to:

Discuss the 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 projects which would remove obstacles to population growth (a major expansion of a wastewater treatment plant might, for example, allow for more construction in service areas). Increases in the population may tax existing community service facilities, requiring construction of new facilities that could cause significant environmental effects. Also discuss the characteristic of some projects which may encourage and facilitate other activities that could significantly affect the environment, either individually or cumulatively. 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 involved construction of new housing. A project can have indirect growth inducement if it would establish 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. A project would also have an indirect growth inducement effect if it would remove an obstacle to additional growth and development, such as removing a constraint on a required public service.

Based on the CEQA definition above, assessing the growth-inducement potential of the North Los Angeles/Kern County Recycled Water Project (proposed project) involves answering the question: “Will implementation of the proposed project directly or indirectly support economic expansion, population growth, or residential construction?” Water supply is one of the chief, though not the only, public services needed to support urban development. A water service capacity deficiency could constrain future development, particularly if coupled with strong community policy. Adequate water supply, treatment, and conveyance would play a role in supporting additional growth in the Antelope Valley, but it would not be the single impetus to such growth. Factors such as the General Plans and policies of the cities and counties and/or the availability of wastewater disposal capacity, public schools, and transportation services also

influence business and residential or population growth in the planning area. Economic factors, in particular, greatly affect development rates and locations.

5.2 Methodology

Growth inducement may result in adverse impacts if the growth is not consistent with the land use plans and growth management plans and policies for the area affected. Local land use plans provide for land use development patterns and growth policies that allow for the orderly expansion of urban development supported by adequate urban public services, such as water supply, roadway infrastructure, sewer service and solid waste service. This development may have environmental impacts, as identified in CEQA documents prepared for adoption of local land use plans. A project that would induce “disorderly” growth that is in conflict with local land use plans could indirectly cause additional adverse environmental impacts and impacts to other public services. Thus, it is important to assess the degree to which the growth accommodated by a project would or would not be consistent with applicable land use plans.

To determine direct growth inducement potential, the proposed project was evaluated to verify whether an increase in population or employment, or the construction of new housing would occur as a direct result of the project. If either of these scenarios occurred, the proposed project could result in direct growth-inducement within the Antelope Valley.

To determine indirect growth inducement potential, the proposed project was reviewed to ascertain whether it would remove an obstacle to additional growth and development, such as removing a constraint on a required public service. In order to assess this, the proposed project was reviewed in relation to population projections developed by the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG, 2004) and buildout under the approved General Plans. While growth may be consistent with local planning policies, it may still promote secondary effects to the local environment. Secondary effects of growth include increased demand on other community and public services and infrastructure, increased traffic and noise, degradation of air and water quality, degradation or loss of plant and animal habitats, and conversion of agricultural and open space land to developed uses. To determine the secondary effects of growth, the city and county General Plan EIRs were reviewed to determine if any secondary effects of planned growth were identified and if any secondary effects were considered significant and unavoidable impacts.

5.3 Population Projections

5.3.1 SCAG Projections

The Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) analyzes demographic data and makes population projections as part of the published *City Projections 2004* (SCAG, 2004). The SCAG projections assume that growth potential is not constrained by a lack of public services. As such, the population estimates are not target levels, but rather reasonably foreseeable levels, based on the current trends.

SCAG has projected population and the number of households within the City of Lancaster and the City of Palmdale. **Table 5-1** shows the projected population and number of households for each of these regions from the census year 2005 to the year 2030.

**TABLE 5-1
SCAG PROJECTIONS 2004**

Location	2005	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030	Change 2005–2030
City of Lancaster							
Population	142,043	168,032	191,912	215,468	238,048	259,696	117,653
Households	42,673	51,418	58,980	66,591	74,058	81,403	38,730
City of Palmdale							
Population	145,995	176,506	218,387	259,712	299,324	337,314	191,319
Households	39,553	48,628	58,702	68,847	78,812	88,623	49,070

SOURCE: SCAG, 2004.

5.3.2 Antelope Valley IRWMP Projections

The *Antelope Valley Integrated Regional Water Management Plan* (IRWMP) provides population projections for the Antelope Valley region as shown in **Table 5-2**. (RWMG, 2007) Projections for the Town of Rosamond are based on the upcoming Rosamond Specific Plan that is currently being developed by Kern County Planning Department. The Rosamond Specific Plan will replace and combine the former Rosamond and Willow Springs Specific Plans.¹ Projections for the unincorporated areas are estimated based on the assumption that the Antelope Valley region has similar annual growth rates as the City of Lancaster. As in Table 5-1, projections for the cities of Lancaster and Palmdale are based on SCAG *City Projections 2004*.

5.4 Water Demand Projections

5.4.1 Antelope Valley UWMP Projections

The Antelope Valley Urban Water Management Plan is an integrated plan that includes the Los Angeles County Waterworks District No. 40, Antelope Valley, Rosamond Community Services District, Quartz Hill Water District, and the Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts (Kennedy/Jenks, 2005). Water demand projections for the study area are provided in **Table 5-3**. The projections are based on each water purveyor's average water use per person and SCAG's 2004 *City Projections*. Total combined water demand in the area through 2030 is estimated at 169,030 afy. Water sources in the service area include local groundwater, imported water from

¹ Personal communication, Claud Seal, RCSD, June 9, 2008.

**TABLE 5-2
POPULATION PROJECTIONS**

Location	1990 ⁴	2000	2005	2015	2035
City of Lancaster ¹	98,000	113,000	142,000	192,000	283,000
City of Palmdale ¹	67,000	96,000	146,000	218,000	380,000
Town of Rosamond ²	9,898	14,350	16,710	18,166	23,164
Unincorporated Los Angeles County ³	69,000	88,000	100,000	129,000	215,000
Unincorporated Kern County ³	8,000	12,000	16,000	29,000	103,000
Total	251,000	324,000	425,000	607,000	1,118,000

SOURCES: Antelope Valley 2007 Integrated Regional Water Management Plan.

1: 2004 City Projections

2: Projections from draft Rosamond Specific Plan currently in progress. Personal communication, Claud Seal, RCSD, June 9, 2008.

3: Projections assume the Antelope Valley region would have a similar annual growth as the City of Lancaster, estimated as approximately 2.6 percent from SCAG projections.

4: Based on Geolytics Normalization of Past U.S. Census Tract Data to 2000 Census Tract Boundaries.

**TABLE 5-3
WATER DEMAND PROJECTIONS (AF)**

	2005	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030
District No. 40	58,525	74,884	90,735	106,299	120,762	134,565
Quartz Hill	5,469	6,345	7,360	8,537	9,903	11,488
Rosamond	2,954	4,742	7,036	10,438	15,487	22,977
Subtotal	66,948	85,971	105,130	125,274	146,152	169,030

SOURCE: Table 4-5 in 2005 Integrated Urban Water Management Plan for the Antelope Valley, Kennedy/Jenks, 2005.

the State Water Project, surface water from Littlerock Creek, and recycled water. The proposed project would support the use of recycled water for various end uses, reducing regional demand on imported and local potable water supplies.

5.4.2 Palmdale Water District 2005 UWMP

Palmdale Water District's 2005 Urban Water Management Plan provides demand projections for its service area. Projections were derived based on calibration between future trends in population and proposed land use development. **Table 5-4** presents the demand projections in gallons per day (gpd) and a calculated conversion to afy.

**TABLE 5-4
PALMDALE WATER DISTRICT DEMAND PROJECTIONS (GPD AND AF)**

	2005	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030
Gallons Per Day (gpd)	23,012,320	27,708,657	35,323,111	43,368,976	48,304,729	53,425,941
Acre Feet Per Year (afy)	25,776	31,035	39,566	48,577	54,107	59,841

5.5 Growth Inducement Potential

The proposed project would expand the recycled water system in the Antelope Valley to meet current and future recycled water demands. Recycled water uses include, but are not limited to, landscape irrigation of parks, recreation areas, greenbelts, schoolyards, and highway medians, as well as agricultural irrigation, industrial uses, and groundwater recharge. Because the proposed project is limited to the provision of water supply infrastructure, as opposed to housing and commercial development that would directly affect the number of residents or employees within the area, the proposed project would not directly contribute to the creation of additional housing or jobs within the Antelope Valley and thus would not result in direct growth inducement.

To determine indirect growth inducement potential, the proposed project was reviewed to ascertain whether it would remove an obstacle to additional growth and development, such as removing a constraint on a required public service. The proposed project would reduce the area's existing and future demand for imported water through recycling. The imported water conserved through implementation of the proposed project would be available to serve potable water demands of planned growth. The Antelope Valley IRWMP expects population to increase by 245 percent of year 2000 levels by the year 2030. The Antelope Valley Regional Urban Water Management Plan (RUWMP) acknowledges the region's growth predictions and accounts for the water demand in its regional future demand projections. The Antelope Valley RUWMP projects that eight percent of the water demand in 2030 would be met with recycled water, although substantially more would be available as additional end use demand develops. The proposed project would not directly or indirectly induce growth or remove an obstacle to growth, since the increased population would occur in any case based on the cities' and counties' approved build-out and growth control policies. The recycled water that would be made available as a result of the proposed project would be used to meet a small percentage of projected demand in 2030 that would otherwise be met with imported water.

5.6 Secondary Effects of Growth

Implementation of the proposed project would not result in a direct or indirect increase in population or employment. The proposed project therefore is not growth inducing and would not induce secondary effects of growth. Some potentially adverse secondary effects would result from development of planned land uses in the project area from implementation of the City of Palmdale General Plan and the City of Lancaster General Plan. Effects which have been identified as significant and unavoidable are impacts to water consumption, surface water and groundwater levels and flow, water quality, biological resources, population growth, housing, and traffic and circulation. The proposed project would not cause additional secondary effects beyond those identified in the general plan EIRs, which have been adopted and approved with the local lead agency adopting a statement of overriding consideration for these significant unavoidable effects.

