

PART E. ADDITIONAL LONG-TERM IMPLICATIONS

E.1 RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SHORT-TERM USES AND LONG-TERM PRODUCTIVITY OF THE ENVIRONMENT

CEQA Guidelines, Section 15126(e) states that special attention is to be given to effects which narrow the range of beneficial uses of the environment or pose long-term risks to health and safety. In addition, the reasons why the SFPP believes the proposed project is justified now, rather than reserving an option for further alternatives, should be explained.

The Carson to Norwalk Pipeline Project involves installation and operation of a below-ground petroleum products pipeline with an indefinite life expectancy assuming regular maintenance and repairs. Because most of the proposed pipeline route is located within existing road ROWs, the pipeline is not expected to restrict existing or future land uses in the pipeline's vicinity. The operation of the pipeline would, however, present long-term risks by exposing the public and the environment to an additional potential source of petroleum-related accidents. This risk would be reduced to the maximum extent feasible through pipeline design, special operating procedures, and detailed emergency response plans.

SFPP claims that construction of the proposed pipeline is justified now because of the anticipated increase in demand for petroleum products in Nevada, Arizona, and the California Inland Empire. Given the fact that pipelines are the environmentally preferred mode of oil transportation relative to truck shipment, postponement of this pipeline project would not likely result in the development of a superior method of transporting products to their ultimate markets.

E.2 SIGNIFICANT IRREVERSIBLE ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGES

Pursuant to Section 15126(f) of the CEQA Guidelines, significant irreversible environmental changes may include the following:

- Uses of non-renewable resources during the initial and continued phases of the project which would be irreversible because a large commitment of such resources makes removal or non-use thereafter unlikely;
- Primary impacts and, particularly, secondary impacts which commit future generations to similar uses (such as a highway improvement that provides access to a previously inaccessible area); and
- Irreversible damage which may result from environmental accidents associated with the Project.

Construction of the Carson to Norwalk Pipeline would require an irretrievable commitment of natural resources from direct consumption of fossil fuels, construction materials, and energy required for the production of materials. During the operational phase of the pipeline, the project would allow for the transport of additional non-renewable resources, i.e., petroleum products, although the project itself would not utilize significant amounts of non-renewable resources. Although the project would allow for shipment of non-renewable petroleum resources, these resources would be exploited and expended now and in the

near future regardless of the proposed project. This is due to the fact that production and refining of petroleum has been approved by permitting agencies and is underway. With or without the proposed project, crude oil will be produced in over the next few years, the produced oil will be transported to refineries, the oil will ultimately be refined and distributed to user markets. Therefore, the pipeline does not commit future use of petroleum products. Instead, it facilitates the movement of the refined crude oil resource.

With regard to irreversible damage, the potential exists for accidental pipeline leak or rupture (see Section C.11, System Safety). An accidental pipeline rupture could result in impacts on public health and safety and/or affect various environmental resources. Resource impacts could include property damage or injury from fire or explosion, or contamination of groundwater and surface water. The potential risk and consequences of pipeline accidents and oil spills are mitigable to some degree with implementation of numerous measures outlined in this document. However, the risk cannot be completely eliminated, thus the potential for irreversible damage remains. It should be noted that the project, however, would result in significant reduction in impacts that would result from trucking of large amounts of petroleum products (impacts such as spills associated with accidents and constant air emissions and traffic).

E.3 GROWTH-INDUCING IMPACTS OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT

Issues related to population growth are assessed in Section C.10, Socioeconomics and Public Services. The Carson to Norwalk Pipeline Project would not result in any population immigration in Los Angeles County as a result of construction employment. Over the long term, the project would have no impact on population growth, as no long-term growth in employment would result from project operation.

By providing a means to transport up to 200,000 barrels per day (BPD) of petroleum products from Los Angeles refineries to markets in Nevada, Arizona, and the Inland Empire, the Carson to Norwalk Pipeline Project provides domestic sources of refined petroleum products. The Carson to Norwalk Pipeline Project would not induce growth in refinery output, because all of the capacity resulting from refinery activity could be distributed via existing pipelines or via trucks and the refineries are currently permitted to operate at levels that would supply the ultimate throughput of the proposed project.

A petroleum products pipeline could induce growth in areas along its ROW by changing existing land uses, zoning regulations, or property access. However, for the most part, the proposed project follows existing roadways. No areas were identified in which development would be more likely as a result of the installation of the pipeline. The pipeline project would not serve in any way to reduce or eliminate barriers to growth in the region.