2.12 Population and Housing

Issues (and Supporting Information Sources):	*Potentially Significant Impact*	*Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation*	*Less Than Significant Impact*	*No Impact*
12. POPULATION AND HOUSING— Would the project:				
a) Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Displace substantial numbers of existing housing units, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Setting

Population

The U.S. Census Bureau 2005 population estimate for Siskiyou County is 45,259. Resident population in the County was estimated to be 44,301 in 2000 and 43,531 in 1990 (U.S. Census Bureau, 2006). The County's population has increased by approximately 4 percent over a 15-year period (1990–2005). According to the California Department of Finance, Siskiyou County population is expected to increase through 2020 to 45,862, and then slowly decrease through 2050 to 43,045 (California Department of Finance, 2004).

The City of Weed's resident population in 2005 was estimated to be 2,990 persons. The City's 2000 and 1990 population estimates are approximately 3,063 and 2,978, respectively (State of California, 2005). The City's population has declined by about 2.4 percent between 1990 and 2005. According to the City of Weed General Plan, the City's population is expected to increase to about 3,218 persons by 2010. Population estimates beyond 2010 are not available (City of Weed, 2004). Table 2.12-1 shows population trends from 2000 to 2050 for Siskiyou County, and from 2000 to 2010 for the City of Weed.

TABLE 2.12-1
SISKIYOU COUNTY AND CITY OF WEED POPULATION, 2000–2050

Area	2000	2010	% Change 2000–2010	2020	% Change 2010–2020	2030	% Change 2020–2030	2040	% Change 2030–2040	2050	% Change 2040–2050
City of Weed[a]	2,978	3,218	8.1	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Siskiyou County	44,301	45,611	3.0	45,862	0.6	45,400	- 1.0	44,083	- 2.9	43,045	- 2.4

[a] The California Department of Finance includes population projections by county. City-level projections are not provided.

SOURCES: U.S. Census Bureau (2006); California Department of Finance (2004); City of Weed (2004)

Housing

According to the California Department of Finance, as of 2005, Siskiyou County has approximately 23,047 total housing units with approximately 15.5 percent of these dwelling units vacant. Within the City of Weed, there are an estimated 1,302 housing units and about 8.5 percent of the units are vacant (California Department of Finance, 2005).

Regulatory Context

CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.2 requires a discussion of the ways in which a proposed project could directly or indirectly foster economic development or population growth, and how that growth would, in turn, affect the surrounding environment. The following regulatory context is provided to set forth the planning framework that is anticipated under the General Plans for Siskiyou County and the City of Weed. In terms of growth inducement, these agencies would be affected by the Proposed Project and the Weed Segment since the 115kV transmission line would improve reliability and transmission capacity in Siskiyou County and the City of Weed.

Siskiyou County

Siskiyou County does not have any growth control/growth management ordinances, policies, or programs. While Siskiyou County imposes other constraints that may have the effect of limiting growth, such as land use controls (general plan and zoning) and water and sewer capacity, these are not policies adopted with the intention of limiting growth, but rather to plan and organize growth in a way that is consistent with and best agrees with the planning goals of the County.

City of Weed

The incorporated area of the City of Weed is approximately four square miles, and the City's total sphere of influence (SOI) encompasses 27 square miles. The General Plan Land Use Element addresses the incorporated areas, while areas outside of the City limits are addressed only in concept.

Similar to Siskiyou County, the City of Weed does not have growth control/growth management ordinances or policies, but utilizes the General Plan goals and policies, and water and wastewater system capacities to manage growth within the City. General Plan policies are aimed at accommodating future growth within the City, and, as noted in the Housing Element, there is sufficient land zoned for single- and multi-family homes to accommodate up to approximately 1,465 new dwelling units, more than double the existing number of housing units within the City.

The Land Use Element contains the following policy related to growth within the City:

> *Policy 3.* Community Development: Development that balances housing, jobs, and commercial/industrial opportunities and achieves a level of population and employment that preserves and enhances the desired character of the community shall be sough and encouraged.

Population and Housing Impacts and Mitigation Measures

a) Population growth inducement, either directly or indirectly: *Less than significant*

Constructed is expected to occur in two phases, with Proposed Project construction activities expected to last approximately four months in the 2006-2007 timeframe and Weed Segment construction expected to last approximately eight months in 2008.

The total number of construction crew members for the Proposed Project and the Weed Segment is estimated to be between 30 and 35 crew members, including PacifiCorp and contracted construction personnel. Of these construction crew members, about 20 percent would reside locally. The Proposed Project and Weed Segment construction activities would be temporary, and therefore would not result in any direct growth-inducing impacts, would not result in any significant increase of local population or housing, and would not indirectly induce growth by creating new opportunities for local industry or commerce.

Construction of the Proposed Project is needed to meet electric system demand and ensure transmission system reliability in the Yreka-Weed area. Construction of the Weed Segment is needed to handle increased load and provide transmission capacity; therefore, the Proposed Project and Weed Segment are designed to increase reliability and accommodate existing and planned electrical load growth, rather than to induce or accommodate growth.

Growth in the project area is planned and regulated by applicable local planning policies and zoning ordinances. The provision of electricity is not considered an obstacle to growth, as noted in the City of Weed's General Plan (City of Weed, 2004). Additionally, the availability of electrical capacity by itself does not normally ensure or encourage growth within a particular area. Other factors such as economic conditions, land availability, population trends, availability of water supply or sewer services and local planning policies have a more direct effect on growth.

Therefore, the Proposed Project and the Weed Segment would not induce substantial population growth in the project area and this impact would be less than significant.

b) Displacement of existing housing units, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere: *No impact*

The majority of the Proposed Project and the entirety of the Weed Segment would traverse existing PacifiCorp right-of-way generally paralleling local, county and state roads as well as traversing ranches, farms and open space. The new 1.6-mile segment associated with the Proposed Project generally traverses ranches and farms and would be located within a new right-of-way. The Proposed Project and Weed Segment would also include upgrades to the Lucerne and Weed Substations, respectively. Construction activities proposed to occur at these substations would be entirely within the existing

PacifiCorp property boundaries. Therefore, the Proposed Project and the Weed Segment would not result in the displacement of existing housing.

c) Displacement of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere: *No impact*

The majority of the Proposed Project and the entirety of the Weed Segment would traverse an existing PacifiCorp right-of-way generally paralleling local, county and state roads as well as traversing ranches, farms and open space. The new 1.6-mile segment associated with the Proposed Project generally traverses ranches and farms and would be located within a new right-of-way. The Proposed Project and Weed Segment would also include upgrades to the Lucerne and Weed Substations, respectively. Construction activities proposed to occur at these substations would be entirely within the existing PacifiCorp property boundaries. Therefore, the Proposed Project and the Weed Segment would not result in the displacement of people.

References – Population and Housing

California Department of Finance. *E-5 City / County Population and Housing Estimates, 2005, Revised 2001-2004, with 2000 DRU Benchmark*, Sacramento, California, May 2005.

California Department of Finance. *Population Projections by Race/Ethnicity for California and Its Counties 2000–2050,* Sacramento, California, May 2004.

City of Weed. *City of Weed General Plan*, adopted October 1987, and amended through 2004.