

CHAPTER 8.0

GROWTH INDUCING EFFECTS

CEQA requires the analysis of a proposed project's potential to induce growth. Specifically, Section 15126.2(d) requires that environmental documents "...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..." Growth inducing impacts can occur if a project would induce growth either directly or indirectly in the surrounding environment. Section 15126.2(d) also states that it cannot be assumed that growth in an area is necessarily beneficial, detrimental, or of little significance to the environment.

A project's potential to induce growth does not automatically mean that it will result in growth. This potential growth-inducing effect is regulated by local governments in California through the development, adoption, and implementation of land use plans and policies intended to avoid or minimize the growth inducing potential or pressure created by projects, both individually or cumulatively. Growth occurs through capital investment in new economic opportunities from both public and private entities. Development occurs as a result of economic investment in a particular region. New economic (i.e., employment) opportunities will naturally create the need for infrastructure to support an increased population.

The DPV2 project could be considered growth inducing if growth results from the direct and indirect employment needed to construct, operate, and maintain the project, and/or if growth results from the electric power that would be transmitted by the proposed project.

As documented in the project description (Chapter 3), the construction and operation of the proposed project would not significantly affect employment in the project area. SCE anticipates that contract workers would construct the project. Contract workers would not cause growth in the area due to the temporary nature of their employment. Operation of the proposed DPV2 project would require no additional full time personnel. Routing inspection and maintenance activities would occur periodically and would involve two patrols per year.

Typically, the growth inducing potential of a project would be considered significant if it fosters growth or a population concentration above what is assumed in local and regional land use plans or in projections made by regional planning groups such as the SCAG. Significant growth impacts also could occur if the project provides infrastructure or service capacity to accommodate growth levels beyond those permitted by local plans and/or policies.

However, the proposed project is not anticipated to induce growth. The project would not materially increase electrical consumption in California. Rather, it will allow SCE to provide lower cost electric service and to displace higher cost generation in California. Construction of the project may also encourage the displacement of older, less-efficient generation in the Southwest. These impacts are not expected to be growth inducing. For a further discussion of the purpose of the project, see Chapter 2.