

## **SECTION 5.0 GROWTH INDUCING EFFECTS**

State CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.2(d) requires discussion of the potential growth-inducing effects of a project in an EIR. Based on the State CEQA Guidelines, growth is not assumed to be positive or detrimental; adverse impacts are assessed if the growth inducement associated with the proposed project would result in significant adverse environmental impacts.

The proposed project is one of a series of projects recommended by the Water Authority's Regional Water Facilities Master Plan for construction over a 27-year period. The Water Authority must respond to the needs of its member agencies. Therefore, the Regional Water Facilities Master Plan is an inherently flexible plan.

The Water Authority has historically relied on the regional population projections of other governmental agencies to help it determine regional water supply requirements. Because the Water Authority does not have any land use approval authority, it can neither directly cause nor prevent growth. How and where development occurs in the Water Authority's service area is dictated by the local land use agencies through their approval authority.

The PEIR for the Regional Water Facilities Master Plan concluded that the construction of projects recommended by the Regional Water Facilities Master Plan will not result in direct growth inducing effects but could help remove an obstacle to future growth through the provision of additional water supplies. It also noted that, because the Water Authority delivers water on a regional basis in response to the demands of Member Agencies, it would be speculative to try to determine if and where future growth will occur. Therefore, it is concluded that approval of the proposed project will not result in future growth.

The Water Authority responds to the water demands of its Member Agencies. While lack of water is one of a number of potential barriers to the growth of an area, it is not a substantial barrier to growth within the Water Authority's service area because Member Agencies have always met the needs of the customers in their service areas and have always expected the Water Authority, as the region's water wholesaler, to meet their own needs. Member Agencies have submitted their anticipated future water demands to the Water Authority and the Water Authority has responded through the construction of capital improvement projects that will increase water delivery capacity. The proposed project will not extend water service to any new areas and will not remove an existing barrier to growth in any area of the County. Any future development projects within the service area would be subject to review and approval by various jurisdictions with land use authority. Therefore, no direct relationship between the proposed project and future growth within the service area has been established. The proposed project would not result in growth inducing impacts.

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