

6 CEQA REQUIRED SECTIONS

GROWTH-INDUCING IMPACTS OF THE PROJECT

Section 15126.2(d) of the CEQA Guidelines states that an EIR should 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. Included in this are projects which would remove obstacles to population growth (a major expansion of waste water 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."

General Plans adopted by a city or county identify the expected future populations of the region and the lands that will be allowed to be developed. These Plans set forth goals, objectives, and policies to guide decisions about future growth of local jurisdictions. The policies must, by law, take account of existing and projected economic and social conditions, as well as the desires of the community.

Projects are considered growth-inducing if they provide new housing, new employment, or expand existing infrastructure. The Project would not require additional employees beyond those that are currently employed at the Quarry. The Project does not involve the construction of new homes, roads, or other infrastructure (e.g., water, sewer, utility lines). Therefore, the project is not anticipated to be growth inducing.

SIGNIFICANT AND UNAVOIDABLE IMPACTS

Section 2100(b)(2)(A) of CEQA requires that an EIR identify any significant environmental effects that cannot be avoided if the project were implemented. Significant unavoidable impacts are identified in Section 4 of this EIR, as those impacts that remain significant after implementation of mitigation. The Project does not have any significant unavoidable impacts. Although the Project has the potential to result in a number of significant environmental impacts, they can be avoided through the adoption of appropriate mitigation measures that will reduce those effects to a less-than-significant level.

ENVIRONMENTALLY SUPERIOR ALTERNATIVE

The California Environmental Quality Act requires the identification of an Environmentally Superior Alternative; that is, the alternative which has no significant effect or has the least significant effect on the environment. For reference, significance is determined based on substantial or potentially substantial adverse changes of any of the physical environmental conditions due to the Project. The degree of change is evaluated against existing environmental conditions. Please refer to Chapter 5, Alternatives Analysis, for a comparison of the primary differences in environmental impacts among the alternatives and the Project.

Alternative 2, the Reduced Biological Impacts alternative, is the Environmentally Superior Alternative, in that it would have fewer impacts to biological resources, than the Project. All other impacts, as compared between Alternative 2 and the Project, would remain the same. Under Alternative 2 the project activities would be the same as described in Chapter 2 Project Description, except that some impacts to biological resource along the southern border of the Project site would be avoided. For example, impacts to wetlands along the southern border of the Project site would be avoided, but impacts to wetlands at the bridge site would still occur. None of the Project's impacts are completely avoided under Alternative 2.

Section 21002 of CEQA states "...it is the policy of the state that public agencies should not approve projects as proposed if there are feasible alternatives or feasible mitigation measures available which

would substantially less the significant environmental effects of such projects,..." It should be noted that the Project already includes mitigation to substantially reduce all impacts, including those to biological resources. Thus the Project also meets the intent of Section 21002.