

6.0 GROWTH INDUCEMENT

Section 15126.2(d) of the CEQA Guidelines requires an EIR to discuss ways in which a proposed project could facilitate economic or population growth or the construction of additional housing (either directly or indirectly) in the surrounding environment. Growth inducement analysis is not specifically required under NEPA. This discussion focuses on the potential for a project to remove obstacles to population growth. To illustrate this point, the CEQA Guidelines offer, as an example, the major expansion of a wastewater treatment plant that may allow for more construction in the service area. Increases in the population may tax existing community service facilities, requiring construction of new facilities that could cause significant environmental effects. In addition, the growth-inducement discussion should assess how a project may facilitate other activities that could significantly affect the environment, either individually or cumulatively. The Guidelines further state that it should not be assumed that growth in any area is necessarily beneficial, detrimental, or of little significance to the environment. The following discussion considers ways the proposed project could induce economic or population growth, either directly or indirectly.

The proposed action includes the reconstruction of a 13.2 km (8.2 mi) segment of Bautista Canyon Road and construction of a bridge crossing over Bautista Creek (see Section 2.2.4.1), a Bautista Canyon Overlook area (see Section 2.2.4.2), and the OHV Alessandro Trailhead parking area (see Section 2.2.4.3). The project site is located within the SBNF and unincorporated Riverside County. As noted, the project area is designated as open space and a conservation area in the County of Riverside General Plan REMAP.

The proposed action would improve roadway safety and access to Bautista Canyon. However, because land adjacent to the corridor is federal public land set aside for open space and recreational use, growth inducement or development of the land in the study area is not anticipated. There are some vacant properties at the northern and southern termini of Bautista Canyon Road within the communities of Valle Vista and Anza, respectively. The proposed project may make these properties more desirable for development; however, no construction is occurring and there are no known proposals currently under ongoing environmental review. The proposed action would not involve development or expansion of infrastructure, public services, or utilities. Existing power lines and fiber-optic cable lines would be relocated during construction. No additional service capacity is planned. Further, the need for public services/utilities such as schools, libraries, water, sewer, gas, police, and fire services would not be generated by the proposed action. Thus, no growth inducing effects are anticipated; however, any future growth occurring within unincorporated Riverside County would be subject to REMAP, the General Plan, and related development restrictions.