

# CHAPTER 5

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## Other CEQA Considerations

This chapter presents the evaluation of other types of environmental impacts required by CEQA that are not covered within the other chapters of this Draft EIR. The other CEQA considerations include environmental effects that were found not to be significant, growth-inducing impacts or significant and unavoidable adverse impacts.

### 5.1 Less Than Significant Impacts

The following impacts were deemed less than significant based on the results of the Initial Study, which was made available for public review at the time of the NOP, and additional analysis, where applicable (see Appendix A and EIR Chapter 3L):

- Agriculture Resources;
- Hazards/Hazardous Materials;
- Mineral Resources;
- Population and Housing; and
- Recreation.

The following additional area of impact was deemed less than significant, based upon further analysis in this EIR:

- Air Quality.

### 5.2 Adverse Impacts That Can Be Mitigated to Less Than Significant

The following impacts could be significant, but mitigation measures are available that would reduce the potential impacts to a less than significant level (see Chapter 3 Environmental Setting, Impacts and Mitigation Measures):

- Aesthetics;
- Biological Resources;
- Cultural Resources;
- Geology and Soils;
- Hydrology and Water Quality;
- Land Use and Planning;

- Noise;
- Public Services;
- Transportation/Traffic; and
- Utilities.

### 5.3 Significant Unavoidable Impacts

CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.2(b) requires a discussion of any significant impacts that cannot be reduced to levels of insignificance. Mitigation measures have reduced potential impacts to less than significant levels. The project would not result in significant and unavoidable impacts.

### 5.4 Significant Irreversible Environmental Changes

The proposed project would result in some limited irreversible environmental changes. The project would require the commitment of natural resources such as lumber, steel and concrete to construct the buildings. The resources needed are reasonably available in quantities able to satisfy regional demands, of which the project would be a small part. The project would not have a significant adverse impact on natural resources.

### 5.5 Growth Inducing Impacts

Pursuant to Section 15126.2(d) of the *CEQA Guidelines*, an EIR must address whether a project will directly or indirectly foster growth. Section 15126.2(d) reads as follows:

*“[An EIR shall] 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 a wastewater treatment plant, might, for example, allow for more construction in service areas). Increases in population may further 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.”*

As discussed below, this analysis evaluates whether the proposed project would directly or indirectly induce economic, population, or housing growth in the surrounding environment.

### Direct Growth Inducing Impacts in the Surrounding Environment

Although the Art Center College Master Development Plan calls for the expansion of educational and research capacity through the proposed project, the proposed project would not significantly induce growth in the surrounding area. A project would directly induce growth if it would remove

barriers to population growth such as a change to a jurisdiction's general plan and zoning ordinance, or extensions of utilities or roadways well beyond existing development limits, which facilitates new growth. The construction of the proposed project is consistent with City of Pasadena's General Plan Land Use Element and the Zoning Ordinance. The project would provide educational opportunities to approximately 400 additional students. According to a survey of student enrollment (See Figure 3G.1, Chapter 3G, Land Use), students live in areas across LA County with a concentration in Pasadena and surrounding cities. Although unlikely to occur in large numbers, the additional enrollment numbers might cause a slight increase in population in the area if some of the 400 new students and 10 new faculty members were non-Pasadena residents that then moved to Pasadena. However, any increase would be small compared to the population of the City of Pasadena (144,133 in 2006<sup>1</sup>) and would be well within the projected population increase to approximately 150,000 persons by 2015<sup>2</sup>.

## **Indirect Growth-Inducing Impacts in the Surrounding Environment**

A project would indirectly induce growth if it would increase the capacity of infrastructure or facilities in an area in which the public service currently meets demand. The proposed project would not require significant increases in utility infrastructure, nor require the construction of new facilities beyond that which would be necessary to serve the proposed project. The proposed project would not significantly induce indirect growth in the surrounding area.

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<sup>1</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, Population Finder accessed at <http://factfinder.census.gov> on September 5, 2007.

<sup>2</sup> City of Pasadena General Plan, Land Use Element, Page 6, November 2004.