

Growth-Inducing Effects

7.1 Introduction

As defined in CEQA Guidelines Section 15126(g), a growth-inducing effect could occur when the implementation of a project fosters economic or population growth in the surrounding environment. Included in this are projects that would remove obstacles to population growth. Growth could result in an increased demand for public services.

7.1.1 Growth-Inducing Effects of the Proposed Project and Alternatives

The proposed project would not directly induce growth or land use changes on lands that would be incorporated into the authorized POU. The expansion of the authorized POU could allow CVP water to be delivered, and such delivery may encourage or facilitate future growth or development authorized by local land management authorities. Therefore, the proposed project would accommodate potential future growth by enabling individual CVP water contractors to supply water to future developments.

7.1.1.1 Growth-Inducing Effects of the Proposed Project

Of the total 834,667 acres of CVP water contractor served land outside the authorized POU, 151,274 acres are currently developed into dryland agriculture or irrigated agriculture or M&I uses receiving water from the CVP water contractors or other sources. About 683,393 acres are not developed in agricultural or M&I land uses. Based on the analysis of available water that could be distributed to future developments, it is estimated that an additional 17,961 acres of municipal and industrial and 3,717 acres of agricultural development could be served CVP water. Therefore, although the proposed project would not directly induce growth or land use changes, it could accommodate the future development of 21,678 acres of M&I and agricultural development.

The CVP water contractors that have CVP water available to serve the potential future growth are listed in Table 7-1. This table also presents the estimated amount of water available for future development and the amount of acreage that could be supported by available water. This estimate is based on no substantial reallocation of existing water uses occurring within the CVP water contractor service boundary.

7.1.1.2 Growth-Inducing Effects of Alternative 1 (No Project)

This alternative could result in growth-inducing effects because CVP water would no longer be served to about 60,121 acres of M&I lands and 56,543 acres of agricultural lands. To support the existing land uses, other water sources would need to be acquired.

Table 7-1 Potential Future Land Use Changes Outside the Authorized POU			
CVP Water Contractor	Amount of Available CVP Water (acre-feet)	Land Use Changes (acres)	
		Agriculture	M&I
Bella Vista Water District	7		
Coalinga, City of			
Colusa County Water District			
El Dorado Irrigation District			
Glenn Valley Water District			
Kanawha Water District			
Mountain Gate Community Services District			
San Benito County Water District	2		
Santa Clara Valley Water District	3		1
Shasta Community Services District			
Shasta County Service Area No. 25--Keswick			
Shasta Lake, City of			113
Westside Water District	^b	573	
^a Historical water use is not indicated; however, 1,000 acre-feet of water is sufficient to serve all 51 acres. ^b Historical water use is not indicated; however, 25,000 acre-feet of water is sufficient to irrigate all 997 acres.			

A secondary environmental effect may occur if the CVP water is replaced with other sources of water, and these other supplies require the installation of groundwater wells, water conveyance and delivery facilities, or energy consumption resulting from increased water pumping. The development of other water sources would most likely occur to replace M&I water. Because CVP water currently supports residential, commercial, and industrial land uses that required substantial individual and community investments, it is likely that other water sources would be acquired to meet water supply needs and avoid health and safety impacts to the public.

It is less likely that other water sources for agricultural land uses would be acquired, unless the water could be delivered to lands at a reasonable cost. If the acquisition of irrigation water is too expensive, the irrigated agricultural practices could be abandoned. This could result in an increase in dryland agriculture conversion to M&I uses, or allowing the lands to return to an undeveloped condition. If another water source is not acquired to support agricultural land uses, no growth-inducing effects would occur.

7.1.1.3 Growth-Inducing Effects of Alternative 2 (Existing Conditions)

Alternative 2 would not generate any growth-inducing effects because it would expand the authorized POU to encompass land already receiving CVP or other water. Water delivered as a result of implementing this alternative would only accommodate existing

development. About 62,035 acres of M&I lands and 83,435 acres of agricultural lands outside the authorized POU have been developed with CVP and other water. This alternative would not result in further development of lands with CVP water.

7.1.1.4 Growth-Inducing Effects of Alternative 3 (Permit Consolidation and Conformance)

This alternative would result in the same impacts as those discussed for Alternative 1 (No Project).