

3.18 Growth-Inducing Impacts

3.18.1 Background

Appendix G of the State CEQA Guidelines includes an item related to growth-inducement under Section XII, *Population and Housing* for consideration when preparing an Initial Study for a proposed project. This question reads: “Would the project induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?” Section 15126.2(d) of the CEQA Guidelines, in discussing the required contents of environmental impact reports, notes that a project may also have growth-inducing impacts if it removes obstacles to growth, fosters economic growth in the region, or burdens existing community service facilities such that construction of new facilities (that could cause significant environmental effects) would be required to maintain desired levels of service.

3.18.2 Environmental Effects

The proposed project is primarily a hydraulic and habitat improvement project and would not involve the construction of any buildings, including housing units, businesses, roads, or infrastructure that would lead directly or indirectly to local or regional growth. In addition, the recreation improvements are relatively minor and are not expected to increase visitation at the OWA (Fritz pers. comm.).

In areas where flood risk may be seen as an obstacle to growth, a project that would reduce flood risk may be considered to remove an obstacle to growth and thereby be indirectly growth-inducing. Building restrictions are placed on lands subject to high flood risk by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and if a project were to remove lands from the FEMA-designated floodplain, it would remove that obstacle to growth. Although one of the stated objectives of the proposed project is to reduce flood stages in the main channel of the Lower Feather River, this stage reduction would not change any FEMA flood designations (Fritz pers. comm.).

The proposed project would therefore have no direct or indirect growth-inducing impacts.