

SECTION 9.0
GROWTH INDUCING IMPACTS

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9.1 INTRODUCTION

Section 15126.2(d) of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines requires that an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) describe the potential growth inducing impacts of a proposed project. Specifically, Section 15126.2(d) states:

“Discuss the ways in which the proposed project could foster economic development or population growth, or the construction of additional housing, either directly or indirectly, in the surrounding environment . . . Also discuss the characteristics of some projects which may encourage and facilitate other activities that could substantially 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.”

9.2 GROWTH INDUCING IMPACTS RELATED TO THE PROPOSED PROJECT

Induced growth is any growth which exceeds planned growth of an area and results from new development which would not have taken place without the implementation of a project. Typically, the growth-inducing potential of a project would be considered significant if it results in growth or a population concentration that exceeds those assumptions included in pertinent master plans, land use plans, or projections made by regional planning authorities. The environmental effects of induced growth are secondary or indirect impacts of the project. Secondary effects of growth could result in significant, adverse environmental impacts, which could include increased demand on community and/or public services, increased traffic and/or noise, degradation of air and/or water quality, and conversion of agricultural land and open space to developed uses.

The project site is located within the urbanized Arroyo Verdugo Region, between the San Fernando and San Gabriel valleys. The Arroyo Verdugo Region, and adjacent watershed cities, is highly developed, although, it has the capacity to support additional future residential, commercial, and industrial development. Residential and commercial development has occurred near the project site in the past and will likely occur in the future, irrespective of the Scholl Canyon Landfill (SCLF) Expansion (proposed project, including Variation 1/Variation 2).

The number of employees at the SCLF will not change substantially with implementation of the proposed project. Employees will continue to perform landfill operations including administration, landfill cover operations, and other landfill-related operations. Because the proposed project would allow for the continuation of landfill operations at the project site without creating substantial new job growth, secondary job growth (e.g., retail services to serve employees or other types of industrial growth that benefit from proximity to a landfill) within the Arroyo Verdugo Region and surrounding area is not expected to increase as a result of the proposed project. Similarly, because no substantial job growth would occur, the proposed project is not anticipated to increase the demand for new housing within the Arroyo Verdugo Region and surrounding area.

The expansion of an existing solid waste landfill would not in itself be an inducement to growth. As mentioned above, local development would continue to occur with or without the landfill expansion. More distant landfills would be available to serve new development but at a potentially much greater financial cost and at a greater potential to impact the environment due to longer hauling routes (traffic, air quality, etc.). The improvements under the proposed project would not entail new residences or the extension of major infrastructure facilities (i.e., sewer, or water lines, roads, etc.) that would result in secondary or indirect growth in and around the area. Furthermore, with limited solid waste disposal capacity elsewhere in Los

Angeles County, the expansion of the SCLF is necessary to serve the existing level of development (i.e., accommodate growth) rather than act as an inducement to new growth and development. Therefore, the proposed project would not result in growth inducing impacts.