

## 6.0 LONG-TERM IMPLICATIONS OF THE PROJECT

### 6.1 SIGNIFICANT IRREVERSIBLE ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGES

Section 15126.2 (c) of the *State CEQA Guidelines* requires that an EIR consider and discuss significant irreversible changes that would be caused by implementation of the proposed *Sustainable Santee Plan: The City's Roadmap to Greenhouse Gas Reduction* ("Sustainable Santee Plan" or "proposed project"). The *State CEQA Guidelines* specify that the use of nonrenewable resources during the initial and continued phases of a project should be discussed because a large commitment of such resources makes removal or nonuse thereafter unlikely. Primary and secondary impacts (such as a highway improvement that provides access to a previously inaccessible area) should also be discussed because such changes generally commit future generations to similar uses. Irreversible damage can also result from environmental accidents associated with the project and should be discussed.

The proposed project does not propose new development; the Sustainability Plan facilitates construction of energy-generating facilities and energy retrofits on existing structures that would entail a small commitment of energy, human resources, and building materials. This commitment of energy, personnel, and building materials would be commensurate with that of other projects of similar magnitude, and none of these commodities is in short supply.

Maintenance of new energy-generating facilities would entail a further commitment of energy resources in the form of natural gas, electricity, and water resources. However, this commitment would be minimal, consisting of routine maintenance of solar panels. The Sustainability Plan does not propose any development that would otherwise entail commitment of energy resources. In fact, the proposed project would result in a long-term reduction in energy demand and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and other air pollutants, a beneficial impact.

### 6.2 GROWTH-INDUCING IMPACTS

Sections 15126(d) and 15126.2(d) of the *State CEQA Guidelines* require that an EIR analyze growth-inducing impacts and state that an EIR should discuss the ways in which a proposed project could foster economic or population growth or construction of additional housing, either directly or indirectly, in the surrounding environment. This section examines 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. An assessment of other projects that could affect the environment, individually or cumulatively, is also required. To address this issue, potential growth-inducing effects were examined through analysis of the following questions:

- Would the project remove obstacles to growth (e.g., through the construction or extension of major infrastructure facilities that do not presently exist in the project area, or through changes in existing regulations pertaining to land development)?
- Would the project result in the need to expand one or more public services to maintain desired levels of service?

- Would the project encourage or facilitate economic effects that could result in other activities that could significantly affect the environment?
- Would approval of the project involve some precedent-setting action that could encourage and facilitate other activities that could significantly affect the environment?

It should be noted that growth-inducing effects are not to be construed as necessarily beneficial, detrimental, or of little significance to the environment (*State CEQA Guidelines*, Section 15126.2[d]). This issue is presented to provide additional information on ways in which this project could contribute to significant changes in the environment beyond the direct consequences of developing the proposed project as described in earlier sections of this EIR.

### **6.2.1 Removal of Obstacles to Growth**

Climate Action Plans are not, by their nature, growth inducing. The Sustainability Plan provides a framework for reducing greenhouse gas emissions from existing and future development that has previously been planned for in the City's General Plan.

The Sustainability Plan does not propose development; therefore, it would not induce growth. The Sustainability Plan's goals promote non-motorized transportation options so as to decrease dependency on the automobile, encourage alternative transportation modes, reduce energy consumption, and promote sustainability. Additionally, the Sustainability Plan promotes retrofits to existing development and installation of new energy-generating structures; it does not include the construction of new infrastructure that would promote growth in inappropriate locations. Thus, the necessary infrastructure that normally triggers growth when introduced is already in place within the City with respect to the proposed project.

A project's growth-inducing potential does not automatically result in growth, whether it is a portion of growth or actually exceeds projected levels of growth. Growth at the local level is fundamentally controlled by the land use policies of local municipalities or counties, which are determined by the local politics in each jurisdiction.

### **6.2.2 Expansion of Public Services**

Retrofits to existing development or construction of new energy-generating structures could require expansion of and/or upgrades to sewer, water, electrical, and gas lines in the City. However, these projects would be required to analyze needed facility extensions on a project level.

### **6.2.3 Encouragement/Facilitation of Economic Effects**

Overall, implementation of the Sustainability Plan would provide a small number of temporary construction jobs to retrofit existing development, construct new energy-generating structures, and expand non-motorized transportation infrastructure. However, this employment would be considered on a project-by-project basis.

#### **6.2.4 Precedent-Setting Action**

Approval of the proposed project would not set a precedent that could encourage and facilitate other activities that could significantly affect the environment. In fact, the proposed project would result in a long-term reduction in energy demand and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and other air pollutants, a beneficial impact.

### **6.3 SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS THAT CANNOT BE AVOIDED**

As determined previously in this EIR, implementation of the proposed project would not result in significant and unavoidable adverse impacts. With implementation of mitigation measures for aesthetics and hazards and hazardous materials, the potential impacts identified in this EIR would be reduced to less than significant.

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