

## 6.2 GROWTH-INDUCING EFFECTS

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### INTRODUCTION

Section 15126.2 (d) of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines, as amended, requires that an EIR include a discussion of the ways in which a proposed project could foster economic or population growth, or the construction of additional housing, either directly or indirectly, in the surrounding environment.

CEQA emphasizes that it must not be assumed that growth in any area is necessarily beneficial, detrimental, or of little significance to the environment.

In general terms, factors that may be considered in evaluating the potential for growth include:

- Removal of an impediment to growth (e.g., the establishment of an essential public service or the provision of new access to an area),
- Urbanization of land in a remote location (leapfrog development),
- Economic expansion or growth occurring in an area in response to the project (e.g., changes in revenue base, employment expansion, etc.), or
- Establishment of a precedent-setting action (e.g., a change in zoning or general plan amendment approval).

Each of these factors has been evaluated with respect to the Project's implications on growth.

### REMOVAL OF AN IMPEDIMENT TO GROWTH

Growth in an area may result from the removal of physical impediments or restrictions to growth. Physical growth impediments may include nonexistent or inadequate access to an area or the lack of essential public services (e.g., water, sewer, or electrical service).

The Project Site is located in an urbanized area with utilities and other infrastructure in place; implementation would not extend major infrastructure to places currently unserved by such facilities. While the Project would remove and relocate utility infrastructure on the Project Site, it would not involve the extension of utilities or infrastructure into areas where they are not currently present. The Project Site is currently served by infrastructure such as water and sewer mains, and electricity and natural gas services. As such, Project implementation would not result in the removal of an impediment to growth.

## **URBANIZATION OF LAND IN REMOTE LOCATIONS (LEAPFROG DEVELOPMENT)**

The Project Site is located in a highly urbanized area of southern Los Angeles County, surrounded by various land uses, including residential, commercial, mixed, and public/quasi-public uses. As such, the proposed Project would not result in the urbanization of land in remote locations.

## **ECONOMIC AND EMPLOYMENT GROWTH**

Construction would generate short-term employment; operation of the reconstructed Compton High School, including any operations associated with the relocation of the other District uses and the performing art center, would not expand total employment by District. The unemployment rate in Los Angeles County in February 2018 was estimated at 4.5 percent for the Los Angeles–Long Beach–Glendale area as reported by the US Bureau of Labor Statistics.<sup>1</sup> For the City of Compton, the unemployment rate in February 2018 was 5.9 percent.<sup>2</sup> Therefore, it is expected that construction employment and most operational employment would be absorbed from the regional labor force and would not attract new workers into the region.

The Project would accommodate currently projected growth with the District for students slated to attend Compton High School. Therefore, Project-related increases in requirements for facilities and personnel for fire protection and for police protection would not be a growth-inducing impact.

## **PRECEDENT-SETTING ACTION**

The proposed Project Approval would not set a precedent that could encourage and facilitate other activities which could significantly affect the environment. School modernization, refurbishment, and expansion projects and programs are common Statewide and nationwide.

The District is seeking a school site expansion approval from the California Department of Education and other State agencies associated with school construction; certain local permits from the City of Compton for site plan review from the Compton Fire Department; and grading permits and street vacations from the City's Public Works and Municipal Utilities Department. These actions are specific to the Project Site and are not unique or unprecedented actions. As such, the requested actions would not set precedent for other projects.

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1 US Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, "Economy at a Glance: Los Angeles–Long-Beach–Glendale," accessed April 6, 2018, [https://www.bls.gov/eag/eag.ca\\_losangeles\\_md.htm](https://www.bls.gov/eag/eag.ca_losangeles_md.htm).

2 US Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, "Metropolitan Area Employment and Unemployment Report: City of Compton," accessed April 6, 2018, available at [https://ycharts.com/indicators/compton\\_ca\\_unemployment\\_rate](https://ycharts.com/indicators/compton_ca_unemployment_rate).