

4.18 Growth-Inducing Impacts

Section 15126.2(d) of the CEQA Guidelines requires that environmental documents "...discuss the 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..."

A project could be considered to have growth inducing effects if it:

- Either directly or indirectly fosters economic or population growth or the construction of additional housing in the surrounding area;
- Removes obstacles to population growth;
- Requires the construction of new community facilities that could cause significant environmental effects; or
- Encourages and facilitates other activities that could significantly affect the environment, either individually or cumulatively.

4.18.1 Environmental Impacts

Would the Proposed Project either directly or indirectly foster economic or population growth or the construction of additional housing in the surrounding area?

The Proposed Project includes construction and installation of the: proposed Central Compressor Station, proposed PPL, proposed office trailer and guard house relocations, proposed SCE Natural Substation, proposed SCE 66 kV sub-transmission modifications, and proposed substation upgrades.

The purpose of the Proposed Project is to:

- Reduce the potential for interruptions in the ability to store gas in the Storage Field, by replacing the obsolete TDC compressor station;
- Meet the terms of the SA between SoCalGas and parties to Phase I of the 2009 BCAP (D.08-12-020). The SA requires that SoCalGas replace the TDCs and expand the overall injection capacity at the field by approximately 145 million cubic feet per day (MMcfd) in a timely manner;
- Convert the compression from the Storage Field from natural gas to electric;
- Design and construct a new electric compressor station and all necessary related infrastructure to increase the injection capacity at the Storage Field by approximately 145 MMcfd;
- Provide improved vehicle access to the Storage Field by relocating and updating the existing guard house; relocate and update existing office trailers in close proximity to the current TDC station and Storage Field facilities; preserve other on-site facilities and minimize changes to Storage Field facilities where feasible and practicable;

- Ensure successful conversion to electric compression prior to decommissioning the existing TDCs to minimize the potential for gas supply service interruptions after construction of the Proposed Project;
- Utilize recent engineering and technological advances;
- Provide improved vehicle access to the Storage Field by relocating and updating the existing guard house; relocate and update existing office trailers in close proximity to the current TDC station and Storage Field facilities; preserve other on-site facilities and minimize changes to Storage Field facilities where feasible and practicable;
- Ensure successful conversion to electric compression prior to decommissioning the existing TDCs to minimize the potential for gas supply service interruptions after construction of the Proposed Project;
- Utilize recent engineering and technological advances.
- Reduce air emissions associated with the existing compressors.

The Proposed Project could be considered growth-inducing if growth resulted from the direct or indirect employment needed to construct, operate, and maintain the Proposed Project. However, as previously discussed in Section 4.12, the construction and operation of the Proposed Project would not affect employment in the Proposed Project area. If contract workers were employed, they would not cause growth in the Proposed Project area due to the short-term and temporary nature of their employment. The Proposed Project would require routine maintenance and emergency repair, but would not require additional full-time personnel than currently exists. In addition, the Proposed Project does not include the construction of any residential uses and therefore would not directly foster population growth. The Proposed Project would therefore not result in directly or indirectly fostering economic or population growth or construction of additional housing in the surrounding area.

Would the Proposed Project remove obstacles to population growth?

The Proposed Project would be located on an already developed site that has similar uses. The Proposed Project includes upgrades to existing facilities and construction of new facilities to provide the necessary load requirements for the new electric-powered, motor-driven compressors on the SoCalGas property. This upgraded service would follow the existing circuit route. Public services and utilities are already provided in the Proposed Project area and extensions or expansions of those facilities would be limited to service/utility connections at the SoCalGas Storage Field site for proposed on-site uses. No service/utility connections would be provided to other off-site uses and the service/utility connections would be sized to serve only the Proposed Project site. Therefore, implementation of the Proposed Project would not result in the removal of any impediments to growth in the area.

Would the Proposed Project require the construction of new community facilities that could cause significant environmental effects?

As noted previously, the Proposed Project consists of modifications, upgrades, and replacement of existing natural gas storage and sub-transmission facilities in order to implement the Settlement Agreement, reduce costs to rate payers, improve efficiency and reliability of natural gas storage at the Storage Field, and relocate existing facilities. However, the Proposed Project does not involve the creation of any community facilities or public roads that would provide new access to undeveloped or under-developed areas, or extend public service to an area presently not served by electricity.

Would the Proposed Project encourage or facilitate other activities that could significantly affect the environment, either individually or cumulatively?

The Proposed Project consists of modifications and replacement of existing natural gas storage and sub-transmission facilities in order to implement the Settlement Agreement, reduce costs to rate payers, improve efficiency and reliability of natural gas storage at the Storage Field, and relocate existing facilities. The Proposed Project would not provide a new source of electricity or gas nor would it provide service/utility connections to off-site uses. Implementation of the Proposed Project would not encourage nor facilitate other activities that could significantly affect the environment either individually or cumulatively. Additional information on cumulative impacts resulting from the Proposed Project is provided in Section 4.17, Cumulative Analysis.

4.18.2 Mitigation Measures

No mitigation would be required.

4.18.3 References

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). CEQA Guidelines. 2008