

Chapter 5. Other CEQA Considerations

This chapter presents the evaluation of other types of environmental impacts required by CEQA, that are not covered within the other chapters of this Draft EIR. The other CEQA considerations include environmental effects that were found not to be significant, growth-inducing impacts or significant and unavoidable adverse impacts.

5.1 ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS THAT WERE FOUND NOT TO BE SIGNIFICANT

In addition to potentially significant environmental impacts, this Draft EIR also discusses environmental effects that are found not to be significant or less than significant. Implementation of the proposed project would result in less-than-significant environmental changes to:

- Aesthetics
- Biological Resources
- Geology and Soils
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- Hydrology and Water Quality
- Land Use
- Population and Housing
- Public Services and Utilities

5.2 GROWTH-INDUCING IMPACTS

Pursuant to Section 15126.2(d) of the State CEQA Guidelines, an EIR must address whether a project will directly or indirectly foster growth. Section 15126.2(d) reads as follows:

ì [An EIR shall] 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. Included in this are projects which would remove obstacles to population growth (a major expansion of wastewater treatment plant, might, for example, allow for more construction in service areas). Increases in the population may further tax existing community

service facilities so consideration must be given to this impact. Also discuss the characteristic of some projects which may encourage and facilitate other activities that could significantly 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.

As discussed in this section, this analysis evaluates whether the proposed project will directly, or indirectly, induce economic, population, or housing growth in the surrounding environment.

Direct Growth-Inducing Impacts in the Surrounding Environment

A project would directly induce growth if it would remove barriers to population growth such as a change to a jurisdiction's General Plan and Zoning Ordinance which allowed new residential development to occur. The goal of the LAUSD in constructing more schools is to provide a higher quality learning environment for the students through the relief of existing and projected overcrowded conditions at these schools. The requirements for additional classrooms at LAUSD is due to several factors, including:

- Increased development within areas adding additional housing units with children requiring to be educated;
- Increased population growth due to projected growth increases associated with increased birth rates and in-migration;
- Demographic trends associated with changes in birth rates creating "bubbles" in enrollment in various grade levels; and
- Legislative mandated programs such as class size reduction.

The LAUSD has little control over these factors, but is mandated to educate those students residing in the District. Even with year round sessions, busing and large class size, it is becoming increasingly difficult to meet the space needs to house existing and projected student enrollments. The construction of the proposed learning center is intended to relieve the current overcrowding conditions at Belmont Senior High School and provide capacity for projected students who will live in its attendance area. The new learning center would not induce more growth, but accommodate that which already has occurred and which will continue to occur over time.

Indirect Growth-Inducing Impacts in the Surrounding Environment

A project would indirectly induce growth if it would increase the capacity of infrastructure in an area in which the public service currently met demand. Examples would be increasing the capacity of a sewer treatment plant, or a roadway beyond that needed to meet existing demand. There is currently a shortage of schools in the District. As evidenced by overcrowding conditions, the current demand for schools has not been met. As stated above, the construction of new learning center would not induce more growth, but would meet the current and future demand of a population which will increase regardless of the number of schools in existence.

5.3 SIGNIFICANT UNAVOIDABLE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

CEQA Section 15126.2(b) requires a discussion of any significant impacts that cannot be reduced to levels of insignificance. Although mitigation measures have been identified, where feasible, for all of the significant impacts of the proposed project, the project would result in two impacts that are significant and unavoidable even after implementation of available, feasible mitigation measures. These impacts are discussed in Section 3B. Air Quality, Section 3D. Cultural Resources, Section 3I. Noise and Section 3L. Transportation/Traffic. The impacts of the project that are considered significant and unavoidable are as follows:

- Short-term air pollutants from construction equipment;
- Impacts to the Ambassador Hotel complex as a historic (cultural) resource under Alternatives 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5; and,
- Short-term noise impacts to surrounding residences during student pick-up and drop-off hours during operation of the new learning center.
- Traffic impacts to surrounding intersections during operation of the new learning center.