

5.12 POPULATION AND HOUSING

5.12.1 METHODOLOGY

This section addresses the potential population and housing impacts associated with implementation of the proposed Master Development Plan Input (MDPI).

5.12.2 EXISTING CONDITIONS

Regulatory Setting

There are no relevant programs and policies related to population and housing that may be applicable to the project site or the MDPI since there are no housing units in the Whittier Narrows Dam Basin Recreation Area (WNCBRA) and the site does not support a resident population. Also, the MDPI is not proposing housing development on the site nor does it propose to displace any of the existing facilities or uses at the WNCBRA.

Environmental Setting

The WNCBRA is not developed with housing units or other permanent residences, and therefore there is no permanent resident population at the site. The population present at the WNCBRA consists of daytime employees and visitors. Therefore, in order to provide a context for the analysis of population and housing related to activities at the WNCBRA, demographic data from the most recent (2008) Southern California Association for Governments (SCAG) projections for the SCAG region, Los Angeles County, and the San Gabriel Valley Association of Cities (SGVAC) subregion are provided below since the San Gabriel Valley is the primary source of visitors to the WNCBRA.

Existing and Projected Population

Approximately 2.04 million visitors came to the County’s recreational facilities at the WNCBRA in 2009, with yearly visitation ranging from 2.0 to 2.6 million visitors. These figures do not account for users of the Whittier Narrows Golf Course, the Nature Center, Tennis Center, and Pico Rivera parks and facilities. There is no resident population at the site although homeless persons are present in the area.

The California Department of Finance (DOF) estimates the January 2010 population of Los Angeles County at 10,441,080 persons (DOF 2010).

Table 5.12-1 summarizes SCAG’s projections for area population through 2030, as the WNCBRA MDPI is intended to have a 15- to 20-year planning horizon.

**TABLE 5.12-1
EXISTING AND FUTURE POPULATION PROJECTIONS: 2010–2030**

	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030
SCAG Region	19,418,349	20,465,819	21,468,934	22,395,124	23,255,378
Los Angeles County	10,615,730	10,971,602	11,329,829	11,678,552	12,015,889
SGVAC	1,998,852	2,079,786	2,160,039	2,238,952	2,315,248
SCAG: Southern California Association of Governments; SGVAC: San Gabriel Valley Association of Cities Source: SCAG 2008					

As shown in Table 5.12-1, the 6-county SCAG region has an estimated 2010 population exceeding 19 million persons in an area of more than 38,000 square miles. The resident population in the SCAG region is projected to grow to over 23 million persons between 2010 and 2030. The population of Los Angeles County is expected to grow from 10.6 million residents in 2010 to 12.0 million residents by 2030. The SGVAC subregion has an existing population of almost 2 million residents, and is projected to grow to approximately 2.3 million residents in 2030.

Existing and Projected Housing Stock

There are no housing units at the WNDBRA. The DOF estimates the January 2010 housing stock of Los Angeles County at 3,431,588 dwelling units (DOF 2010).

Table 5.12-2 summarizes SCAG’s household projections through 2030 for the SCAG region, Los Angeles County, and the SGVAC subregion.

**TABLE 5.12-2
EXISTING AND FUTURE HOUSEHOLD PROJECTIONS: 2010–2030**

	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030
SCAG Region	6,086,983	6,474,074	6,840,331	7,156,635	7,449,484
Los Angeles County	3,357,798	3,509,580	3,666,631	3,788,732	3,906,851
SGVAC	575,957	601,815	628,329	648,956	668,871
SCAG: Southern California Association of Governments; SGVAC: San Gabriel Valley Association of Cities Source: SCAG 2008					

As shown in Table 5.12-2, in 2010 the SCAG region has an estimated 6 million households, which is projected to increase to approximately 7.4 million households by 2030. Los Angeles County has an estimated 3.36 million households in 2010, which is projected to grow to 3.9 million households by 2030. The SGVAC subregion has an estimated 575,957 households in 2010, which is projected to grow to approximately 668,871 households by 2030.

Existing and Projected Employment

Employment at the WNDBRA is found at the different recreational facilities and maintenance yards in the WNDBRA. The California Employment Development Department (EDD) estimates the County 2010 labor force at 4,874,400 persons, of which 581,900 persons (11.9 percent) are unemployed (EDD 2010). Table 5.12-3 summarizes SCAG’s area employment projections for the SCAG region, Los Angeles County, and the SGVAC subregion.

**TABLE 5.12-3
EXISTING AND FUTURE EMPLOYMENT PROJECTIONS: 2010–2030**

	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030
SCAG Region	8,349,454	8,811,402	9,183,026	9,546,782	9,913,372
Los Angeles County	4,552,398	4,675,875	4,754,731	4,847,436	4,946,420
SGVAC	809,846	830,252	843,289	858,609	874,968
SCAG: Southern California Association of Governments; SGVAC: San Gabriel Valley Association of Cities Source: SCAG 2008					

As shown in Table 5.12-3, in 2010 the SCAG region has an estimated 8.35 million jobs, which is projected to increase to approximately 9.9 million jobs by 2030. Los Angeles County has an estimated 4.55 million jobs in 2010, which is projected to grow to 4.95 million jobs by 2030. The SGVAC subregion has an estimated 809,846 jobs in 2010, which is projected to grow to approximately 874,968 jobs by 2030.

5.12.3 THRESHOLDS OF SIGNIFICANCE

The following significance criteria are derived from Appendix G of the State CEQA Guidelines. The project would result in a significant adverse impact related to population, employment, and housing if it would:

- Threshold 5.12.1:** Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposed new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure);*
- Threshold 5.12.2:** Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere; or*
- Threshold 5.12.3:** Displace substantial number of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere.*

5.12.4 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

Project Design Features

There are no project design features that specifically relate to population and housing.

Standard Conditions

There are no standard conditions that specifically relate to population and housing.

Impact Analysis

Substantial Population Growth

Threshold 5.12.1: Would the project induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposed new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?

The MDPI does not propose housing development within the WNCBRA; therefore, it would not result in direct population growth. With an expansion in facilities and/or services within the WNCBRA, there may be an increase in employment opportunities from concessionaire operations; park operations (i.e., amphitheater, entrance fee collection, and daily programs); park maintenance; janitorial and security needs in the long-term; and construction in the short-term. However, the non-specialized types and modest number of potential employment opportunities that could be generated over the planning horizon of the MDPI is not expected to drive household relocations into the region, which could result in indirect population and/or housing growth near the WNCBRA. Also, the recreational uses are not job-intensive developments but would be largely land-intensive and would not be staffed on a regular basis. The increased availability of recreational opportunities at the WNCBRA is also not expected to be the main factor in the choice of housing near the WNCBRA. Therefore, the MDPI and

proposed improvements would not result in any substantial direct or indirect population or employment growth. Job creation at the WNDDBRA would represent an insignificant amount of the projected 65,122 new jobs within the SGVAC region from 2010 to 2030 or the 394,022 new jobs projected for the County for the same time period.

Increase in employment from proposed programs, facilities, and improvements would represent a minimal amount of projected job growth and would not exceed SCAG projections. Impacts would be less than significant.

Housing Displacement

Threshold 5.12.2: Would the project displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?

As noted above, there are no existing housing units within the WNDDBRA. Therefore, implementation of the proposed programs, facilities, and improvements called out in the MDPI would not result in displacement of housing, households, or people. No housing displacement impacts would occur.

Population Displacement

Threshold 5.12.3: Would the project displace substantial number of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?

The MDPI does not propose the relocation or displacement of existing facilities and recreational uses. Thus, no displacement of existing users, businesses, or employment would occur. Rather, the proposed facilities would be located in underutilized sites and improvements are planned in areas where no recreational uses and employment are present (such as the Rio Hondo, the San Gabriel River, the conservation pool, nearby roadways, and intersections). Other facilities are proposed to replace existing land uses when the leases expire or when a facility no longer serves the demand from the surrounding area. Thus, replacement of these uses with other recreational facilities would not result in substantial population displacement and would not be considered a significant adverse impact.

5.12.5 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

Because the proposed MDPI or the proposed programs, facilities, and improvements under the MDPI would not displace or introduce housing development in the WNDDBRA nor would it result in any direct or substantial indirect population growth, the proposed project would not result in a cumulatively considerable contribution to regional population growth or housing development. Increases in employment at the site, in the surrounding areas, in the SGVAC, and in the County would not affect SCAG projections, as presented above. There would be no significant cumulative adverse impact on population, housing, or employment from the MDPI.

5.12.6 MITIGATION PROGRAM

No significant impacts have been identified related to population and housing; therefore, no mitigation is required.

5.12.7 LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE AFTER MITIGATION

No significant adverse impacts on population or housing would occur.

5.12.8 REFERENCES

California Department of Finance (DOF). 2010. *Report E-5: City/County Population and Housing Estimates 2000-2010*. Sacramento, CA: DOF.

California Employment Development Department (EDD). 2010 (April 16). *Monthly Labor Force Data for Cities and Census Designated Places (CDP) April 2010 – Preliminary*. Sacramento, CA: EDD.

Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG). 2008. Adopted 2008 RTP Growth Forecast, by City (an excel spreadsheet). Los Angeles, CA: SCAG. <http://www.scag.ca.gov/forecast>.

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