

## SECTION 7.0 LONG-TERM IMPLICATIONS OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT

### 7.1 ANY SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS WHICH CANNOT BE AVOIDED IF THE PROPOSED PROJECT IS IMPLEMENTED

The potential environmental impacts of the proposed MDPI are discussed in Sections 5.1 through 5.17 of this EIR. Implementation of the proposed facilities and improvements set forth in the MDPI would result in potentially significant adverse impacts after implementation of the project design features (PDF) and the standard conditions (SC) but prior to implementation of mitigation measures (MMs) for the following environmental issues: Aesthetics, Air Quality, Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Geology and Soils, Hydrology and Water Quality, Noise, and Transportation.

Implementation of the MMs provided for these issue areas would avoid or reduce potential environmental impacts to less than significant levels for the following issues: Aesthetics, Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Geology and Soils, Hydrology and Water Quality, Noise, and Transportation.

Implementation of the MDPI would result in the following significant adverse impacts even after implementation of the mitigation program and would require adoption of a Statement of Overriding Considerations:

**Impact 5.3:** The generation of pollutant emissions during construction and operation of the proposed facilities and improvements in the WNCBRA would be a significant and unavoidable direct and cumulative impact due to existing violations of clean air standards in the South Coast Air Basin (SoCAB) and the MDPI's potential for indirect contributions to the frequency or severity of these violations.

### 7.2 SIGNIFICANT IRREVERSIBLE ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGES WHICH WOULD BE CAUSED BY THE PROPOSED PROJECT SHOULD IT BE IMPLEMENTED

The environmental effects related to the implementation of the MDPI are discussed in Sections 5.1 through 5.17 of this EIR. Implementation of the MDPI would require the long-term commitment of natural resources and land. Development of the proposed programs, facilities, and improvements called out in the MDPI would result in the commitment of land resources for various recreational uses and for new utility connections and improved utility infrastructure.

Construction and long-term use or operation of the proposed facilities and improvements would require the commitment and reduction of non-renewable and slowly renewable resources, including petroleum fuels and natural gas (for vehicle use, construction, and lighting) and lumber, steel, and other metals (for use in building construction, piping, and roadway infrastructure).

Construction of proposed facilities and improvements under the MDPI would require sand and gravel resources for roadways, infrastructure, and building construction. These resources would be derived from local sources within the Irwindale production area (San Gabriel Valley Production-Consumption region).

While the use of non-renewable resources would be irreversible, they would be less than significant due to the type and size of improvements when compared to available resources or to construction activities throughout the region. Other resources that are slow to renew and/or recover from environmental stressors, such as air quality through the combustion of fossil fuels and production of greenhouse gases and water supply through the increased potable water demands for drinking fountains, restrooms, landscape irrigation, and general maintenance needs, would also be impacted by project implementation.

Changes in existing plant and animal habitats within the WND BRA would also occur, along with site-specific impacts on cultural (archaeological, paleontological, and historical) resources where present on scattered sites in the WND BRA. While these impacts would be irreversible, mitigation has been provided to avoid impacts to sensitive species and their habitats and to important cultural resources. Various programs for habitat restoration and enhancement are also proposed under the MDPI, which would improve biodiversity and habitat quality in the WND BRA. These impacts would be less than significant after mitigation.

In addition, a number of potential environmental impacts would occur but these can be reversed. Changes in land use; increases in visitors and employment, trip generation and associated pollutant emissions, greenhouse gases, and noise; demands for public services and utilities; use of hazardous materials for maintenance or exposure to hazards; changes in visual quality; and introduction of new light and glare sources can be eliminated with the cessation of operations of the proposed facilities, demolition of buildings and improvements, and the reversion of specific areas in the WND BRA to their undeveloped/underdeveloped conditions.

The environmental changes associated with proposed facilities and improvements set forth in the MDPI have been determined to be less than significant with implementation of the project design features, compliance with standard conditions, and implementation of the required mitigation measures. However, as discussed above, impacts on air quality would remain significant and unavoidable.

### **7.3 GROWTH-INDUCING IMPACTS OF THE PROPOSED ACTION**

Pursuant to Sections 15126(d) and 15126.2(d) of the CEQA Guidelines, this section is provided to examine ways in which the proposed MDPI could foster economic or population growth, or the construction of additional development, either directly or indirectly, in the surrounding environment. To address this issue, potential growth-inducing effects are examined through analysis of the following questions:

1. Would this 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)?
2. Would this project result in the need to expand one or more public services to maintain desired levels of service?
3. Would this project encourage or facilitate economic effects that could result in other activities that could significantly affect the environment?
4. Would approval of this 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 necessarily beneficial, detrimental, or of little significance to the environment. This issue is presented to provide additional information on ways in which the project could contribute to significant changes in the environment, beyond the direct consequences of approving the proposed MDPI.

**1. *Would this 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)?***

As discussed in Section 5.16, Utilities and Service Systems, no major new infrastructure facilities are required to serve the proposed facilities and improvements in the WNCBRA. Existing utility infrastructure and facilities are available in and near the WNCBRA to serve individual facilities proposed on site. Extension of utility lines would only be made to serve specific areas where facilities are proposed and not to serve areas that do not require utility services.

No changes to the land use regulations for the WNCBRA are proposed by the MDPI. Thus, no growth inducement from land development opportunities would occur with the project.

**2. *Would this project result in the need to expand one or more public services to maintain desired levels of service?***

As discussed in Section 5.13, Public Services, none of the public service agencies consulted during the preparation of this EIR have indicated that this project would necessitate the expansion of their existing resources or the construction of new stations in order to maintain desired levels of service. In the event that their resources do need to be expanded in the future, funding mechanisms are in place through existing regulations and standard practices to accommodate future demands. The MDPI would, therefore, not have significant growth-inducing consequences with respect to public services.

**3. *Would this project encourage or facilitate economic effects that could result in other activities that could significantly affect the environment?***

During the construction of individual facilities and improvements, a number of design, engineering, and construction-related jobs would be created in the short-term. This would be a temporary situation, lasting until project construction is completed. This would be an indirect, growth-inducing effect of the MDPI. As new recreational facilities are developed and used, visitors and employees of the facilities could seek eating and shopping opportunities in the surrounding area. This would represent an increased demand for economic goods and services and could encourage the creation of new businesses and/or the expansion of existing businesses that address these economic needs. However, the increase in visitors and employment at the WNCBRA is not expected to result in major demands for goods and services is not expected to be a major increase since the activities and facilities in the WNCBRA or those set forth in the MDPI do not promote or encourage eating and shopping activities at nearby areas, and there are existing commercial uses near the WNCBRA that currently serve the demand generated by WNCBRA users and that could serve future demand. Therefore, although the proposed MDPI will have a growth-inducing effect related to the increased use of on-site facilities, these growth-inducing effects would not be substantial enough to cause significant adverse environmental effects.

**4. Would approval of this project involve some precedent-setting action that could encourage and facilitate other activities that could significantly affect the environment?**

The proposed MDPI would improve the natural environment within the WNCBRA, as well as provide greater opportunities for recreational activities. The MDPI would lead to an increase in the number of visitors to the WNCBRA, but would confine recreational uses to developed or highly disturbed areas, thereby preserving natural areas and sensitive habitats. Implementation of the MDPI would not significantly affect the natural environment within the WNCBRA, although demand-driven impacts related to traffic, public services, and utilities would occur. The environmental impacts of proposed facilities and improvements in the WNCBRA are analyzed in this EIR, and mitigation is provided for identified significant adverse impacts.

No changes to building safety standards (e.g., Building, Grading, Plumbing, Mechanical, Electrical, and/or Fire Codes) are proposed or required to implement the MDPI. Mitigation measures have been identified in Sections 5.1 through 5.17 to ensure that subsequent proposals for specific facilities and improvements (1) are subject to environmental review and (2) comply with all applicable regulations and ordinances to ensure that there are no conflicts with adopted regulations and that environmental impacts are minimized.

Pressures to develop or redevelop other land in the surrounding area may occur due to regional economic conditions and market demands for housing, commercial, office, and industrial land uses but are not expected to be directly or indirectly influenced by the proposed MDPI. Proposed facilities and improvements in the WNCBRA would not allow for additional residential, commercial, and/or office development in the surrounding areas. While improvements to the WNCBRA could promote improvements to other recreational facilities on the Emerald Necklace, no precedent-setting action would accompany the MDPI, and the impacts of subsequent similar actions at nearby parks and recreational facilities would not be directly attributable to the MDPI. These similar projects would also require independent environmental analysis and associated mitigation to ensure that their impacts would not significantly affect the environment.