

6.0 GROWTH INDUCEMENT

6.1 INTRODUCTION

This section discusses whether the proposed project would foster economic growth or population growth in the surrounding area. A project may foster economic or population growth in a geographic area if it would meet any of the following criteria:

- The project would result in the urbanization of land in a remote location, creating an intervening area of open space which then experiences pressure to be developed.
- The project removes an impediment to growth through the establishment of an essential public service or the provision of new access to an area.
- Economic expansion, population growth, or the construction of additional housing occurs in the surrounding environment in response to economic characteristics of the project.
- The project establishes a precedent setting action, such as a change in zoning or general plan amendment approval that makes it easier for future projects to gain approval.

Should the project meet any one of these criteria, it is to be considered growth-inducing. An increase in population may require construction of new facilities which could cause significant environmental impacts. Section 15126.2 of the State CEQA Guidelines states that growth in an area is not necessarily beneficial, detrimental, or of little significance to the environment.

6.2 URBANIZATION OF LAND IN ISOLATED LOCALITIES

The proposed project would be implemented at the existing Tajiguas Landfill, located in the unincorporated Gaviota Coast Rural Region. The landfill has been in continuous operation at the site since 1967. Adding new waste management facilities (MRF, AD Facility, Energy Facility) to the existing landfill operations would not be considered urbanization. The County Land Use Element identifies that public facilities may be necessary and appropriately sited within the County's rural areas. The project would provide limited employment opportunities, and could result in a very small increase in population, but would likely be dispersed over the Goleta, Buellton, Lompoc and Santa Maria areas. The housing needs of project-related employees would be met by the existing inventory in these communities, without the need for new housing or urbanization of land. Therefore, the project would not be growth inducing under this criterion.

1 **6.3 REMOVAL OF AN IMPEDIMENT TO GROWTH**

2 Landfill capacity may be limited in some communities, but generally is not an
3 impediment to growth. Waste disposal is not restricted by the availability of local landfills in the
4 same way that sewage disposal and water supply needs must be accommodated by the local
5 systems. Solid waste can be hauled to other distant areas by long haul trucks or rail haul. Due
6 to capacity provided by the approved Tajiguas Landfill Expansion Project and current waste
7 diversion rate associated with the County's integrated waste management program, the
8 Tajiguas Landfill is projected to have adequate capacity to serve the south coast of Santa
9 Barbara County and Santa Ynez and Cuyama Valleys until approximately 2026 based on
10 current waste disposal rates. The proposed project would not result in an increase in the solid
11 waste disposal capacity of the Tajiguas Landfill, but would result in diversion of about 60
12 percent of the waste currently buried at the landfill, which would extend the life of the landfill by
13 about 10 years. The maximum amount of MSW (1,500 tons per day) permitted to be accepted
14 at the landfill would not change. Therefore, the project could not support population growth that
15 would substantially increase the daily amount of MSW received. Overall, the project would not
16 establish an essential public service for future development, and would not be considered
17 growth inducing under this criterion.

18 **6.4 ECONOMIC GROWTH**

19 The project would not directly result in the construction of any homes or facilities that
20 would attract people to the area. The proposed facilities would generate a net employment
21 demand of 60 (80 with the CSSR optional component). Note that project-related waste
22 diversion would reduce landfilling activity, and result in six fewer landfill staff. Therefore, the net
23 employment opportunities would be 6 less than the staffing estimates provided in Table 3-5.
24 Based on an employee survey conducted for the project, most employees live north of the site,
25 in Buellton, Lompoc and Santa Maria. Due to the relatively small number of employment
26 opportunities provided, and anticipated dispersed nature of the worker pool, it is not expected
27 that the project would facilitate economic expansion, population growth, or the construction of
28 additional housing.

29 **6.5 PRECEDENT SETTING ACTION**

30 The proposed project would not result in a precedent-setting action such as a General
31 Plan Amendment or change in zoning. The project area is within the existing boundary of the
32 Tajiguas Landfill property which has served the waste disposal needs of unincorporated areas
33 of the County since 1967 and has waste disposal overlay designation under the General Plan.
34 Therefore, the project would not be growth inducing under this criterion.

35 **6.6 CONCLUSIONS**

36 As indicated in the above discussions, the proposed project is not growth inducing under
37 any of the criteria listed in the State CEQA Guidelines.