3.16 GROWTH-INDUCING IMPACTS

Section 15126.2(d) of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines requires that an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) describe the potential growth-inducing impacts of a proposed project. Specifically, Section 15126.2(d) state that a project must:

\[
\text{Discuss the ways in which the proposed project could foster economic development or population growth, or the construction of additional housing, either directly or indirectly, in the surrounding environment.} \quad \text{[It should] also discuss the characteristics of some projects which may encourage and facilitate other activities that could substantially affect the environment, either individually or cumulatively. It must not be assumed that growth in any area is necessarily beneficial, detrimental or of little significance to the environment.}
\]

The proposed project would provide the facilities necessary for the LAMC to meet its existing enrollment and a part of the forecasted increase in demand for higher education within the northeast portion of the San Fernando Valley. The LAMC generally derives a majority of its existing enrollment and employees from college’s surrounding communities. Based on Zip Code data assembled for the 2002-2003 academic year, an estimated 85% of the students, faculty and staff commuting to and from the College reside in the following communities: Sylmar, Lake View Terrace, Olive View, Pacoima, San Fernando, Granada Hills, North Hills, Sun Valley, Shadow Hills, Panorama City, Arleta, and Mission Hills.

The number of students and course load has increased steadily over the past five years, indicating more and more LAMC students are pursuing their academic program objectives as full-time students. Enrollment forecasts reflect these past trends and an expectation the feeder schools and the general population of the communities the College serves would continue to provide new and continuing students to the LAMC. The anticipated growth in student enrollment is expected to reach 15,000 students by 2015.

The project would provide only those facilities (buildings and infrastructure) necessary to serve its future student enrollment, and would not provide excess capacity in building space or infrastructure (public services and utilities). Because the development of the project is expected to continue drawing population from the northeast portion of the San Fernando Valley, the project is not expected to stimulate economic change, spur new development, or otherwise alter the pace of population growth in the area and region beyond that which would occur naturally or due to other forces, such as land use and policy decisions by the Cities of Los Angeles and San Fernando, and the County of Los Angeles.

3.16.1 Economic Growth Impacts

Employment at LAMC is anticipated to increase modestly over the life of the LAMC Facilities Master Plan. The Master Plan is crafted to serve the existing population in the surrounding communities and the demand for the College’s educational services.
Although some secondary economic growth may result due to project construction and in support of the educational mission of the College, it would not be substantial and no significant growth-inducing impact is anticipated.

3.16.2 Population Growth

The proposed project is not expected to result in substantial regional population growth. Development of the project is intended to serve existing and forecasted residents of the community. No significant growth-inducing impact would occur related to population growth.