

## **7 OTHER CONSIDERATIONS REQUIRED BY CEQA**

### **7.1 SIGNIFICANT UNAVOIDABLE IMPACTS**

#### **7.1.1 CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT GUIDELINES**

State CEQA Guidelines Section 21100(b)(2)(A) provides that an EIR shall include a detailed statement setting forth “in a separate section: any significant effect on the environment that cannot be avoided if the project is implemented.” Accordingly, this section provides a summary of significant environmental impacts of the project that cannot be mitigated to a less than significant level.

#### **7.1.2 SIGNIFICANT UNAVOIDABLE IMPACTS OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT**

Chapter 4, Environmental Setting, Thresholds of Significance, Environmental Impacts, and Mitigation Measures, provides a description of the potential environmental impacts of the project and recommends various mitigation measures to reduce impacts, to the extent feasible. Chapter 5, Cumulative Impacts, determines whether the incremental effects of this project are significant when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects. After implementation of the recommended mitigation measures, most of the impacts associated with the project would be reduced to a less than significant level. The following impacts are considered significant and unavoidable; that is, no feasible mitigation is available to reduce the project’s impacts to a less than significant level. Chapter 6, Alternatives to the Project, considers alternatives to the project that may be capable of reducing or avoiding some of these impacts.

#### **PROJECT IMPACTS**

The significant and unavoidable environmental impacts of the proposed project include:

##### **Traffic and Circulation**

Impact CIRC-4: Project-generated operational traffic would result in additional employee trips that would result in unacceptable LOS standards at six intersections within County of San Diego and two Caltrans-operated intersections at differing peak hours, under 2015 and 2030 scenarios. Mitigation is identified through fair share payments for four of these intersections, and through full payments for improvements to two intersections, to fund specific improvements which would reduce impacts to these intersections to a level less than significant; however, there is no guarantee that the City or County of San Diego would implement mitigation in a timely manner, and therefore the impact would remain significant and unavoidable.

## **Air Quality**

Impact AIR-1b: Construction of the proposed project would result in short-term construction-related emissions of ROG, NO<sub>x</sub>, and CO, that exceed the County's daily significance thresholds. While mitigation designed to reduce ozone precursors will be implemented, the impacts would still remain significant. These conditions would lead to a significant and unavoidable impact.

## **7.2 SIGNIFICANT IRREVERSIBLE ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGES**

The State CEQA Guidelines require a discussion of the significant irreversible environmental changes which would be involved in the project should it be implemented.

The irreversible and irretrievable commitment of resources is the permanent loss of resources for future or alternative purposes. Irreversible and irretrievable resources are those that cannot be recovered or recycled or those that are consumed or reduced to unrecoverable forms. The proposed project would result in the irreversible and irretrievable commitment of energy and material resources during project construction, operation, and maintenance, including the following:

- ▶ construction materials, including such resources as rocks, wood, concrete, glass, roof shingles, and steel;
- ▶ land area committed to new project facilities;
- ▶ water supply for project operation; and
- ▶ energy expended in the form of electricity, gasoline, diesel fuel, and oil for equipment and transportation vehicles that would be needed for project construction and operation.

The proposed health care facility would be designed to meet, at a minimum, LEED Silver standards. As part of this process, efforts would be made to utilize recycled and renewable materials, and the building would be designed using energy efficient technologies. Some nonrenewable resources would still be required. These nonrenewable resources are expected to account for a minimal portion of the region's resources and would not affect the availability of these resources for other needs within the region. Long-term operational energy and natural resource consumption is expected to be less than significant. Construction activities would not result in inefficient use of energy or natural resources. Construction contractors selected would use best available engineering techniques, construction and design practices, and equipment operating procedures. Because the proposed project would be LEED certified and use energy efficient materials where appropriate, potential irreversible changes related to long-term consumption of energy and natural resources would be less than significant.

## **7.3 GROWTH INDUCEMENT**

### **7.3.1 STATE CEQA GUIDELINES**

State CEQA Guidelines Section 2100(b)(5) specifies that growth-inducing impacts of a project must be addressed in an EIR. State CEQA Guidelines Section 15126(d) states that a proposed project is growth-inducing if it could “foster economic or population growth, or the construction of additional housing, either directly or indirectly, in the surrounding environment.” Included in the definition are projects that would remove obstacles to population growth. Examples of growth-inducing actions include developing water, wastewater, fire, or other types of services in previously unserved areas, extending transportation routes into previously undeveloped areas, and establishing major new employment opportunities. The following is a summary of the direct and indirect growth inducing impacts that could result with implementation of the project.

### **7.3.2 GROWTH-INDUCING IMPACT OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT**

RJDCF is located in the unincorporated Otay subregional area of San Diego County, approximately 18 miles southeast of downtown San Diego, less than 1 mile east of the cities of San Diego and Chula Vista, and 2 miles north of the international United States/Mexico border.

The U.S. Census Bureau estimates that the population of the county was 2,974,859 persons in 2007 (Census 2008). The county population was estimated at 2,813,833 persons in 2000, representing an average growth rate of 0.8 percent per year. Approximately 95 percent of existing RJDCF employees reside in the county. By the year 2030, total population in the county is forecast to grow to 3,984,753 persons. The population of the city of San Diego has increased from 1,223,400 persons in the year 2000 to 1,256,951 persons in the year 2007 (Census 2008), representing an average growth of 0.4 percent per year. Approximately 33 percent (over 500) of existing RJDCF employees reside in the city of San Diego. The San Diego Association of Governments projects that the population of the city of San Diego will increase to 1,656,257 persons by the year 2030 (SANDAG 2008). The population of Chula Vista has increased from 173,556 persons in the year 2000 to 212,756 persons in the year 2007 (Census 2008), representing an average growth of 3.2 percent per year. Approximately 35 percent (about 550) of existing RJDCF employees reside in the Chula Vista. The San Diego Association of Governments projects that the population of Chula Vista will increase to 316,445 persons by the year 2030 (SANDAG 2008).

The proposed project is intended to achieve the following additional objectives:

- ▶ Locate the medical and mental health care facility in a geographic area which effectively serves state prison inmates.

- ▶ Locate the medical and mental health care facility in proximity to a metropolitan area where there is access to a large employment base to serve the facility, including areas with potential training facilities ample medical professionals.
- ▶ Locate the medical and mental health care facility on state-owned property with priority given to existing CDCR facilities;
- ▶ Size the facilities to provide between 1,300 and 1,800 beds to achieve space effective and efficient patient care while ensuring a secure facility.
- ▶ Design the facilities in a manner that is conducive to safe, effective, and efficient care, including patient access to the diagnostic and treatment center, patient support areas, and natural light.
- ▶ Provide a high level of security to protect the safety of the patients, correctional and medical staff, and surrounding community.
- ▶ Improve existing health care facilities at RJDCF in order to meet the constitutional standards for health care.

The project would provide both short-term and permanent employment opportunities. The number of short-term construction jobs required to build the project would peak at approximately 1,700, and the project would be constructed over an approximate 24 month period. Approximately 1,400 of those workers would be required for a minimum of 11 months. Because the supply of general construction labor in the project vicinity (approximately 81,400 workers in the county) is not constrained, it is expected that workers would be available to serve the project. This is particularly likely given the national and local slowdown in the construction industry, suggesting an available employment pool.

The proposed project would require the addition of up to 1,600 new employees, which includes 25 new personnel at the existing RJDCF. The type of employment opportunities provided at the new facility would consist of jobs in correctional, medical, administrative, and clerical services. The county has a labor force of approximately 1,313,800 people. June 2008 unemployment rates for San Diego County (5.9 percent) indicate that unemployment is slightly better than the statewide average of 6.9 percent. However, this rate has been increasing for all sectors in the county suggesting that labor availability is further not constrained in the project vicinity. As described above in the existing setting, there are more health care graduates produced through local institutions than positions available, and when considering that some positions are filled through existing professionals, the total net availability further grows. Therefore, the project would bring competitive employment opportunities to fulfill the needs of the labor force without requiring an import of professionals from outside the region. Some immigration of employees is probable; it is unlikely that all needed skills and experience levels would be met with

local employees. However, given the perspective availability of needed employees, immigration would not be expected to be substantial, and given the size of the local economy, would not meaningfully affect growth.

The proposed project does not extend infrastructure and public services to serve areas outside of the proposed health care facility and existing uses at RJDCF. The proposed OWD recycled water line under Alta Road will be constructed as outlined in the OWD CIP Budget 2008-2013, and will be operational according to schedule to serve the area, including the project site. No increase in capacity over the existing systems would be required or is proposed. The project does not provide or necessitate infrastructure that could be used by other future developments.

In conclusion, the health care facility has the potential to stimulate the economy both directly (by providing jobs) and indirectly (by creating a demand for local goods and services) in the region. Due to the general availability in the labor market and current unemployment rates, there would be an opportunity to fill a majority of positions with local hires. Further, the project would not meaningfully affect employment or other growth in the region, given the size of the regional economy. Therefore, the project would not contribute to substantial population growth.

This page intentionally left blank.