

## 7.0 GROWTH INDUCING IMPACTS

Section 15126.2(d) of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines states that growth-inducing impacts of the proposed project must be discussed in the EIR. In general terms, a project may induce spatial, economic or population growth in a geographic area if it meets any one of the four criteria identified below:

1. Removal of an impediment to growth (e.g., establishment of an essential public service or the provisions of new access to an area).
2. Economic expansion or growth (e.g., changes in revenue base, employment expansion, etc.).
3. Establishment of a precedent setting action (e.g., an innovation, a change in zoning or general plan amendment approval).
4. Development or encroachment in an isolated area or one adjacent to open space (being different from an “infill” type of project).

Should a project meet any one of the above listed criteria, it can be considered growth inducing. The impacts of the proposed project are evaluated below with regard to these four growth-inducing criteria.

### 7.1 Removal of an Impediment to Growth

The proposed project involves the drilling of oil and gas development wells from an existing platform and the installation of new equipment at existing oil and gas processing facilities. The project would increase the volume of oil being handled by the facilities from what is occurring today and would increase the life of these facilities. However, the increased volumes would not exceed the volumes permitted for the Point Pedernales Project under the existing Final Development Plan (FDP) and would require minimal new infrastructure.

The proposed project would not result in the establishment of an essential public service, and would not provide new access to an area previously inaccessible. As a result, the project is not considered to cause significant growth inducement under this criterion.

### 7.2 Economic Growth

Short-term economic growth could occur in the Lompoc area during the construction phase of the proposed project because of construction workers and associated support services. Long-term project employment is extremely limited and would only occur offshore during the drilling phase of the Tranquillon Ridge Project. Therefore, there would be no new significant operational employment associated with the proposed project. The construction activities would result in some short-term increase to the SBC's existing revenue base. The operational activities would result in an increase to the revenue base for the State of California. Economic growth associated with the proposed project is not considered to be significant.

### **7.3 Precedent Setting Action**

The proposed project involves development of oil and gas reserves from an existing offshore platform using extended reach drilling techniques. This type of development maximizes the use of existing infrastructure, and avoids the need to build new offshore platforms. The development of State oil and gas reserves using extended reach drilling from Federal Waters may be viewed as a precedent setting action by some. However, other offshore oil and gas development projects in the Santa Barbara Channel have been using directional drilling to develop Federal leases. Therefore, the proposed project is not considered a precedent setting action that would result in significant growth inducing impacts.

### **7.4 Development of Open Space**

Development of open space is considered growth inducing when it encroaches upon urban-rural interfaces or in isolated localities. Construction associated with the proposed project would occur at existing facilities. No development is proposed in open spaces. Therefore, the proposed project is not considered to be growth inducing under this criterion.

### **7.5 Conclusion**

The proposed project does not meet any of the four growth inducing criteria specified in this section. As a result, the proposed project is not considered to be growth inducing.