



3.5 GROWTH INDUCING IMPACT

Section 15126.2(d) of the CEQA guidelines requires that the growth inducing impact of the proposed project be analyzed in the DEIR. Section 15126.2(d) states that an EIR should:

“Discuss the ways in which the proposed project could foster economic growth or population growth, or the construction of additional housing, either directly or indirectly, in the surrounding environment. Included in this are projects that would remove obstacles to population growth.”

Resuming freight rail service will foster economic growth in the proposed project area by providing existing business and industries a cost effective fuel efficient alternative for hauling heavy and bulky freight. As the cost of fuel continues to increase, the cost benefits to the local businesses and industries will continue to improve because the state of the art locomotives are more fuel efficient than heavy diesel trucks. The implementation of the proposed project may also foster new industries and new jobs in the proposed project area.

Resuming freight rail service would not have a significant impact on population growth or the construction of additional housing. Because the railroad is existing and will not involve the construction of new facilities such as passenger stations, the proposed project will not encourage development of new housing along the railroad.

The maintenance and repair activities associated with the operations of the railroad will result in improvements to the railroad infrastructure that in and of themselves do not create a growth inducing impact.

Since the proposed project will remove obstacles to economic growth in the region by providing a more cost effective and safer alternative to transporting merchandise by heavy diesel trucks, the proposed project will have a beneficial impact.



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3.0 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING, IMPACTS, AND MITIGATION MEASURES

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