

## **SECTION 7: GROWTH-INDUCING, IRREVERSIBLE, AND IRRETRIEVABLE IMPACTS**

### **7.1 - Growth Inducing Impact Analysis**

CEQA Section 15126 requires that an EIR discuss the ways in which a proposed project could directly or indirectly foster economic or population growth or the construction of additional housing. Direct growth-inducing impacts are generally associated with the provision of urban services and the extension of infrastructure to an undeveloped area. The extension of services and facilities to an individual area can reduce development constraints for other nearby areas and thus serve to induce further development in the vicinity. Indirect or secondary growth-inducing impacts consist of growth induced in the region by the additional demands for housing, employment, goods, and services associated with population increase caused by or attracted to new development.

The proposed communication tower sites are designed to serve the County of Riverside and provide additional emergency services to an existing population and to support the County's growing population by ensuring a more reliable public safety communication system. The project will not increase access to potentially developable properties. Development of the proposed project will not provide other infrastructure improvements (public roadways, water and sewer services, etc.) that would accommodate future growth. The project represents a support service for existing development and projected future growth in the County. The project is designed to accommodate this growth but is not in itself a growth-inducing project.

### **7.2 - Irreversible Impact Analysis**

CEQA Section 15126.2(c) requires that an EIR also describe any significant irreversible or irretrievable environmental changes that would be caused by a project. Construction of the proposed towers would involve construction activities that would entail the commitment of nonrenewable energy resources and natural resources such as lumber and other forest products, sand and gravel, asphalt, steel, copper, lead, other metals, and water. Construction of the proposed project is a long-term commitment of the land. It is improbable that the site would revert back to its original vacant state due to the large capital investment that would already have been committed. Though the small size of the sites certainly make it theoretically possible to abandon a site and restore it to its former condition, for all intents and purposes the project must be considered an irreversible change to the environment.

### **7.3 - Irretrievable Impact Analysis**

Construction of the proposed project would entail the commitment of nonrenewable and/or slowly renewable energy resources, human resources, and natural resources, such as sand and gravel, asphalt, steel, other metals, and water. The proposed project would result in the conversion of undeveloped

lands to a developed use. Though the small size of the sites certainly make it theoretically possible to abandon a site and restore it to its former condition, for all intents and purposes the project must be considered an irretrievable commitment of resources.

Operation of the telecommunication towers would require further commitment of energy resources in the forms of electricity generated by fossil fuels, hydroelectric power, or nuclear energy. Propane gas and or diesel fuel will also be used at the sites to fuel generators. Increased motor vehicle travel to and from the project sites during routine maintenance would increase consumption of petroleum products. The energy and physical infrastructure maintenance commitments associated with the project would be long-term obligations. Therefore, the non-renewable nature of the resources used in the operation of the project can essentially be considered irretrievable.