

5.0 OTHER REQUIRED CEQA SECTIONS

5.1 GROWTH INDUCING IMPACTS

Section 15126.2(d) of the CEQA Guidelines requires an EIR to “*discuss the ways in which the project could foster economic or population growth, or the construction of additional housing, either directly or indirectly, in the surrounding environment. Included in this are projects which would remove obstacles to population growth...*” In general, a project may result in a significant growth inducing impact if it individually or cumulatively results in any of the actions described in the following examples:

- The project removes an obstacle to growth, such as: the establishment of an essential public service, the provision of new access to an area, or a change in zoning or general plan designation.
- The project results in economic expansion, population growth or the construction of additional housing occurs in the surrounding environment in response to the project, either directly or indirectly.

The proposed project would result in an expansion of existing oil production operations at an existing oil well pad, and would authorize the use of an existing access road (Koenigstein Road) that connects the project site to Highway 150. The project would not require the extension of sewer, water or other services to the project site; would not require the construction of a new access road or require improvements to the existing project site access road; and would not require changes to the project site’s existing zoning or land use designations. The project would result in short-term employment opportunities when the proposed oil wells are drilled and an existing oil well is re-drilled, and long-term employment opportunities would be limited to removing produced fluids from the project site and checking the operation of on-site equipment. The project’s short- and long-term employment opportunities would not result in substantial new job creation or have the potential to result in substantial economic growth. Therefore, the proposed project would not foster economic or population growth; would not remove an obstacle to population growth; and would not result in significant growth inducing impacts.

5.2 SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS THAT CANNOT BE AVOIDED

Section 15126.2(b) of the CEQA Guidelines requires that an EIR identify significant impacts that cannot be reduced to a less than significant level with the application of mitigation measures. As described in Section 4.0 of this RSEIR, the proposed project’s significant short-term noise impacts, and potentially significant impacts to nesting birds and California condor, can be reduced to a less than significant level with the implementation of proposed mitigation measures. The proposed project would not result in any significant and unavoidable impacts.

5.3 ENERGY CONSERVATION

CEQA Guidelines Appendix F requires that EIRs include an evaluation of the potential energy consumption and/or conservation impacts of proposed projects, with particular emphasis on avoiding or reducing inefficient, wasteful or unnecessary consumption of energy.

Energy use by the proposed project would be primarily from the short-term use of drilling equipment and related vehicles when the proposed oil wells are drilled and an existing well is re-drilled. It is estimated that a project-related drill rig would require the use of 400 gallons of diesel fuel per day, or approximately 4,000 gallons of fuel for each of the two proposed wells and the proposed re-drilled well. The fuel used by the drill rig would not adversely affect local or regional fuel supplies. Fuel used by construction workers commuting to and from the project site would not be substantial due to the short duration (10 days per well) of drilling activities and the limited number of construction workers (20) that would be required. Long-term energy use by the project would include electricity used to power two new pumping units, and fuel used for vehicle trips to and from the project site to haul produced fluids and to check the operation of on-site equipment. Project-related electricity use would be provided by the project site's existing electricity service connection. The project would not have a substantial long-term demand for electricity, and would not adversely affect local or regional supplies. The project's long-term use of vehicle fuel would not be substantial due to the low number of vehicle trips that would be generated. Although the project would result in a short- and long-term increase in the use of energy, its energy use would not be inefficient, wasteful or unnecessary, and overall the project's energy use would be offset by its production of oil that can be used as a new energy source.