

3.12 Population and Employment

3.12.1 Introduction

This section evaluates the potential for the proposed project to induce substantial unplanned population and employment growth, either directly or indirectly. The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) identifies several thresholds to analyze the potential significance on population and employment growth. Two of the thresholds identified in *CEQA Guidelines Appendix G* used by the City of Long Beach (City) in its Initial Study concerned whether the project would displace substantial number of existing housing or displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing. There are no existing or proposed housing units on the project site and, thus, the Initial Study determined that these thresholds need not be discussed in this environmental impact report (EIR). This section contains a description of the existing population and employment projections in the City, a description of historical population and employment trends in the City, and a discussion on the methodology and thresholds used to determine whether the proposed project would result in significant impacts due to increases in population and employment. This section analyzes the potential for both project-level and cumulative environmental impacts.

Data used in this section includes projections from relevant planning documents (such as the *City of Long Beach General Plan Housing Element 2013–2021*) and published population projections, such as those projections published by Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG), the California Department of Finance (DOF), United States Census Bureau, and the California Employment Development Department (EDD). All information sources used are included as citations within the text; sources are listed in Section 3.12.5, References.

3.12.2 Environmental Setting

3.12.2.1 Population

Long Beach is the fifth largest city in California. In 1970, the population of the City was 358,879. The City had experienced extensive population growth until the population began to decline in 2008, most likely due to the stagnant economy (City of Long Beach 2014). The SCAG Local Profiles Report considers a combination of recent and past trends, reasonable key technical assumptions, and local or regional growth policies. As shown in **Table 3.12-1, Population Growth in Long Beach 2000–2016**, between 2000 and 2016 the population decreased between 2006 and 2010 and has continued to increase ever since. In 2016, the population of the City increased to approximately 484,958 persons, an approximately 4.91 percent increase over the 2010 population of 462,257 persons (SCAG 2017). Table 3.12-1 depicts population growth in the City from 2000 to 2016.

The 2016–2040 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS) Growth Forecast (SCAG 2016) reports show the most likely growth scenario for the Southern California region in the future. The SCAG Local Profiles Report considers a combination of recent and past trends, reasonable key technical assumptions, and local or regional growth policies. According to the 2016–2040 RTP/SCS Growth Forecast, the population in Long Beach is projected will be approximately 484,500 persons by the year 2040. This represents a decrease of approximately 458 persons from the 484,958 persons in 2016. In contrast, SCAG projects the overall County of Los Angeles to continue to steadily grow over a similar same time period, from 10,151,000 in 2015 to 11,514,000 by 2040 (SCAG 2016).

Table 3.12-1 Population Growth in Long Beach 2000–2016

Year	Population	Percent Change from Previous Analyzed Year	Cumulative
2000	461,522	—	—
2002	465,765	0.92%	0.92%
2004	472,013	1.34%	2.27%
2006	467,586	-0.94%	1.31%
2008	463,250	-0.93%	0.37%
2010	462,257	-0.21%	0.16%
2014	470,292	1.74%	1.90%
2016	484,958	3.12%	5.08%

SOURCE: SCAG, 2017.

3.12.2.2 Employment

According to the City of Long Beach 2013–2021 Housing Element of the General Plan, the Long Beach–Los Angeles metropolitan region, like other metropolitan areas across the region, underwent significant economic changes during the 1990s. Base closures, defense industry layoffs, a slowdown in the manufacturing and construction sectors, and rising levels of unemployment characterized the regional economy through the early 1990s. As shown in **Table 3.12-2, City of Long Beach Employment and Unemployment Rates 2000–2016**, in 2000, the City’s unemployment rate was 6 percent, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics; however, by 2009, the City’s unemployment rate increased to over 12.7 percent and peaked at 13.6 percent in 2010. Similarly, in 2000 in Los Angeles County, the unemployment rate was 5.8 percent, 12.5 percent in 2009, and 10.28 percent in 2013.

From 1980 to 2015, the types of jobs held by residents of the City changed. The proportion of residents employed in service and managerial/professional occupations increased substantially, while those employed in production and operator/fabricator/labor occupations decreased. This is a result of the City becoming a destination for visitors, and it also indicates that manufacturing opportunities are leaving the City (SCAG 2017). Long Beach historically was home to a number of industrial/manufacturing plants, such as McDonnell Douglas and Boeing, both of which have reduced operations. The closure of military bases in the 1990s also affected the number of manufacturing opportunities in Long Beach.

Table 3.12-2 highlights employment rates in the City from 2000 to 2016. In addition, **Table 3.12-3, Total Jobs in the City of Long Beach 2007–2015**, shows total jobs that were available in the City from 2007 to 2015. According to the 2017 SCAG Local Profiles Report for the City of Long Beach, there was a decrease in the number of jobs available in the City between 2008 and 2010 and again in 2012. Although employment in the City increased in 2013 as the economy recovered, the total number of jobs were not equivalent to the available jobs in either 2007 or 2010.

Similar to the growth forecast for population and housing in Table 3.12-1, SCAG also prepares employment growth forecasts for the Southern California region, including Long Beach. According to the 2016–2040 RTP/SCS, the projected number of jobs in Long Beach will be approximately 181,700 by the year 2040. SCAG projects employment for the overall County of Los Angeles will continue to steadily grow over a similar time period, from 4,463,000 jobs in 2015 to 5,226,000 jobs by 2040 (SCAG 2016).

Table 3.12-2 City of Long Beach Employment and Unemployment Rates 2000–2016

Year	Employed Residents	Unemployed Residents	Total Labor Workforce ^a	Unemployment Rate
2000	211,987	13,430	225,417	6
2001	214,186	14,349	228,535	6.3
2002	212,242	17,104	229,346	7.5
2003	211,234	17,580	228,814	7.7
2004	212,932	16,436	229,368	7.2
2005	216,757	13,676	230,433	5.9
2006	219,265	12,285	231,550	5.3
2007	221,047	13,303	234,350	5.7
2008	218,189	19,943	238,132	8.4
2009	208,133	30,380	238,513	12.7
2010	204,857	32,271	237,128	13.6
2011	205,951	31,488	237,439	13.3
2012	208,224	28,132	236,356	11.9
2013	212,384	25,320	237,704	10.7
2014	217,445	21,532	238,977	9
2015	220,060	17,265	237,325	7.3
2016	225,271	13,738	239,009	5.7

SOURCE: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Data Tools, 2000–2017.

Table 3.12-3 Total Jobs in the City of Long Beach 2007–2015

Year	Number of Jobs in the City of Long Beach	Percent Change	Cumulative
2007	174,092	—	—
2008	172,769	-0.76%	-0.76%
2009	164,323	-4.89%	-5.61%
2010	162,470	-1.13%	-6.68%
2011	163,177	0.44%	-6.27%
2012	153,153	-6.14%	-12.03%
2013	158,230	3.31%	-9.11%
2014	157,996	-0.15%	-9.25%
2015	158,928	0.59%	-8.71%

SOURCE: SCAG, 2017.

3.12.3 Regulatory Framework

3.12.3.1 Federal

There are no federal population and employment regulations applicable to the proposed project.

3.12.3.2 State

There are no state population and employment regulations applicable to the proposed project.

3.12.3.3 Regional

Southern California Association of Governments 2016–2040 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy Reports

The SCAG's RTP/SCS Reports are prepared with the primary goal of increasing mobility for the region's residents and visitors. Additionally, the RTP/SCSs include consideration of impacts to economic and job creation as a result of the transportation infrastructure plan set forth. The current 2016–2040 RTP/SCS provides past, existing, and future population and employment estimates within the Southern California region.

3.12.3.4 Local

There are no local population and employment regulations applicable to the proposed project.

3.12.4 Analysis of Impacts

This section describes the impact analysis relating to population and employment for the proposed project. It describes the methods and applicable thresholds used to determine the impacts of the proposed project.

3.12.4.1 Significance Criteria

CEQA Guidelines Appendix G provides that a project would have a significant population and employment impact if it would:

- Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure);
- Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere; or
- Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere.

It was determined in the NOP/Initial Study (see Appendix A) that implementation of the proposed project would have no impact with regard to the displacement of substantial numbers of existing housing or necessitate the construction of replacement housing elsewhere because the proposed project does not contain any existing on-site housing. Thus, the Initial Study concluded that there would be no impact as a result of displacement of housing or people and, as such, these topics will not be discussed further in this EIR.

3.12.4.2 Methodology

Project-related population and employment information is based on the development assumptions for the proposed project, as described in Chapter 2, *Project Description*. This analysis compares the population and employment that would result from construction and operation of the proposed project as compared to planned future growth within the City. As described above, the methodology for this analysis included a review of available population and employment data, including projections published by SCAG, the DOF, United States Census Bureau, and the EDD.

The analysis considers whether the project would contribute to substantial daytime and/or residential population growth. “Substantial” growth is typically defined as an increase in population that is unplanned, without consideration of or planning for infrastructure, services, and housing needed to support proposed residents, employees, and visitors. Given that the proposed project does not include the development of residential units, it can be assumed that the project would not result in direct population growth; however, the project would temporarily and permanently increase employment opportunities in the project site during construction and operation and, thus, has the potential to indirectly increase population. Additionally, it is anticipated the visitors center would attract approximately 15,000 to 20,000 visitors per year to the project vicinity. Therefore, this analysis considers the project’s potential to indirectly induce population growth.

As stated in Chapter 1, *Introduction*, on April 28, 2016, the City sent the NOP to responsible, trustee, and federal agencies, as well as to organizations, and individuals potentially interested in the project to identify the relevant environmental issues that should be addressed in the EIR. No issues related to population and employment were identified.

3.12.4.3 Impact Evaluation

Impact PE-1: The project would not induce substantial indirect population growth. (Less than Significant)

Construction

There would be an increase in construction jobs at the project site as a result of implementation of the proposed project. As described in Chapter 2, *Project Description*, a majority of the proposed project (demolition and remediation, well plugging and abandonment, grading, site improvement work and restoration activities, construction of non-oil facilities, construction of oil facilities, well drilling, and operations) would be implemented in 4 years, while the remaining components (well plugging and abandonment, well drilling, and operations) would occur over a 40-year period. Between 110 and 160 workers would be required for construction activities. It is expected that most construction workers would meet on the Synergy Oil Field site and go to their respective construction sites on work buses. Construction would last approximately 8 years on the Pumpkin Patch and approximately 11 to 12 years on the Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority (LCWA) site. Approximately 40 to 60 personnel would be needed throughout the drilling process; workover operations would require substantially less personnel.

As described above, the proposed project anticipates that construction would take approximately 4 years (for the most intense construction) and employ a maximum of 160 construction workers during peak construction activities—this would include construction activity associated with the wetlands restoration, as well as construction activities to build the new oil production facilities on Pumpkin Patch and the LCWA sites. There

are over 250,000 construction workers in Los Angeles County (U.S. Census Bureau 2013). Recent overall unemployment estimates from April 2017 from the EDD show unemployment rates of approximately 4.1 percent for Los Angeles County. With an unemployment rate of approximately 4.1 percent countywide, it is likely that several thousand construction industry workers would be available, and it is expected that construction jobs would be filled from the local and/or regional (County) labor force. Given the availability of a construction workforce in Los Angeles County, which includes the project site, and also that the assignment would be temporary, it is assumed that construction workers would commute daily to the site. Therefore, construction-related activities would not result in an increase in the local population or require existing or projected local housing resources. Construction activities associated with the proposed project would not induce substantial indirect population growth, and impacts would be considered less than significant.

Operation

The proposed project would include a visitors center and public access trail on the Synergy Oil Field site. Ongoing operation of oil production facilities would be relocated to the Pumpkin Patch and LCWA sites. This would potentially result in a slight increase in employment opportunities in the Southeast Area Development and Improvement Plan (SEADIP) area.

The proposed project would create up to 30 new permanent employment positions for the oil operations, in addition to the 15 existing employees. The operation of the visitors center and operation and maintenance of the public access trails on the Synergy Oil Field site would also generate 5 additional employees, including 3 full-time employees and 2 volunteers.

The proposed project would provide employment opportunities for the local economy, and it is anticipated that the majority of the new jobs would be filled by the local labor force. According to the 2016–2040 RTP/SCS Growth Forecast, it anticipated that the City would have 181,700 available jobs by 2040, an increase of 22,772 jobs from the 158,928 jobs available in 2015 (SCAG 2016; Bureau of Labor Statistics 2017).

As described above, the employment opportunities projected for the proposed project are within the growth projections anticipated for the City for the year 2040 (SCAG RTP/SCS). Because the proposed project construction employment and operational employment would be within the anticipated growth projections, the project could be considered growth accommodating and not growth inducing. Furthermore, future employment would also include existing employees that would be relocated to the new operations site, and a majority of employment opportunities that would be generated by the proposed project are anticipated to be filled by the local employment pool and would, therefore, not induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly or indirectly. Operation of the proposed project, including ongoing operation of the oil production facilities and the new visitors center and public access trail, would not induce substantial population growth, and impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: None required.

Significance Determination: Less than Significant.

3.12.4.4 Cumulative Impacts

The geographic context for the analysis of cumulative impacts to population and housing is the SEADIP area within the City. The past and present development considered in the EIR is described in Chapter 3, *Environmental Setting, Impacts, and Mitigation Measures*, in the “Introduction to the Environmental Analysis” section, which provides the baseline conditions for evaluation of cumulative impacts. Reasonably foreseeable future development forecasts are based on projections of future growth and take into account projects going through the entitlement process. The geographic context for an analysis of cumulative impacts to employment would include the entire County of Los Angeles (as represented by the SCAG Planning Area), since a substantial percentage of City population commutes to jobs outside City limits, and substantial numbers of residents of other cities within Los Angeles County commute to jobs in the City. The existing employment conditions, representing past and present development in this geographic area, are presented in the setting description of regional employment.

Development of cumulative projects could result in increases in population and employment; however, according to the 2016–2040 RTP/SCS, the population in Long Beach is projected to be approximately 484,500 persons by the year 2040. This represents a decrease of approximately 458 persons from the 484,958 persons in 2016. The number of jobs in the City is expected to increase to approximately 181,700 jobs by the year 2040 from the 158,928 jobs available in 2015 (SCAG 2016). Thus, the employment opportunities projected for the proposed project are within the growth projections anticipated for the City for the year 2040 (SCAG RTP/SCS). The proposed project would not include any permanent housing on site and, thus, would not contribute to an increase in residents to the City. Therefore, the project would not make a cumulatively considerable contribution to any potential cumulative impact related to substantial increases in population, and the project’s cumulative impact would be less than significant.

Development of cumulative projects in the project area would be expected to result in indirect population growth through provision of increased employment opportunities. Employment growth would be considered substantial if it resulted in housing demand that would exceed planned regional housing development. The proposed project would provide up to 160 temporary construction jobs. It is expected that construction jobs would be filled from the local and/or regional (County) labor force. As workers would be drawn from areas within Los Angeles and Orange Counties to the project site, and their assignment would be temporary, it is assumed that they would commute daily to the site; thus, increased employment as a result of the project would not result in a significant cumulative impact regarding inducing substantial population growth to the project vicinity.

During operation, the proposed project would create up to 30 new permanent employment positions for the oil operations, in addition to the 15 existing employees. The operation of the visitors center and operation and maintenance of the public access trails on the Synergy Oil Field site would also generate 5 additional employees, including 3 full-time employees and 2 volunteers. The proposed project would provide employment opportunities for the local economy, and it is anticipated that the majority of the jobs would be filled by the local labor force. Therefore, the proposed project would not have a significant cumulative impact with regard to inducing substantial population growth to the project vicinity during project operations.

3.12.5 References

- Bureau of Labor Statistics. 2017. Databases, Tables, and Calculators, accessed June 26, 2017.
- City of Long Beach. 2014. *2013–2021 Housing Element of the General Plan*. Available at <http://www.lbds.info/civica/filebank/blobdload.asp?BlobID=4185>.
- Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG). 2016. *2016–2040 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy Growth Forecast*. Available at <http://scagrtpsc.net/Pages/FINAL2016RTPSCS.aspx>.
- . 2017. *Profile of the City of Long Beach*. Available at <https://www.scag.ca.gov/Documents/LongBeach.pdf>.
- U.S. Census Bureau. 2013. *DP04 Selected Housing Characteristics: 2009–2013 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates (for selected geographies)*, accessed June 27, 2016.