3.18 Growth-Inducing Impacts

Section 15126.2(d)\(^1\) of the CEQA Guidelines requires that an EIR describe the potential growth-inducing impacts of a proposed project. Specifically, Section 15126.2(d) states that a project must:

> Discuss the ways in which the proposed project could foster economic development or population growth, or the construction of additional housing, either directly or indirectly, in the surrounding environment…. (It should) also discuss the characteristics of some projects which may encourage and facilitate other activities that could substantially affect the environment, either individually or cumulatively. It must not be assumed that growth in any area is necessarily beneficial, detrimental or of little significance to the environment.

The proposed 2009 Master Plan would provide additional facilities that help LAMC meet its current and projected enrollment as well as the forecasted increase in demand for higher education within the northeastern portion of the San Fernando Valley. The majority of LAMC’s existing enrollment and employees are derived from the nearby surrounding communities of Sylmar, Lake View Terrace, Olive View, Pacoima, San Fernando, Granada Hills, North Hills, Sun Valley, Shadow Hills, Panorama City, Arleta, and Mission Hills.

There are currently over 9,100 students attending LAMC and according to the 2007 Master Plan\(^2\), enrollment is expected to grow to 15,000 students by the year 2015. The proposed 2009 Master Plan is intended to provide facilities that accommodate the needs of further LAMC enrollment and does not provide any excess infrastructure capacity construction. The growth-inducing impact of this expected enrollment growth was analyzed in the 2007 Master Plan EIR and remains consistent for the 2009 Master Plan.\(^3\)

The development of LAMC is expected to continue to draw population from the northeastern San Fernando Valley. The enrollment growth and new facilities are not expected to stimulate economic change, spur new development, or otherwise induce substantial population growth in the area beyond that which would occur naturally or due to other forces, such as land use and policy decisions by the cities of Los Angeles and San Fernando and the County of Los Angeles.

3.18.1 Economic Growth Impacts

Employment at LAMC is anticipated to increase modestly consistent with the growth of LAMC. Master Plans are crafted to serve the existing population in the surrounding communities and the demand for the LAMC’s educational services.

Secondary economic activity may result from the creation of additional permanent employment opportunities for current and future LAMC staff as well as temporary construction jobs associated with project construction. The planned construction cost of improvements resulting from the 2007 Master Plan was an estimated $188,385,900. Planned construction cost of improvements included in the 2009 Master Plan is an estimated $49,125,400 for development of the Nursery Property and the Athletic Fields.

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1. CEQA Guidelines, available at www.califaep.org
The proposed 2009 Master Plan is not expected to result in significant growth-inducing impacts to the surrounding community because the area is undergoing a period of slow or negative economic growth at this time. It is anticipated that it will take several years for an economic recovery. Any contribution made by the development of the 2009 Master Plan facilities would be beneficial during this period.

### 3.18.2 Population Growth

The proposed 2009 Master Plan would not generate population growth. The project does not include residential development because an adequate supply of student housing exists at LAMC. The 2009 Master Plan would provide LAMC facilities to accommodate enrollment increases as a result of already occurring regional population growth as presented in Section 2.0, Project Description.

Currently, students who attend the campus either live in the surrounding community or commute from the local area. It is expected this enrollment of local community members only will continue in the future. Construction workers also already reside in the area, and due to the economic downturn it is not expected that additional workers would be needed from outside the area. Therefore, the 2009 Master Plan it is not expected to induce population growth. No significant growth-inducing impact would occur.