



## CHAPTER 23

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### CUMULATIVE, GROWTH-INDUCING, AND GROWTH-RELATED IMPACTS

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### INTRODUCTION

Cumulative, growth-inducing, and growth-related impacts are discussed together in this chapter since they are very closely related environmental impact categories. According to the State CEQA Guidelines the definition of these three categories are as follows:

- *Cumulative Impacts*: Two or more individual effects which, when considered together, are considerable or which compound or increase other environmental impacts (Section 15355).
- *Growth-Inducing Impacts*: The direct or indirect impacts in which a project could foster economic or population growth. That includes projects which would *remove obstacles* to population growth such as an expansion of a wastewater treatment plant that might allow for more construction in a service area (Section 15126[g]).
- *Growth-Related Impacts*: The indirect impacts of growth or development, such as conversion of vacant land to developed land and increased demands for public services; these are also considered as cumulative impacts of the 2015 Plan.

Districts Nos. 26 and 32 have no authority or ability to mitigate adverse impacts associated with growth. Districts Nos. 26 and 32's responsibility is to provide wastewater management services. Mitigation authority and responsibility for growth rests primarily with local governments that regulate land use. CEQA allows the Districts to find that mitigation for such impacts is the responsibility of other public agencies, which have adopted or should adopt such mitigation (Section 15091[2]).

### CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

The State CEQA Guidelines (Section 15130) consider an adequate discussion of cumulative impacts as one

that uses either 1) the list method, or 2) the projection method. The list method looks into all past, present, and reasonably anticipated future projects producing related or cumulative impacts, within or outside the control of the agency. The projection method evaluates the impacts by using a summary of projections contained in related planning documents which is designed to evaluate regional or areawide conditions. The same guidelines also recognize that only a *reasonable* analysis of the significant cumulative impacts of a proposed project is necessary (there is no requirement to separately assess cumulative impacts of alternatives to the proposed project). The cumulative impact analysis may be less detailed than the analysis of the project's individual effects. Part [c] of the above guidelines also adds that, for some projects, the only feasible mitigation for cumulative impacts involves adopting ordinances or regulations, rather than imposing project-specific conditions.

Although there are instances in the 2015 Plan EIR where the list method is used, the projection method is predominately used for the cumulative impact analysis.

### List Method

The list method in the 2015 Plan EIR is used in four specific instances as shown below. Under the list method, specific, closely related, reasonably foreseeable future projects that could contribute to significant impacts are identified and their cumulative impacts are assessed. The list method is used in the following chapters:

- In Chapter 12, Transportation, the cumulative impacts of traffic generated from future proposed projects near the VWRP (including the SWRP upgrade) are considered.

- In Chapter 16, Hydrology, the cumulative impacts of hydrological effects caused by proposed WRPs, WRP expansions, and WRP upgrades discharging to the Santa Clara River are considered.
- In Chapter 17, Water Quality, the cumulative impacts of water quality from proposed WRPs, WRP expansions, and WRP upgrades discharging to the Santa Clara River are considered.
- In Chapter 18, Biological Resources, the cumulative impacts of biological resources from proposed WRPs, WRP expansions, and WRP upgrades discharging to the Santa Clara River are considered.

### Projection Method

In this chapter, the cumulative effects of the recommended alternative are evaluated together with effects of projected growth using the projection method. The cumulative impact analysis using this method is summarized below in §*Growth-Related Impacts* for all the topics considered in the 2015 Plan EIR.

The related planning documents which are designed to evaluate regional or areawide conditions used in this chapter for cumulative impact analysis are the *County of Los Angeles General Plan (1988)*, *Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan (1990)*, *City of Santa Clarita General Plan (1991)*, SCAG's 1994 RCPG (adopted March 1996) and EIR, SCAQMD's 1997 *Final Draft AQMP*, and RWQCB's *Water Quality Control Plan for the Los Angeles Region* (adopted 1994). These plans are available for review at the Districts' Joint Administration Office.

### GROWTH-INDUCING IMPACTS

Growth-inducement does not result from only one project or factor in a community. There are several

factors that affect the location, size, direction, timing, type and rate of population growth, depending on the region where the community is located. These factors include local government planning, public services, natural resources, economic climate, political and environmental concerns, and quality of life. Local government planning agencies, mainly at the county and city level, adopt and administer general and specific plans, zoning maps and ordinances, and other planning documents that contain policies and maps to identify the intensity and type of development in addition to where development will be allowed. The sphere of influence boundaries prescribe the future extent of a jurisdiction's development, and are imposed by agencies such as the Local Agency Formation Commission. Factors that affect growth, include water supply availability, wastewater treatment facility capacity, and energy availability and cost. Utility companies or agencies identify their existing and projected facilities in master plans. If the utility provider is not a city or county and does cross jurisdictional boundaries, its master plans are based on the local jurisdictions, or metropolitan planning organization's growth projections. Availability of natural resources, such as water, are also a very crucial factor especially in semi-arid areas such as Southern California.

Although local governments do play a role in growth-inducement, it also depends on economic factors, such as the availability and cost of developable land, recessions in local and national economies, interest rates, and the demand for housing. Political factors include state and local laws that mandate businesses to comply with certain rules, regulations, and permitting requirements that address environmental and community concerns. There are other political decisions that impact growth, such as alleviation of property taxes as an incentive to luring businesses to certain communities. Sometimes even certain social mandates for different religious beliefs, backgrounds and lifestyles affect growth in certain regions.

Quality of life issues<sup>1</sup> are also important factors influencing growth-inducement.

Although utility providers develop master plans for their service areas, the ultimate configurations of their systems are dependent on local government decisions and projections. The recommended alternative under the 2015 Plan is designed to *accommodate* projected population growth as identified in the SCAG 96 forecast. Even though the 2015 Plan is not an important factor affecting regional economic and population growth, under the strict CEQA definition of growth-inducement, the 2015 Plan is considered growth-inducing since it is regarded as *removing an obstacle* to growth within its service area. However, as mentioned earlier in this chapter, implementation of the mitigation measures to reduce impacts associated with growth to a less than significant level is the responsibility of other public agencies that have adopted or should adopt such mitigation.

## GROWTH-RELATED IMPACTS

### Land Use

**Impact:** *Conversion of Lands to Urban Development.* The City General Plan states that development considerations include physical and environmental factors, such as topography, seismic hazards, flood hazards, significant ecological areas, landslides, and adequacy of infrastructure, such as roads and utilities. As described in the SCAG RCPG, indiscriminate conversion of lands to urban development is considered significant and adverse because it could result in loss of open space resources and monetary costs such as those associated with building in hazardous areas and loss of agricultural products due to growth.

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1. Quality of life issues include crime, climate, air quality, traffic, and commuting distances, as well as the availability, cost, and quality of community services such as schools, transportation facilities, recreational facilities, and police and fire protection.

**Mitigation Measure 23-1:** *Implement Local Agency and SCAG RCPG Goals and Policies Regarding Conversion of Lands to Urban Development.* Los Angeles County and City of Santa Clarita have implemented goals and policies in their general plans to minimize conversion of lands to urban development in the SCVJSS service area. The county lists 32 policies, including the coordination of land use designations with public services, transportation, quality neighborhoods, and air quality issues, in addition to identifying sufficient commercial and industrial lands. The city lists seven goals including 59 policies dealing with issues ranging from distribution and intensity of land uses to preservation of natural resources. The SCAG RCPG also contains four goals to minimize conversion of lands to urban development. These goals are: 1) to provide adequate land resources to meet outdoor recreation needs and promote tourism; 2) to maintain open space for protection of lives and properties against natural and manmade hazards; 3) to maintain viable resource production lands, particularly lands devoted to commercial, agricultural and mining operations; and 4) to develop well-managed viable ecosystems or known habitats of rare, threatened and endangered species, including wetlands. This mitigation measure would reduce this impact to a less than significant level.

### Geologic Hazards and Soils

**Impact:** *Potential for Change in Topography and Soils Disruption.* According to the City General Plan, growth could cause changes in ground relief features, displacement and disruption of soils, additional runoff and permeability, and localized wind or water erosion of soils. Similarly, the SCAG RCPG, states that growth in the SCVJSS service area could result in increased soil erosion from increased construction. This impact is considered significant.

**Mitigation Measure 23-2:** *Implement Local Agency and SCAG RCPG Topography and Soils Policies and*

*Programs.* Los Angeles County and the City of Santa Clarita, through their general plans, have implemented programs to minimize topography and soils disruption due to growth. The county lists five policies, which include development management, especially in hillside areas. The city includes eight policies. The SCAG RCPG also contains measures and policies intended to achieve this goal. The SCAG RCPG specifically recommends that local jurisdictions require new developments to minimize site disturbance and grading during the rainy season, implement erosion control and rehabilitation plans, and restore vegetation. This mitigation measure would reduce this impact to a less than significant level.

**Impact:** *Potential for Seismic and Geologic Hazards.* The SCVJSS lies in seismic risk zone IV. This zone is prone to violent shaking from earthquakes. According to the City General Plan and the SCAG RCPG, risk to people and some damage to development can be expected from moderate to major seismic activity. This impact is considered significant because growth would result in exposure of additional people, structures, and property to geologic hazards.

**Mitigation Measure 23-3:** *Implement Local Agency and SCAG RCPG Plans and Policies to Minimize Exposure to Seismic and Geologic Hazards.* Los Angeles County and the City of Santa Clarita, through their general plans, implement programs to restrict development in areas subject to seismic and geologic hazards. The city lists 10 policies to mitigate the impacts on development. The SCAG RCPG specifically recommends that local jurisdictions require critical facilities to be sited according to the recommendations of detailed geologic investigations. This mitigation measure would reduce this impact, but not to a less than significant level, because infrastructure is likely to be damaged in the event of seismic activity due to its linear construction.

## Energy

**Impact:** *Increase in Gas and Electricity Consumption.* As described in the City General Plan, and SCAG RCPG, substantial growth in commercial, industrial, and residential development will result in an increase in energy consumption in the SCVJSS. This impact is considered significant due to the need for additional facilities to supplement the demand for the increased consumption of energy.

**Mitigation Measure 23-4:** *Implement Local Agency and SCAG RCPG Plans and Policies for Energy Conservation and Alternative Energy Sources.* Los Angeles County and the City of Santa Clarita, through their general plans, implement programs to minimize energy demands, encourage energy conservation, and utilize new energy. The city has nine policies ranging from use of solar energy to the extreme of delaying new development if utilities cannot be provided within a reasonable time. The SCAG RCPG also contains measures and policies intended to achieve this goal, however, SCAG has no authority over approving development. This mitigation measure would reduce this impact to a less than significant level.

## Transportation

**Impact:** *Increase in Traffic Circulation Resulting in a Congested Transportation Network.* The City General Plan indicates that several major roadway segments and intersections are experiencing poor or failure conditions, resulting in substantial traffic delays. The SCAG RCPG states that in many of the transit corridors the freeways are congested with a Level of Service of E and F during peak drive periods. This congestion results in 2,152,000 hours of delay added to travel times. This impact is considered significant since any increase in traffic due to growth would only make the congestion problem worse.

**Mitigation Measure 23-5:** *Implement Local Agency and SCAG RCPG Regional Mobility and Transportation Plans and Policies.* Los Angeles County and the City of Santa Clarita, through their general plans, have implemented programs to improve circulation. The county has three goals and 41 policies ranging from mass transit, multimodal access, to construction of transportation facilities. The City of Santa Clarita has proposed a master plan for arterial highways, improvements for the circulation system, and implementation plans to support the goals and policies. The SCAG RCPG also contains measures and policies intended to achieve this goal. *The Regional Mobility Plan* proposes an additional 1,446 freeway miles and 1,264 miles of high occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes. In addition, the RMP includes strategies ranging from three-tiered transit services to the use of HOV lanes and Mixed Flow Congestion-Relief System improvements. This mitigation measure would reduce this impact, but not to a less than significant level.

### **Air Quality**

**Impact:** *Increase in Criteria Pollutants such as O<sub>3</sub>, CO, NO<sub>x</sub>, SO<sub>x</sub>, and PM<sub>10</sub>.* As described in the City General Plan, SCAG RCPG, and 1994 AQMP, growth in the SCVJSS service area would result in the generation of additional amounts of stationary and mobile emissions, beyond the existing conditions under which some criteria pollutants already do not meet federal or state standards. Therefore, this impact is considered significant.

**Mitigation Measure 23-6:** *Implement Local Agency Programs and Policies, SCAG RCPG Programs and Policies, and Air Quality Plans' Control Measures.* The City of Santa Clarita, through its general plan, has implemented programs to reach attainment levels within SCAB. The City of Santa Clarita identifies 27 policies to protect and enhance ambient air quality

and reduce emissions. The SCAG RCPG also contains measures for implementation that are designed to streamline the regulatory process and ensure continued support for implementation in order to improve air quality. Such measures include transportation infrastructure improvements, employer rideshare programs, technological advancement, and accelerated vehicle retirement.

The 1997 *Final Draft AQMP* identifies short- and long-term measures to improve air quality. Short-term measures include stationary source controls, implemented through command and control regulations for gas stations, painting operations, transportation, etc. Long-term measures focus on evolving technologies, such as alternative fuel vehicles, new highway design, and reformulated consumer products.

### **Noise**

**Impact:** *Increase in Existing Noise Levels.* The City General Plan identifies the impacts of noise associated with urban development and associated traffic. These impacts include short-term noise increases due to construction and grading activities, and long-term increases due to the anticipated increase in traffic on adjacent highways, arterials, rail lines, and other noise generators. According to the SCAG RCPG, growth in the SCVJSS service area would result in an increase in background noise levels, which could potentially exceed normally acceptable levels. This impact is considered significant.

**Mitigation Measure 23-7:** *Implement Local Agency and SCAG RCPG Noise Plans and Policies.* The City of Santa Clarita, through its general plan, has implemented programs to minimize noise impacts within their planning area. The plan lists 14 policies designed to mitigate this impact, including implementation of city noise ordinances. The SCAG RCPG includes specific measures intended to

encourage local jurisdictions to require a noise analysis for each project and require each project to incorporate noise prevention measures. This mitigation measure would reduce this impact to a less than significant level.

### **Aesthetics**

**Impact:** *Obstruction of Natural Scenic Views.* Haphazard development could substantially degrade the visual quality of existing views from prominent viewing locations. Aesthetic resources such as the Angeles National Forest, oak woodlands, and natural ridgelines could be obstructed. This is considered a significant impact because introduction of above ground facilities could impair views from surrounding areas.

**Mitigation Measure 23-8:** *Implement Local Agency and SCAG RCPG Plans and Policies.* The City of Santa Clarita, through its general plan, has implemented programs to reduce potential clutter and adverse aesthetic impact. The city has 57 policies that range from placement of utilities underground to blending new development in established neighborhoods through compatible architecture, clustering and design review. The SCAG RCPG recommends blending overhead lines into the surrounding landscape or placing them underground. This mitigation measure would reduce this impact, but not to a less than significant level.

### **Hydrology**

**Impact:** *Drainage Controls Impact and Increase in Exposure to Flood Hazards.* The City General Plan and the SCAG RCPG identify the impacts of growth on hydrology. City development could increase the amount of impermeable surfaces, which could cause changes in runoff and drainage and potentially affect the flow of flood waters. The SCVJSS has major flood hazard zones directly below Castaic Lake and

tributaries of the Santa Clara River that could be impacted. This impact is considered significant because an increase in exposure to flooding could increase the risk of personal injury and property damage.

**Mitigation Measure 23-9:** *Implement Local Agency and SCAG RCPG Groundwater Recharge and Flood Protection Policies and Programs.* The City of Santa Clarita, through its general plan has implemented programs to maintain groundwater recharge and decrease exposure to flooding. The city lists seven policies to mitigate the potential of flood hazards and drainage impacts. The SCAG RCPG contains measures and policies including encouraging implementation of regionwide watershed planning efforts, partially funded by developers, to enable local jurisdictions to identify areas of high flood risk. It also recommends that local jurisdictions deny permits for development in these areas unless development plans are accompanied by measures that would result in no net increase in runoff. This mitigation measure would reduce this impact to a less than significant level.

### **Water Quality**

**Impact:** *Surface Water and Groundwater Quality Degradation.* The City General Plan and the SCAG RCPG identify the impacts of new development on water quality. Growth in the SCVJSS service area could result in increased point and nonpoint source pollution of surface water and groundwater. Contaminants from point sources, such as industrial discharge, and nonpoint sources, such as urban runoff, could degrade surface water quality in the Santa Clara River and ultimately groundwater. This impact is considered significant.

**Mitigation Measure 23-10:** *Implement Local Agency, RWQCB, and SCAG RCPG Water Quality Policies and Programs.* The City of Santa Clarita,

through its general plan has implemented programs to reduce water pollution. The city has 17 policies in its general plan for water quality. The policies include coordination with federal, state, and regional water resource planning to protect water supply, in addition to monitoring all industries whose operation or refuse has potential to contaminate.

The RWQCB Basin Plan and the SCAG RCPG also contain policies and programs to minimize water pollution. The RWQCB Basin Plan identifies many policies and programs intended to minimize point and nonpoint source water pollution. Policies to reduce point sources include WDRs, water reclamation requirements, and NPDES requirements. Nonpoint source control strategies are directed at agriculture, silviculture, animal operations, urban runoff, recreation, septic tank leachate, and mineral extraction.

The SCAG RCPG identifies policies aimed at minimizing water quality degradation. One of its goals is to restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the nation's water, in addition to achieve and maintain quality objectives necessary to protect all beneficial uses of all waters. Some of the recommendations and policy options are to: encourage implementation of watershed management programs, coordinate watershed management efforts at the subregional level, encourage water reclamation, and ensure wastewater treatment agency facility planning and facility development be consistent with population projections contained in the RCPG. This mitigation measure would reduce this impact to a less than significant level.

### **Biological Resources**

**Impact:** *Reduction in Size of Native Plant Communities and Unique, Rare, or Endangered Plant Species.* The City General Plan and the SCAG RCPG identify the impacts of growth on plant life. Growth

in the SCVJSS service area could reduce the diversity and number of plant species. Also, the introduction of non-native species could cause competition with native species or invasion of previously undisturbed habitats. This impact is considered significant.

**Mitigation Measure 23-11:** *Implement Local Agency and SCAG RCPG Plant Life Preservation Plans and Policies.* The City of Santa Clarita, through its general plan, has implemented programs to minimize loss of plant life. The city has 10 policies identified in the General Plan that include revegetation of graded areas with native, drought-resistant plant species and the use of such plants in landscaping. The SCAG RCPG recommends that SCAG provide leadership in the development and implementation of state-mandated natural community conservation plans. The EIR also recommends that local jurisdictions adopt policies for developing and implementing natural community conservation plans and require analysis and mitigation of impacts of development projects on plant life. This mitigation measure would reduce this impact, to a less than significant level.

**Impact:** *Reduction in the Number and Diversity of Animal Life.* The City General Plan and the SCAG RCPG identify the impacts of growth on animal life. Projected growth could contribute to the disturbance of animal species and nesting leading to foraging sites, and blockage of migration paths. This impact is considered significant.

**Mitigation Measure 23-12:** *Implement Local Agency and SCAG RCPG Plans and Policies for Preservation of Special-Status Species Habitat and At-Risk Habitat.* The City of Santa Clarita, through its general plan, has implemented programs to minimize the reduction of animal life. The city provides seven policies for implementation that include preserving contiguous areas of open space, protection of significant ecological value, including significant ecological habitats, in addition to



incorporation of environmentally sensitive zones in the zoning ordinance. Most of the measures identified in the SCAG RCPG are similar to the measures prescribed to protect plant life. This mitigation measure would reduce this impact to a less than significant level.

### Public Health

**Impact:** *Increased Proximity to Public Safety Risks.* As described in the City General Plan and the SCAG RCPG, more people will be proximate to fault zones, flood plains, and toxic/hazardous materials (via increased delivery and on-site storage). Also, there will be the potential for disruption of emergency evacuation plans due to traffic congestion. This impact is considered significant.

**Mitigation Measure 23-13:** *Implement Local Agency and SCAG RCPG Plans and Policies.* The City of Santa Clarita, through its general plan, has implemented programs to minimize public safety impacts. It lists 29 policies that include the implementation of emergency preparedness plans and programs, minimizing levels of risk to people and property from hazardous waste, and providing minimum standards of adequacy for fire ordinances. The SCAG RCPG specifically recommends implementing the following RCPG policies: every county in the SCAG region should accept quantities of hazardous waste proportional to the amount generated within that county, support regional cooperation in developing siting criteria for hazardous waste disposal facilities, and promote reductions in generation of hazardous waste. This mitigation measure would reduce this impact to a less than significant level.

### Public Services and Facilities

**Impact:** *Increase in Demand for Local Agency Water Supply.* According to the City of Santa Clarita and the SCAG RCPG, growth in the SCVJSS service

area will cause the local water demand to increase. Local water companies predict that demand for water will exceed water supply by the year 2006. This impact is considered significant because excess pumping of ground water could potentially affect the direction or rate of flow of groundwater and surface water supplies and cause subsidence.

**Mitigation Measure 23-14:** *Implement Local Agency and SCAG RCPG Programs and Policies to Protect Water Resources.* Los Angeles County and the City of Santa Clarita, through their general plans, have implemented programs to ensure that adequate water supplies are available. The county has four goals and 20 policies that include protection of groundwater recharge areas and implementing pollution prevention programs to ensure regional water quality. The city has 17 policies which are similar to the county policies. The SCAG RCPG measures focus on rehabilitating and conserving existing water supplies to obtain reliable, higher water yields. The RCPG calls for acquiring additional water by improving storage and conveyance facilities, rehabilitating polluted groundwater, expanding wastewater reclamation efforts, pursuing desalination technology, and implementing water conservation measures. This mitigation measure would reduce this impact, but not to a less than significant level.

**Impact:** *Increase in Demand for Wastewater Collection, Treatment, and Disposal.* As described in the City General Plan and the SCAG RCPG, growth in the SCVJSS service area would increase demands for wastewater collection, treatment, and disposal. The recommended project is intended to increase wastewater treatment capacity to meet demand through 2015. This impact is considered beneficial because the project would provide the wastewater treatment capacity needed to accommodate projected demands through 2015.

**Mitigation:** No mitigation required.

**Impact:** *Increase in Demand for Solid Waste Collection, Hauling, and Disposal.* The City General Plan and the SCAG RCPG state that growth in the SCVJSS service area would contribute to increased generation of solid waste in the Santa Clarita Valley. This impact is considered significant because the increase in demand would result in a loss of available landfill capacity.

**Mitigation Measure 23-15:** *Implement Local Agency and SCAG RCPG Solid Waste Programs and Policies.* Los Angeles County and the City of Santa Clarita, through their general plans, have implemented programs to reduce the amount of solid waste being generated in order to ensure adequate future landfill capacity. The city lists 10 policies that include safe use and disposal of toxic waste, recycling, and public education. The SCAG RCPG recommends that local jurisdictions comply with applicable provisions of county integrated waste management plans. This mitigation measure would reduce this impact to a less than significant level.

**Impact:** *Increased Demand for Police Protection.* As described in the City General Plan and the SCAG RCPG, growth in the SCVJSS service area would contribute to demands for new law enforcement officers in the SCAG region. Growth could cause emergency response times to lengthen due to sprawl and increased traffic congestion. This impact is considered significant because the demand for expansion of law enforcement services resulting from regional growth would be substantial and available protection could be inadequate.

**Mitigation Measure 23-16:** *Implement Local Agency and SCAG RCPG Police Protection Programs and Policies.* Los Angeles County and the City of Santa Clarita, through their general plans, are implementing programs to ensure adequate future law enforcement protection. For example, the city, under

Policy 1.16, supports public safety education programs to prevent crime. The SCAG RCPG recommends the hiring of civilians to perform administrative duties and the implementation of new technology to increase efficiency and reduce demands on law enforcement services. This mitigation measure would reduce this impact to a less than significant level.

**Impact:** *Increase in Demand for Schools.* According to the City of Santa Clarita and the SCAG RCPG, growth in the SCVJSS service area would contribute to increase demands for school facilities. This impact is considered significant because existing school facilities will not be sufficient to meet the needs of projected growth.

**Mitigation Measure 23-17:** *Implement Local Agency and SCAG RCPG Programs and Policies Designed to Ensure Adequate Schools.* The City of Santa Clarita, through its general plan, has implemented programs to ensure that future school facilities are adequate. Under Policies 1.17 and 1.18 of the City General Plan, the city proposes to work with school districts and developers to ensure appropriate means to facilitate the development of school facilities to meet future needs. This mitigation measure would reduce this impact to a less than significant level.

**Impact:** *Increase in Demand for Outdoor Recreational Facilities.* According to the City of Santa Clarita and the SCAG RCPG, growth in the SCVJSS service area would increase demand for outdoor recreational facilities, such as parks. This impact is considered significant because growth in the SCVJSS service area would result in a need for substantial expansion of outdoor recreational facilities.

**Mitigation Measure 23-18:** *Implement Local Agency and SCAG Parks and Recreation Programs and Policies.* Los Angeles County and the City of

Santa Clarita, through their general plans, have implemented programs to ensure the adequacy of future parklands and recreation areas. The county has eight policies that range from developing parks in urban areas to encouraging the United States Congress to maintain adequate funding to meet the objectives of the National Recreation Area legislation. The city lists 58 policies that include establishing a master plan for parks and recreation in addition to the use of the Santa Clara River as a central recreational corridor. The SCAG RCPG recommends that local jurisdictions adopt standards for the provision of local and regional open space, implement mechanisms to acquire parkland, and locate new recreation and open space resources near population centers. This mitigation measure would reduce this impact to a less than significant level.

**Impact:** *Increase in Demand for Protection of Life and Property.* As described in the City General Plan and the SCAG RCPG, growth in the SCVJSS service area would contribute to the demand for additional demand in fire protection and medical services. Currently, there are sufficient medical facilities in the Santa Clarita Valley to meet the projected growth in the SCVJSS. The county had planned eight new fire stations in 1990. If these facilities are built, then adverse impacts can be avoided. This impact is considered significant.

**Mitigation Measure 23-19:** *Implement Local Agency and SCAG RCPG Programs and Policies.* Los Angeles County and the City of Santa Clarita, through their general plans, have implemented programs to ensure the availability of adequate future fire protection and medical services. The county lists 10 policies that include fire protection measures. The city relies on the county to provide fire protection and emergency service, under contract with the County Fire Department. The SCAG RCPG recommends consolidating services, redefining service area boundaries, and implementing new technology to increase efficiency and reduce demands on

emergency enforcement services. This mitigation measure would reduce this impact to a less than significant level.

### **Cultural Resources**

**Impact:** *Loss of Important Cultural Resources.* According to the City of Santa Clarita and the SCAG RCPG, growth in the SCVJSS service area could result in development of areas containing significant cultural resources. Physical changes caused by development have the potential to affect ethnic cultural values. This impact is considered significant.

**Mitigation Measure 23-20:** *Implement Local Agency and SCAG RCPG Cultural Resource Preservation Plans and Policies.* The City of Santa Clarita, through its general plan, has implemented programs to preserve important cultural resources. It lists six policies that include the establishment of guidelines to identify and preserve significant archeological sites. The SCAG RCPG recommends mapping areas of prime cultural resource significance, consulting with experts to identify potentially significant cultural resource sites, and conducting field surveys in sensitive areas before approving development. This mitigation measure would reduce this impact to a less than significant level.