

destroyed, or degraded during construction, operations, maintenance, and abandonment of the Proposed Action and alternatives could not be retrieved or replaced for the life of the Proposed Action and alternatives or beyond. Irreversible and irretrievable commitments of resources for the Proposed Action and alternatives are summarized in Table 4.20-1.

## 4.21 GROWTH-INDUCEMENT

The following criteria are used to evaluate whether the alternatives would result in potential significant individual or cumulative growth-inducing impacts.

Growth-induced impacts would occur if the Proposed Action or alternatives:

- Directly or indirectly, foster economic or population growth,
- Remove obstacles to growth in the area,
- Provide new employment,
- Provide access to previously inaccessible areas or extend public services to previously unserved areas,
- Tax existing community services, or
- Cause development elsewhere.

### 4.21.1 PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

Economic and population growth in the Sacramento area has increased electrical demand. Based on new and approved residential and commercial development, electrical demand is projected to grow in the foreseeable future. The Proposed Action and alternatives would accommodate portions of existing and approved new development in the Sacramento area. Therefore, the Proposed Action and alternatives would not induce growth (directly or indirectly) as discussed in the following sections.

#### 4.21.1.1 REMOVE OBSTACLES TO GROWTH

Insufficient infrastructure in an area is generally an obstacle to growth because new development typically requires infrastructure improvements including water, wastewater treatment, roadways, and power facilities to be available before developments are approved by local jurisdictions. However, growth in the Sacramento area is presently occurring, and many more developments have been approved or are pending approval, regardless of the presence or absence of electric service. Moreover, local jurisdictions and developers assume that electric service would be provided regardless of where the development occurs.

Because a portion of the purpose of the Proposed Action and alternatives would respond to this development, it would not remove any current obstacles to growth. It is

unlikely that implementing the Proposed Action and alternatives would encourage additional growth in the Sacramento area because growth is regulated by the local jurisdictions.

#### 4.21.1.2 NEW EMPLOYMENT

The Proposed Action and alternatives would provide short-term construction employment but no permanent employment. A maximum of approximately 70 daily workers would be on the various job sites during peak construction periods. Construction of the Proposed Action and alternatives would draw the local labor workforce pool from the affected counties. Nonlocal labor would be employed for specialized skills that may not be available locally. The limited, temporary nature of this employment would not result in long-term growth. Table 3-2 provides a breakdown of employment skills for reconductoring and new transmission line construction.

#### 4.21.1.3 EXTENDED ACCESS OR PUBLIC SERVICES

The Proposed Action and alternatives would not require extending public services to previously unserved areas. As discussed previously, the Proposed Action and alternatives is in response to new and proposed growth approved by the local jurisdictions. The proposed transmission line improvements are necessary to provide reliable power system operation and would not directly serve areas they pass through. New access roads would be required in some areas along the ROW for the Proposed Action and the alternatives. These would be primarily roads on private land maintained by Western and would not be accessible to the public. Western does not propose to provide public access along the transmission line ROW.

#### 4.21.1.4 EXISTING COMMUNITY SERVICES

The Proposed Action and alternatives would not tax existing community services or require water, wastewater, or permanent solid waste services. The need for city- and county-provided services, such as road improvements, law enforcement, and fire protection, would be negligible.

#### 4.21.1.5 NEW DEVELOPMENT

As discussed previously, the Proposed Action and alternatives would not directly result in new development, either in the Sacramento area or elsewhere, but would be in response to existing and known planned development.

### 4.21.2 NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE

Under the No Action Alternative, there would be no growth-inducing impacts.

**Table 4.20-1. Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitment of Resources**

Resource	Type of Commitment/Reason for Commitment	Irreversible	Irretrievable
<b>Air Quality</b>	Degradation of air quality during construction activities	No	Construction phase
<b>Biological Resources</b>	Disturbance to and/or loss of vegetation, habitat, and wildlife species during construction and operation	Yes	Project life
<b>Construction Materials and Fuels</b>	Use of: Aggregates Water Steel Aluminum Concrete Wood Fossil fuels	Yes Yes No No Yes Yes Yes	Project life and beyond Project life and beyond Project life Project life Project life and beyond Project life and beyond Project life and beyond
<b>Cultural Resources</b>	Disturbance or removal of sites; interference with visual setting during construction, operation, maintenance, and abandonment	Yes	Project life and beyond
<b>Floodplains and Wetlands</b>	Disturbance to wetlands and floodplains Loss of wetlands from construction and operation	Yes No, with compensation	Project life Project life
<b>Land Use</b>	Disturbance to agriculture Exclusion of residential, institutional, and industrial uses Increased access during construction and operation	Yes Yes Yes	Project life Project life Project life
<b>Noise</b>	Noise exceeding ambient levels during construction	Yes	Construction Phase
<b>Paleontological Resources</b>	Disturbance or removal of fossils during construction activities	Yes	Yes, if not recovered
<b>Socioeconomics</b>	Increased regional and local employment and revenues from construction	Yes	Construction phase
<b>Soils</b>	Soil loss and erosion during construction	Yes	Project life and beyond
<b>Visual</b>	Degradation of natural scenic quality, viewshed intrusion during construction and operation	Yes	Project life
<b>Water Resources</b>	Degradation of water quality from construction	No	Construction Phase

Source: Original 2002