
4.11 POPULATION AND HOUSING

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This section of the EIR evaluates the impacts of the proposed UCP on the population and housing in Merced County raised in the standards of significance contained in Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines. According to CEQA Guidelines Appendix G, the proposed UCP would result in a significant impact on population or housing if the proposed UCP would:

- Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (e.g., 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.

There are currently four residences within the UCP area. These residences could ultimately be removed, at the discretion of the property owner, to accommodate development of the proposed UCP; however, the proposed UCP would result in an increase in housing units over that which exists. Therefore, this would not represent a substantial displacement of either housing or people, and the proposed UCP would not result in an impact due to the displacement of existing housing and people that necessitates the construction of housing elsewhere.

The proposed UCP would result in an increase in the population of Merced County. The demographic characteristics of the proposed UCP, including changes in the population, employment, housing, and jobs-housing ratio, are described in Chapter 3, Demographic Characteristics, of this EIR. The effects of the construction of the components of the UCP, the addition of residents and jobs in the County, and the physical effects of developing the proposed UCP area are addressed in the technical sections in Chapter 4 of this EIR. To the extent that the proposed UCP would further induce growth in the County, the potential effects are addressed in Chapter 6, Growth Inducement.