

8.0 GROWTH-INDUCING ASPECTS AND CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

As noted in all the sections of this DGEIS, the projected population growth in the study area is largely a result of marriages and births from within the existing Kiryas Joel community and will continue to occur with or without annexation. Construction of new housing to accommodate that growth will also continue to occur in the study area, with or without annexation. Growth of the population and the resulting development which is described in sections 2 and 3.2 of this DGEIS is not induced by annexation.

It is anticipated that with annexation, development on the annexation lands will occur in land use patterns and at densities similar to those in the existing Village. A direct effect of annexation, therefore, is that it will facilitate a higher development density on the annexation territory than would be permissible under the Town of Monroe zoning, thereby potentially accommodating further increase in population. At the same time, annexation and the resulting growth in the expanded Village would reduce demand for such development outside the Village.

This annexation proposal therefore is more influential on the pattern of growth -- how and where it will unfold -- and is more protective of the overall regional environment by reducing pressure for suburban sprawl that would likely otherwise occur from the growing population. Without annexation, the community's growth would be expected to occur in a more sprawling pattern in the municipalities surrounding the Village. As discussed in section 3.4, growth without annexation would promote more vehicular travel into and out of the Village for goods and services.

Typically population growth will induce growth of associated land uses, such as schools and community facilities, and growth of activities such as traffic and community services. In this case the population growth is anticipated regardless of the annexation action as explained in the Project Description, and the growth inducing aspects of the action will be very localized near where the new development occurs.

Annexation is desired by the Petitioners to make Village services available to the population of the community. The community desires the unique lifestyle and choices available within the Village. For example, the schools serving the local community are located in and near Kiryas Joel. Community facilities such as places of worship, mikvahs, and health care services are located in Kiryas Joel. It is anticipated that new community facilities will be located within the new neighborhoods that are developed.

As discussed in section 3.4, the community lifestyle promotes modes of transportation other than the private automobile thereby minimizing the amount of vehicular travel in the area. Expansions of the Village water supply system and the County sewer system are anticipated to accommodate future growth in the study area, as discussed in section 3.5. While these services are potentially available to the annexation properties without

annexation (thus expansion of services is not induced by annexation), the action would likely facilitate a more comprehensive, planned approach to expansions of these systems within the Village.

The expansion of water and sewer service to the expanded Village limits may result in future demand for these services on properties in close proximity to the expanded Village boundaries. Expansion of the Village's utility systems beyond its boundaries would require a greater level of permitting review by the affected regulatory jurisdictions, which would involve the affected municipality and the Village of Kiryas Joel, and may include OCSD#1, OCDOH, NYSDOH, and/or NYSDEC. The potential for such growth would be dependent upon many factors including the cost to extend the infrastructure, and the effort and costs to obtain approvals. The extent of such growth inducement outside of the Village boundaries would generally be limited by the applicable zoning of that land.

As discussed in detail in DGEIS section 3.3, Community Services, the annexation may induce changes to the boundaries of the Monroe-Woodbury and Kiryas Joel school districts and the Monroe and Kiryas Joel fire districts to make them coterminous with the Village boundary in order to better serve the needs of the local population.

Overall quality of life and community character in local area

As reiterated throughout this DGEIS, the annexation action in and of itself will not cause population growth or development to address the needs of that growth, but rather will distribute that anticipated growth in a different way than without annexation. It is anticipated that growth in the study area in the next ten years will continue in much the same fashion as has been experienced in the past five to ten years.

The lifestyle and character of the Hasidic community is different in some respects than the typical lifestyle and character of surrounding communities. And it is expected that the measures of "quality of life" and "community character" are different for each community.

Maintenance of their quality of life and community character is a primary purpose of the Petitioners' request for annexation, which would provide an enlarged enclave for the Kiryas Joel community. The annexation action is not expected to result in a significant change to the overall quality of life and community character in greater area in a way that would differ significantly from the no annexation alternative.