

## 8.10 Socioeconomics

This section presents a discussion of the environmental setting, environmental consequences, regional and local impacts, and mitigation measures associated with the socioeconomic aspects of the Humboldt Bay Repowering Project (HBRP). Section 8.10.1 discusses the regional and local socioeconomic setting. Section 8.10.2 discusses potential environmental effects as they relate to socioeconomics. Section 8.10.3 discusses cumulative impacts, and Section 8.10.4 presents proposed mitigation measures for any impacts determined to be significant. Section 8.10.5 presents applicable laws, ordinances, regulations, and standards (LORS) related to socioeconomics, and references agency contacts. Section 8.10.6 presents the agencies involved and provides agency contacts. Section 8.10.7 presents the required permits and permitting schedule. Section 8.10.8 lists references cited or consulted in preparing this section.

### 8.10.1 Affected Environment

#### 8.10.1.1 Population

The HBRP site is near the coastal community of King Salmon on the mainland shore of Humboldt Bay in Humboldt County, in northwestern California. Humboldt County is the largest and most populous of the north coast counties. The counties that border Humboldt County are Del Norte County to the north, Siskiyou County to the north and east, Trinity County to the east, and Mendocino County to the south; the Pacific Ocean lies to the west. The cities located within Humboldt County are Arcata, Blue Lake, Eureka, Ferndale, Fortuna, Rio Dell, and Trinidad. The City of Eureka is approximately 3 miles north of the HBRP site, is the largest city in Humboldt County, and has a population of 27,052 (as of January 1, 2006) (California Department of Finance [DOF], 2006a.)

The HBRP site is in the unincorporated area of Humboldt County and lies within the City of Eureka's sphere of influence. There are several small residential communities within 5 miles of the HBRP site, including King Salmon, Humboldt Hill, Fields Landing, and the suburban communities surrounding the City of Eureka. Table 8.10-1 presents historical and projected population estimates for Humboldt County.

**TABLE 8.10-1**  
Historical and Projected Population Estimates

Area	1990 <sup>a</sup>	2000 <sup>a</sup>	2010 <sup>b,c</sup>	2020 <sup>b,c</sup>	2030 <sup>c</sup>
Arcata	15,211	16,651	18,180	20,000	n/a
Blue Lake	1,235	1,135	n/a	n/a	n/a
Eureka	27,025	26,128	28,870	29,830	n/a
Ferndale	1,331	1,382	n/a	n/a	n/a
Fortuna	8,788	10,497	12,560	15,000	n/a
Rio Dell	2,997	3,174	n/a	n/a	n/a
Trinidad	362	311	n/a	n/a	n/a
Incorporated	56,949	59,278	n/a	n/a	n/a

**TABLE 8.10-1**  
Historical and Projected Population Estimates

Area	1990 <sup>a</sup>	2000 <sup>a</sup>	2010 <sup>b,c</sup>	2020 <sup>b,c</sup>	2030 <sup>c</sup>
Unincorporated	62,169	67,240	67,800	68,140	n/a
Humboldt County Total	119,118	127,173	133,136 <sup>c</sup>	139,518	142,412
California	29,758,213	34,043,198	39,246,767 <sup>c</sup>	43,851,741	48,110,671

<sup>a</sup> DOF, 2002a and 2002b.

<sup>b</sup> Humboldt County 2006.

<sup>c</sup> DOF, 2004.

n/a = DOF did not estimate population values

Between 1990 and 2000, Humboldt County experienced a population growth of 8,055 residents, or 6.8 percent. During the same time period, California experienced a population growth of 14.4 percent. Historically, Humboldt County's growth rate has increased at a slower rate than that of the state. According to population data published by the DOF between 2000 and 2010, Humboldt County is expected to experience a population growth of 4.7 percent and California is expected to experience a population growth of 15.3 percent. According to the DOF data, California is expected to experience its greatest population growth from 2000 to 2010; whereas Humboldt County experienced its greatest growth from 1990 to 2000. Historically, population of the unincorporated area of Humboldt County has increased at a higher rate than that of the incorporated area. Between 1990 and 2000, the incorporated area of Humboldt County increased by 4.1 percent and the unincorporated area increased by 8.2 percent. Based on DOF data from January 2006, Humboldt County's current population is 132,526. The population growth rate is not expected to increase significantly in the future in Humboldt County. Annual average compounded population growth rates are summarized in Table 8.10-2.

**TABLE 8.10-2**  
Historical and Projected Average Compounded Growth Rates

Area	1990-2000 (%)	2000-2010 (%)	2010-2020 (%)	2020-2030 (%)
Arcata	0.91	0.88	0.96	n/a
Blue Lake	-0.84	n/a	n/a	n/a
Eureka	-0.34	1.00	0.33	n/a
Ferndale	0.38	n/a	n/a	n/a
Fortuna	1.79	1.81	1.79	n/a
Rio Dell	0.58	n/a	n/a	n/a
Trinidad	-1.51	n/a	n/a	n/a
Incorporated	0.40	n/a	n/a	n/a
Unincorporated	0.79	0.08	0.05	n/a
Humboldt County Total	0.66	0.46	0.47	0.21
California	1.35	1.43	1.12	0.93

### 8.10.1.2 Minority and Low Income Populations

Table 8.10-3 summarizes the minority and Hispanic<sup>1</sup> and low-income population distributions for the census tracts that are within a 6-mile radius of HBRP (see Figures 8.10-1 and 8.10-2). The minority and income data are from the 2000 U.S. Census. The table also compares these data with equivalent data for Humboldt County, the City of Eureka, the community of Humboldt Hill, and California as a whole.

**TABLE 8.10-3**  
Income and Race, California, Humboldt County, Census Tracts within 6 Miles, and Neighboring Communities

Location	Total Population	Non-White Population (%)	Hispanic Population (any race) (%)	Household Median Income (1999 dollars)	Percent Below Poverty
California	33,871,648	40.5	32.4	47,493	14.2
Humboldt County	126,518	15.3	6.5	31,226	19.5
Census Tract within 6 miles	58,761	18.6	7.1	30,692	19.8
Eureka	26,128	17.5	7.8	25,849	23.7
Humboldt Hill, Census-designated place	3,246	12.3	6.1	37,121	11.5

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000.

#### 8.10.1.2.1 Minority Populations

Table 8.10-4 shows the minority and Hispanic-origin population distribution among the 12 census tracts that are entirely or partly within a 6-mile radius of the HBRP (U.S. Census Bureau, 2000). Of the overall total population within the 6-mile radius, about 19 percent are minority and 7 percent are of Hispanic origin. Of the 12 census tracts, 5 have minority populations that are above 20 percent. With respect to Hispanic origin, 2 of the 12 census tracts are more than 10 percent Hispanic origin.

**TABLE 8.10-4**  
Distribution of Minority and Hispanic Population by Census Tracts Within a 6-Mile Radius

Tract	Population	Non-Hispanic White	Minority	Percent Minority	Hispanic Origin	Percent Hispanic Origin
Humboldt County	126,518	107,179	19,339	15.3	8,210	6.5
06023010800	4,697	3,689	1,008	21.5	552	11.8
06023010700	6,575	5,610	965	14.7	368	5.6
06023000400	3,801	3,131	670	17.6	247	6.5
06023000200	6,027	4,491	1,536	25.5	533	8.8
06023000300	5,334	4,197	1,137	21.3	309	5.8

<sup>1</sup> Hispanics or Latinos are those people who classified themselves in one of the specific Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino categories listed on the Census 2000 questionnaire – “Mexican, Mexican Am., Chicano,” “Puerto Rican,” or “Cuban” – as well as those who indicate that they are “other Spanish/Hispanic/Latino.” People who identify their origin as “other Spanish/Hispanic/Latino” may be of any race. Thus, the percent Hispanic should not be added to percentages for racial (i.e., minority) categories.

**TABLE 8.10-4**

Distribution of Minority and Hispanic Population by Census Tracts Within a 6-Mile Radius

Tract	Population	Non-Hispanic White	Minority	Percent Minority	Hispanic Origin	Percent Hispanic Origin
06023000100	4,267	3,078	1,189	27.9	520	12.2
06023000700	5,048	4,366	682	13.5	289	5.7
06023000600	4,813	4,142	671	13.9	277	5.8
06023000500	4,108	3,231	877	21.3	340	8.3
06023001100	7,617	6,177	1,440	18.9	509	6.7
06023010600	1,933	1,755	178	9.2	43	2.2
06023000800	4,541	3,940	601	13.2	207	4.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>58,761</b>	<b>47,807</b>	<b>10,954</b>	<b>18.6</b>	<b>4,194</b>	<b>7.1</b>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000.

**8.10.1.2.2 Low Income Populations**

Table 8.10-5 presents the data regarding the percent of the population that has income below the poverty level for the 12 census tracts located within a 6-mile radius of the HBRP. The census tract with the highest poverty level is Tract 6023000100, at 34.2 percent. This tract has 4,267 residents and is in the City of Eureka, approximately 2.5 miles north of the HBRP site. Two of the tracts have poverty populations between 20 and 30 percent; two tracts, including tract 6023000100 mentioned above, have poverty populations that exceed 30 percent.

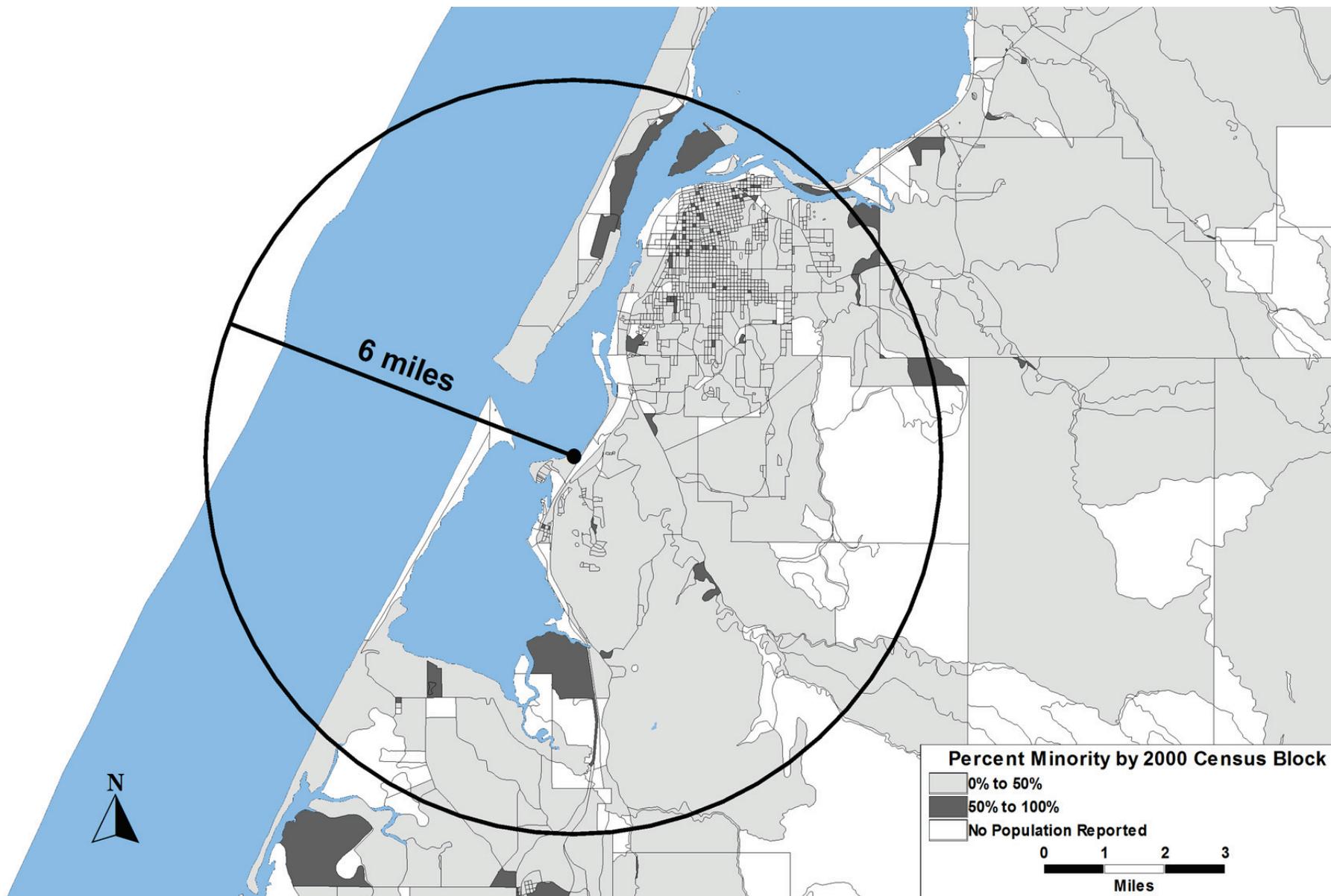
**TABLE 8.10-5**

Distribution of Low Income Population by Census Tracts Within a 6-Mile Radius

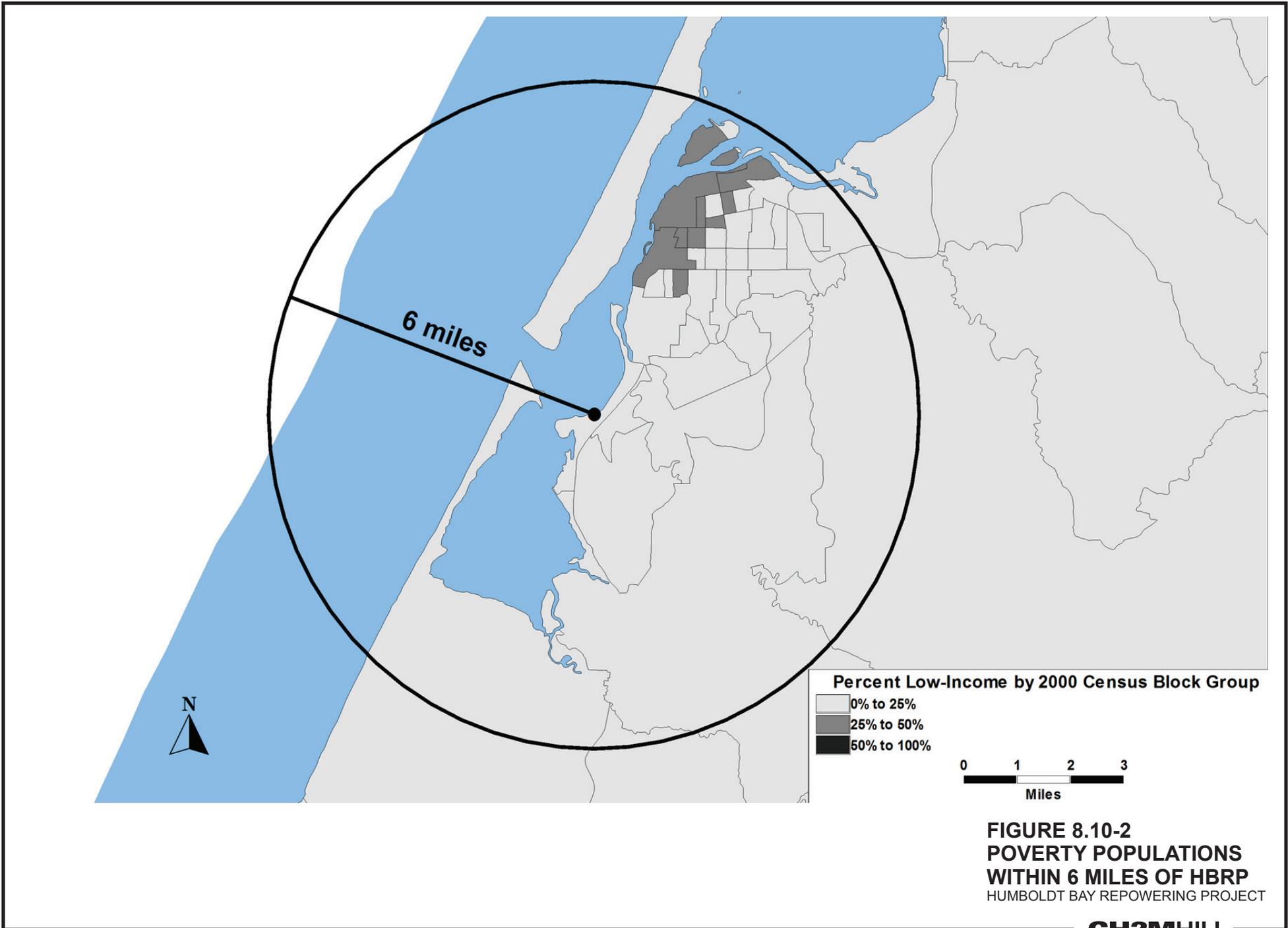
Tract	Total Population*	Population below Poverty Level	Percent Low Income
06023010800	4,640	827	17.8
06023010700	6,330	753	11.9
06023000400	3,728	677	18.2
06023000200	5,994	1,860	31.0
06023000300	5,273	929	17.6
06023000100	4,222	1,442	34.2
06023000700	5,005	635	12.7
06023000600	4,689	525	11.2
06023000500	3,725	1,042	28.0
06023001100	7,553	1,856	24.6
06023010600	1,925	212	11.0
06023000800	4,342	634	14.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>57,426</b>	<b>11,392</b>	<b>19.8</b>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000.

\* Population numbers are only those for whom poverty was determined and exclude full-time college students. As a result, the total number of residents may differ from the total population numbers given in Table 8.10-4.



**FIGURE 8.10-1**  
**MINORITY POPULATIONS**  
**WITHIN 6 MILES OF HBRP**  
 HUMBOLDT BAY REPOWERING PROJECT



### 8.10.1.3 Housing

As shown in Table 8.10-6, housing stock for Humboldt County as of January 1, 2006, was 58,939 units. Single-family dwellings (both attached and unattached units) accounted for 41,993 units, multiple family dwellings accounted for 10,557 units, and mobile homes accounted for 6,189 units (DOF, 2006b). New housing authorizations for Humboldt County in 2000 totaled 373 units; 292 were single family units and 81 were multi-family units. These authorizations were valued at \$40.6 million (DOF, 2002a). In January 2006, Humboldt County's vacancy rate was 8.4 percent, above the federal standard of 5 percent, which indicates that housing availability within the County is relatively high. In April 2006, the median sales price of homes in Humboldt County was \$310,000 (Humboldt Association of Realtors, 2006).

**TABLE 8.10-6**  
Housing Estimates by City and County, January 1, 2005

Area	Total Units	Single Family	Multi-family	Mobile Homes	Percent Vacant
Arcata	7,507	3,789	3,034	684	3.05
Blue Lake	578	403	104	71	9.17
Eureka	12,162	7,980	3,963	219	5.82
Ferndale	690	588	93	9	7.10
Fortuna	4787	3,439	904	444	5.20
Rio Dell	1481	1,056	186	239	14.85
Trinidad	233	191	11	31	25.32
Balance of County	31,501	24,747	2,262	4,492	10.65
Incorporated	27,438	17,446	8,295	1,697	5.71
Humboldt County Total	58,739	41,993	10,557	6,189	8.35
California	13,138,670	8,482,802	4,068,851	587,017	5.87

Source: DOF, 2006b.

### 8.10.1.4 Economy and Employment

Between 2000 and 2006, employment in Humboldt County increased by about 700 jobs, or about 1.4 percent, which is lower than California's employment growth for the same period of about 4.7 percent (California Employment Development Department [EDD], 2006a). In April 2006, the unemployment rate in Humboldt County was 5.5 percent, which was higher than the state unemployment rate of 4.8 percent. As shown in Table 8.10-7, retail trade, education and health services, leisure and hospitality, and government industries accounted for 64.1 percent of the employment in Humboldt County. The government is the largest employer in Humboldt County, accounting for 28.01 percent of total employment. The retail trade industry is the second largest economic sector, accounting for approximately 14.40 percent of employment.

**TABLE 8.10-7**  
Employment by Industry in Humboldt County

Industry	2000		2006		2000-2006	
	Number of Employees	Employment Share (%)	Number of Employees	Employment Share (%)	Change (%)	Average Annual Growth (%)
Agriculture	900	1.8	1,200	2.37	33.33	4.91
Natural Resources/ Mining	500	1.00	400	0.79	-20.00	-3.65
Construction	1,700	3.40	2,300	4.54	35.29	5.17
Manufacturing	5,100	10.20	3,700	7.30	-27.45	-5.21
Wholesale Trade	1,000	2.00	1,100	2.17	10.00	1.60
Retail Trade	7,100	14.20	7,300	14.40	2.82	0.46
Transportation, Warehousing, Utilities	1,100	2.20	1,400	2.76	27.27	4.10
Information	900	1.80	700	1.38	-22.22	-4.10
Financial Activities	2,000	4.00	1,900	3.75	-5.00	-0.85
Professional and Business Services	3,800	7.60	3,500	6.90	-7.89	-1.36
Education and Health Services	6,200	12.40	5,700	11.24	-8.06	-1.39
Leisure and Hospitality	5,200	10.40	5,300	10.45	1.92	0.32
Other Services	1,700	3.40	2,000	3.94	17.65	2.75
Government	1,2800	25.6	14,200	28.01	10.94	1.74
<b>Industry Total</b>	<b>50,000</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>50,700</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>1.40</b>	<b>0.23</b>

Source: EDD, 2006a.

Employment data for April 2006, for California, Humboldt County, and the Cities of Arcata, Blue Lake, Eureka, Ferndale, Fortuna, Rio Dell, and Trinidad are summarized in Table 8.10-8. These data illustrate that the average annual unemployment rate in the City of Eureka was about 1 percent higher than Humboldt County, which was about 1 percent higher than the state average. These figures are based on workforce information by place of residence.

**TABLE 8.10-8**  
Employment Data 2006

City	Civilian Labor Force	Employed Labor Force	Unemployed Labor Force	Unemployment Rate
State of California	17,735,000	16,865,000	870,000	4.9
Humboldt County	60,400	57,100	3,300	5.5
Arcata	9,200	8,700	500	5.4
Blue Lake	600	600	0	0.0
Eureka	11,700	11,000	700	6.0
Fortuna	4,700	4,500	200	4.3
Rio Dell	1,300	1,200	100	7.7
Trinidad	200	200	0	0.0

Source: EDD, 2006a.

### 8.10.1.5 Fiscal Resources

Humboldt County is the local agency with taxing power. Humboldt County's expenditures and revenues are presented in Table 8.10-9. The County's General Fund has shown steady growth from year to year. For fiscal year 2006/2007, it is estimated that revenue from taxes will compose approximately 53 percent of the County's total General Fund revenue (Smith-Hanes, 2006).

**TABLE 8.10-9**  
Humboldt County Revenues and Expenditures by Function and Fund

	FY 2004 - 2005	FY 2005 - 2006	Projected FY 2006 - 2007
<b>Expenditures:</b>			
General Government	20,660,222	23,047,862	29,529,242
Public Protection	50,138,433	56,857,439	58,660,488
Public Ways & Facilities	14,719,920	14,887,107	15,727,831
Health Sanitation	45,791,171	51,400,600	53,795,352
Public Assistance	63,354,532	68,124,236	71,622,732
Education	2,035,209	2,522,719	2,857,269
Recreation & Cultural Services	602,450	660,714	619,893
Transportation Service	1,137,132	1,280,147	1,264,147
Reserves & Contingencies	2,816,710	3,629,636	4,734,804
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>201,255,779</b>	<b>222,410,460</b>	<b>238,811,758</b>
<b>Revenues:</b>			
Taxes	21,775,392	35,850,569	43,737,106
Licenses, Permits, and Franchises	1,413,015	1,623,568	1,684,809
Fines, Forfeitures, and Penalties	2,632,988	2,975,676	2,004,600
Use of Money and Property	106,575	211,550	517,212

**TABLE 8.10-9**  
Humboldt County Revenues and Expenditures by Function and Fund

	FY 2004 - 2005	FY 2005 - 2006	Projected FY 2006 - 2007
Other Governmental Agencies	134,307,691	138,409,777	143,936,748
Charges for Current Services	24,972,092	27,924,674	28,268,016
Other Revenue	10,730,900	9,013,407	8,900,077
Trust Fund Revenue	n/a	n/a	43,062
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>195,938,653</b>	<b>216,009,221</b>	<b>229,091,630</b>

Source: Smith-Hanes, 2006.  
n/a = Data not available

### 8.10.1.6 Education

There are 33 school districts in Humboldt County, with a total enrollment of 19,244 students in kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade for the 2005 to 2006 school year. The South Bay Union School District (elementary school) and Eureka City Unified School District (junior high and high school) serve the HBRP site area. Historical and current enrollment figures are presented in Table 8.10-10 for the school districts that serve the HBRP site.

**TABLE 8.10-10**  
Historical Total Enrollment by Grade

Schools within South Bay Union Elementary District and Eureka City Unified District		
Grade Level	Enrollment (2004-05)	Enrollment (2005-06)
Kindergarten <sup>a</sup>	50	55
First <sup>a</sup>	51	59
Second <sup>a</sup>	60	55
Third <sup>a</sup>	58	58
Fourth <sup>a</sup>	56	58
Fifth <sup>a</sup>	66	50
Sixth <sup>a</sup>	50	46
Seventh <sup>b</sup>	454	431
Eighth <sup>b</sup>	474	444
Ninth <sup>c</sup>	479	449
Tenth <sup>c</sup>	453	450
Eleventh <sup>c</sup>	379	410
Twelfth <sup>c</sup>	348	354
Ungraded Secondary <sup>c</sup>	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,978</b>	<b>2,919</b>

Source: California Department of Education, 2006.

<sup>a</sup> Pine Hill and South Bay Elementary Schools

<sup>b</sup> Winship Junior High School

<sup>c</sup> Eureka High School

South Bay Union Elementary District has two elementary schools. Pine Hill Elementary School is at 5230 Vance Avenue, Eureka, and South Bay Elementary School is at 6077 Loma Avenue, Eureka. South Bay Elementary School is 0.35 mile from the HBRP site. These two schools serve kindergarten through 6th grade. During the 2005 to 2006 school year, attendance at the two schools totaled 381 students (California Department of Education, 2006).

The Eureka City Unified School District has 13 schools. Total enrollment within the district for the 2005 to 2006 school year was 4,725 students (California Department of Education, 2006). Children attending either of the two elementary schools within the South Bay Union Elementary District would attend Winship Middle School and Eureka Senior High School. Winship Middle School is at 2500 Cypress Avenue, Eureka, and Eureka Senior High School is at 1915 J Street, Eureka. During the 2005 to 2006 school year, attendance at the Winship Middle School totaled 622 students in grades 6th through 8th and attendance at the Eureka High School totaled 1,663 students in grades 9th through 12th.

### **8.10.1.7 Public Services and Facilities**

#### **8.10.1.7.1 Law Enforcement**

The principal agency responsible for providing law enforcement is the Humboldt County Sheriff's Department. The sheriff stations are Eureka Main Station, McKinleyville Station, Hoopa Station, and Gerberville Station. The HBRP site is within the jurisdiction of the Eureka Main Station at 826 Fourth Street, Eureka. The Main Station Patrol unit has 1 Lieutenant, 6 Sergeants, 21 Deputy Sheriffs, and 1 Community Services Officer. This station provides services to the unincorporated areas of Humboldt County from Arcata south to Redcrest (Humboldt County Sheriff's Office, 2006).

#### **8.10.1.7.2 Fire Protection**

The Humboldt Fire District #1 serves the project area. It is a full service municipal fire department and regional emergency response agency that provides fire rescue, confined space entry, hazmat response, and emergency medical services. The Humboldt Fire District #1 protects 40 square miles and an approximate population of 22,000. In addition, this district participates in an "Automatic Aid" agreement with the City of Eureka Fire Department and its 30,000 citizens. The District staffs two full-time fire stations with 18 paid professional firefighters, 18 volunteer firefighters, and 2 administrative personnel. The firefighters operate three fire engines and one 2,000-gallon water tender.

The station closest to the HBRP site is Station 12 (Bayview) at 755 Herrick Avenue, Eureka, approximately 2.2 miles from the site. Station 12 is staffed on a 24-hours basis. The average response time to calls is 4 minutes throughout the service area (Ziemer, 2006).

#### **8.10.1.7.3 Emergency Response**

Emergency response to the HBRP site is handled through the Humboldt Fire District #1. The Humboldt Fire District #1 is a full service municipal fire department and regional emergency response agency as described in Section 8.10.1.7.2.

All firefighters are trained at least to the level of Emergency Medical Technician 1 and can provide Basic Life Support services. In addition, some staff members are trained to the paramedic level. All of the paid staff is also certified in the use of Automated External Defibrillators and the Esophageal Trachial Airway Device (Ziemer, 2006).

#### **8.10.1.7.4 Hospitals**

Two hospitals are located in the City of Eureka: St. Joseph Hospital with approximately 100 beds and General Hospital with approximately 95 beds. The nearest emergency medical facility to the HBRP is St. Joseph Hospital at 2700 Dolbeer Street, Eureka, about 6 miles from the site. Services at St. Joseph Hospital include a heart institute, cancer program, diabetic center, and family recovery services. General Hospital, the next nearest hospital to the HBRP, is the north coast surgical center, provides home health care services, and is a rehabilitation center (Scott, 2006).

#### **8.10.1.8 Utilities**

##### **8.10.1.8.1 Electricity and Gas**

This project is within the boundaries of the existing Humboldt Bay Power Plant facility and will not require additional right-of-way for electrical or gas transmission. Electricity is provided from onsite generation units, and gas is provided from a pipeline at the site.

##### **8.10.1.8.2 Water**

Raw process water for the HBRP will be supplied via the existing 6-inch water supply pipeline within the project site. The source of this water is an existing PG&E well. Domestic water required for non-process uses (sinks, toilets, showers, drinking fountains, eye wash/safety showers, etc.) will be provided from a new 4- to 6-inch water supply pipeline from the Humboldt Community Services District line that runs along King Salmon Avenue.

##### **8.10.1.8.3 Sewer**

Humboldt Community Services District provides sewer service in the HBRP area and to the site. Its capacity is 5.2 million gallons per day (mgd) with a peak flow of 22 mgd. Humboldt Community Services District provides secondary sewage treatment.

### **8.10.2 Environmental Consequences**

Potential project impacts were determined by comparing project demands during construction and operation with the socioeconomic resources of the project area (i.e., Humboldt County). A power generating facility could affect employment, population, housing, public services and utilities, or schools. Impacts could be local or regional, though most impacts would tend to be more regional than local. It is anticipated that the project will not have significant adverse impacts on the socioeconomic environment, but it will have socioeconomic benefits to the local community during construction. Because this project will replace Humboldt Bay Power Plant Units 1 and 2, however, there will be a long-term decrease in employees and operation and maintenance costs.

#### **8.10.2.1 Significance Criteria**

The criteria used to determine the significance of project-related socioeconomic impacts are as suggested in Appendix G, Environmental Checklist Form, of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Public Resources Code Sections 21000 et seq.). Project-related impacts are determined to be significant if they:

- Induce substantial growth or concentration of population
- Displace a large number of people or existing housing

- Result in substantial adverse environmental impacts associated with the provision of utility services
- Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of public services

Other impacts may be significant if they cause substantial change in community interaction patterns, social organization, social structures, or social institutions; substantial conflict with community attitudes, values, or perceptions; or substantial inequities in the distribution of project cost and benefit.

### **8.10.2.2 Construction Impacts**

Construction of the generating facility, from site preparation and grading to commercial operation, is to take place over approximately 18 months, from March 2008 to August 2009. Operation is expected to begin in August 2009.

#### **8.10.2.2.1 Construction Workforce**

The trades in most demand for the HBRP construction will include carpenters, electricians, ironworkers, laborers, millwrights, operators, and pipefitters. Table 8.10-11 provides an estimate of construction personnel requirements for the project. Total construction personnel requirements for the HBRP will be an average of 101 workers per month for 18 months with a peak work force of 236 during months 11 and 12. The project's construction materials (consumables, piping, conduit, wire, etc.) are estimated at \$6.5 million. The construction payroll is estimated at \$30 million.

Available skilled labor in Humboldt County was evaluated by reviewing information obtained from the Humboldt and Del Norte Counties Building Trades Council and information provided by EDD and presented in Table 8.10-12. As shown in Table 8.10-12, the workforce for Humboldt County will be adequate to fulfill HBRP's labor requirements for construction. Therefore, HBRP construction will not place an undue burden on the local workforce. As shown in Table 8.10-7, the construction workforce has increased over the last decade. Therefore, HBRP is not likely to result in a significant impact on the available workforce of skilled construction workers.

#### **8.10.2.2.2 Population Impacts**

It is anticipated that the workforce to construct the project is available in the local or regional area. Approximately one-third of the labor will come from areas local to the Eureka, Humboldt, and surrounding areas and two-thirds will be imported from other California and western U.S. areas. Because most of the construction workforce (peak of 236 construction workers during months 11 and 12, and an average of 101 per month over the 18-month duration of the construction) will relocate to the project area, impacts to Humboldt County and local school districts could occur but would be expected to be minimal. The number of construction workers required by the project will not make a significant impact on the population of the County or significantly increase the non-resident commuter work population of Humboldt County because it is a relatively small number and the impact will be short term and temporary.

**TABLE 8.10-11**  
**Construction Personnel Craft by Month (months after Notice to Proceed)**

<b>Month</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>Total</b>
Carpenter	0	0	5	5	10	15	20	20	15	10	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	105
Cement mason	0	5	10	20	20	20	25	25	20	10	10	10	5	0	0	0	0	0	180
Electricians	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	40	55	50	40	38	10	2	2	2	254
Iron worker	0	0	0	5	13	15	20	5	5	5	5	10	10	5	0	0	0	0	98
Labor	3	5	9	18	40	55	48	43	43	29	44	44	33	13	3	0	0	0	430
Millwright	0	0	0	0	0	4	15	30	35	35	35	35	25	2	2	1	1	1	221
Operator	10	18	14	15	5	10	10	10	5	5	10	10	10	3	0	0	0	0	135
Pipe fitter	0	0	0	0	0	5	5	10	35	40	50	50	35	5	3	1	1	1	241
Teamster	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	0	0	0	30
Insulation worker	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	5	10	10	10	7	5	2	0	0	54
Painter	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	5	5	5	2	0	0	22
Sheet metal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	10	10	10	10	0	0	2	0	0	47
<b>Total Craft</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>236</b>	<b>236</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1817</b>

**TABLE 8.10-12**  
Available Labor by Skill in Humboldt County, 2002 to 2012

Occupational Title	Annual Averages		Absolute Change	Percentage Change	Average Annual Compounded Growth Rate (%)
	2002	2012			
Carpenters	820	950	130	15.9	1.5
Cement Masons & Concrete Finishers	180	240	60	33.3	2.9
Painters, Construction & Maintenance	310	400	90	29.0	2.6
Sheet Metal Workers	110	150	40	36.4	3.2
Electricians	190	250	60	31.6	2.8
Welders, Cutters, Solderers, & Brazers	90	120	30	33.3	2.9
Industrial Truck & Tractor Operators	660	730	70	10.6	1.0
Helpers, Laborers	160	190	30	18.8	1.7
Plumbers, Pipefitters, & Steamfitters	190	260	70	36.8	3.2
Administrative Services Managers	200	230	30	15.0	1.4
Engineers	380	420	40	10.5	1.0
Engineering Technicians	290	330	40	13.8	1.3
Plant & System Operators	460	550	90	19.6	1.8

Source: EDD, 2006b.

### 8.10.2.2.3 Housing Impacts

An estimated one-third of the construction workforce will commute to the project site daily and two-thirds will require lodging. As shown in Table 8.10-6, there are a total of 12,162 housing units in Eureka of which 5.82 percent are vacant. Because housing supply is not limited within the County, workers wishing to relocate would have plenty of housing to choose from. For those workers not interested in permanent housing or who are interested in accommodations during the workweek, there are at least 35 large hotels and motels with more than 1,500 rooms in the Eureka area (Smithers, 2006). As a result, construction of the proposed project is not expected to increase the demand for housing.

### 8.10.2.2.4 Impacts to the Local Economy and Employment

The cost of materials and supplies (excluding major equipment) required by the project is estimated at \$6.5 million. The estimated value of materials and supplies that will be purchased locally in Humboldt County during construction is about \$2.6 million.

HBRP will provide about \$30 million (2006 dollars) (Wärtsilä, 2006b) in construction payroll, at an average salary of \$68.75 per hour. The anticipated payroll for employees, as well as the purchase of materials and supplies during the construction period, will have a beneficial impact on the area's economy. Assuming that about 33 percent of the construction workforce will reside in Humboldt County, it is expected that approximately \$10 million will stay in the local area. These additional funds will cause a temporary beneficial impact

by creating the potential for other employment opportunities for local workers in other service areas, such as transportation and retail.

Construction activity would result in secondary economic impacts (indirect and induced impacts) within Humboldt County. Secondary employment effects would include indirect and induced employment due to the purchase of goods and services by firms involved with construction, and induced employment due to construction workers spending their income within the County. In addition to these secondary employment impacts, there are indirect and induced income effects arising from construction. The project would create a temporary positive impact on the local economic base and fiscal resources. Employment for local and regional workers would provide additional area income, as would local expenditures for construction materials and services. Increased local incomes and sales would also generate tax revenues for the local and regional areas.

The project will provide short-term job opportunities for about 34 construction workers from the local area, on average, during the construction period. This represents about 1.5 percent of the 2006 regional construction pool of 2,300 (Table 8.10-6)

#### **8.10.2.2.5 Fiscal Impacts**

HBRP initial capital cost is estimated to be \$250 million; of this, materials and supplies are estimated at approximately \$80 million. The effect on fiscal resources during construction will be from sales taxes realized on equipment and materials purchased in the County and use taxes on equipment purchased out of state. The sales and use tax rate in Humboldt County is 7.25 percent (as of April 1, 2004). Of this, 6.25 percent goes to the state and 1 percent goes to the County (California State Board of Equalization, 2006). The total local sales and use tax expected to be generated during construction is \$5.8 million.

#### **8.10.2.2.6 Impacts on Education**

The schools in the project area are currently not considered overcrowded. Construction of the HBRP will not cause significant population changes or housing impacts to the region. A maximum of 157 employees would come from outside the area (assuming that two-thirds of the workers are from outside the area), but this number would be required only for a 2-month period. The average number of employees who would come to work from outside of the project area across the entire 18 months of the construction period is 67, and this could cause a slight increase in demand for school services. Assuming that each worker enrolls one school age child into the South Bay Union School District, this would represent a 2 percent increase in enrollment for a single school year. As a result, HBRP construction will not cause a significant increase in demand for school services.

#### **8.10.2.2.7 Impacts on Public Services and Facilities**

Current police, fire, and medical facilities should be sufficient to handle the demands of the project. Because the HBRP will be at the existing Humboldt Bay Power Plant site consisting of two fossil-fired generating units, two peaking gas turbines, and an inoperable nuclear generating unit, the project site has good security and will not draw on the services of local law enforcement agencies for security. A new fire protection system will be constructed for the new units. The new fire protection system will be independent of the existing plant fire protection system, but will report to the existing main control room. The system will meet all National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), Occupational Safety and Health

Administration (OSHA), state, and local requirements. Communication equipment will be available onsite at all times to contact emergency response agencies.

#### 8.10.2.2.8 Impacts on Utilities

Construction of the proposed project will not cause significant demands for electricity and gas, sewer, or water service. All utilities are readily available from local utility providers.

### 8.10.2.3 Operational Impacts

#### 8.10.2.3.1 Operational Workforce

The proposed HBRP facility is expected to begin commercial operation in August 2009. The new facility will replace Units 1 and 2, ultimately reducing the workforce from 44 to 17 full-time employees and the operation and maintenance costs from \$12 million to \$7.32 million annually. The workforce reduction will occur gradually over several years as Units 1 and 2 are first shut down and later demolished. Anticipated job classifications are shown in Table 8.10-13. The entire permanent workforce is expected to commute from within Humboldt County.

**TABLE 8.10-13**  
Typical Plant Operation Workforce

Department	Personnel	Shift	Workdays
Plant Manager	1 Plant Manager	Standard 8-hour days	5 days per week
Production Supervisor	1 Production Supervisor	Standard 8-hour days	5 days per week
Operations	4 Lead Operating Technicians 7 Operating Technicians	2 operators per shift, 2 relief operators	7 days per week
Procurement	1 Procurement Specialist	Standard 8-hour days	5 days per week
Administrative	1 Administrative Assistant	Standard 8-hour days	5 days per week
Health and Safety	1 Environmental Health and Safety Coordinator	Standard 8-hour days	5 days per week
Engineering	1 Engineer	Standard 8-hour days	5 days per week

#### 8.10.2.3.2 Population Impacts

A portion of the facility employees will be drawn from the existing Humboldt Bay Power Plant workforce. There will be no significant impact on local employment because the reduction in 27 staff would represent less than 0.1 percent of Humboldt County's labor force. Furthermore, staff reductions are expected to be achieved primarily by retirements and attrition.

#### 8.10.2.3.3 Housing Impacts

Due to long-term decrease in 27 operations staff, the HBRP will not cause an increase in housing demand.

#### 8.10.2.3.4 Impacts to the Local Economy and Employment

HBRP operation will slightly reduce employment opportunities for local workers and will lead to a decrease in local expenditures for materials, such as office supplies and services.

Operation and maintenance costs for the Humboldt Bay Power Plant are estimated to be reduced from \$12 million to \$7.3 million annually after the HBRP is fully operational, thereby removing \$4.7 million annually from local circulation. The decrease in jobs and spending will reduce employment opportunities and spending in Humboldt County.

The operation of the proposed project would result in indirect and induced economic impacts within Humboldt County depending on the point of sale. These indirect and induced impacts represent permanent decreases in the County's economic variables. The indirect and induced impacts would result from annual expenditures on payroll as well as those on operations and maintenance.

#### **8.10.2.3.5 Fiscal Impacts**

The annual operations and maintenance budget will be reduced by \$4.7 million, a portion of which would be spent locally within Humboldt County. Therefore, there will be minor adverse fiscal impact to the local economy.

#### **8.10.2.3.6 Impacts on Education**

The schools in the South Bay Union Elementary and Eureka City Unified School Districts are currently not considered overcrowded. A reduction of 27 employees would not be expected to create significant adverse impacts to the local school system. Assuming that each of the 27 employees has a school-aged child, this would imply a decrease in school attendance of less than 27 children to the local schools. This would constitute less than 1 percent decrease in school enrollment. The project would be within the South Bay Union Elementary and the Eureka City Unified School Districts. The two school districts do not assess school impact fees on any new development, only on redevelopment projects (Tillie, 2006). Therefore, the project would not be expected to pay school impact fees.

#### **8.10.2.3.7 Impacts on Public Services and Facilities**

Project operation will not make significant demands on public services or facilities. Existing Sheriff and Fire Department facilities are adequate to provide services to the project. HBRP operation would not create significant adverse impacts on medical resources in the area because of the safety record of power plants and small operation's staff. Plant operations should not result in significant adverse impacts to local public services, facilities, or emergency services.

#### **8.10.2.3.8 Impacts on Utilities**

HBRP operation will not make significant adverse demands on local water, sanitary sewer, electricity, or natural gas because adequate supply and capacity currently exist.

### **8.10.2.4 Environmental Justice**

#### **8.10.2.4.1 Evaluation of Disproportionate Impacts**

President Clinton's Executive Order 12898, "Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-income Populations" was signed on February 11, 1994. The purpose of this Executive Order is to identify and address whether adverse human health or environmental effects are likely to fall disproportionately on minority or low-income members of the community. The Order requires that impacts on minority or low-income populations be taken into account when preparing environmental

and socioeconomic analyses of projects or programs that are proposed, funded, or licensed by federal agencies.

In April 1998, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) published its *Final Guidance for Incorporating Environmental Justice Concerns in EPA's NEPA Compliance Analysis*. This document provides specific guidelines for determining whether there could be environmental justice impacts associated with a proposed federal project that undertakes analysis of environmental regulatory issues under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

The California Energy Commission (CEC) has incorporated an environmental justice analysis as part of its power plant licensing process under CEQA. The federal government views environmental justice as a civil rights standard and a way of preventing racial and economic discrimination, rather than as a remedy for disproportionate impacts that may already exist. To prove violation of civil rights, the government must show that a project would cause impacts that are “disproportionately high and adverse,” either directly, indirectly, or cumulatively. In other words, the following must apply: (1) the project would cause a significant (high) adverse impact, (2) minority or low income populations must be present within the project area, and (3) the impacts must disproportionately affect the minority or low-income populations, compared with other populations. For power plant permitting, air quality impacts are generally considered most likely to raise issues of racial and economic discrimination.

In general, construction of a new power plant results in a net reduction of regional air emissions because CEC and regional air management district permits require that emission reduction credits be obtained. The fact that the regulatory agencies have set clear standards for power plant emissions in terms of human health risk assessment may mean that discriminatory project siting can only be viewed cumulatively. If a specific project does not have a significant impact on human health, it can only have a significant and discriminatory impact on a minority or low-income population in conjunction with, and in addition to, other impacts that population is experiencing, some of which may not be caused by air emissions.

According to USEPA guidelines, the first step in conducting an environmental justice analysis is to define minority and low-income populations. Based on the USEPA guidelines, a minority population is present in a project area if the following conditions apply: (1) the minority population of the affected area exceeds 50 percent, or (2) the minority population percentage in the affected area is meaningfully greater than the minority population percentage in the general population. These guidelines do not provide a numeric measure for low-income populations; rather, they advise that the analyst use the techniques that best suit the project at hand. The guidance suggests using two or three standard deviations above the mean as a quantitative measure of disproportionate effects. The area of potential effect for the purpose of an environmental justice screening is an approximately 6-mile radius surrounding the project site. The CEC has used this distance in past projects to assess potential air emissions effects.

#### **8.10.2.4.2 PG&E's Environmental Justice Policy and Procedure**

PG&E was one of the first U.S. corporations to formally adopt an environment justice policy and procedure. The policy affirms our commitment to incorporate environment justice

considerations into our daily operations and to comply with the letter and spirit of environment justice laws and regulations. It also commits PG&E to seek meaningful involvement from community members in decision-making that affects their health and well-being, and to work with communities to develop creative ways to minimize or avoid adverse effects. PG&E will follow this policy and procedure throughout every phase of the HBRP.

#### **8.10.2.4.3 HBRP Project**

Environmental justice impacts are highly unlikely to occur as a result of construction or operation of the HBRP because the project would cause no significant, unmitigated adverse impacts (high and adverse impacts). All of the project's impacts would be mitigated to a level below significance. Of the 12 census tracts within 6 miles of the project site, none contain minority populations greater than 50 percent; therefore, the project's impacts would not be significant and could not be significant and disproportionate. The area within 6 miles of the project does not contain any census tracts in which more than 50 percent of the population is low income.

### **8.10.3 Cumulative Impacts**

The Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation (ISFSI) construction, also known as the dry cask storage project, is scheduled from March to November 2007 and loading will be completed by June 2008. This construction will coincide with the HBRP project within the Humboldt Bay Power Plant site. The ISFSI construction would add an additional 20 workers to the local area, which is insignificant when added to the HBRP construction workers. Thus, cumulative impacts associated with construction of the ISFSI and the HBRP will not differ from impacts described in Section 8.10.2.2.

Although not part of the HBRP, Units 1 and 2 will be retired and eventually demolished following startup of the HBRP. A portion of the 44 employees currently employed to operate these units (in addition to the 17 full time employees who will operate the HBRP) would remain for several years while Units 1 and 2 are closed and demolished. The cumulative impact of the gradual shutdown of Units 1 and 2 would cause the impacts from workforce reduction to occur gradually and therefore present a less adverse effect on the community.

### **8.10.4 Mitigation Measures**

No significant socioeconomic impacts were identified; therefore, no mitigation measures are proposed.

### **8.10.5 Laws, Ordinances, Regulations, and Standards**

A summary of the LORS, including the project's conformance to them, is presented in Table 8.10-14.

#### **8.10.5.1 Federal**

The Civil Rights Act of 1964, Public Law 88-352, 78 Stat. 241 (codified as amended in various sections of 42 U.S. Code [USC]), Title VI prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin by all federal agencies or activities receiving federal financial assistance.

Executive Order 12898, “Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations,” requires federal agencies to consider whether the project may result in disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on any minority or low-income population. Although CEC is not obligated as a matter of law to conduct an environmental justice analysis, since the signing of the executive order, the CEC has typically included this topic in its power plant siting decisions to ensure that any potential adverse impacts are identified and addressed.

**TABLE 8.10-14**  
Laws, Ordinances, Regulations, and Standards Applicable to HBRP Socioeconomics

<b>LORS</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Applicability</b>	<b>Conformance</b>
<b>Federal</b>			
Civil Rights Act of 1964	Prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin.	Applies to all federal agencies and agencies receiving federal funds.	Section 8.10.2
Executive Order 12898	Avoid disproportionately high and adverse impacts to minority and low-income members of the community.	Applies only to federal agencies.	Section 8.10.2
<b>State</b>			
Government Code Sections 65996-65997	Establishes that the levy of a fee for constructing an industrial facility be considered as mitigating impacts on school facilities.	South Bay Union Elementary School District and Eureka City Unified School District do not charge fees to new developments, only redevelopment projects	Section 8.10.2
Education Code Section 17620	Allows a school district to levy a fee against any construction within the boundaries of the district for the purpose of funding construction of school facilities.	South Bay Union Elementary School District and Eureka City Unified School District do not charge fees to new developments, only redevelopment projects	Section 8.10.2

### 8.10.5.2 State

Government Code Sections 65996 and 65997 provide the exclusive methods of considering and mitigating impacts on school facilities that might occur as a result of developing real property. As amended by Senate Bill (SB) 50 (Stats. 1998, ch. 407, sec.23), these sections state that public agencies may not impose fees, charges, or other financial requirements to offset the cost for school facilities.

Education Code Section 17620, listed in Government Code Section 65997 as an approved mitigation method, allows school districts to levy a fee or other requirement against construction within the boundaries of the school district for the purpose of funding construction of school facilities. South Bay Union Elementary School District and Eureka City Unified School District have indicated that they do not charge fees to new developments, only redevelopment projects.

### 8.10.5.3 Local

No local LORS have been identified with regard to the social and economic effects of development. The proposed project site is in unincorporated part of Humboldt County.

### 8.10.6 Involved Agencies and Agency Contacts

Table 8.10-15 lists agencies and contact persons of potentially responsible agencies.

**TABLE 8.10-15**  
Agencies and Agency Contacts for HBRP Socioeconomics

Agency	Contact/Title	Phone Number	Address
Humboldt #1 Fire Department	Glenn Ziemer, Fire Chief	(707) 445-4900	3455 Harris Street Eureka, CA 95503-4816
California Department of Finance, Demographics Unit	Dan Sheya	(916) 445-3878	915 L Street Sacramento, CA 95814
Eureka City School District	Debbie Tillie, Administrative Assistant	(707) 441-2400	3200 Walford Avenue Eureka, CA 95503
South Bay Union Elementary School District	Rick Fauss, Assistant Superintendent	(707) 476-8549	6077 Loma Avenue Eureka, CA 95503
Humboldt County, County Administrative Office	Phillip Smith-Hanes, Deputy County Administrative Officer	(707) 445-7266	825 Fifth Street, Room 111 Eureka, CA 95501-1153
Humboldt Community Services District	Susan Wilson, Customer Service Representative	(707) 443-4559	5055 Walnut Drive Eureka, CA 95503
Humboldt and Del Norte County Building Trades Council	Bob Borck, Secretary/Treasurer	(707) 443-8128	2367 Harrison Avenue Eureka, CA 95501
St. Joseph Hospital	Janice Scott	(707) 445-8121	2700 Dolbeer Street Eureka, CA 95501

### 8.10.7 Permits and Permitting Schedule

No applicable permits related to socioeconomic impacts of the project are required. Permits dealing with the effects on public services are addressed as part of the building permit process. For example school impact taxes and development fees are typically collected when the Applicant pays in-lieu building permit fees to the County.

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