

This chapter discusses natural and human-made resources that would be irretrievably committed during construction or operation of the Proposed Project, becoming unavailable for future use. Typically, for a major development project such as the Proposed Project, irreversibly and irretrievably committed resources include land, energy, construction materials, and human effort (i.e., time and labor). Some of these resources generally are irreversible and irretrievable for the life of the project, such as land and building materials (even if they may eventually become available again). Other resources are irretrievable beyond the project's lifespan, such as energy and human effort.

Natural and human-made resources would be expended in the construction and operation of the Proposed Project. These natural resources include the use of land, mature trees, and energy. Human-made resources include the effort required to develop, construct, and operate the Proposed Project; building materials; financial funding; and motor vehicle use. These resources are considered irretrievably committed for the life of the project or beyond.

The use of land is the most basic of irretrievably committed resources, as the development of the Proposed Project requires the commitment of land for new physical elements such as buildings and parking garages. However, the Proposed Project would be using land already used for urban development and recreational purposes and thus would not be further committing land resources to these uses.

The Proposed Project would result in irreversible clearing and grading of vegetation within the Project Sites and other directly affected areas as well as modification to topography. The loss of vegetation is considered an irreversible commitment of resources, although replacement vegetation would be included in the Proposed Project. Soil or rock used to modify the grade of the Project Sites or other directly affected areas would be irretrievably committed for the lifetime of the Proposed Project.

The actual building materials used in the construction of the Proposed Project (wood, steel, concrete, glass, etc.) and energy, in the form of gas and electricity, consumed during the construction and operation of the Proposed Project, would also be irretrievably committed to the Proposed Project for the life of the project or beyond.

None of these irreversible or irretrievable commitments of resources are considered significant. *