

9. Significant Irreversible Changes Due to the Proposed Project

Section 15126.2(c) of the CEQA Guidelines requires that an environmental impact report (EIR) describe any significant irreversible environmental changes that would be caused by the proposed project should it be implemented. Specifically, the CEQA Guidelines state:

Uses of nonrenewable resources during the initial and continued phases of the project may be irreversible since a large commitment of such resources makes removal of nonuse thereafter unlikely. Primary impacts and, particularly, secondary impacts (such as highways improvement which provides access to a previously inaccessible area) generally commit future generations to similar uses. Also, irreversible damage can result from environmental accidents associated with the project. Irretrievable commitments of resources should be evaluated to assure that such current consumption is justified.

The following are the significant irreversible changes that would be caused by the proposed project, should it be implemented:

- Implementation of the proposed project would include construction activities that would entail the commitment of nonrenewable and/or slowly renewable energy resources; human resources; and natural resources such as lumber and other forest products, sand and gravel, asphalt, steel, copper, lead, other metals, water, and fossil fuels. Operation of the proposed project would require the use of natural gas and electricity, petroleum-based fuels, fossil fuels, and water. The commitment of resources required for the construction and operation of the proposed project would limit the availability of such resources for future generations or for other uses during the life of the project.
- Implementation of the proposed project would develop an approximately 14-acre vacant site to a community college campus. Therefore, the existing biological resources, as described in the Draft EIR Section 5.2, *Biological Resources*, would be disturbed and removed. Although impacts related to biological resources would be reduced to a less than significant level, the proposed project would result in permanent and irreversible environmental changes.
- The visual character of the project site would be altered by the construction of the new structures and other various site improvements. This would result in a permanent change in the character of the project site and on- and off-site views in the project's vicinity.

Once the project site is developed, it is highly unlikely that the project site would revert to its original form. The proposed project would commit future generations to these environmental changes.

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