Significant Irreversible Environmental Changes

8.0 SIGNIFICANT IRREVERSIBLE ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGES

CEQA Guidelines Section 15126(c) requires that an EIR discuss irreversible environmental changes resulting from the project. The project would modify the existing project site through the addition of a built residential environment, roadway, and associated interior infrastructure. These aspects of the project would preclude future use of the site for foraging by wildlife or archaeological research. The project would also generate waste that would be disposed of at the local landfill. Development of the site with the proposed residential use and public roadway is considered a long-term commitment. Therefore, these changes are considered significant and irreversible.

Development of the project would also result in the use of non-renewable resources during construction and operation. Construction would require the consumption of natural resources and renewable and non-renewable materials, including building materials (e.g., wood and metal) and fossil fuels (e.g., gasoline, diesel fuel, and natural gas). Once operational, the project would require consumption of natural resources and renewable and non-renewable materials such as electricity, natural gas, potable water, and fossil fuels for building systems, such as heating, air conditioning, and lighting. Currently, these resources are readily available, and are expected to remain available in the foreseeable future. Therefore, the commitment of these resources to the project is not considered significant.