Chapter 24: Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitments of Resources

Resources, both natural and human-made, would be expended in the construction and operation of developments and open space projected to occur as a result of the Proposed Actions. These resources include the building materials used in construction; energy in the form of gas and electricity consumed during construction and operation of project-generated development by various mechanical and processing systems; and the human effort (time and labor) required to develop, construct, and operate various components of project-generated development. These are considered irretrievably committed because their reuse for some other purpose would be highly unlikely.

The projected development under the Proposed Actions also constitutes a long-term commitment of land resources, thereby rendering land use for other purposes highly unlikely in the foreseeable future. However, the land use changes that would occur as a result of the Proposed Actions would be compatible in terms of use and scale with existing conditions and trends in the area as a whole. None of the projected development sites possess any natural resource of significant value, and the sites are in large part developed or have been previously developed.

The public services anticipated to be provided in connection with the projected development under the Proposed Actions (e.g., police and fire protection, public education, open space, and other City resources) also constitute resource commitments that might otherwise be used for other programs or projects. However, the Proposed Actions would allow new uses under the proposed zoning changes and produce economic growth that would generate substantial tax revenues providing a new source of public funds that would offset these expenditures.

The commitments of resources and materials are weighed against the benefits of the Proposed Actions. The Proposed Actions would facilitate the redevelopment of the Project Area with a series of mixed-use buildings, affordable housing, publicly accessible open space, arts and cultural venues including a multi-purpose arts and culture center, movie theatre, galleries, artists' workshops, and tech and general office space. In addition to art and cultural venues, the project would include eating and drinking establishments, a grocery store, a world market, and other local retail, service and community facility uses to support the new residential population, the existing business and residential community, and provide a strong anchor for the Steinway Street and 35th Avenue commercial corridors. ✷