Chapter 25: Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitments of Resources

This chapter considers irreversible and irretrievable commitment of resources associated with the Proposed Actions. An irreversible or irretrievable commitment of resources refers to impacts on or losses to resources that cannot be recovered or reversed.

Resources, both natural and man-made, would be expended in the construction and operation of developments 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 and/or potential 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 change 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 or potential development sites possess any natural resource values, and the sites are in large part developed or have been previously developed. It is noted that funds committed to the design, construction/renovation, and operation of projected or potential developments under the Proposed Actions would not be available for other projects. However, this is not a significant adverse fiscal impact or a significant adverse impact on the City's resources.

In addition, the public services provided in connection with the projected and/or potential developments 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 enliven the area 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 support the community-based goals of creating a more prosperous neighborhood that promotes affordability, celebrates inclusivity and diversity, and supports investment activity and business opportunities. The Proposed Actions are intended to achieve community-based land use objectives, such as expanding housing opportunities by requiring permanently income restricted housing through the Mandatory Inclusionary Housing program in new developments to support the neighborhood diversity and further the City's equity and Fair Housing goals; and reinforcing the area as a regional business district by strengthening the existing economic ecosystem while also promoting the development of new job-generating uses through increased industrial and commercial density. ✷