Chapter 25: Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitments of Resources

Resources, both natural and man-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 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 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 or potential development sites possess any natural resource of significant value, and the sites are in large part developed or have been previously developed. The Proposed Actions would facilitate the creation of new open space, including new neighborhood parks and a waterfront esplanade along the Canal, enhancing the value of the Canal as a natural resource for the use and enjoyment of New Yorkers and for the overall improvement of the natural environment in Gowanus.

In addition, the public services provided in connection with the projected and/or potential 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 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 promote new resilient development, including residential development with significant amounts of permanently affordable housing, encourage new mixed-use development along key corridors, enhance and revitalize major thoroughfares through new economic activity, and preserve existing neighborhood character while promoting growth in key areas of the neighborhood. ✷