Chapter 10: Natural Resources

As stated in the *CEQR Technical Manual*, a natural resource is defined as a plant or animal species and any area capable of providing habitat for plant and animal species or capable of functioning to support environmental systems and maintain the city's environmental balance. Such resources include surface and groundwater, wetlands, dunes and beaches, grasslands, woodlands, landscaped areas, gardens, and build structures used by wildlife. An assessment of natural resources is appropriate if a natural resource exists on or near the site of a proposed action, or if an action involves disturbance of that resource.

All of the projected and potential development sites are essentially developed and substantially devoid of natural resources, as defined by the *CEQR Technical Manual.* In addition, the primary study area does not contain "built resources" that are known to contain, or may be used as a habitat by, a protected species as defined by the Federal Endangered Species Act (50 CFR 17) or the New York State Environmental Conservation Law (6 NYCRR Parts 182 and 193). The proposed development sites contain no landscaped features with natural resources values, have no subsurface conditions, the disruption of which might affect the function or value of an adjacent or nearby natural resource, and are neither near nor contiguous to any natural resources (see Chapter 1, "Project Description"). Any vegetation on these sites in the existing condition would be typical urban invasive vegetation with no vegetation or wildlife habitat value. Wildlife in the area is also urban mammals and transitory avian wildlife. There are no streams, ponds, or lakes that would provide any habitat for aquatic-related wildlife. In sum, there is limited habitat in the primary study (rezoning) area and no impacts on natural resources are expected with the proposed actions. ✷