Chapter 27: Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitments of Resources

There are a number of resources, both natural and built, that would be expended in the construction and operation of the proposed project. These resources include the materials used in construction; energy in the form of gas and electricity consumed during construction and operation of the project; and the human effort (time and labor) required to develop, construct, and operate various components of the program. They are considered irretrievably committed because their reuse for some purpose other than the project would be highly unlikely. The development of the project site with open space and a mix of residential, retail, commercial office, and community facility uses constitutes a long-term commitment of land resources, thereby rendering land use for other purposes highly unlikely in the foreseeable future. These commitments of resources and materials are weighed against the proposed project's goals of providing a substantial amount of affordable housing in the area of Williamsburg known as the Southside community, creating public access to and recreational use of the waterfront, and restoring and adaptively reusing the Refinery complex. ✷