

9. Significant Irreversible Changes Due to the Proposed Project

Section 15126.2(c) of the CEQA Guidelines requires that an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) describe any significant irreversible environmental changes that would be caused by the proposed project should it be implemented. According to the Guidelines, “Uses of nonrenewable resources during the initial and continued phases of the project may be irreversible since a large commitment of such resources makes removal or nonuse thereafter unlikely. Primary impacts and, particularly, secondary impacts (such as highway improvement which provides access to a previously inaccessible area) generally commit future generations to similar uses. Also, irreversible damage can result from environmental accidents associated with the project. Irretrievable commitments of resources should be evaluated to assure that such current consumption is justified.”

In the case of the proposed project, implementation would involve the demolition of a pool and bathhouse that are eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Places. Project implementation would result in not only the irreversible loss of the existing historic aquatic facility, but also in the irreversible consumption of limited, slowly renewable, and nonrenewable resources, and committing such resources, although limited, to uses that future generations would be unable to reverse. These resources include 1) building materials and 2) fuel and operational materials and resources.

Construction of the proposed project would consume certain types of lumber and other forest products, the raw materials in steel, aggregate materials used in concrete and asphalt such as sand and stone, water, petrochemical construction materials such as plastic, petroleum-based construction materials, and other similar slowly renewable or nonrenewable resources. Additionally, fossil fuels for construction vehicles and equipment would also be consumed. In terms of project operations, the following slowly renewable and nonrenewable resources would be required: natural gas and electricity, petroleum-based fuels, fossil fuels, and water. Title 24 of the California Administrative Code regulates the amount of energy consumed by new development for heating, cooling, ventilation, and lighting purposes. Nevertheless, the consumption of such resources would represent a long-term commitment of those resources.



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