

9. Significant Irreversible Changes Due to the Proposed Project

According Section 15126.2(c) of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines, “[u]ses 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 require the demolition of the Michael White Adobe (Adobe), a building that meets CEQA’s definition of a historical resource. Demolition of the building would result in the permanent loss of the historical resource. The site of the Adobe would be converted into an open area, which would be used by the high school.

Project implementation would result in the irreversible consumption of limited, slowly renewable, and nonrenewable resources, committing such resources, although limited, to uses that future generations would be unable to reverse. It would require the commitment of some resources including: 1) building materials, 2) fuel and operational materials/resources, and 3) the transportation of goods and people to and from the project site. The proposed project would require 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 vehicles and equipment would also be consumed. The consumption of such resources would represent a long-term commitment of those resources; however, it would not be considered substantial.



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