

7.0 SIGNIFICANT IRREVERSIBLE ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGES

CEQA Guidelines Section 15126(c) requires that an EIR discuss irreversible environmental changes resulting from the proposed project. The proposed project would modify the existing project site through removal or modification of existing natural habitat, and development of Garden facilities, residences, and associated infrastructure. This would result in significant changes/impacts on biological resources (as discussed in Section 4.3, Biological Resources). Although the proposed project's environmental changes with respect to biological resources are to some extent reversible, the commitment of the project site to the proposed residential and recreational uses is considered a long term commitment and, therefore, for purposes of this analysis these changes are considered significant irreversible changes.

Development of the proposed project would result in the use of non-renewable resources during construction and operation. Construction of the project would require the consumption of natural resources and renewable and non-renewable materials, including building materials (e.g., wood and metal) and fossil fuels (e.g., gasoline, diesel fuel, and natural gas). Once operational, the project would require consumption of natural resources and renewable and non-renewable materials such as electricity, natural gas, potable water, and fossil fuels for building systems, such as heating, air conditioning, and lighting. Currently, these resources are readily available, and are expected to remain available in the foreseeable future. Therefore, the commitment of these resources is not considered significant.