

8.0 SIGNIFICANT IRREVERSIBLE CHANGES

Section 15126.2(c) of the State CEQA Guidelines requires a discussion of “significant irreversible environmental changes which would be caused by the proposed project should it be implemented. 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 a 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. Irrecoverable commitments of resources should be evaluated to assure that such current consumption is justified.”

The proposed project involves the irreversible commitment of fuel, and a variety of materials used for the construction (e.g., concrete, and paving material) and maintenance of the project components. However, due to the nature of the project, which is construction of a replacement water tank, it would not require substantial new input of resources for operations and maintenance.

A commitment of land will be required for the new tank. However, the existing Conifer Tank site will be returned to open space at the discretion of Rancho Simi. Development of the new tank would introduce man-made elements into the open space landscape which would result in a long-term if not irreversible alteration of the existing aesthetic environment and preclusion of public use from the immediate tank area.

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