

Chapter 23: Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitment of Resources

Implementing one of the Mountain View Corridor (MVC) action alternatives would involve a commitment of a range of natural, physical, human, and fiscal resources. Use of the land for constructing the MVC is considered an irreversible commitment of these resources during the time that the land is used for the project. However, if a greater need for use of the land arises, or if the roadway/transit system is no longer needed, the land could be converted to another use. At present, there is no reason to believe such a conversion would be necessary or desirable.

A considerable amount of fossil fuels, labor, and highway construction materials such as cement, aggregate, and bituminous material would be expended. Additionally, large amounts of labor and natural resources would be necessary for fabricating and preparing the construction materials. These materials are generally not retrievable, but they are not in short supply and their use would not have an adverse effect on the continued availability of these resources.

Constructing the MVC project would also require a substantial expenditure of irretrievable funds. The commitment of these resources is based on the premise that residents in the area, the state, and the region would benefit from the improved quality of the transportation system. These benefits would consist of improved accessibility and savings in travel time, all of which are anticipated to outweigh the commitment of these resources.

Historic buildings in the MVC study area would be affected by the action alternatives as discussed in Chapter 17, Historic, Archaeological, and Paleontological Resources. The demolition of historic buildings as part of construction is considered an irreversible commitment of resources. In addition, there would be the loss of wetlands which would be mitigated as well as the loss of farmlands and wildlife habitat that would be considered an irreversible commitment of these resources.

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