

Chapter 4 IRREVERSIBLE OR IRRETRIEVABLE COMMITMENT OF RESOURCES

Irreversible commitments are those that cannot be regained, such as the extinction of a species, the expenditure of federal funds, or the removal and use of fossil fuels. Irretrievable commitments are those that are lost for a period of time, such as the loss of production, harvest, or use of renewable resources. Fossil fuels, labor, and construction materials such as aggregate would be irreversibly expended by construction of the proposed project. Labor and fossil fuels would be consumed during operation of construction equipment for grading, material movement, and construction activities. In addition, labor and natural resources would be used in the fabrication and preparation of construction materials. These resources are not in short supply and their use for the Proposed Action would not have adverse impacts on their continued availability for other purposes. In addition, the Proposed Action would require substantial federal funds to design and build the project which are not retrievable. Maintenance of the facilities after construction of the project would require ongoing funds, likely from the City.

As described in this EA, FHWA, the Forest Service, and the City have worked to integrate avoidance and minimization measures whenever possible to limit impacts to resources. The agencies minimize the use of irretrievable resources and to conserve and reuse resources whenever possible.