

8.0 SIGNIFICANT IRREVERSIBLE ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGES

This section was prepared pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.2(c), which requires a discussion of the significant irreversible changes that would result from the implementation of a proposed project. Significant irreversible changes include the use of nonrenewable resources, the commitment of future generations to similar use, irreversible damage resulting from environmental accidents associated with the project, and irretrievable commitments of resources.

Construction and operation of the proposed project will require the use and consumption of nonrenewable resources, such as steel and other metals used to construct the campus buildings and single-family houses. Renewable resources, such as lumber and other wood byproducts, will also be used. Unlike renewable resources, nonrenewable resources cannot be regenerated over time. Nonrenewable resources include fossil fuels and metals.

Energy will be consumed during both construction and operation of the proposed project. The construction phase would require the use of nonrenewable construction material, such as concrete, metals, and plastics. Nonrenewable resources and energy would also be consumed during the manufacturing and transportation of building materials, preparation of the site, and construction of the campus buildings and single-family houses. The operational phase will consume energy for multiple purposes including lighting and electronics. Energy in the form of fossil fuels will be used to fuel vehicles traveling to and from the area.

The new residential and college campus construction will occur on lands that are currently undeveloped. The transformation of these lands from an undeveloped/open space character to a suburban/urban environment would, from a practical perspective, be an irreversible change.