

VII. SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS AND IRREVERSIBLE ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGES

CEQA Guidelines Section 15126(b) requires that an EIR discuss significant environmental effects that cannot be avoided if the proposed project is implemented. Based upon the analysis in Chapter V. Environmental Impact Analysis, with implementation of mitigation measures, the project will not result in a significant environmental effect with regard to the issues analyzed herein except for potentially significant aesthetic, off-site fire and police service, traffic, cumulative solid waste, and construction air quality impacts. (Also, see Table VI-3 in the Alternatives Section, which summarizes project impact conclusions by environmental impact category.)

CEQA Guidelines Section 15126(c) further requires that an EIR discuss irreversible environmental changes due to the proposed project. Irreversible environmental changes will occur as a result of project implementation. The proposed project would irreversibly modify the existing underutilized site through demolition of some existing structures and construction of new ones. The site has been committed to use as an urban college for many years, and the proposed project is consistent with the continuation of this use. Thus, development of the site is not considered a new, or significant new, commitment to urban development and does not represent the conversion of undeveloped land, even though additional vacant areas within the campus boundaries will now be developed.

Construction of the project will 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 uses will require consumption of natural resources and renewable and non-renewable materials such as electricity, natural gas, potable water, and fossil fuels for project-generated vehicle trips.

The commitment of resources outlined above and the levels of consumption associated with the project are consistent with planned future development within the County of Los Angeles. Moreover, the use of resources represents a very small percentage of the resources to be utilized by development Countywide. Additionally, the project provides public benefits, namely the provision of post-secondary educational opportunities and jobs. Therefore, there is no particular justification for avoiding or delaying the continued commitment of these resources.