

SECTION 8.0 SIGNIFICANT IRREVERSIBLE ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGES

CEQA Section 15126.2(c) requires the evaluation of the uses of nonrenewable resources during the initial and continued phases of a project when a large commitment of such resources makes removal or non-removal or non-use thereafter unlikely. The proposed project would require commitment of nonrenewable resources associated with construction and long-term operation, including but not limited to, lumber and other related forest products, sand, gravel and concrete, asphalt, petrochemical construction materials, steel, copper, lead and other metals, water, fuels and energy. Should the applicant encounter any previously undocumented hazardous materials, potential release of hazardous materials into the air or other natural systems could occur. Use of these resources would represent an incremental effect on the regional consumption of these commodities.

Construction and operation of the desalination plant would involve consumption of energy resources, such as electricity and natural gas, derived from non-renewable sources such as fossil fuels, as analyzed in *Section 4.11*. The project would not result in the degradation or destruction of important or sensitive natural resources.