



**Section 7.0**  
**Significant Irreversible**  
**Environmental Changes,**  
**Which Would Be Involved If The**  
**Proposed Project Were Implemented**

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# Significant Irreversible Environmental Changes Which Would Be Involved If the Proposed Project Were Implemented

## Section 7.0

### 7.1 PURPOSE

Section 15126.2(c) of the CEQA Guidelines requires a discussion of any significant irreversible environmental changes that would be caused by the proposed project. Specifically, Section 15126.2(c) states:

*Uses of nonrenewable resources during the initial and continued phases of the project may be irreversible since a large commitment of such resources makes removal or nonuse thereafter unlikely. Primary impacts, and particularly, secondary impacts (such as highway improvement which provides access to a previously inaccessible area) generally commit future generations to similar uses. Also, irreversible damage can result from environmental accidents associated with the project. Irrecoverable commitments of resources should be evaluated to assure that such current consumption is justified.*

The environmental effects of the proposed General Plan Update are discussed in Section 5.0. The City of Artesia is highly urbanized and is essentially built out with development, with approximately 6.6 acres of vacant land, as well as underutilized land available for development (refer to Section 5.1, *Land Use and Planning*). Future development resulting from implementation of the proposed General Plan Update would occur on vacant and underutilized, as well as redevelopment of existing developed land within the City. Implementation of the proposed General Plan Update would allow for new developments in the City that would entail the commitment of natural resources, energy, land, and human resources. Manpower would also be committed for the development of residential and non-residential uses. Ongoing maintenance and operation of the new developments would entail a further commitment of energy resources in the form of petroleum products (diesel fuel and gasoline), natural gas, and electricity. Long-term impacts would also result from an increase in vehicular traffic, and the associated air pollutant and noise emissions. This commitment of resources would be a long-term obligation in view of the fact that, practically speaking, it is impossible to return the land to its original condition once it has been developed. In summary, implementation of the proposed General Plan Update would involve the following irreversible environmental changes:

- Soil erosion associated with grading and construction activities;
- Alteration of the human environment as a consequence of the development process, which commits land to residential uses and non-residential uses (i.e., commercial uses, civic uses, and hospital uses), and intensifies land uses within the City;



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- Increased usage of public services and utilities (including fire protection, police protection, wastewater, solid waste, parks and recreational facilities, schools, natural gas, and electricity) during and after construction of new developments, which would result in temporary and permanent uses of these resources;
- Temporary and permanent commitment of energy and water resources as a result of the construction, long-term operation and maintenance of new developments, which may be considered a permanent investment;
- Utilization of various new raw materials (such as lumber, sand, and gravel) for construction; and
- Incremental increases in vehicular activity within the City, resulting in associated increases in air emissions and noise levels.