

TOWN OF YUCCA VALLEY

DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR THE COMPREHENSIVE GENERAL PLAN

VII. Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitment of Environmental Resources

In accordance with CEQA, it is required that the EIR address the utilization of non-renewable resources in the course of development, and the continued use of these limited resources once development has been completed. While non-renewable resources usually imply energy resources, they can also refer to biological resources, and the permanent loss of visual resources.

The future development of the Town of Yucca Valley under the proposed General Plan will result in the irreversible and irretrievable commitment of the following renewable and nonrenewable natural resources: open land, energy resources (natural gas, coal, oil, fossil fuels), water, construction materials (lumber, gravel, sand, asphalt, and metals), minerals, and biological resources.

The proposed General Plan will not have a direct impact on sensitive and non-renewable environmental resources. The continued consumption of natural gas and electrical energy will contribute to the on-going depletion of fossil fuel resources. The cumulative use of fossil fuels may result in the ultimate loss of an important source of chemical and material feed stocks, which will not be retrievable once consumed. Buildout of the General Plan area will include grading and the removal of native vegetation and wildlife in all or portions of development sites. The irretrievable loss of habitat and other biological resources will result from this future development. Further development of the Town will irreversibly change the viewsheds of the community and may reduce the rural/hi-desert open space environment as development continues. Nonetheless, the substantial reductions in densities and land use intensities, and the regulatory framework created by the General Plan to conserve and protect valued resources will significantly reduce long-term impacts to these resources.