

SECTION 10.0
SIGNIFICANT IRREVERSIBLE
ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGES

10.0 SIGNIFICANT IRREVERSIBLE ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGES

10.1 INTRODUCTION

Section 15126.2(c) of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines requires that an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) discuss significant adverse irreversible environmental changes that would be caused by implementation of the proposed project. In addition, irretrievable commitments of resources should be evaluated. Implementation of the proposed project would result in both short and long term commitments of natural resources.

10.2 IRREVERSIBLE/IRRETRIEVABLE ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGES

Construction of the Scholl Canyon Landfill (SCLF) Expansion (proposed project, including Variation 1/Variation 2) would require the commitment of a relatively small amount of building materials because the nature of the proposed project is mostly a fill process. The small quantity of building materials used during implementation of the proposed project would not result in a significant impact because these types of resources are anticipated to be in adequate supply into the foreseeable future. The proposed project would not result in the wasteful, inefficient or unnecessary consumption of energy during construction. Therefore, no significant impacts from energy consumption would occur. The proposed project would not result in any significant impacts to local or regional energy supplies, would not impact peak or base energy standards, would not violate existing energy standards or result in significant impacts to energy resources. However, the proposed project would extend the landfill's life by approximately 13 years, which would result in the irretrievable and irreversible commitment of energy resources in the form of diesel fuel, gasoline and electricity over that period. Additionally, dust control and watering activities that would occur as a result of the proposed project would require the commitment of water over the life of the landfill. Because these types of resources are anticipated to be in adequate supply into the foreseeable future, impacts due to these irretrievable and irreversible commitments of resources are not considered significant.

The project site has already been altered by its use as a landfill. According to the City of Glendale General Plan, the project site may be developed as a regional park/open space area after the landfill closes although such use has not been finalized. The proposed project would delay closure of the site and the conversion to post closure use. The final top deck area would decrease from 63 acres to 18 or 29 acres under Variations 1 and 2, respectively. The proposed project would not commit other nearby vacant parcels to development.

It should be noted that the Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County (Sanitation Districts) would continue to employ a number of existing recovery processes at the SCLF as part of the proposed project. These recovery processes include:

- Landfill Gas Recovery – Landfill gas generated by the decomposition of solid waste within the landfill would be transported via a pipeline to the City of Glendale's Greyson Power Plant where the gas would be combusted to produce power/electricity. The use of landfill gas to generate electricity would contribute to an incremental reduction of utilization of fossil fuels to generate electricity.
- Materials Recovery – The use of green waste, dirt, and white goods (e.g., refrigerators, air conditioners, etc.) determined suitable for recovery and/or reuse on site would occur. Suitable shredded green waste would be used for alternative daily cover, which provides a beneficial and economically viable diversion option for solid waste generated within Los Angeles County, preserves landfill capacity, and conserves soil that would normally be used for daily cover.

Similarly, loads containing clean dirt would be used on site for daily cover. White goods such as large metallic items and appliances would be recovered and periodically sold to a metal salvager for their eventual reuse or recycling of materials. Additionally, loads containing asphalt would be reused for construction of on site haul roads, lining of drainage flow lines, and may be used to create wet-weather operating.