

## 8.0 IRREVERSIBLE AND IRRETRIEVABLE COMMITMENT OF RESOURCES

This chapter discusses significant irreversible and irretrievable commitment of resources that would result from the proposed action, should it be implemented, as required under NEPA 40 CFR § 1502.16 and CEQA Guidelines, § 15126.2(c). Irreversible and irretrievable commitments of resources are evaluated to ensure that their current use is justified. Three categories are considered: primary effects, such as the use of nonrenewable resources; secondary effects, such as highway improvements that provide access to previously inaccessible areas; and environmental accidents associated with a project. Primary and secondary effects are described in each resource category, as necessary.

### Nonrenewable Resources

Implementation of the proposed project would involve the use of energy resources and building materials. This would represent the loss of both renewable (certain construction materials) and nonrenewable resources. Human labor is also considered an irretrievable resource used during construction. Certain resources such as energy in the form of electricity, energy derived from fossil fuels, capital, construction material (including cement, sand and gravel, water, etc.), and labor would be irreversibly committed. This commitment of energy, natural resources, and building materials would be commensurate with that of other roadway projects of similar size.

Energy resources would be required to construct the project in the short term. The primary energy source would be fossil fuels, representing an irreversible commitment of this resource. Effects associated with the consumption of energy resources would not be considered significant.

As previously discussed in Chapter 7.0 and Section 3.7, development of the project would not result in the direct loss of mineral resources or require the use or expansion of water resources.

### Secondary Effects

The proposed project would not cause secondary effects, such as highway improvements that provide access to previously inaccessible areas. No additional access to the SBNF is planned. Project improvements would facilitate more efficient travel through the canyon.

### Environmental Accidents

Based on the proposed uses, no major environmental accidents or hazards<sup>25</sup> are anticipated to occur as a result of project implementation. Further, Bautista Canyon Road would not become a designated haul route for hazardous materials or chemicals. Signage would be posted near the logical termini to deter commercial and other large trucks from using the road.

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<sup>25</sup> An unexpected occurrence, failure or loss with the potential for harming human life, property or the environment caused by the leakage or spillage of toxic/hazardous materials or substance (EPA).