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## VIII. SIGNIFICANT AND IRREVERSIBLE ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGES

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Pursuant to Section 15126.2(c) of the *State CEQA Guidelines*, an EIR must consider any significant irreversible environmental changes that would be caused by the proposed Project should it be implemented. 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 a 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.*

Resources that are committed irreversibly and irretrievably are those that would be used by a project on a long-term or permanent basis. The proposed Project entails the development and implementation of a Sign District at LAX to permit new off-site signs (non-airport-related signage), which would include signage such as supergraphics, wall signs, digital display signs, signs on passenger boarding bridges, signs on columns, and hanging signs.

The type of development associated with the proposed Project would consume limited slowly renewable and non-renewable resources. These resources would include: 1) building materials; and 2) fossil fuel, electrical energy, and operational materials/resources. Use of these energy resources would be irretrievable and irreversible.

Construction of the proposed Project would require consumption of various construction materials (mostly metals) associated with the signage framework, hooks or rail system devices, and appurtenant equipment such as lights and electrical boxes. Fossil fuels, such as gasoline and oil, would also be consumed in the use of construction vehicles and equipment.

Operation of the proposed Project would involve ongoing consumption of resources that are not replenishable or resources that may renew so slowly as to be considered non-renewable. These resources include petrochemical synthetics (i.e., plastics and adhesives) associated with supergraphics, wall signs, column wraps, hanging signs, and passenger boarding bridge signs, and electricity and lighting equipment (such as LED light bulbs) associated specifically with digital display signage, as well as lighting for supergraphics and wall signs. In addition, the resources that are needed to produce the signage or lighting consume directly or indirectly electricity, fossil fuels, and natural gas. In addition, fossil fuels, such as gasoline and oil, would also be consumed in the use of vehicles and equipment used to install and maintain the signage. To the extent that fossil fuels remain a principal source of energy within the nation, the proposed Project represents a long-term commitment of these resources.

The commitment of resources associated with the construction and operation of the proposed Project would limit the availability of these resources for future generations. However, consumption of these resources would be consistent with anticipated change and growth and relatively small in scale when compared to the resource consumption for the City of Los Angeles, the County of Los Angeles, and the southern California region. As such, although the materials and energy associated with the proposed Project would be unavailable for other uses,

the use of such resources would be justified by the economic growth that could be indirectly increased as a result of the proposed Project.

In summary, non-recoverable materials and energy would be used during construction and operation activities, but the amounts needed would be accommodated by existing supplies. Although the increase in the amount of materials and energy used would be limited, they would nevertheless be unavailable for other uses. The minimal irreversible changes are expected to be justified by the economic growth in business, services, and jobs indirectly associated with the proposed Project.