

Chapter 9: Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitments of Resources

A. INTRODUCTION

Resources, both natural and built, would be expended in the construction and operation of the proposed project. These resources include the materials used in construction; energy in the form of fuel and electricity consumed during construction and operation of the projects; and the human effort (i.e., time and labor) required to develop, construct, and operate various components of the projects.

The resources are considered irretrievably committed because their reuse for some purpose other than the proposed project would be highly unlikely. The proposed project constitutes an irreversible and irretrievable commitment of the project sites as land resources, thereby rendering land use for other purposes infeasible, at least in the near term.

These commitments of land resources and materials are weighed against the benefits of the proposed project. As described in Chapter 1, "Project Description," the proposed project would establish a system of four new, modern borough-based detention facilities to house a total population of 5,000 to no longer detain people in the jails at Rikers Island. One facility would be located in each of the Bronx, Brooklyn, Manhattan, and Queens. Each of the proposed facilities would provide approximately 1,420 to 1,450 beds to house people in detention, while allowing space for population-specific housing requirements, such as those related to safety, security, physical and mental health, among other factors, and fluctuations in the jail population.

The new buildings would be integrated into the neighborhoods, providing connections to courts and service providers and offering community benefits. The proposed project is intended to strengthen connections between people who are detained to families and communities by allowing people to remain closer to their loved ones, which allows better engagement of detained individuals with attorneys, social service providers, and community supports so that they will do better upon leaving and be less likely to return to jail. The detention facilities under proposed project are intended to provide sufficient space for effective and tailored programming, appropriate housing for those with medical, behavioral health and mental health needs, and the opportunity for a more stable reentry into the community. The community facility and/or retail space at each site is intended to provide useful community amenities, such as community facility programming or street-level retail space. *