

## Chapter 22: Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitment of Resources

Implementing one of the West Davis Corridor (WDC) action alternatives would involve a commitment of a range of natural, physical, human, and fiscal resources. Use of the land for constructing the WDC is an irreversible commitment of these resources during the time that the land is used for the project. However, if a greater need for use of the land arises, or if the transportation system is no longer needed, the land could be converted to another use. At present, there is no reason to believe such a conversion would be necessary or desirable.

A considerable amount of fossil fuels, labor, and highway construction materials such as cement, aggregate, and bituminous material would be expended. Additionally, large amounts of labor and natural resources would be necessary for fabricating and preparing the construction materials. These materials are generally not retrievable, but they are not in short supply, and their use would not have an adverse effect on the continued availability of these resources.

Constructing the WDC would also require a substantial expenditure of irretrievable funds. The commitment of these resources is based on the premise that residents in the area, the state, and the region would benefit from the improved quality of the transportation system. These benefits would consist of improved accessibility and savings in travel time, all of which are anticipated to outweigh the commitment of these resources.

Historic buildings in the WDC study area would be affected by the action alternatives as discussed in Chapter 16, Historic, Archaeological, and Paleontological Resources. The demolition of historic buildings as part of construction is an irreversible commitment of resources.

In addition, wetlands in the WDC study area would be lost as discussed in Chapter 14, Ecosystem Resources, though the loss of these wetlands would be mitigated. Lastly, farmlands and wildlife habitat would be lost as described in Chapter 4, Farmland, and Chapter 14, Ecosystem Resources, and these losses would be an irreversible commitment of these resources.

### What is the WDC study area?

The WDC study area is the area described in Section 1.2, Description of the Needs Assessment Study Area.



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