

# MUSEUM MARKET PLAZA SPECIFIC PLAN

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## DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

### **VII. IRREVERSIBLE AND IRRETRIEVABLE COMMITMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES**

Non-renewable resources often refer to energy resources, however, they can also pertain to mineral and other resources, including the permanent loss of open space lands and biological and visual resources. As required by CEQA, this EIR addresses the anticipated utilization of non-renewable resources during the course of development of the Specific Plan, and the continued use of these limited resources once development has been completed.

Build out of the Specific Plan area will result in the irretrievable and irreversible commitment of the following renewable and non-renewable natural resources: energy resources (including natural gas, oil and other fossil fuels), water, and construction materials (including lumber, gravel, sand, asphalt, and metals), and mountain viewsheds.

The continued consumption of natural gas and electrical energy will contribute to the on-going regional and global depletion of fossil fuel resources. The incremental use of fossil fuels will contribute to the depletion of an important source of chemical and material feedstocks, which will be irretrievable once consumed.

Development activities will irreversibly alter the viewsheds surrounding the Specific Plan area. Nonetheless, long-term impacts to these resources are expected to be substantially reduced, given the regulatory framework set forth in both the Palm Springs General Plan, the mitigation measures in this EIR, and the Specific Plan, which are intended to conserve and protect valuable resources.

Objectives and policies in both the Specific Plan and the current General Plan address the need to conserve valuable and limited/finite resources, including nonrenewable energy resources, water, and natural materials.

These objectives and policies also direct planning and development activities, which protect air and water quality, and which promote conscientious materials use and recycling to the greatest extent practicable. Impacts of urban development on other resources, such as biological resources and open space, will not occur in this case, because the project proposes the redevelopment and re-use of land already significantly impacted by development.

Water conservation will be increased at the project site because of the construction of high density units, and the limited turf areas proposed for public and private open spaces. Local and regional water conservation efforts, including the use of imported water and artificial recharge, are expected to also reduce overall water consumption rates over the long-term. Finally, technological advances in energy and mineral production are expected to reduce the impacts of urban development on finite fossil fuels.