

The *City Environmental Quality Review (CEQR) Technical Manual* defines natural resources as plant and animal species and any area capable of providing habitat for plant and animal species or capable of functioning to support ecological systems and maintain the City's environmental balance. Such areas that function to support ecological systems include surface and groundwater, upland and wetland soils, drainage systems, wetlands, dunes, beaches, grasslands, woodlands, landscaped areas, gardens, parks, and built structures used by wildlife. While various plant and animal species might occupy these ecological systems, CEQR requires that an examination of natural resources consider species in the context of the surrounding environmental or habitat with particular attention on species that are known to be threatened, rare, endangered, or otherwise sensitive or worthy of protection.

The Project Site is fully developed and is not viable habitat for species of concern. However, the proposed construction of high-rise buildings on the Project Site would result in incremental shadows cast on the Hudson River, which is an important habitat for aquatic species.

As described in Chapter 6, "Shadows," incremental shadow would fall across an area of the river next to the shore for about 45 minutes on the morning of December 21. On the other analysis days (March/September; May/August, and June), the new buildings on the Project Site would not result in an incremental increase in shadows on the River. This limited extent and duration of additional shadow would not be expected to have significant adverse effects on the use of these areas by fish or other aquatic biota. The decrease in light intensity over portions of the Hudson River in December, which is prior to the period of high primary productivity, would not be expected to result in significant adverse impacts to phytoplankton. The currents within the Hudson River would move phytoplankton quickly through the shaded areas and would not be expected to affect primary productivity. Benthic macroalgae attached to hard surfaces in any given portion of the River within the area shaded by the proposed buildings would not be in shadow long enough to affect the suitability of the attachment location or primary productivity.

Therefore, overall, the Proposed Actions would not result in significant adverse impacts on natural resources. *