

Chapter 10 : NATURAL RESOURCES

A. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this chapter is to evaluate the potential impacts of the Proposed Action on natural resources in New York City. According to the *CEQR Technical Manual*, a natural resource is identified as plant and animal species, and any area capable of providing habitat for plant and animal species or capable of functioning support ecological systems and maintain the City's environmental balance. A natural resources assessment considers species in the context of surrounding environment, habitat, or ecosystem and examines a Proposed Action's potential to impact those resources.

B. PRINCIPAL CONCLUSIONS

The Proposed Action would not result in significant adverse impacts to natural resources. In accordance with the methodology outlined in the *CEQR Technical Manual*, a screening analysis was conducted to assess the potential of the Proposed Action to affect natural resources. The analysis concluded that even though, more development is expected to occur as a result citywide, the Proposed Action itself would not induce development on sites where natural resources exist and development would not have otherwise been possible. The Proposed Action would not eliminate and/or change the existing State or local protections.

C. SCREENING ANALYSIS

According to the screening thresholds in the *CEQR Technical Manual*, an adverse impact on a natural resource might occur if there is the presence of a natural resource on or near the site of the action, and action involves the disturbance of that resource. The Proposed Action would modify and replace existing text, add new text, and reorganize and renumber various sections of the *Zoning Resolution* regarding definitions, use, bulk, parking, special permits and special districts as described in *Chapter 1, "Project Description."* The proposed text amendments would affect zoning regulations on a citywide basis and would result in changes to the height, bulk, and parking regulations for multi-family residential, inclusionary housing, affordable senior housing and long term care facilities but the underlying zoning districts would remain the same. The Proposed Action is not in-and-of-itself expected to induce development where it would not have occurred absent the Proposed Action (with the exception of one component allowing as-of-right development over certain existing parking lots for affordable senior housing); however, certain components of the action may result in additional in-ground disturbance where the Proposed Action would facilitate more units on an individual site over what would be expected under the No Action scenario.

Even though, more development is expected to occur as a result citywide, the Proposed Action itself is not expected to induce development on sites where natural resources exist and where development would not have otherwise been possible. In addition, in many areas where natural resources exist, there are regulations that ensure their protection. These regulations include New York State Department of Environmental Conservation tidal and freshwater wetland regulations, the New York State Coastal Zone Management Program, and special zoning designations including Special Natural Area zoning. The Proposed Action would not eliminate and/or change the existing protections. As such, the Proposed Action would not result in significant adverse impacts to natural resources and a detailed analysis is not warranted.