

10. NATURAL RESOURCES

10.1. 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 in support of the ecological systems that maintain the City's environmental stability. 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.

10.2. SCREENING THRESHOLD

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, although the Proposed Action is anticipated to shift development to locations outside of the Designated Areas, the Proposed Action itself would not induce development on sites where natural resources exist and where development would not have otherwise been possible. The Proposed Action would not eliminate and/or change the existing State or local protections.

10.3. 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 the action involves the disturbance of that resource. The Proposed Action would create a special permit for self-storage facilities within Designated Areas; the underlying zoning districts would remain the same. The Proposed Action is not expected to induce development, but is anticipated to shift the location of where self-storage facilities locate. Specifically, the Proposed Action is anticipated to result in be five fewer self-storage facilities citywide by 2027, with nine fewer in Designated Areas, and four more in M and C8 districts outside of the Designated Areas. These new facilities would site in locations where development is allowed as of right.

Although the Proposed Action may result in additional ground disturbance, it 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.