

8. ANY IRREVERSIBLE AND IRRETRIEVABLE COMMITMENTS OF RESOURCES INVOLVED IN THE PROPOSED ACTION.

8.01 The labor, capital, and material resources expended in the planning and construction of this project represents irreversible and irretrievable commitments of human, economic, and natural resources.

8.02 A permanent loss to the natural environment would result from construction of the proposed project. This loss includes wetlands, terrestrial habitat, and undisturbed bay and Gulf bottoms. The operation of the harbor will permanently affect the character of the Harbor Island-Aransas Pass area. That area, which presently handles small commercial fishing boats, petroleum barges, and ocean going tankers, would be handling large ocean-going ships.

8.03 The operation of the port represents the commitment of the community, region, and state to accept the risk, however small, that an accident such as oil spill, collision, or explosion could affect all or portions of the estuarine system in the area. Thus, the port may represent a commitment to an industrial activity which could result in the suppression or even elimination of an unrenewable resource - the estuary.