

## **4 UNAVOIDABLE ADVERSE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS**

This section summarizes the general unavoidable impacts associated with the construction and operation of a new courthouse at any of the candidate sites. These impacts are discussed in greater detail in Section 3 of this document; however a summary of the unavoidable adverse impacts is provided below.

### **4.1 CONSTRUCTION PHASE**

Air Quality. Temporary, insignificant impacts to air quality from vehicular emissions, construction equipment, and dust would likely result from construction related activities.

Noise. During construction of the proposed courthouse, there would be short-term increases in noise levels in and around the construction site.

Traffic, Parking, and Circulation. During construction, there would be a temporary increase in truck traffic near the site and at downtown streets and intersections.

Solid Wastes and Recycling. Construction activities would result in the temporary generation of additional solid waste due to site preparation (including the removal of pavement), utility relocation, and construction material packaging and waste.

Stormwater. Excavation of the site for construction and utility relocation would increase the potential for erosion and sediment transport during wet weather periods while bare earth is exposed on the site.

Cultural Resources. If the Kelley site is selected, the historic structures onsite would need to be relocated and/or documented and razed prior to the construction phase. This would constitute an unavoidable impact for this site, as the existing historic structures cannot be accommodated onsite, due to the limited available land area.

Energy. Construction-related energy usage would produce a one-time energy demand including the energy utilized in the production of construction materials.

### **4.2 OPERATIONAL PHASE**

Traffic, Parking, and Circulation. The proposed courthouse would result in an increase in the number of vehicle trips on roadways in the project vicinity. These anticipated minor traffic volume increases would not significantly affect the levels of service of roadways and intersections near any of the sites.

Utilities and Services. The proposed courthouse would generate additional sewage and would consume additional potable water as compared to existing conditions. This is expected to be a relatively minor increase that can be supported by existing infrastructure.

Solid Waste and Recycling. The addition of a courthouse at a vacant and/or underutilized site would generate additional solid waste and recyclable goods. This volume of material is expected to be relatively minor over existing operations.

Stormwater. The proposed courthouse would likely result in an overall slight decrease in the impervious area on any one of the sites. Current standards for stormwater management, which are superior to those of the existing sites would be employed to improve stormwater flow and quality.

Light. The proposed project is not expected to generate significant lighting impacts because each of the three sites is already lit. New fixtures (exterior) would be designed to reduce glare and skyglow.

Energy. Operation of the proposed courthouse would consume energy in the form of electricity and natural gas. The impact of this increased energy consumption is minimal. The facility would meet all state energy performance standards and energy code requirements.

Public Health and Safety. The presence of a new courthouse may result in an increase in the number of requests for responses for the Torrington Police/Fire/Ambulatory Departments as well as state police services. First response security and policing needs would be met by in-house staff, supplemented by state police services.