A. INTRODUCTION

According to the 2012 City Environmental Quality Review (CEQR) Technical Manual, unavoidable significant adverse impacts are defined as those that meet the following two criteria:

- There are no reasonably practicable mitigation measures to eliminate the proposed project’s impacts; and
- There are no reasonable alternatives to the proposed project that would meet its purpose and need, eliminate its impacts, and not cause other or similar significant adverse impacts.

As described in Chapter 22, “Mitigation,” the proposed project’s potential impacts to transportation (traffic and pedestrians) could be fully mitigated. However, as described below, the potential impacts related to noise in the proposed project’s open space areas could not be mitigated with practicable measures.

B. NOISE

As discussed in Chapter 17, “Noise,” and Chapter 22, “Mitigation,” noise levels in proposed project’s new open space areas would be above the 55 dBA $L_{10(1)}$ CEQR Technical Manual guideline noise level due to a combination of high existing noise levels generated by traffic on Route 9A, amplified sound from events at the proposed project, and operation of the proposed project’s marina and water taxi landing, and would therefore constitute a significant adverse impact. As discussed in Chapter 22, “Mitigation,” there are no practical and feasible mitigation measures that could be implemented to reduce noise levels to below the 55 dBA $L_{10(1)}$ guideline within the open space areas. Therefore, the noise levels in the park would be considered an unavoidable significant adverse impact.

Nonetheless, noise levels within the open space would be comparable to the existing noise levels in Hudson River Park, and noise levels in a number of open space areas that are also located adjacent to heavily trafficked roadways, including Brooklyn Bridge Park, Riverside Park, Bryant Park, Fort Greene Park, and other urban open space areas. The 55 dBA $L_{10(1)}$ guideline is a worthwhile goal for outdoor areas requiring serenity and quiet; however, due to the level of activity present at most New York City open space areas and parks (except for areas far away from traffic and other typical urban activities) this relatively low noise level is often not achieved.

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