

4.10 MINERAL RESOURCES

The purpose of the Mineral Resources section is to identify and evaluate the potential for the project to adversely affect the availability of known mineral resources. The mineral resources of concern include metals, industrial minerals (e.g., aggregate, sand and gravel), oil and gas, and geothermal resources that would be of value to the region and residents of the State.

4.10.1 Existing Setting

The majority of Yucca Valley is made up of alluvial fans, which contain mostly sand, gravel, and traces of clay. Predominant soil types within the Town consist of older alluvium, well dissected alluvial fans, Gneiss, Jurassic Monzonite, and Cretaceous or Jurassic Quartz.¹ Due to the composition of soils within Yucca Valley, the Town contains relatively few mineral resources.

The proposed project site is not located within an area identified by the California Department of Mines and Geology as having substantial mineral resources. Implementation of the proposed project will not result in the loss of any known mineral resource of value to the region and/or State. The Town's General Plan does not identify any aggregate extraction areas within the limits of the project site.

4.10.2 Existing Policies and Regulations

State Regulations

Surface Mining and Reclamation Act. The Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1975 (SMARA) requires that the State Department of Mines and Geology Board map areas throughout the State of California that contain regionally significant mineral resources. Construction aggregate resources (sand and gravel) deposits were the first commodity selected for classification by the Board. Once mapped, the Board is required to designate for future use those areas that contain aggregate deposits that are of prime importance in meeting the region's future need for construction-quality aggregates.

The primary objective of the SMARA is for each jurisdiction to develop policies that will conserve important mineral resources, where feasible, that might otherwise be unavailable when needed. The SMARA requires that once policies are adopted, local agency land use decisions must be in accordance with its mineral resource management policies. These decisions must also balance the mineral value of the resource to the market region as a whole, not just their importance to the local jurisdiction.

Local Regulations

Town of Yucca Valley Comprehensive General Plan Policies. The Open Space, Mineral, Energy, and Conservation Element of the General Plan defines goals and policies related to mineral resources

¹ *Town of Yucca Valley Comprehensive General Plan, Open Space, Mineral, Energy and Conservation Element, page IV-29.*

in the Town. Specific policies that are relevant to the development of the proposed project are as follows:

Policy 3 Protect valuable mineral resource areas from potential development that might preclude future extraction of the mineral resources.

4.10.3 Thresholds of Significance

According to *CEQA Guidelines* Appendix G, the proposed project would result in a significant impact if it would do any of the following:

- Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the State; and/or
- Result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan, or other lands use plan.

4.10.4 Impacts and Mitigation

Less Than Significant Impacts

The following impacts were determined to be less than significant. In each of the following issues, either no impact or a less than significant impact (would occur (and, therefore, no mitigation would be required) or adherence to established regulations, standards, and policies would reduce potential impacts to a less than significant level.

Loss of Statewide or Regional Mineral Resources

Threshold	Would the proposed project result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region that the residents of the state?
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The proposed project site is currently undeveloped and not utilized for extraction of any mineral resources. The proposed project site is not located within an area identified by the California Department of Mines and Geology as having substantial mineral resources. In addition, the Town's General Plan does not identify any aggregate extraction areas within the limits of the project site or in the vicinity of the proposed project site; therefore, no impact related to this issue would occur.

Loss of Locally Important Mineral Resources

Threshold	Would the proposed project result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?
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The proposed project will not result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local plan. The Town's General Plan does not identify any aggregate

extraction areas or extraction of mineral resources within the limits of the project site; therefore, no impact related to this issue would occur.

Potentially Significant Impacts

No potentially significant impacts related to mineral resources were identified.

4.10.5 Cumulative Impacts

The project site is not located in an area that has important mineral resources, either locally or regionally. As a result, development of the proposed project, together with other development throughout the Town, will not reduce availability of such mineral resources. These impacts are considered to be insignificant on a cumulative basis.

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