

## 4.17 Mandatory Findings of Significance

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less-Than-Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
<b>Does the project:</b>				
a) Have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal, or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? (“Cumulatively considerable” means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE AND MITIGATION

**Checklist Question a)** The proposed Project and connected actions would have the potential for direct or indirect effects on the known and expected habitats of several special status and native wildlife and plant species in the Main Facility, the East Site, and the Monterey Park lots. Although these areas are disturbed by previous earthwork and vegetation removal, the remaining vegetation still reflects the natural habitats of coastal scrub and chaparral and supports their dependent special-status species.

Other Townsite Lots would have little effect or have no effects.

The number and range of special status would be reduced and restricted, and loss of the Main Facility site could virtually eliminate chaparral vegetation in the area but only slightly reduce the coastal scrub habitat by less than 10 ac, compared to 100s in the area.

No direct evidence of archaeological or historic remains exists, but the potential remains for undisturbed archaeological resources in the undisturbed portions of the Main Facility western perimeter and the floor of the East Site and for historic debris (greater than 50 years old) related to drilling the early oil wells in the field. Some scientific, paleontological resources may be endangered during both the decommissioning and future development of the Main Facility, the Monterey Park lots, and perhaps the East Site. No known or expected scientific resources are considered for the 14 Townsite Lots scattered across central Montebello.

Potential direct and indirect impacts can be substantially reduced by various measures recommended for mitigation, compensation, and reduction in the appropriate sections above. Resources shall be inventoried, monitored and recovered during disturbing activities, and restored or introduced elsewhere for compensation.

**Checklist Question b) Cumulative Impacts** The proposed Project in addition to past and future developments on the Project sites and in the surroundings planned urban developments would result in the overall completion of the urbanization process and infilling for urban north-central Montebello. Approval of the CPUC Application would directly lead to the connected actions of urban land development on most if not all sites. Approval, thereby, results indirectly in the various urban impacts on visual aesthetic, cultural resources, noise, recreational supply and use, runoff/storm drainage, and traffic congestion. The most visible primary effects of cumulative development appear most significant for recreational resources and for stormwater drainage where more natural open space has been gradually replaced with impervious surfaces and structures.

Within the geological context, continuing urban development has exposed increasing residential populations to the risk of gas encounters with gases released from the Storage Zone and Shallow Zones. As yet, continuing monitoring has identified gases and necessitated remediation by reabandonment and venting. Future urban development on the remaining open space MGSF sites and suspension of current monitoring efforts may further increase risks of gas releases, although gas recovery and reduced pressures in the Storage Zone may reduce the risks from released gas.

Impacts can be reduced by measures for both the significant and cumulatively considerable effects of direct and indirect effects resulting from the approval of the application. Measures are proposed to reduce both individual and cumulative impacts to levels less than significant and perhaps to even lower levels. The CPUC and SCG would have the first level of programmatic responsibilities, while more site and plan specific measures could be taken at a later date by local agencies, City of Montebello.

**Checklist Question c) Substantial Effects on Community** The primary concern for community effects and safety focuses on the current and risk of future releases of gas from the deep and Shallow Zones of the West Montebello Oil Field and from the SCG gas Storage Zone. Continuing enhanced production operations of the main Montebello Field may also influence Shallow Zone migration of gases.

Measures have been recommended and mitigation proposed to reduce or eliminate such risk and occurrences in Montebello. Other more typical urban development related impacts may directly, indirectly, or cumulatively impact on the existing and future community elements of north central Montebello, and measures have been recommended

in Section 3.5 to reduce or otherwise mitigated or compensate the potential impacts below levels of significance.