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## 4.11 MINERAL RESOURCES

Would the project:		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a.	Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and residents of the state?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b.	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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

### 4.11.1 Introduction

This section of the PEA describes the existing conditions and potential project-related impacts to mineral resources in the vicinity of the Proposed Project. The analysis concludes that no impacts will occur to mineral resources. The Proposed Project's potential effects on this resource were evaluated using the significance criteria set forth in Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines. The conclusions are summarized in the checklist above, and discussed in more detail in Section 4.11.6.

### 4.11.2 Regulatory Setting

#### 4.11.2.1 Federal

There are no federal regulations that directly apply to the Proposed Project.

#### 4.11.2.2 State

##### Surface Mining and Reclamation Act (SMARA)

The SMARA of 1975 (i.e., Public Resources Code, Sections 2710-2796.5) provides a comprehensive state of California surface mining and reclamation policy, and regulates surface mining operations to assure that adverse environmental impacts are minimized and that historically mined lands are reclaimed to a usable condition. SMARA also encourages the production, conservation, and protection of the state's mineral resources.

As mandated under SMARA, the State Geologist has designated mineral land classifications in order to help identify and protect mineral resources in areas within the state subject to urban encroachment, or other irreversible land uses changes, that could preclude mineral extraction. SMARA also allowed the State Mining and Geology Board, after receiving classification information from the State Geologist, to designate lands containing mineral deposits of regional or statewide significance. Mineral land classifications in California are identified as Mineral Resource Zones (MRZ), which are defined as follows:

- MRZ 1: Areas of No Mineral Resource Significance
- MRZ 2: Areas of Identified Mineral Resource Significance
- MRZ 3: Areas of Undetermined Mineral Resource Significance
- MRZ 4: Areas of Unknown Mineral Resource Significance

### **4.11.2.3 Local**

As provided in CPUC General Order 131-D, the CPUC preempts local discretionary authority over the location and construction of electrical utility facilities. The following discussion of relevant local land use plans and policies that pertain to mineral resources is provided below for informational purposes.

#### **City of San Clemente**

The City of San Clemente Centennial General Plan (City of San Clemente 2014) is the comprehensive planning document for the City of San Clemente. The General Plan establishes policies to manage new development, foster economic vitality, conserve natural resources, and to generally guide the City's growth in accordance with an established vision. The General Plan provides the framework by which the City of San Clemente would change and grow, identifying how physical and economic resources are to be managed and used into the future. The City of San Clemente Centennial General Plan contains the following applicable objectives and policies:

Policy NR-4.01. Mineral Resource Extraction. We do not permit extraction of significant mineral resources, except for sand and gravel mining for use in beach sand replenishment, including such extraction as an interim use prior to development.

### **4.11.3 Existing Conditions**

#### **4.11.3.1 Existing Setting**

There are no known significant mineral resources along the Proposed Project route. There are no recognized MRZ 2 designated mineral resource areas within the Proposed Project route. However, the vast majority of the Proposed Project route occurs on federally-owned land that has not been included in the state-wide MRZ classifications. While it is possible that mineral deposits exist within MCB Camp Pendleton, there is no reference to mineral resources in the MCB Camp Pendleton Base Regulations (MCB Camp Pendleton 2010). The small portion of the Proposed Project area that occurs outside of MCB Camp Pendleton, to the north of the Talega Substation, is designated as MRZ 1 (i.e., Areas of No Mineral Resource Significance) (California Division of Mines and Geology 1994).

#### **4.11.4 Applicant Proposed Measures**

The Proposed Project will have no impact to mineral resources; therefore, no APMs are proposed.

#### **4.11.5 Potential Impacts**

The Proposed Project includes reconductoring, removal of existing wood pole structures, and installation of new steel pole structures for the existing TL 695 and TL 6971 power lines. The operation and maintenance activities required for the power lines will not change from those currently required for the existing system; thus, no additional operation-related impacts associated with mineral resources will occur. Furthermore, maintenance will decrease slightly due to the removal of wood pole structures and the installation of steel pole structures. Therefore, the impact analysis is focused on construction activities that are required to install the new conductor, remove the existing wood pole structures, install the new steel pole structures, and establish required access and temporary work areas, as described in Chapter 3.0, Proposed Project Description.

#### **4.11.5.1 Methodology**

Preparation of this section was primarily based on review of maps and data from California Division of Mines and Geology and the U.S. Geological Survey Mineral Resources Data System. The Proposed Project description was reviewed and the potential for impacts related to mineral resources were evaluated based on the existing mineral conditions as determined by the data review.

#### **4.11.5.2 Significance Criteria**

According to Section 15002(g) of the CEQA Guidelines, “a significant effect on the environment is defined as a substantial adverse change in the physical conditions which exist in the area affected by the proposed project.” As stated in Section 15064(b) of the CEQA Guidelines, the significance of an activity may vary with the setting. The potential significance of project-related impacts on mineral resources were evaluated for each of the criteria listed in the checklist, as discussed below.

- a) **Would the project result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and residents of the state? No Impact**

No mineral resources are known to exist along the Proposed Project route. Accordingly, the Proposed Project will not result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource and therefore no impact will occur.

- b) **Would the 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? No Impact**

No mineral resources are known to exist along the Proposed Project route, nor are any identified in the City of San Clemente Centennial General Plan or MCB Camp Pendleton regulations or available planning documents. Therefore, the Proposed Project will not result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site and no impact will occur.

#### **4.11.6 References**

California Division of Mines and Geology. 1994. Generalized Mineral Land Classification of Orange County, California. Aggregate Resources Only. Prepared by R.V. Miller.

City of San Clemente. 2014. City of San Clemente Centennial General Plan, Land Use Element. February 2014.

MCB Camp Pendleton 2010. Base Order 5000.2K Ch 1, Base Regulations. June 2010.

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