

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

**5.11 MINERAL RESOURCES ..... 5.11-1**

- 5.11.1 Introduction..... 5.11-1
- 5.11.2 Methodology ..... 5.11-1
- 5.11.3 Existing Conditions..... 5.11-1
- 5.11.4 Potential Impacts..... 5.11-3
- 5.11.5 Applicant Proposed Measures..... 5.11-3
- 5.11.6 Detailed Discussion of Significant Impacts ..... 5.11-4
- 5.11.7 References..... 5.11-4

THIS PAGE IS INTENDED TO BE LEFT BLANK

**5.11 MINERAL RESOURCES**

Would the project:		Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless APMs 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"/>

**5.11.1 Introduction**

This section of the PEA describes existing mineral resources within the Proposed Project area and potential impacts related to these resources that could result from construction, operation, and maintenance of the Proposed Project.

Proposed Project construction activities would comply with all relevant federal, state, and local regulatory requirements.

**5.11.2 Methodology**

Preparation of this section was primarily based on review of published mineral resource reports, local planning information, evaluation of the Proposed Project route on U.S. Geologic Survey topographic maps, and analysis of aerial photographs. Mineral resources impacts that can result from project construction and operational activities were evaluated qualitatively based on expected construction practices, materials, locations, and duration of project construction, operational, and maintenance activities as outlined in the Proposed Project Description (Section 3.0).

**5.11.3 Existing Conditions**

**5.11.3.1 Mineral Resources**

The key regulatory requirements relevant to the assessment of Proposed Project impacts related to mineral resources include the following:

- a) CPUC General Order 95, which designates rules and regulations for overhead electric line construction.
- b) The Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1975 (SMARA) which, in part, governs the production, conservation, and protection of the State’s mineral resources. The SMARA 1975 requires that the State Geologist classify land into mineral resource zones (MRZ) according to the known or inferred mineral potential of the land.

While the SMARA does not impose any requirement on the Proposed Project, the mineral resources mapped by the State provide information for evaluating potential impacts by a project resulting from loss of mineral resources in accordance with the CEQA Appendix G Checklist questions 11(a) and 11(b).

California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) General Order 131D, Section XIV, clarifies that local jurisdictions acting pursuant to local authority are preempted from regulating electric power line projects, distribution lines, substations or electric facilities constructed by public utilities subject to the Commission’s jurisdiction. However, for informational purposes, SDG&E has considered local plans and policies as part of the environmental review process. The *San Diego County General Plan Safety Element* and *Conservation and Open Space Element* include the following relevant goals and policies:

- Goal COS-10 – Protection of Mineral Resources. Goal of long-term production of mineral materials adequate to meet the local County average annual demand, while maintaining permitted reserves equivalent to a 50-year supply.
  - Policy COS-10.1 Siting of Development. Encourage the conservation (i.e., protection from incompatible land uses) of areas designated as having substantial potential for mineral extraction. Discourage development that would substantially preclude the future development of mining facilities in these areas. For purposes of this policy, incompatible land uses are as defined by SMARA Section 3675.
  - Policy COS-10.2 Protection of State-Classified or Designated Lands. Discourage development or the establishment of other incompatible land uses on or adjacent to areas classified or designated by the State as having important mineral resources (MRZ-2). The potential for extraction of substantial mineral resources from lands classified by the State as areas that contain mineral resources (MRZ-3) shall be considered by the County in making land use decisions.

A review of the *City of San Diego General Plan* revealed no potentially relevant goals or policies to the Proposed Project.

### **5.11.3.2 Mineral Resources**

Portions of the Proposed Project would be on lands mapped by the State as MRZ-2 for aggregate resources (e.g., sand and gravel). The remainder of the Proposed Project would be on lands mapped by the State as MRZ-3 (e.g. undetermined mineral resource significance) (Department of Conservation, 1982). The Proposed Project would occur in areas that have been developed since the designations were made. Due to these developments, the lands affected by the Proposed Project are no longer viable for aggregate recovery. No other mineral resources are known to occur that could be impacted by the Proposed Project.

## 5.11.4 Potential Impacts

### 5.11.4.1 Significance Criteria

Thresholds of impact significance were derived from Appendix G of the *CEQA Guidelines*. Under these guidelines, the Proposed Project could have a potentially significant impact to mineral resources if it would:

- 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; or
- 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.

### 5.11.4.2 Question 11a – Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and residents of the state?

#### **Construction and Operation & Maintenance – No Impact**

Portions of the land where Proposed Project facilities would occur are classified by the state as MRZ-2. The MRZ-2 designation encompasses areas where the state has determined adequate information indicates that significant mineral deposits are present, or where it is judged that a high likelihood exists for their presence. Although portions of the Proposed Project are located within areas designated as MRZ-2 for their potential to contain valuable aggregate resources (e.g., sand and gravel), such sites have since been developed with urban uses; currently existing public roadways, and SDG&E facilities (electric transmission, distribution, and substations) located within existing ROW, franchise position, and fee-owned property. Therefore, no impacts would occur.

### 5.11.4.3 Question 11b – 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?

#### **Construction and Operation & Maintenance – No Impact**

Neither the *City of San Diego General Plan* nor the *County of San Diego General Plan* identifies any locally important mineral resources in the Proposed Project area. All Proposed Project facilities would be located within existing SDG&E ROW, franchise position (city/county roadways), and SDG&E fee-owned property, none of which is currently available for mineral resource recovery. The Proposed Project will not result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral recovery site; therefore, no impact will occur.

## 5.11.5 Applicant Proposed Measures

The Proposed Project would have no potentially significant impacts relating to mineral resources; therefore, no APMs are proposed.

### 5.11.6 Detailed Discussion of Significant Impacts

Based upon the preceding analysis, no significant impacts relating to mineral resources are anticipated from the Proposed Project.

### 5.11.7 References

City of San Diego. 2008. *City of San Diego General Plan*. Online: <http://www.sandiego.gov/planning/genplan/index.shtml#genplan>. Site visited May 19, 2015.

Department of Conservation. 1982. *Mineral Land Classification: Aggregate Materials in the Western San Diego County Production-Consumption Region*. California Department of Conservation Division of Mines and Geology Special Report 153. Reprinted 1993.

San Diego County. 2015. *San Diego County General Plan*. Online: <http://www.sandiegocounty.gov/pds/generalplan.html>. Site visited May 19, 2015.