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4.11 MINERAL RESOURCES

Would the Proposed Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less-than-Significant Impact 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 the residents of the state?				✓
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?				✓

4.11.0 Introduction

This section discusses the existing conditions in the area of the proposed San Diego Gas & Electric Company TL674A Reconfiguration & TL666D Removal Project (Proposed Project) and assesses potential impacts that may occur to mineral resources as a result of Proposed Project implementation. Because there are no known mineral resources that will be crossed by the Proposed Project, it will not have an impact on local or regional mineral resources. In addition, no impacts to mineral resources will result from construction or operation and maintenance activities required for the proposed facilities.

4.11.1 Methodology

Mineral resource data were obtained from the California Department of Conservation (DOC), the County of San Diego General Plan, the City of San Diego General Plan, and the City of Del Mar Community Plan.

4.11.2 Existing Conditions

Regulatory Background

The following subsections detail federal, state, and local plans and policies pertaining to mineral resources that are relevant to the Proposed Project.

Federal

There are no federal regulatory requirements relevant to the assessment of Proposed Project impacts on mineral resources.

State

Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1975

The California Geological Survey designates mineral resource zones (MRZs) where access to important mineral resources may be threatened, according to provisions of the California Surface Mining and Reclamation Act (SMARA) of 1975. The SMARA requires that all jurisdictions incorporate mapped mineral resource designations approved by the State Mining and Geology Board (SMGB) into their general plans. The SMGB and the California DOC's Office of Mine Reclamation (OMR) are jointly charged with ensuring proper administration of the SMARA's requirements. The SMGB promulgates regulations to clarify and interpret the SMARA's provisions, as well as to serve as a policy and appeals board. The OMR provides an ongoing technical assistance program for lead agencies and operators, maintains a database of mine locations and operational information statewide, and is responsible for compliance-related matters.

Local

The Proposed Project is not subject to local discretionary regulations because the California Public Utilities Commission has exclusive jurisdiction over the siting, design, and construction of the Proposed Project. The following analysis of local regulations relating to mineral resources is provided for informational purposes.

County of San Diego General Plan

The County of San Diego Department of Planning and Land Use is responsible for maintaining and implementing the County of San Diego General Plan, as well as ensuring regulatory compliance with county codes and ordinances. The Conservation and Open Space Element of the general plan identifies the location of high-quality mineral resource areas in San Diego County that are designated for the managed production of mineral resources. The County of San Diego General Plan was reviewed to identify mineral resource areas within the City of Del Mar.

City of San Diego General Plan

The City of San Diego Planning Division maintains and implements the City of San Diego General Plan and ensures regulatory compliance with city codes and ordinances. The Conservation Element of the general plan identifies the location of high-quality mineral resource areas in San Diego that are designated for the managed production of mineral resources.

Community Plan for the City of Del Mar

The Community Plan for the City of Del Mar does not contain any policies regarding mineral resources.

Environmental Setting

A mineral resource is defined as a concentration of naturally occurring solid, liquid, or gaseous materials in or on the Earth's crust in such form and quantity and of such a grade or quality that it has reasonable prospects for economic extraction, either currently or in the future. Mineral resources include oil, natural gas, and metallic and non-metallic deposits.

In the City of San Diego, important mineral resources include salt, sand, and gravel. Aggregate mineral resources (e.g., sand and gravel) provide necessary materials for the local economy. More specifically, mineral deposits that are acceptable for use as Portland Cement Concrete-grade aggregate are the rarest and most valuable aggregate resources. Extraction activities occur in Mission Valley and other areas of San Diego, such as Carroll Canyon and Mission Gorge. In reviewing the County of San Diego General Plan, no important mineral resources were identified within the City of Del Mar.

MRZs, as classified by the SMGB, were established to designate lands that contain mineral deposits. MRZs in the Proposed Project area have been mapped and classified in the California DOC’s Designation of Regionally Significant Construction Aggregate Resource Areas in the Western San Diego County Production-Consumption Region, which was published in 1985 and updated in 1996. Portions of the Proposed Project are located in areas classified as MRZ-1 and MRZ-4. As described in Table 4.11-1: MRZ Definitions, these MRZs do not contain known mineral resources of significance.

Table 4.11-1: MRZ Definitions

MRZ Type	Definition
MRZ-1	Areas where adequate information indicates that no significant mineral deposits are present, or where it is judged that little likelihood exists for their presence.
MRZ-4	Areas where available information is inadequate for assignment to any other MRZ.

4.11.3 Impacts

Significance Criteria

Under the California Environmental Quality Act, impacts to mineral resources will be considered significant if the Proposed Project:

- Results in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state
- Results 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

Question 4.11a – Loss of Regionally or State-Valued Mineral Resources – *No Impact*

The Proposed Project does not cross any known MRZs in the City of San Diego as indicated on the City of San Diego General Plan Generalized Mineral Land Classification Map, or in the City of Del Mar as indicated in the County of San Diego General Plan. Therefore, construction and operation of the Proposed Project will not result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource. Thus, no impact will occur.

Question 4.11b – Loss of Locally Important Mineral Resources – *No Impact*

There are no known, locally important mineral resources, active mining operations, or known areas designated or delineated for mineral resource recovery located within the Proposed Project temporary work areas. In addition, no known mineral resources that have noted value to the region or to the residents of the state will be impacted by construction or operation of the Proposed Project. Therefore, no impacts will occur.

4.11.4 Applicant-Proposed Measures

Because the Proposed Project will have no impact on mineral resources, no applicant-proposed measures are proposed.

4.11.5 References

California DOC. Mineral Resources. Surface Mining and Reclamation Act Mineral Land Classification. Aggregate Sustainability in California - Map Sheet 52. Online. http://www.consrv.ca.gov/cgs/information/publications/ms/Documents/MS_52_2012.pdf. Site visited October 17, 2016.

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County of San Diego. *General Plan*. Conservation and Open Space Element. Online. <https://www.sandiego.gov/sites/default/files/legacy/planning/genplan/pdf/generalplan/adoptedconserelemfv.pdf>. Site visited October 17, 2016.