

4.10 MINERAL RESOURCES

This section of the EIR describes existing mineral resources in the project area and analyzes the potential for the project to 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, or 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.

The project would have no impacts related to the loss of mineral resources. No mitigation is required.

4.10.1 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The following information on the existing mineral resources setting within the study area is derived from the *Department of Conservation, Division of Mines and Geology, Mineral Land Classification of Alluvial Sand and Gravel, Crushed Stone, Volcanic Cinders, Limestone, and Diatomite within Shasta County, California* (DMG Open-File Report 97-03, 1997). The DMG Open-File Report 97-03 provides the results of a classification of mineral resources within Shasta County. According to Plate 9A of DMG Open-File Report 97-03, the study area is designated as Mineral Resource Zone (MRZ)-3. (Definitions of these Mineral Resource Zones are provided below under “Regulatory Setting.”) No mineral resources are currently mined within the study area.

REGULATORY SETTING

An overview of existing and proposed *Shasta County General Plan* land use classifications and *Shasta County Zoning Plan* designations for the project site is provided in Section 3.4: Panorama Planned Development Regulatory Setting. There are no *Shasta County General Plan* Objectives and/or Policies that are applicable to the project site with regard to mineral resources. A discussion of the California Surface Mining and Reclamation Act is provided below.

California Surface Mining and Reclamation Act

The protection of regionally significant mineral resource deposits is one of the main emphases of the California Surface Mining and Reclamation Act (SMARA). The law specifically mandates a two-phased process, commonly referred to as classification and designation, for mineral resources. The California Geological Survey is responsible under SMARA for carrying out the classification phase of the process. The California Mining and Geology Board is responsible for the second phase, which allows the Board to designate areas within a production-consumption region that contain significant deposits of certain mineral resources that may be needed to meet the region’s future demand.

SMARA requires the State Geologist to classify lands into Mineral Resource Zones (MRZ) based on the known or inferred mineral resource potential of that land. The

classification process is based solely on geology, without regard to land use or ownership. The primary goal of mineral land classification is to help ensure that the mineral resource potential of lands is recognized and considered in the land use planning process. The MRZ categories are described below:

- 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-2: Areas where adequate information indicates significant mineral deposits are present or where it is judged that a high likelihood exists for their presence.
- MRZ-3: Areas containing mineral deposits, the significance of which cannot be evaluated from available data.
- MRZ-4: Areas where available information is inadequate for assignment to any other MRZ.

While the project site is located in MRZ-3, there are no known mineral resources on the project site or in the project vicinity, nor is the project site designated or zoned for the extraction of mineral deposits.

4.10.2 THRESHOLDS OF SIGNIFICANCE

Criteria for determining the significance of impacts related to mineral resources were based on the Environmental Checklist Form in Appendix G of the State CEQA Guidelines (Cal. Code Regs., Title 14, Section 15000 et seq.). An impact related to a mineral resource is considered significant if it would:

- 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.
- 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.

4.10.3 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION

Impact MIN-4.10-1 Loss of Mineral Resource of State Value (No Impact)

According to the *Department of Conservation, Division of Mines and Geology, Mineral Land Classification of Alluvial Sand and Gravel, Crushed Stone, Volcanic Cinders, Limestone, and Diatomite within Shasta County, California* (DMG Open-File Report 97-03, 1997), there may be mineral deposits of unknown significance on the project site or in the project vicinity that would be of future value to local residents and/or the residents of the state. While the project site is classified as MRZ-3, there are currently no mining operations on the project site, or in the vicinity of the project site, nor is the project site designated or zoned for mineral extraction activities. Mineral resources in the local area typically consist of aggregate sources, and are found along streams and the Sacramento River. There is minimum potential for commercially viable extraction of

mineral resources on the project site, due to the distance from the Sacramento River and the lack of on-site streams.

Project implementation would not result in loss of mineral resources of state value. No mitigation measures are necessary.

Impact MIN-4.10-2 Loss of Mineral Resource of Local Value (*No Impact*)

See analysis under MIN-4.10-1 above.

Project implementation would not result in loss of mineral resources of local value. No mitigation measures are necessary.

4.10.4 LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE AFTER MITIGATION

The project would have no impacts related to the loss of mineral resources. No mitigation is required.

End of Section.

