

5.12. Mineral Resources

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 a value to the region and the 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"/>

Significance criteria established by CEQA Guidelines, Appendix G.

5.12.1. Setting

Mineral resources of significance found and extracted in Santa Barbara County include construction aggregate deposits (Portland cement concrete-grade, asphalt concrete-grade, and base and fill), as well as gold, copper, zinc, chrome, antimony, silver, uranium, mercury, gypsum, limestone and bentonite from the Los Padres National Forest (Busch and Miller, 2011a; USFS, 2025).

The Conservation Element of the City of Goleta General Plan states that no significant mineral resources exist within the city’s Planning Area (City of Goleta, 2006, p. 4-1). A review of California Geological Survey (CGS) data indicate the City of Goleta has no active aggregate operations within their jurisdiction, and the proposed Project is in an area of incorporated city and thus does not have a Mineral Resource Zone (MRZ) designation (Busch and Miller, 2011a; 2011b). There are no active mining operations in the immediate vicinity of the proposed Project. The California Department of Conservation (DOC) Division of Mine Reclamation identifies one sand and gravel quarry approximately 1.9 miles north of the proposed Project site (DOC, 2016).

5.12.2. Regulatory Background

State

California Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1975 (SMARA). SMARA requires that the State Geologist classify land into MRZs according to the known or inferred mineral potential of the land. The California Department of Conservation’s Office of Mine Reclamation (OMR) and the State Mining and Geology Board (SMGB) are jointly charged with administration of the Act’s requirements. The OMR provides technical assistance to lead agencies and operators, maintains a statewide database of mine locations and operational information, and is responsible for matters involving SMARA compliance. The SMGB promulgates regulations to clarify and interpret SMARA requirements in addition to serving as a policy and appeals board (DOC, 2025). The SMGB has the authority to further regulate the authority of the local agencies if it finds that the agencies are not in compliance with the provisions of SMARA.

Mineral resources have been mapped using the California Mineral Land Classification System, which include the following four MRZs:

- **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 that 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; and
- **MRZ-4:** Areas where available information is inadequate for assignment to any other zone.

5.12.3. Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Thresholds of Significance

A significant impact on mineral resources would be expected to occur if the proposed Project resulted in any of the impacts in the CEQA Appendix G checklist. There are no additional thresholds defined in the County of Santa Barbara's Environmental Thresholds and Guidelines Manual (2021), which has been adopted by the City of Goleta (adopted by Resolution 08-40).

Impact Analysis

(a) Would the project result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be a value to the region and the residents of the state?

NO IMPACT. The proposed Project and the surrounding vicinity are not located within a classified Mineral Resource Zone and there are no known important mineral resources that would be impacted by the Project. Therefore, the Project would not result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource of value to the region or residents of the state. No impacts would 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. As stated above, there are no designated Mineral Resource Zones in the proposed Project vicinity, and no mineral resource recovery sites identified or delineated in the City of Goleta General Plan. Therefore, the Project would have no impact on any locally important mineral resource recovery sites. No impacts would occur.

5.12.3.1. Impact Conclusions and Mitigation Measures

The proposed Project would result in no impacts to mineral resources, and therefore no mitigation measures are required.