

Section 4.10

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4.10 MINERAL RESOURCES

This section describes existing conditions and the potential impacts to mineral resources associated with the construction and operation of the Proposed Project and alternatives.

4.10.1 Significance Criteria

Impacts to mineral resources are considered potentially significant if the project 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 map

The California Geological Survey is the state agency responsible for inventorying and mapping mineral resources in California. Regulations pursuant to the California Geological Survey mineral resource determinations are generally linked with the county general plan land use element and other types of local/regional development rules. These regulations would not be triggered by the Proposed Project.

4.10.2 Applicant Proposed Measures

No APMs for mineral resources are proposed.

4.10.3 Environmental Setting

Sand, gravel, and rock products, along with dimensional stone, are mined in Riverside County. Approximately five million short tons per year of sand and gravel have been mined in Riverside County in the past (California Geological Survey, Mineral Resources 2006). Metallic minerals are mined in the bedrock areas. There are no known commercially valuable deposits of oil, gas, or coal within the project areas.

The Coachella Valley was formed from a deep fault-controlled extension, which has filled in with eroded materials, weathered from the surrounding mountains, to depths in excess of 12,000 feet. This limits the mineral resources within the immediate project area to sands and gravels. This aggregate comprises the most economically significant mineral resource to the City of Palm Springs and Thousand Palms. Aggregate is primarily used as construction material in buildings and roads. The two main sources of aggregate in or around the project area include alluvial deposits (river beds and floodplains) and hard rock quarries (Palm Springs Comprehensive General Plan 1993). The only active aggregate mine in the project area is the Garnet Plant, owned by Massey Sand and Rock Company, located south of Garnet Hill, in sub-sector B-4. The Garnet Plant has been in operation since 1966 and supplies a full range of aggregate products (Miller 1988).

4.10.4 Impact Analysis

The Proposed Project would not result in the loss of availability of known mineral resources of significance to the region and the state, and the project components are not located on land

delineated as a locally important mineral resource recovery site. In summary, the construction and operation of the Proposed Project would not impact mineral resources.

4.10.5 Alternatives

4.10.5.1 Farrell-Garnet 115kV Subtransmission Line Alternative Route 2

Alternative Route 2 would require trenching for approximately 0.5 mile of underground subtransmission line. However, the alternative route would not result in the loss of availability of known mineral resources of significance to the region and the state and would not be located on land delineated as a locally important mineral resource recovery site. In summary, the construction and operation of this alternative would not impact mineral resources.

4.10.5.2 Farrell-Garnet 115kV Subtransmission Line Alternative Route 3

Alternative Route 3 would not result in the loss of availability of known mineral resources of significance to the region and the state but would be located adjacent to the Massey Sand and Rock Company Garnet Plant, near the Garnet Substation. In summary, the construction and operation of this alternative would not impact mineral resources.

4.10.5.3 Mirage-Santa Rosa 115 kV Subtransmission Line Alternative Route 5

Alternative Route 5 would require trenching for approximately 1.9 miles of underground subtransmission line. However, the alternative route would not result in the loss of availability of known mineral resources of significance to the region and the state and would not be located on land delineated as a locally important mineral resource recovery site. In summary, the construction and operation of this alternative would not impact mineral resources.

4.10.6 References

California Geological Survey, Mineral Resources (CGSMR). 2006. [online] www.consrv.ca.gov/cgs/geologic_resources/mineral_production/index.htm. [cited November 2006].

City of Palm Desert Comprehensive General Plan. City of Palm Desert. March 2004.

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Miller, Russell V. 1988. Mineral Land Classification: Aggregate Materials in the Palm Springs Production-Consumption Region, Special Report 159. Office of State Printing.

Western Coachella Valley Area Plan. [online] <http://www.rctlma.org/generalplan/ap2/wcvap.html> [cited October 2006].