

## 5.14 MINERAL RESOURCES

---

### ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The California Surface and Mining Reclamation Act (SMARA) of 1975 requires local governments to address mineral recovery activities through the direct regulation of mining operations, and through planning policies that balance the mineral resources needs of the state with the maintenance of environmental quality. SMARA requires cities and counties to adopt ordinances conforming to state policy for the review and approval of reclamation plans and permits to conduct surface mining operations.

In accordance with classification guidelines established by the SMARA, the State Geologist is required to classify, on the basis solely of geological factors and without regard to existing land use and ownership, the following:

- Areas containing little or no mineral deposits;
- Areas containing significant mineral deposits; or
- Areas containing mineral deposits, the significance of which requires further evaluation.

The California Department of Conservation, Division of Mines and Geology has not identified significant mineral resources within the planning area.<sup>1</sup> The County of Riverside's General Plan identifies sand and gravel resources along Gilman Springs Road in the City's sphere of influence and a rock products resource in the center of the City, north of Highway 60. An existing sand and gravel quarry located at the corner of Gilman Springs Road and Jack Rabbit Trail is closed and is no longer operating.

### THRESHOLD FOR DETERMINING SIGNIFICANCE

*For the purposes of this EIR, a significant impact would occur if implementation of General Plan Alternatives 1, 2, or 3 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; or,*
- *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.*

## **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

### ***General Plan Land Use Alternatives 1, 2, and 3***

Implementation of the proposed General Plan Land Use Alternatives 1, 2, or 3 would result in the development of urban uses throughout the majority of the planning area, including the area along Highway 60 and Gilman Springs Road. No regionally or statewide significant mineral resources are located within the planning area. Implementation of the proposed General Plan alternatives would not result in the loss of availability of a significant mineral resource, and no significant impact to mineral resources would occur.

Both the City and the County have adopted SMARA regulations governing the extraction of mineral resources and eventual reclamation of mining operations. Continued implementation of these regulations will allow for the mining of locally-important mineral resources, as identified in the County of Riverside General Plan. As a result, no significant impact to mineral resources will occur.

## **MITIGATION MEASURES**

No mitigation measure is proposed.

## **IMPACT AFTER MITIGATION**

Not significant.

## **NOTES AND REFERENCES**

1. Personal Conversation with Russ Miller at the California Department of Conservation, Los Angeles Office (3/20/01).