

## 4.11 Mineral Resources

This section of the EIR evaluates the potential for impacts to mineral resources associated with implementation of the proposed project. It identifies potential mineral resources within the project planning area and analyzes the potential for the proposed project to result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource or the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site. This section is based on information provided by the County of San Diego, the California Department of Conservation, and other sources, as cited throughout the section.

A summary of the mineral resources impacts identified in Section 4.11.3, Analysis of Project Impacts and Determination of Significance, is provided below.

### Mineral Resources Summary of Impacts

Issue Number	Issue Topic	Project		
		Project Direct Impact	Cumulative Impact	Impact After Mitigation
1	Mineral Resource Availability	Less than Significant	Less than Significant	Less than Significant
2	Mineral Resource Recovery Sites	Less than Significant	Less than Significant	Less than Significant

### 4.11.1 Existing Conditions

#### 4.11.1.1 Mineral Resource Zone Classification and Designation

In 1975, the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act (SMARA), administered by the California Department of Conservation Office of Mine Reclamation (OMR) and the State Mining and Geology Board (SMGB), required the classification of land into mineral resource zones (MRZs), according to the land's known or inferred mineral resource potential. The process was based solely on geology, without regard to existing land use or land ownership.

The SMGB prioritizes areas to be classified and/or designated for the presence of mineral resources. The highest priority areas are those within the state that are subject to urban expansion or other irreversible land uses that would preclude mineral extraction. Approximately the western one-third of the County was classified into distinct MRZs according to the California Mineral Land Classification System in 1982, including the City of Escondido. The City is located in the Western San Diego County Production-Consumption (P-C) Zone which includes all of the incorporated areas of the County, and some unincorporated communities including Valley Center. The MRZs are defined below:

- **MRZ-1:** Areas where adequate geologic information indicates that no significant mineral deposits are present, or where it is judged that little likelihood exists for their presence.
- **MRZ-2:** Areas underlain by mineral deposits where geologic information shows that significant measured or indicated resources are present.

- **MRZ-3:** Areas that contain known mineral deposits that could qualify as mineral resources. Further exploration work within these areas could result in the reclassification of specific localities into the MRZ-2 category.
- **MRZ-4:** Areas where geologic information is not conclusive on the presence or absence of mineral resources.
- **Uncategorized zones:** Areas that have not been classified by the SMGB. It has not been determined whether or not mineral resources are present in these areas.

Areas within the General Plan Update planning boundary area are designated MRZ-2, MRZ-3, or MRZ-4. The area designated MRZ-2 is a small section of an alluvial fan deposit located at the southeastern edge of the General Plan Update planning boundary, just east of ~~Lake~~ Hodges Reservoir, along San Pasqual Valley in the City of San Diego. It is almost entirely located within the City of San Diego, except a small segment along the eastern edge of the City of Escondido along Rockwood Road (City of San Diego 2007). The areas designated MRZ-3 and MRZ-4 are scattered throughout the General Plan Update planning area (Leighton and Associates 2007). Generally, the City's downtown core is designated MRZ-4, and the surrounding area is designated MRZ-3 (City of San Diego 2007).

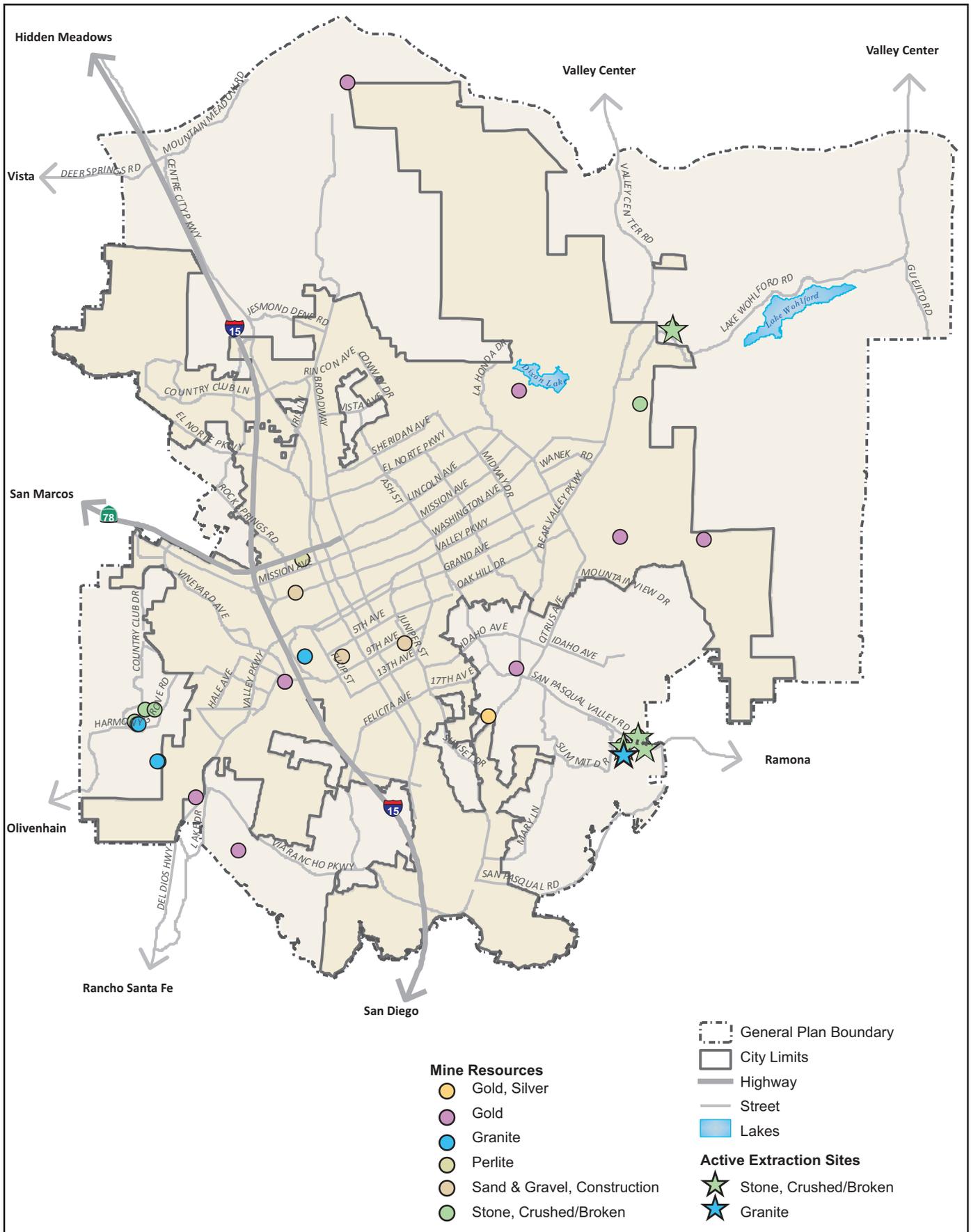
### 4.11.1.2 Construction Materials

Sand, gravel, and crushed rock provide essential construction aggregate material for modern society and comprise the most important mineral resource in the San Diego region. When combined with a cement binder, these materials become the principal ingredient in concrete. When combined with asphalt, sand and gravel become the aggregate forming the major element of asphaltic concrete, which is widely used as a paving material. The MRZs discussed above were determined based on the availability of aggregate material suitable for construction (County of San Diego 2011).

Extraction of mineral resources for construction is often precluded by another existing land use. For example, aggregate resources that exist under a residential development or commercial center cannot be extracted. If construction of a residential development was proposed adjacent to an area containing mineral resources, the incompatibility between the two potential land uses due to air quality, noise or traffic issues could preclude extraction of the mineral resource (County of San Diego 2011).

### 4.11.1.3 Existing Extraction Facilities

The Assembly Bill (AB) 3098 List, published by the OMR, provides a list of mines that are regulated under SMARA and meet the requirements for operation. There are currently no permitted mines in the City of Escondido, according to the AB 3098 List (DOC 2011). Mining operations that are not on the AB 3098 List are prohibited from selling sand, gravel, aggregates or other mined materials to state or local agencies. However, there are five active extraction operations located outside of the City on the eastern edge of the General Plan Update planning area boundary, as shown in Figure 4.11-1, Existing and Past Extraction Facilities. Four of these facilities are located close together along San Pasqual Valley Road in the North County Metropolitan (NC Metro) community and one, known as the Lake Wohlford Road Pit, is located on Lake Wohlford Road at the City limit. Granite and stone are mined at these facilities. One quarry, Inland Valley Materials, operated by Granite Construction Company at 14080 San Pasqual Valley Road, is listed on the AB 3098 List (Mine ID #91-37-0054).



Source: City of Escondido 2011



**EXISTING AND PAST EXTRACTION FACILITIES**  
**FIGURE 4.11-1**

Additionally, several former extraction facility sites are located in the General Plan Update planning area, including: 1) a former site along Interstate 15 (I-15) in the center of the city; 2) a former site along the eastern edge of the City near Lake Wohlford Road; 3) a former site in the unincorporated San Dieguito and NC Metro communities in the southwestern area of the planning area; 4) a former site near ~~Lake Dixon Lake~~, along the northern edge of the City near Daley Ranch; and 5) a former site west of the active extraction facilities on San Pasqual Valley Road in the unincorporated NC Metro community. These former extraction sites are also shown on Figure 4.11-1, Existing and Past Extraction Facilities. Previously extracted mineral resources in these areas included granite, perlite, sand and gravel, silver, and gold.

#### **4.11.1.4 Designation of Mining and Extraction Operations**

The existing Escondido General Plan does not include a designation for mineral resources or extraction operations. Mining and extraction operations are not listed as a permitted or conditionally permitted use for any zone in the City's Zoning Ordinance. Additionally, none of the General Plan Update planning area within the jurisdiction of the County of San Diego is designated for mineral extraction or industrial land use. Therefore, none of the General Plan Update planning area is designated for mining or extraction processes. However, new mineral extraction operations could occur outside of the City's urban core in the existing open space areas if all applicable permits were obtained and the proposed facility demonstrated compatibility with surrounding land uses. Mineral extraction is a conditionally permitted use in the City of San Diego, including areas south of the planning area along I-15 and near Rockwood Road; however, these areas are not within the proposed General Plan Update planning area.

### **4.11.2 Regulatory Framework**

#### **4.11.2.1 State**

##### **Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1975**

SMARA was enacted to address the need for a continuing supply of mineral resources, and to prevent or minimize the negative impacts of surface mining to public health, property and the environment. The OMR and SMGB are jointly charged with ensuring the proper administration of SMARA requirements. The process of reclamation includes maintaining water and air quality, and minimizing flooding, erosion and damage to wildlife and aquatic habitats caused by surface mining. The final step in this process is often topsoil replacement and revegetation with suitable plant species. Mining operators are responsible for the preparation and submission of reclamation plans and financial assurances for reclamation to the applicable lead agency prior to obtaining approvals to begin extraction operations. Annual reporting to the state and the lead agency on the status of mining and reclamation activities, annual updates of financial assurances, and annual inspections, are required.

## 4.11.2.2 Regional/Local

### City of Escondido Municipal Code Chapter 17, Article 12, Noise Abatement and Control (Noise Ordinance)

The noise ordinance establishes prohibitions for disturbing, excessive, or offensive noise, and provisions such as sound level limits for the purpose of securing and promoting the public health, comfort, safety, peace, and quiet for its citizens. For extractive operations, Section 17-229(c)(f) states that the one-hour average sound level limit applicable to extractive industries including, but not limited to, borrow pits and mines shall be 75 decibels (dBA) at the property line regardless of the zone where the extractive industry is actually located.

### San Diego Air Pollution Control District Rules and Regulations

Extraction facilities are subject to the rules and regulations of the San Diego Air Pollution Control District (SDAPCD). If extractive operations include machinery or would otherwise have the potential to generate emissions of air pollutants, a permit to operate would be required from the SDAPCD (Regulations II, Rule 10). Facilities are required to obtain permits for any operations or equipment that emits or is capable of emitting air contaminants. Air contaminants can be dust, mists, fumes, vapors, odors or gases. Permits are the primary means for the SDAPCD to assure that polluting operations are controlled to the maximum degree technically and economically feasible and do not interfere with the attainment and maintenance of healthful air quality. Permits are also necessary to ensure that businesses comply with air pollution control laws (SDAPCD 2010).

## 4.11.3 Analysis of Project Impacts and Determination of Significance

### 4.11.3.1 Issue 1: Mineral Resource Availability

#### Guidelines for Determination of Significance

Based on Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines and existing City policies and regulations, the proposed project would result in a significant impact 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, such as granite.

#### Impact Analysis

Growth under the proposed Downtown Specific Plan Update would be consistent with the growth identified for the General Plan Update; therefore, the following analysis pertains to both the General Plan Update and the Downtown Specific Plan Update. Impacts related to implementation of the E-CAP are discussed separately below.

#### General Plan Update and Downtown Specific Plan Update

Loss of the availability of mineral resources is generally due to the placement of incompatible land uses, which either directly or indirectly make the resource inaccessible for future extraction. Mining

operations require an adequate setback from development due to the variety of environmental issues associated with mining, which include, but are not limited to, air quality, noise, traffic, and visual resources impacts. The City does not designate any mineral resources of value in the City; however, SMGB identifies mineral resources valuable to the state with the MRZ designations.

Land uses that are compatible or incompatible with mining operations are defined in Article 6, Section 3675, of the SMGB Reclamation Regulations (SMGB 2007). Compatible land uses include, but are not limited to, very low density residential, geographically extensive but low impact industrial, recreational, agricultural, timber harvesting, grazing, and open space land uses. Incompatible land uses include, but are not limited to, high density residential, low density residential with high unit value, public facilities, geographically limited but impact intensive industrial and commercial land uses.

The center of the City to the western edge of the planning area is designated MRZ-4, which means geologic information is not conclusive on the presence or absence of mineral resources (City of San Diego 2007). The former mineral extraction sites in the City's urban core are no longer in operation. The General Plan Update would focus growth in the urban core, including a variety of residential, commercial, public and industrial uses that would be incompatible with mineral resources extraction. However, the City's urban core is mostly built-out under existing conditions with residential, commercial, and industrial developments that already directly preclude mining processes and indirectly preclude these operations in the surrounding area. Additional development in the City's urban core, including the Downtown Specific Plan Area (SPA), would not result in any new loss of mineral resource availability. Temporary rock mining activities may occur within areas designated as MRZ-4 as part of construction activities for individual projects. However, such mining activities would be temporary in nature and would not involve substantial or regular mineral extraction. Therefore, temporary rock mining activities conducted within the proposed project area, as part of construction activities allowable under the proposed General Plan Update, would not result in the loss of mineral resource availability.

The areas surrounding the City's urban core are designated MRZ-3 (City of San Diego 2007). These areas contain known mineral deposits that could qualify as mineral resources, but further exploration is needed to determine if they contain mineral resources of value. No mineral extraction sites currently operate in this MRZ, with the exception of the Lake Wohlford Road Pit. The north, south, and eastern portions of the planning area are currently developed with mid to low density residential development, or contain open space. The area surrounding the existing Lake Wohlford Road Pit is designated for open space. The General Plan Update would allow for new residential and commercial growth in these areas; however, existing mid-density residential development already precludes extraction operations in many of the areas outside of the urban core. Only the areas that are currently developed with very-low density residential development or existing open space areas would potentially be available for future mineral resource extraction. Open space and low density rural development is generally found along the outskirts of the planning area. The General Plan Update would maintain the existing very-low density residential and open space land use designations along the edge of the planning area. Additionally, as stated above, it is unknown if the areas designated MRZ-3 contain mineral resources of value. Therefore, development under the General Plan Update in the areas designated MRZ-3 would not result in the significant loss of availability of a known mineral resource. Temporary rock mining activities may occur within areas designated as MRZ-3 as part of construction activities for individual projects. However, such mining activities would be temporary in nature and would not involve substantial or regular mineral extraction. Therefore, temporary rock mining activities conducted within

the proposed project area, as part of construction activities allowable under the proposed General Plan Update, would not result in the loss of mineral resource availability.

A small area outside the City limits in the southeastern portion of the planning area near San Pasqual Valley Road is designated MRZ-2. Four existing extractive operations are located in this area. Areas designated MRZ-2 are underlain by mineral deposits where geologic information shows that significant measured or indicated resources are present. This area is located primarily within the Rancho San Pasqual SPA and Valley View SPA.

The Rancho San Pasqual SPA encompasses approximately 870 acres and is currently developed with 580 single family homes, including a school, and homes along Rockwood Road. Therefore, this SPA currently contains development that limits the availability of mineral resources. The Eagle Crest Specific Plan establishes the development standards and guidelines for the Rancho San Pasqual SPA. With implementation of the General Plan Update, this SPA would continue to be subject to the land uses outlined in the Eagle Crest Specific Plan, including a mixture of residential land use densities and a 32-acre public community park located on the south side of Rockwood Road. Future growth in the SPA would further limit the availability of mineral resources in this area; however, substantial residential growth already precludes extraction operations. Additionally, future growth would result from implementation of the existing adopted specific plan and would not be attributable to the proposed General Plan Update.

The Valley View SPA is a 1,590-acre area. The portion of the Valley View SPA within the City has an adopted specific plan and is partially developed with residential development that precludes future extraction operations. The Rancho Vistamonte Specific Plan is the adopted plan for this area. Under the General Plan Update, this area would continue to be subject to the existing Rancho Vistamonte Specific Plan, which proposes a planned community on 133 acres involving 80 single family units with 81 acres of open space. Similar to the Rancho San Pasqual SPA, growth in this area would result from implementation of the existing adopted specific plan and would not be attributable to the proposed General Plan Update. The remaining portion of the Valley View SPA outside of the City limit in the NC Metro community does not have an approved specific plan; however, the General Plan Update would limit the number of homes in the remaining 1,450-acre portion of the SPA to 800 single family residential units. The development may include a golf course and luxury resort hotel in exchange for a reduction in allowable residential units determined to have the same environmental impact. The General Plan Update requires a comprehensive open space system in this SPA area, including a requirement for the open space system to coordinate with the San Dieguito River Valley open space area south of the SPA. Therefore, areas of open space would be maintained in this portion of the Valley View SPA that would not preclude mineral extraction, particularly in the southern areas of the SPA within the MRZ-2 area. Therefore, implementation of the General Plan Update would not significantly preclude the availability of mineral resources in the Rancho San Pasqual SPA and Valley View SPA compared to existing conditions.

The General Plan Update designates the area surrounding the existing extractive operations on San Pasqual Valley Road for maximum residential densities of up to one unit per four acres, which is the lowest density land use designation in the plan. The low density land use designation in this area would allow homes to be sited at a greater distance from extraction operations. It should be noted that the San Pasqual Valley Commercial Site, a planned commercial development identified in the General Plan Update at the southwestern corner of Cloverdale Road and Highway 78, would potentially be located in close proximity to existing extractive operations. However, new development would not interfere with existing, permitted extraction operations. New development proposed near the existing extractive operations would be

required to demonstrate compatibility with the extractive operations to obtain project approval, as described below under proposed General Plan Update Goals and Policies section. Therefore, the proposed project would not result in the significant loss of availability of a mineral resource in the portion of the planning area designated MRZ-2. Temporary rock mining activities may occur within areas designated as MRZ-2 as part of construction activities for individual projects. However, such mining activities would be temporary in nature and would not involve substantial or regular mineral extraction. Therefore, temporary rock mining activities conducted within the proposed project area, as part of construction activities allowable under the proposed General Plan Update, would not result in the loss of mineral resource availability.

### **Escondido Climate Action Plan**

Some reduction measures identified in the E-CAP encourage the construction or expansion of roadway or transit facilities, including R2-T2, Bicycle Master Plan, and R2-T3, Transit Improvements. However, these facilities would be located in areas that serve existing and future development accommodated by the General Plan Update. As discussed above under General Plan Update and Downtown Specific Plan Update impacts, development would be focused in the urban core. Existing development already precludes mineral extraction in these areas. Additionally, even if new trails or transit facilities would be located outside of the urban core, these uses would not be considered incompatible with mineral extraction. The implementation of E-CAP measures would not preclude the extraction of known mineral resources from a site; therefore, it would not result in the loss of availability of mineral resources. No impact would occur.

### **Federal, State, and Local Regulations and Existing Regulatory Processes**

At the state level, all extraction operations are subject to the SMARA policies for conservation and development of mineral-containing lands. Extractive operations are subject to the City's Noise Ordinance and APCD permitting requirements.

### **Proposed General Plan Update Policies**

The General Plan Update does not include any goals or policies that specifically address mineral resources or mineral extraction. However, if a new mineral extraction facility were approved in the City's jurisdiction, it would be required to comply with the goals and policies that apply to all development. These include Noise Policy 5.12, which limits truck traffic to designated routes; Hazardous Materials Policy 8.3, which requires maintenance of regulations requiring proper storage and disposal of hazardous materials; and Hazardous Materials Policy 8.11, which encourages the development and implementation of strict land use controls, performance standards, and structure design standards for uses that generate, use, or store hazardous materials. Compliance with these policies would minimize incompatibilities between extraction operations and surrounding land uses, which would minimize the loss of availability of mineral resources as a result of incompatible land uses.

Additionally, new development near existing extractive operations would be subject to General Plan Update goals and policies intended to avoid incompatibilities between land uses. The proposed Community Protection Element establishes new Noise Compatibility Guidelines to determine the compatibility of land uses when evaluating proposed development projects. The Element states that new land uses proposed in areas where the ambient noise level exceeds an acceptable level should not be undertaken. Community Character Policy 1.2 in the Land Use and Community Form Element requires that the densities and intensities for new development be based on their compatibility with the majority of the existing surrounding land uses. Within the Land Use and Community Form Element,

Environmental Review Policies 18.1 through 18.4 require project conformance with CEQA, the General Plan, facilities plans, and quality of life standards; mitigation of environmental impacts; and an update of environmental thresholds in sensitive areas.

#### **Proposed Downtown Specific Plan Update Policies**

The proposed Downtown Specific Plan Update does not include any policies related to mineral resource availability.

#### **Proposed Escondido Climate Action Plan Reduction Measures**

The proposed E-CAP does not include any reduction measures related to mineral resource availability.

### **Summary**

The existing General Plan Update planning area is developed with land uses that limit the availability of mineral resources. Additionally, only a small portion of the planning area has been designated as containing known mineral resources of value. Implementation of the proposed project does not propose land uses that would substantially limit the future availability of known mineral resources. Therefore, the proposed project would result in a less than significant impact associated with the availability of mineral resources.

## **4.11.3.2 Issue 2: Mineral Resource Recovery Sites**

### **Guidelines for Determination of Significance**

Based on Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines and existing City policies and regulations, the proposed project would have a significant impact if it would 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. Resource recovery sites are areas where mineral resources could be extracted for use.

### **Impact Analysis**

Growth under the proposed Downtown Specific Plan Update would be consistent with the growth identified for the General Plan Update; therefore, the following analysis pertains to both the General Plan Update and the Downtown Specific Plan Update. Impacts related to implementation of the E-CAP are discussed separately below.

#### **General Plan Update and Downtown Specific Plan Update**

Important mineral resource recovery sites are not identified in the General Plan Update, or in the existing City General Plan or adopted specific plans. For the purposes of this analysis, areas that contain existing active extraction facilities, or are designated as MRZ-2, where mineral resources are known to occur, are considered locally important mineral resource recovery sites. There are no mineral extraction facilities currently operating within the City limit. However, five clustered extractive operations currently operate within the eastern outskirts of the General Plan Update planning area. One operation is located along Lake Wohlford Road. The other four operations are located along San Pasqual Valley Road in the portion of the planning area designated as MRZ-2. The area designated MRZ-2 is located near San Pasqual Valley Road, primarily within the Rancho San Pasqual SPA and Valley View SPA.

As described above in Section 4.11.3.1, Issue 1: Mineral Resource Availability, the General Plan Update proposes open space surrounding the existing extraction facility on Lake Wohlford Road and would not result in the development of land uses incompatible with this facility. Within the area designated MRZ-2, the Rancho San Pasqual SPA, including the area encompassed by the Rancho Vistamont Specific Plan, is already developed with land uses that preclude mining operations. Future growth in this SPA would further limit the availability of mineral resources; however, existing residential growth already precludes extraction operations. Additionally, future growth in the Rancho San Pasqual SPA would result from the implementation of the existing adopted Rancho Vistamont Specific Plan and would not be attributable to the proposed General Plan Update. No specific plan has been adopted for the portion of the Valley View SPA in the MRZ-2 area outside of the City limit in the NC Metro community; however, the proposed General Plan Update would limit the number of residences in the SPA and require substantial open space. Therefore, the General Plan Update would maintain large areas of open space in this MRZ-2 area, which is a compatible land use with mineral extraction. The General Plan Update designates the area surrounding the existing extractive operations on San Pasqual Valley Road for maximum residential densities of up to one unit per four acres, which would allow future homes to be sited at a distance from extraction operations. The San Pasqual Valley Commercial Site, a planned commercial development identified in the General Plan Update at the southwestern corner of Cloverdale Road and Highway 78, would not interfere with existing, permitted extraction operations. New development proposed near existing extractive operations would be required to demonstrate compatibility with existing land uses as part of project approval. Therefore, the General Plan Update would not result in a significant impact related to the loss of availability of mineral resource recovery sites.

#### **Escondido Climate Action Plan**

Some reduction measures identified in the E-CAP encourage the construction or expansion of roadway or transit facilities, including R2-T2, Bicycle Master Plan, and R2-T3, Transit Improvements. However, these facilities would be located in areas that serve existing and future development accommodated by the General Plan Update. New development would be focused in the urban core, which is not designated MRZ-2 and does not contain any active mineral extraction facilities. Even if new trails or transit facilities would be located outside of the urban core, these uses would not be considered incompatible with mineral extraction. The implementation of E-CAP measures would not preclude the extraction of known mineral resources from a site; therefore, it would not result in the loss of availability of mineral resource recovery sites. No impact would occur.

#### **Federal, State, and Local Regulations and Existing Regulatory Ordinances**

As described above in Section 4.11.3.1, Issue 1: Mineral Resource Availability, the relevant regulations for mineral resources are SMARA, the City's Noise Ordinance, and the SDAPCD permitting process.

#### **Proposed General Plan Update Policies**

As described above in Section 4.11.3.1, Issue 1: Mineral Resource Availability, the General Plan Update does not include any goals or policies that specifically relate to mineral resources or mineral resource recovery sites. However, compliance with the policies that apply to all development in the General Plan Update area would minimize impacts to locally important mineral resource recovery sites.

#### **Proposed Downtown Specific Plan Update Policies**

The proposed Downtown Specific Plan Update does not include any policies related to locally important mineral resource recovery sites.

### **Proposed Escondido Climate Action Plan Reduction Measures**

The proposed E-CAP does not include any reduction measures related to locally important mineral resource recovery sites.

### **Summary**

The proposed project would not result in the development of land uses that would result in the loss of availability of any mineral resource recovery sites. Therefore, the proposed project would result in a less than significant impact associated with mineral resources recovery sites.

## **4.11.4 Cumulative Impacts**

The geographic scope of cumulative impact analysis for minerals includes the entire San Diego region due to the demand for aggregate construction materials in the region.

### **Issue 1: Mineral Resource Availability**

Construction and operation of cumulative projects, such as those allowed under other jurisdiction's general plans, would have the potential to result in the loss of availability of known mineral resources through the development of new land uses that would directly preclude mining operations or would be incompatible with mineral extraction. Urbanization and growth in the jurisdictions adjacent to the City, especially in the less developed unincorporated County areas, would have the potential to result in land uses that are incompatible with mining and resource recovery and would result in a cumulative loss of available resources. Similar to the City, the CGS has classified some lands in the adjacent jurisdictions into MRZs; however, the majority of these areas are already developed with land uses incompatible with mining operations. One exception is the area to the south of the General Plan Update planning area in the City of San Diego, which is designated MRZ-2 and is relatively undeveloped. In addition, the areas in the unincorporated County surrounding the planning area are also sparsely developed and could support mining operations if mineral resources were determined to occur in these areas. The EIR prepared for the recent County of San Diego General Plan Update determined that planned growth in the San Diego region would result in a reasonably foreseeable loss of mineral resources due to the encroachment of incompatible uses that would preclude mining operations (County of San Diego 2011). Therefore, a potentially significant cumulative impact to mineral resource availability in the San Diego region would occur.

As discussed above in Section 4.11.3.1, Issue 1: Mineral Resource Availability, the proposed project would not result in a potentially significant direct impact to mineral resource availability because the majority of the City is already developed with incompatible land uses that would preclude the extraction of mineral resources. The proposed project would not considerably change the existing condition. The General Plan Update would maintain large areas of open space in the portion of the planning area designated MRZ-2. Additionally, the General Plan Update proposes the lowest density residential and open space land use designations along the edge of the General Plan Update planning boundary, near areas within the unincorporated County and City of San Diego that are designated MRZ-2. These very low density residential and open space land uses would be potentially compatible with mineral resource extraction. Therefore, the proposed project would not result in a cumulatively considerable contribution to a significant cumulative impact associated with the loss of availability of known mineral resources.

## **Issue 2: Mineral Resource Recovery Sites**

Urbanization and growth in the jurisdictions adjacent to the General Plan Update planning area would have the potential to result in land uses that are incompatible with mineral resource recovery. Projected growth in the region would result in a reasonably foreseeable loss of mineral resource recovery sites due to the encroachment of incompatible uses that would preclude the extraction of mineral resources. Therefore, a significant cumulative impact to mineral resource recovery sites would occur.

As discussed above in Section 4.11.3.2, Issue 2: Mineral Resource Recovery Sites, the proposed project would not result in a potentially significant direct impact to mineral resource recovery sites because the General Plan Update would maintain large areas of open space in the portion of the planning area designated MRZ-2. Future development near existing extraction operations would be required to demonstrate compatibility with the existing operations as part of the project approval process. Therefore, the proposed project would not result in a cumulatively considerable contribution to a significant cumulative impact associated with the loss of mineral resource recovery sites.

### **4.11.5 Significance of Impact Prior to Mitigation**

The proposed project would result in less than significant impacts associated with mineral resource availability and mineral resource recovery sites.

### **4.11.6 Mitigation**

#### **Issue 1: Mineral Resource Availability**

Impacts would be less than significant; therefore, no mitigation measures are required.

#### **Issue 2: Mineral Resource Recovery Sites**

Impacts would be less than significant; therefore, no mitigation measures are required.

### **4.11.7 Conclusion**

The discussion below provides a synopsis of the conclusion reached in each of the above impact analyses.

#### **Issue 1: Mineral Resource Availability**

Implementation of the proposed project would result in less than significant direct and indirect impacts associated with the loss of availability of mineral resources. Additionally, the proposed project would not result in a cumulatively considerable contribution to a significant cumulative impact associated with the loss of mineral resource availability.

## **Issue 2: Mineral Resource Recovery Sites**

Implementation of the proposed project would not result in potentially significant direct or indirect impacts associated with the loss of locally important mineral resource recovery sites. Additionally, the proposed project would not result in a cumulatively considerable contribution to a significant cumulative impact associated with the loss of mineral resource recovery sites.

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