

CHAPTER 3.1 EFFECTS NOT FOUND TO BE SIGNIFICANT

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Pursuant to the State CEQA Guidelines §15128: “An EIR shall contain a statement briefly indicating the reasons that various possible significant effects of a project were determined not to be significant and were therefore not discussed in detail in the EIR.” This chapter describes the resource areas which were found not to pose any potentially significant effects related to the Proposed Project.

Based upon the scope of the Proposed Project, comment letters in response to the Notice of Preparation (NOP), site visits, review of project file materials and technical reports, and additional background research on the construction and operational features of the Proposed Project, the following resource topics were found to not have any potential impacts that would be considered significant or adverse. These topics, therefore, are not subject to detailed analysis in the EIR.

3.1.1 AGRICULTURE AND FOREST RESOURCES

The Proposed Project area is located within a highly urbanized region of Los Angeles County, surrounded by industrial, commercial, and residential land uses, major arterial roadways, mining, and a regional flood control and recreational project (Santa Fe Dam and Recreation Area). The site is not designated Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, or Unique Farmland. Although the existing zoning is A-1 which is a single-family residential zone that allows the keeping of farm animals such as cows and horses, the site has not been used and is not in current use for agricultural purposes. With project implementation, a zone change from A-1 to Quarry Zone would occur. No Williamson Act contracts are associated with the Project site. Implementation of the Proposed Project would not result in changes that have the potential to induce conversion of agricultural lands in the vicinity of the Project to non-agricultural uses. Therefore, no impacts would occur to agriculture resources.

The surrounding area is developed with various land uses, none of which are forested lands. Forestry operations do not occur with the Project vicinity, nor would the Project convert, alter or impact forested lands. The Proposed Project site has been vacant, surrounded by high density urban uses, and unused for 20 years. As such, the Proposed Project does not have the potential to have any impacts on agriculture or forest resources. Therefore, no further discussion of this issue area is provided in this EIR.

3.1.2 CULTURAL RESOURCES

The project proposes to re-engage mining and operations on an existing inactive mine site. Construction of an on-site access road followed by long-term mining and reclamation phasing would not affect cultural resources as the Project site does not have any buildings, structures, or other on-site locations designated as containing cultural, historic, or prehistoric resources. The

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Project site has been actively disturbed and has been in use for surface mining activities for many decades. The Proposed Project will not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historic, archaeological, or paleontological resource as defined in the CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5. As such, no potential impacts to cultural resources are expected from the Proposed Project. Therefore, no further discussion of this issue area is provided in this EIR.

3.1.3 POPULATION AND HOUSING

The project proposes to re-engage mining and operations on an existing inactive mine site. Construction of an on-site access road followed by long-term mining and reclamation phasing will not induce population growth, displace housing, or displace people, as there are no housing units located on the Project site. The Proposed Project is expected to employ approximately 5-6 staff. Staffing at this level is not anticipated to induce population growth. It is assumed the local or regional employment sector would be utilized for the construction and operational phases of the project. However, the project includes reclaiming a portion of the site with a 32-acre pad suitable for commercial/industrial development; and therefore, post-reclamation land uses that may occur decades in the future may create significant employment opportunities depending on the land use. Any potential effects of these future land uses are too speculative to assess at this time, and will be subject to independent environmental review at such time as a future project is defined and a land development application is submitted to the City for consideration. As such, the Proposed Project will have no reasonably foreseeable impact on population and housing. No further discussion of this issue area is provided in the EIR.

3.1.4 PUBLIC SERVICES & UTILITIES

The Proposed Project will not be expected to induce an increased need for public services such as fire protection, police protection, schools, parks or other public facilities due to the nature of the proposed project which does not involve the construction of any new housing or other land use type which would increase population in the area or affect existing demand levels on public services. The project would not result in a need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, as the mine site is self-contained and would not generate increases in demands for any public services.

Utilities and service systems and related infrastructure such as wastewater treatment system and facilities, storm water drains, landfill capacity, and potable water supplies would not be impacted because those services are already being provided to the project area and the implementation of the Proposed Project will not be expected to result in an increased demand for those services or the need to significantly physically alter any of these facilities due the nature of the project as an active mining site and the fact that the project does not include any new housing or construction of other land use types that could increase demands on public utilities. Due to the nature of the project as an active mining site, implementation of the Proposed Project would not impact the

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provision of public services or utilities and service systems. No further discussion of this issue area is provided in the EIR.

Potential effects of future land uses are too speculative to assess at this time (based on the timeline of the project) and will be subject to independent environmental review in the decades ahead. Mining activities previously occurred on-site, and project action is to re-engage these activities.

3.1.5 RECREATION

The Proposed Project is not anticipated to impact existing recreational resources, because no housing is being proposed and the employees projected to work on-site would be expected to utilize existing recreational sites within the area (refer to the discussion under Population and Housing in this chapter). The Proposed Project identifies passive recreation among one option for potential future reuse of the site. The Project does not include the construction of any recreation-related facilities as part of the Proposed Project. Implementation of the Proposed Project would not be expected to result in an increased need for parks or other recreational facilities or require expansion of existing recreational facilities. No further discussion of this issue area is provided in the EIR.