

4.11 MINERAL RESOURCES**4.11.1 Introduction**

This section presents existing conditions for mineral resources relative to Segments 2 and 3 of the Antelope Transmission Project. Existing conditions were determined from review of available published and unpublished literature and online sources. Sources of information include various sources within the California Department of Conservation (CDOC), including published and online references from the California Geological Survey (CGS) (formerly California Division of Mines and Geology) and the Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources. In addition, data were obtained from the City of Palmdale General Plan (2004), Ritter Ranch Specific Plan (Robert Bein, William Frost & Associates, 1992), and by reviewing USGS quadrangle maps covering the project area.

4.11.2 Existing Conditions**4.11.2.1 Sand and Gravel Resources**

While potential sand and gravel resources may be present in the project area there are no significant resources identified by the State and there are no current production areas in the project area (CDOC, 1987). The nearest production areas lie to the west in the Soledad production area (Saugus-Newhall resource area) or to the east in the Little Rock Creek Fan production area (Palmdale resource area) (Beeby, 1999). No significant production areas are located in or near the project area and none are anticipated in the future (Kohler, 2002).

4.11.2.2 Oil and Minerals

There are no oil or gas resources identified in the eastern Transverse Ranges or the western Antelope Valley. Significant mineral resources have not been identified in the vicinity of Segment 2. There are mineral resources identified in the vicinity of Segment 3. The Rosamond Hills are east of and adjacent to the proposed Segment 3 500 kV T/L route and the Alternative A and B routes. Gold and uranium resources have been mined from this area in the past. Gold is still listed as a principal mineral resource in this area; uranium is not (CGS, 2000). Limestone and dolomite are being mined along the flanks of the Tehachapi Mountains southeast of the alignments. In addition, limestone quarries are located adjacent to the Cal Cement facility (refer to Figure 3-3; sheet 6 of 7), which is located to the south of the proposed 220 kV T/L between Substations One and Two. A limestone quarry is also located northwest of Monolith, approximately 1.4 miles northwest of Alternative 220 kV Substation 2B (refer to Figure 3-3; Sheet 7 of 7). None of the aforementioned mineral resource extraction areas are located in the immediate vicinity of proposed or alternate Antelope Transmission Project T/L or substation facilities.