D.12 Mineral Resources

This section describes the affected environment for Mineral Resources and analyzes environmental impacts to these resources that are expected to result from the implementation of the project. The following discussions address existing environmental conditions in the affected area, identify and analyze environmental impacts, and recommend measures to reduce or avoid adverse impacts anticipated from project construction and operation. In addition, existing laws and regulations relevant to geologic and seismic hazards are described. Section D.12.1 presents the affected environment for Geology and Soils. Relevant regulations and standards are summarized in Section D.12.2. Sections D.12.3 through D.12.5 describe the impacts of the Proposed Project and the alternatives. Section D.12.6 presents the mitigation measures and mitigation monitoring requirements, and D.12.7 lists references cited.

D.12.1 Environmental Setting / Affected Environment

Baseline mineral resource information was collected from literature, GIS data, and online sources for the project and the surrounding area. The literature review was supplemented by a field reconnaissance of the proposed and alternative routes.

The study area was defined as the locations of Proposed Project components and the areas of immediately adjacent to the project components.

D.12.1.1 Regional Setting and Approach to Data Collection

Metallic and non-metallic mineral deposits occur within the study area. Metallic mineral deposits are restricted primarily to the areas of exposed bedrock in mountain areas. Gold, copper, and iron are the predominant metallic minerals mined in Riverside and San Bernardino Counties; however, no active metallic-mineral deposit mines are located in the project vicinity. Sand, clay, gravel, and rock products are important mineral resources in these counties and are still activity mined in the project vicinity. A review of active oil and gas field data from the Department of Conservation Division of Oil, Gas & Geothermal Resources (DOGGR) revealed that there are no active oil or gas fields within the study area (DOGGR, 2014).

Maps of the occurrence and location of mineral resources were reviewed for portions of San Bernardino and Riverside Counties (Matti, 1982; Matti, Cox and Iverson, 1983; Greene and Calzia, 1995; Calzia, Matti, Gantenbein, 1995). Map coverage was not complete. However, the proposed route does not appear to cross any areas of interest for mining other than those areas used for quarrying sand and gravel and areas used for landfill purposes. Additionally, a review of the U.S. Geological Service (USGS) Mineral Resource Data System (MRDS) was conducted which identified several mineral resource sites within 1,000 feet of the proposed route, all identified as sand and gravel operations (USGS, 2014). See the route segment discussions below for more information about the identified sand and gravel operations.

The California Geological Survey and State Mining and Geology Board are responsible for administration of a mineral lands inventory process termed classification designation. Areas are classified on the basis of geologic factors without regard to existing land use and land ownership. Inventoried areas are classified into four categories: MRZ-1, MRZ-2, MRZ-3, and MRZ-4. The zones are summarized as follows: MRZ-1 zones are areas where geologic information indicates no significant mineral deposits are present, MRZ-2 zones are areas that contain identified mineral resources, MRZ-3 zones are areas of undetermined mineral resource significance, and MRZ-4 zones are areas of unknown mineral resource potential. Of the four categories, areas classified as MRZ-2 are of the greatest importance as these areas are known to be

underlain by demonstrated mineral resources or are located where geologic data indicate that significant measured or indicated resources are present. MRZ-2 areas are designated by the Mining and Geology Board as being "regionally significant."

The project area is located within the Palm Springs Production-Consumption Region and the San Bernardino Production-Consumption Region The mineral land classification maps indicate that within the immediate project area, portions of the San Gorgonio Pass area along the San Gorgonio and Whitewater Rivers and portions of the San Bernardino Valley area along the Santa Ana River are classified as MRZ-2. The project alignment crosses two designated MRZ-2 areas, one where the alignment crosses Whitewater River, and the second in eastern Banning where the alignment crosses the San Gorgonio River.

D.12.1.2 Environmental Setting by Segment

D.12.1.2.1 Segment 1: San Bernardino

No mineral resources other than potential sources of sand and gravel near the Santa Ana River wash are identified along this segment of the Proposed WODUP route.

D.12.1.2.2 Segment 2: Colton and Loma Linda

No mineral resources other than potential sources of sand and gravel near the Santa Ana River wash are identified along this segment of the Proposed WODUP route.

D.12.1.2.3 Segment 3: San Timoteo Canyon

No known mineral resources or MRZ-2 zones were identified for this segment.

D.12.1.2.4 Segment 4: Beaumont and Banning

No known mineral resources or MRZ-2 zones were identified for this segment.

D.12.1.2.5 Segment 5: Morongo Tribal Lands and Surrounding Areas

Segment 5 crosses an identified MRZ-2 zone in the area where the alignment crosses the San Gorgonio River. One mineral resource site was identified by the MRDS database within the ROW of this segment, a sand and gravel quarry located along the San Gorgonio River just northeast of Banning. The quarry, Robertson's Ready Mix's Banning Rock Plant No. 66, is partially located within the above mentioned MRZ-2 zone and is roughly located along the proposed route between towers 5N47/5S47 and 5N49/5S49. (For reference, tower locations are shown on the figures in Appendix 2 (Detailed Project Maps.) Within the quarry boundaries, two sets of towers (5N48/5S48 and 5N49/5S49) for the new 220 kV transmission lines are being constructed and two Devers-Vista #1 towers (T157 and T159) are being removed. No other known mineral resources were identified in this segment.

D.12.1.2.6 Segment 6: Whitewater and Devers

Segment 6 crosses an identified MRZ-2 zone where the alignment crosses Whitewater River; however, no towers or project components are planned in this area. One mineral resource site was identified by the MRDS database within the ROW of this segment, the Whitewater quarry, a former sand and gravel quarry located on the west side of the Whitewater River immediately south of where the alignment crosses the river. This quarry is owned by Metropolitan Water District and is no longer active. No other known mineral resources were identified in this segment.

D.12.1.3 Environmental Setting for Connected Actions

Desert Center Area. The Desert Center area includes mostly BLM lands with some private lands under the jurisdiction of Riverside County. Two known connected actions to the Proposed Project are both in the Desert Center area: the Palen Solar Power Plant and the Desert Harvest Solar Project. The Palen project site is approximately 0.25 miles north of I-10 and 10 miles east of Desert Center. The analysis for mineral resources found that there are no active mining claims or mineral leases within the site; however, the area is classified as prospectively valuable for geothermal resources, which means that it has moderate potential for the occurrence of geothermal resources and prospecting is still a viable potential use (BLM, 2013).

According to the Final EIS for the Desert Harvest Solar Project, the solar facility site is within the MRZ-4 designation, as classified by the State Geologist in accordance with the State Mining and Geology Board's priority list. This designation indicates areas where there is not enough information available to determine the presence or absence of mineral deposits (BLM, 2012). The other solar PV projects in the area are assumed to have a similar lack of information.

The USGS's MRDS identified several mineral resource sites in the Desert Center area. The majority of the mineral resources shown in this large geographic area are prospects, which are areas that are not under active mining operations. The mining operations shown on the MRDS include present and past producers of metallic (copper, silver, gold, etc.) and non-metallic mineral resources (stone, sand, gravel, etc.) (USGS, 2014).

Blythe Area. The Blythe area is in eastern Riverside County and includes privately owned developed, undeveloped, and agricultural lands in eastern Riverside County, as well as BLM administered lands. The Blythe Mesa Solar Project is proposed in this area. However, as discussed in Draft EIR/EA for this project, mineral resources are not present or not affected by the Blythe Mesa Solar Project or its alternative, and therefore not discussed in detail in the Draft EIR/EA (BLM and Riverside County, 2014).

The USGS's MRDS identifies several mineral resource sites in the Blythe Area. The majority of the mineral resources shown include past producers of metallic (gold, silver, uranium etc.) and non-metallic mineral resources (stone, sand, gravel, etc.) (USGS, 2014). Depending on their location, the solar PV projects in the area could be sited at or near a mineral extraction site.

D.12.2 Applicable Regulations, Plans, and Standards

Mineral resources are governed primarily by state and local jurisdictions. When addressed locally, mineral resources may be discussed in land use, conservation, and/or open space elements of a city or county general plan. Relevant, and potentially relevant, statutes, regulations, and policies are discussed below.

D.12.2.1 Federal

Mining and Mineral Policy Act of 1970. The Mining and Mineral Policy Act of 1970 is intended to foster and encourage private enterprise in the development of a stable domestic minerals industry and the orderly and economic development of domestic mineral resources. This statute established modern Federal policy regarding mineral resources in the United States, and it encompasses both hard rock mining and oil and gas production and established modern Federal policy regarding mineral resources in the United States. The Act applies to all minerals, including sand and gravel, geothermal, coal, and oil and gas that are subject to Department of Interior jurisdiction, including Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands.

D.12.2.2 State

California Surface Mining and Reclamation Act. SMARA was enacted in 1975 and mandates MRZ classifications by the State Geologist in order to help identify and protect mineral resources in areas within the State subject to urban expansion or other irreversible land uses that would preclude mineral extraction. SMARA also allows the State Mining and Geology Board to designate lands containing mineral deposits of regional or statewide significance after receiving classification information from the State Geologist. The law provides for significant mineral resources to be recognized and considered before land use decisions are made that compromise the availability of these resources.

D.12.2.3 Local

Both the San Bernardino and Riverside County General Plans identify goals and policies related to mineral resources and their extraction. Relevant sections of these plans are presented below.

San Bernardino County (SBC) General Plan

Land Use Element (SBC2007)

GOAL LU 7. The distribution of land uses will be consistent with the maintenance of environmental quality, conservation of natural resources, and the preservation of open spaces.

Policies LU 7.1 Ensure that land use developments within the state-delineated Mineral Resource Zones (MRZs) are in accordance with the adopted mineral resources management policies of the County.

Conservation Element (SBC, 2011)

GOAL CO 7. The County will protect the current and future extraction of mineral resources that are important to the County's economy while minimizing impacts of this use on the public and the environment.

Policies CO 7.1 In areas containing valuable mineral resources, establish and implement conditions, criteria, and standards that are designed to protect the access to, and economic use of, these resources, provided that the mineral extraction does not result in significant adverse environmental effects and that open space uses have been considered for the area once mining operations cease.

CO 7.2 Implement the state Mineral Resource Zone (MRZ) designations to establish a system that identifies mineral potential and economically viable reserves.

CO 7.3 Mining operators/owners will provide buffers between mineral resources (including access routes) and abutting incompatible land uses. New mineral and non-mineral development in these zones will be designed and reviewed according to the compatibility criteria specified in this policy.

CO 7.4 Review land development and mining proposals near potentially incompatible land uses with the goal of achieving land use compatibility between potentially incompatible uses.

CO 7.5 Protect existing mining access routes by giving them priority over proposed alterations to the land, or by accommodating the mining operations with as good or better alternate access, provided the alternate access does not adversely impact proposed open space areas or trail alignment.

Riverside County (RC) General Plan

Multipurpose Open Space Element (RC, 2013)

Policies

OS 14.1 Require that the operation and reclamation of surface mines be consistent with the State Surface Mining and Reclamation Act (SMARA) and County Development Code provisions.

OS 14.2 Restrict incompatible land uses within the impact area of existing or potential surface mining areas.

OS 14.3 Restrict land uses incompatible with mineral resource recovery within areas designated Open Space-Mineral Resources. (AI 11)

OS 14.5 Require that new non-mining land uses adjacent to existing mining operations be designed to provide a buffer between the new development and the mining operations. The buffer distance shall be based on an evaluation of noise, aesthetics, drainage, operating conditions, biological resources, topography, lighting, traffic, operating hours, and air quality.

Land Use Element (RC, 2014)

Policies

The following policies apply to properties designated as Open Space-Mineral Resources on the area plan land use maps.

LU 21.1 Require that surface mining activities and lands containing mineral deposits of statewide or of regional significance comply with Riverside County Ordinances and the SMARA.

LU 21.2 Protect lands designated as Open Space-Mineral Resource from encroachment of incompatible land uses through buffer zones or visual screening. (AI 3)

LU 21.3 Protect road access to mining activities and prevent or mitigate traffic conflicts with surrounding properties.

City General Plans

The cities of Beaumont, Calimesa, Grand Terrace, Loma Linda, and San Bernardino do not identify policies pertaining to mineral resources, and no mineral resource areas are identified within these cities.

City of Banning

Energy and Mineral Resources Element (Banning, 2006), Policy 5 Assure a balance between the availability of mineral resources and the compatibility of land uses in areas where mineral resources are mined.

City of Colton

Open Space and Conservation Element (Colton, 1987), Principle 4 Protect significant mineral deposit sites from irreplaceable resource extraction until a regional shortage or impending need can be demonstrated when permit approvals guarantee restoration of such areas to their natural state.

City of Redlands

Open Space and Conservation Element (Redlands, 1998), Guiding Policies: Construction Aggregates

7.42a Conserve sufficient aggregate resources to allow conversion of two 50-year supplies (approximately 2,400 acres) of aggregate reserves to meet the Planning Area's contribution to future regional needs.

7.42b Manage aggregate resources to ensure that extraction results in the fewest environmental impacts. Require preparation and assured implementation of a reclamation plan for aggregate extraction sites as a condition of approval of mining.

D.12.3 Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Project

D.12.3.1 Approach to Impact Assessment

Potential impacts to mineral resources were considered in this analysis. The California Geological Survey (CGS) provides information about California's non-fuel mineral resources. The CGS's Mineral Resources Project classifies lands throughout the State that contain regionally significant mineral resources as mandated by SMARA. Development generally results in a demand for minerals, especially construction aggregate. The presence or absence of significant sand, gravel, or stone deposits that are suitable sources of aggregate are classified as MRZs.

D.12.3.1.1 Applicant Proposed Measures

Table D.12-1 presents the Applicant Proposed Measures (APMs) that SCE has committed to implementing during construction and operation of the Proposed Project. If revision or expansion of any APM is found to be required based on the analysis in this EIR/EIS, those changes are explained in Section D.12.3.3 (Impact Analysis).

Table D.12-1. Applicant Proposed Measures for Minerals

APM	Description
APM MIN-1	To minimize interference with mining operations at Robertson's Ready Mix Banning Rock Plant #66, SCE will coordinate with the owner/operator to avoid critical mining periods and high volume earthmoving days and will document said coordination.

D.12.3.2 CEQA Significance Criteria

The following significance criteria for mineral resources have been identified based on the CEQA Appendix G Environmental Checklist and adjusted for relevance to this analysis based on local conditions and the project description. For purposes of the CEQA analysis for this project, an impact would be considered significant and require additional mitigation if project construction or if maintenance of project facilities during project operations would result in any of the following criteria being met.

- 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 plan.

D.12.3.3 Impacts and Mitigation Measures

This section presents discussion of impacts related to mineral resources and mitigation measures for the Proposed Project. Resource conditions were evaluated with respect to the impacts the project may have on local mineral resources.

Impact MR-1: Construction activities would render known mineral resources inaccessible.

Segment 5 crosses an active sand and gravel quarry operated by Robertson's Ready Mix at the north-eastern edge of the City of Banning. The segment crosses the quarry roughly between towers 5N47/5S47 and 5N49/5S49 (see Appendix 2 for tower locations). The Proposed Project would entail the removal of existing poles and conductors along the two existing alignments through the quarry and construction of new TSPs and LSTs in a single ROW shifted slightly to the northeast of the Devers-Vista #1 ROW. While the project would result in a shift in the location of the transmission corridor at Banning Rock Plant No. 66, the total number of transmission line corridors through the quarry would be reduced, potentially opening up new mineral resource quarrying locations. After construction of the project, conditions would be very similar to the existing condition in the quarry would therefore not reduce accessibility to the sand and gravel resources. However, construction operations for the project could potentially interfere with daily ongoing mining operations at the quarry. Construction impacts to known mineral resources would be temporary and would not result in the loss of availability of those resources.

Mitigation Measure for Impact MR-1 (Construction activities would render known mineral resources inaccessible)

As described in Section D.12.3.1.1, APM MIN-1 proposed by SCE is to minimize interference with mining operations. However, APM MIN-1 is not adequately detailed. Therefore, APM MIN-1 is superseded by Mitigation Measure MR-1a (Coordinate with quarry operations), which would reduce the potential to interfere with quarry operations and render mineral resources temporarily inaccessible.

MR-1a **Coordinate with quarry operations.** Prior to construction within the Banning Rock Plant No. 66, SCE would consult with the plant owners and plant operations and management personnel. The consultation will include identification of locations of active mining and coordination of construction activities in and through those areas and to determine the best way to proceed with project construction, all with the goal of minimizing any disruption to plant operations. A plan to avoid or minimize interference with mining operations shall be prepared in conjunction with the quarry operators prior to construction. Prior to construction in the quarry area, SCE shall provide CPUC and BLM documentation that an agreement has been reached with the quarry

D.12.3.4 Impacts of Connected Actions

Impact MR-1: Construction activities would render known mineral resources inaccessible

As discussed in the environmental setting (Section D.2.1.3), there are no known designations or active mineral operations in the project areas of the known connected solar projects. However, the USGS's MRDS does show present and past mineral producers in the Desert Center and Blythe areas. Therefore, construction and operation activities associated with the connected solar PV projects could interfere with active mining activities. This would be similar to the Proposed Project, where interference would be temporary and would not result in the loss of availability of those resources. If this impact were to occur, Mitigation Measure MR-1a (Coordinate with quarry operations) would reduce the potential to interfere with quarry (or mining) operations.

D.12.3.5 CEQA Significance Determination for Proposed Project and Connected Actions

Impact MR-1: Construction activities would render known mineral resources inaccessible (Class II)

In the Proposed Project, Segment 5 crosses an active sand and gravel quarry operated by Robertson's Ready Mix at the northeastern edge of the City of Banning. Construction of the project could potentially interfere with daily ongoing mining operations at the quarry. Construction impacts to known mineral resources would be temporary and would not result in the loss of availability of those resources. Mitigation Measure MR-1a (Coordinate with quarry operations) would reduce the potential to interfere with quarry operations and render mineral resources temporarily inaccessible by coordination with quarry operators and preparation of a plan to minimize interference with plant operations. This impact would be less than significant with mitigation (Class II).

For the connected solar projects, as with the Proposed Project, construction impacts to known mineral resources would be temporary and would not result in the loss of availability of those resources. Mitigation Measure MR-1a (Coordinate with quarry operations) would reduce the potential to interfere with quarry (or mining) operations and render mineral resources temporarily inaccessible by coordination with operators and preparation of a plan to minimize interference with plant operations. This impact would be less than significant with mitigation (Class II).

D.12.4 Environmental Impacts of Project Alternatives

Three alternatives are considered in this section; all of these alternatives would be located within the existing WOD ROW. The No Project/No Action Alternative is evaluated in Section D.12.5. Alternatives are described in detail in Appendix 5 (Alternatives Screening Report) and are summarized in Section C.

Mineral resources within the ROW are described by segment in Section D.12.1.2 above; the description of the environmental setting would apply equally to the alternatives.

D.12.4.1 Tower Relocation Alternative

The Tower Relocation Alternative would locate certain transmission structures in Segments 4 and 6 farther from existing homes than would be the case under the Proposed Project.

One impact related to mineral resources was identified for the Proposed Project. This impact also would apply to the Tower Relocation Alternative, which overall would be the same as the Proposed Project, with the exception of the relocated transmission towers that are described above and in Appendix 5. The full text of all mitigation measures referenced in this section is presented in Section D.12.3.3, except where otherwise noted.

Impact MR-1: Construction activities would render known mineral resources inaccessible

None of the relocated towers would be located in an area containing active mining operations. Also, the continuing operational presence of the relocated towers would not render known mineral resources inaccessible.

CEQA Significance Determination for Tower Relocation Alternative

The CEQA significance determination for the mineral resources impact in this alternative is presented below.

Impact MR-1: Construction activities would render known mineral resources inaccessible (No Impact)

None of the relocated towers would be located in an area containing active mining operations. Also, the continuing operational presence of the relocated towers would not render known mineral resources inaccessible. No mitigation is required for this alternative and no impact would occur (No Impact).

D.12.4.2 Iowa Street 66 kV Underground Alternative

The Iowa Street 66 kV Underground Alternative would place a 1,600-foot segment of subtransmission line underground, rather than overhead.

One impact related to mineral resources was identified for the Proposed Project. This impact also would apply to the Iowa Street 66 kV Underground Alternative, which overall would be the same as the Proposed Project, with the exception of the underground portion of the subtransmission line that is described above and in Appendix 5. The full text of all mitigation measures referenced in this section is presented in Section D.12.3.3, except where otherwise noted.

Impact MR-1: Construction activities would render known mineral resources inaccessible

The underground portion of the subtransmission line in this alternative would not be located in an area containing active mining operations. Also, the continuing operational presence of the underground line would not render known mineral resources inaccessible, as the line would be located within the existing road.

CEQA Significance Determination for Iowa Street 66 kV Underground Alternative

The CEQA significance determination for the mineral resources impact in this alternative is presented below.

Impact MR-1: Construction activities would render known mineral resources inaccessible (No Impact)

The underground subtransmission line would not be located in an area containing active mining operations. The continuing operational presence of the underground line would not render known mineral resources inaccessible, as the line would be located in the existing road. No mitigation is required for this alternative and no impact would occur (No Impact).

D.12.4.3 Phased Build Alternative

The Phased Build Alternative would retain existing double-circuit 220 kV transmission structures to the extent feasible, remove single-circuit structures, add new double-circuit 220 kV structures, and string all structures with higher-capacity conductors.

One impact related to mineral resources was identified for the Proposed Project. This impact also would apply to the Phased Build Alternative. The full text of the mitigation measure referenced in this section is presented in Section D.12.3.3.

Impact MR-1: Construction activities would render known mineral resources inaccessible

Construction of the Phased Build Alternative would occur in the same ROW as would the Proposed Project. This includes construction in active mining operations at the western edge of Segment 5, where the alignment crosses an active sand and gravel quarry operated by Robertson's Ready Mix at the northeastern edge of the City of Banning. Construction of this alternative could potentially interfere with daily

ongoing mining operations at the quarry. This interference would be similar to that associated with the Proposed Project, but less severe due to the retention of the existing double-circuit towers. Construction impacts to known mineral resources would be temporary and would not result in the loss of availability of those resources. Mitigation Measure MR-1a (Coordinate with quarry operations) would reduce the potential to interfere with quarry operations and render mineral resources temporarily inaccessible.

CEQA Significance Determination for Phased Build Alternative

The CEQA significance determination for the mineral resources impact in this alternative is presented below.

Impact MR-1: Construction activities would render known mineral resources inaccessible (Class II)

Under the Phased Build Alternative, work would occur in an area of active mining operations. This could disrupt daily operations. The continuing operational presence of the relocated towers would not render known mineral resources inaccessible.

Construction of some structures associated with the Phased Build Alternative would occur in an area of active mining operations and would be disruptive to those mining operations. As with the Proposed Project, construction impacts to known mineral resources under this alternative would be temporary and would not result in the loss of availability of those resources. Mitigation Measure MR-1a (Coordinate with quarry operations) would reduce the potential of this alternative to interfere with quarry operations and render mineral resources temporarily inaccessible. This impact would be less than significant with mitigation (Class II).

D.12.5 Environmental Impacts of No Project / No Action Alternative

D.12.5.1 No Project Alternative Option 1

The No Project/No Action Alternative (No Project Alternative) Option 1 is described in Section C.6.3.1. It would consist of a new 500 kV circuit, primarily following the Devers-Valley transmission corridor and extending 26 miles between Devers Substation. It would also require a new 40-acre substation south of Beaumont, and 4 new 220 kV circuits extending 7 miles from the new Beaumont Substation to El Casco Substation, primarily following the existing El Casco 115 kV ROW. The remainder of the No Project Alternative, from El Casco Substation to the San Bernardino and Vista Substations, would be identical to the Proposed Project. Information on environmental resources and project impacts is derived from the Devers–Palo Verde 500 kV No. 2 Project EIR/EIS (CPUC and BLM, 2006) and the El Casco System Project Draft EIR (CPUC, 2007); which include nearly all of the No Project alignment.

No Project Alternative Transmission Lines and Beaumont Substation. During development of the Devers-Valley 500 kV line and the El Casco 115 kV line, which cover the area for the No Project Alternative, no mineral resources were identified that were actively being mined. Because of the relatively small footprint of individual transmission poles or towers, construction of transmission lines would have minimal effect on mineral resources and their availability in the future. In the analysis of the Devers to Valley transmission line, the DPV2 EIR/EIS identified 5 mineral resource sites near the alignment. All were greater than 100 feet from the ROW.

D.12.5.2 No Project Alternative Option 2

No Project Alternative Option 2 would require the construction of over 40 miles of new 500 kV transmission line, following the existing Valley-Serrano 500 kV line. The alternative is described in Section C.6.3.2, and illustrated on Figure C-6b. The USGS Mineral Resources Data System shows the presence of mineral resources throughout the lands surrounding the alternative route. Typical mineral resource deposits in the region include aggregate such as sand and gravel.

There are no active mining sites within the existing ROW, but several active mining operations are located near the corridor. Nearby active mining operations were identified at four locations, including: 1 mile south of the ROW near MP 13.5, 0.2 miles north of the ROW near MP 19.5, 1.5 miles southwest of the ROW near MP 21.5, and 0.7 miles south of Serrano Substation. Because the new 500 kV circuit would be constructed mostly within or adjacent to the existing ROW, it is not anticipated that any of the nearby mining operations would be interrupted during either construction or operation of this alternative. Because this alternative would be located within an existing transmission corridor, and because the permanent footprint of the new transmission structures would be small and dispersed along the length of the route, construction and operation of this alternative is unlikely to preclude the long-term availability of mineral resources.

D.12.6 Mitigation Monitoring, Compliance, and Reporting

Table D.12-2 presents the mitigation monitoring, compliance, and reporting actions for minerals.

Table D.12-2. Mitigation Monitoring Program – Mineral Resources

MITIGATION MEASURE	**MR-1a: Coordinate with quarry operations.** Prior to construction within the Banning Rock Plant No. 66, SCE would consult with the plant owners and plant operations and management personnel. The consultation will include identification of locations of active mining and coordination of construction activities in and through those areas and to determine the best way to proceed with project construction, all with the goal of minimizing any disruption to plant operations. A plan to avoid or minimize interference with mining operations shall be prepared in conjunction with the quarry operators prior to construction. Prior to construction in the quarry area, SCE shall provide CPUC and BLM documentation that an agreement has been reached with the quarry
Location	Banning Rock Plant No. 66 quarry.
Monitoring / Reporting Action	CPUC/BLM monitor verifies that SCE submits documentation of an agreement with the quarry.
Effectiveness Criteria	Quarry operations are not unduly disrupted by transmission line construction.
Responsible Agency	CPUC/BLM
Timing	Prior to construction in quarry area.

D.12.7 References

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