

4.11 Mineral Resources

This section describes the mineral resources in the area of the Proposed Project. The potential impacts of the Proposed Project and the Alternative Project are also discussed. For purposes of this section, Project Study Area is defined as the locations where work described in Chapter 3.0, Project Description, would be performed. An additional Project Study Area buffer is not included because mineral resource deposits are described based on broad classifications or zones; therefore, future minor modifications to Proposed Project design would not substantially alter potential impacts.

For the purposes of this assessment, mineral resources include oil, natural gas, and metallic and nonmetallic deposits, including construction aggregates. Information was obtained directly from maps, the interpretation of aerial photographs, and from plans and other documents associated with the various jurisdictions where the Proposed Project is located.

4.11.1 Environmental Setting

The Project Study Area includes the cities of Banning, Beaumont, Calimesa, Colton, Grand Terrace, Loma Linda, Palm Springs, Redlands, Rancho Cucamonga, San Bernardino, and Yucaipa, and unincorporated areas of Riverside and San Bernardino counties. The Proposed Project component in the City of Rancho Cucamonga is limited to improvements within the Mechanical Electrical Equipment Room (MEER) at Etiwanda Substation. The extent of this work within an existing facility would not have the potential to affect mineral resources in the City of Rancho Cucamonga; therefore, the City of Rancho Cucamonga is not included for further discussion.

This section describes the extent and nature of Mineral Resource Zones (MRZs) in the Project Study Area, the role of mineral resources in the local economy, and the mineral resource extraction uses in the Project Study Area. Information was obtained from the California Department of Conservation, Division of Mines and Geology (CDMG), and from local General Plans and zoning maps. There are portions of the project alignment that are currently designated as MRZs within the Project Study Area.

In the context of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), mineral resources are land areas or deposits deemed significant by the California Department of Conservation. Mineral resources include oil, natural gas, and metallic and nonmetallic deposits, including aggregate resources.

Mineral resources in Riverside County include metallic and nonmetallic minerals and construction aggregates. Riverside County has diversified mineral resources that have been important to the development of the area. Metallic and nonmetallic minerals have been mined in Riverside County during the last 160 years. Currently, the majority of minerals-based production in Riverside County is in rock commodities. The rock, sand and base material quarry known as “Banning Rock Plant 66” is located within the Project Study Area (Segment 5).

Similarly, the mineral resources in San Bernardino County include metallic and nonmetallic minerals and construction aggregates. According to the California Department of Conservation (1995), San Bernardino County contains 70 active mines. No known active mines are located within the portion of the Project Study Area within San Bernardino County.

The California Department of Conservation, Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources (DOGGR) is responsible for producing an annual report identifying the total amount of oil and gas produced in each county. Based on the *2010 Annual Report of the State Oil & Gas Supervisor*, Riverside County produced no gas or oil during the 2010 reporting period. San Bernardino County produced 8,413 barrels of oil and 60 million cubic feet of natural gas (DOGGR 2010). No known oil, gas, or geothermal resources are located in or adjacent to the Project Study Area.

4.11.1.1 Mineral Resources

The CDMG and the 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.

The areas are categorized into four MRZs:

- **MRZ-1:** An area where adequate information indicates that no significant mineral deposits are present, or where it is judged that little likelihood exists for their presence.
- **MRZ-2:** An area where adequate information indicates that significant mineral deposits are present (deposits that are marketable under present technologic and economic conditions or which can be estimated to exist in the foreseeable future, and that contain in excess of \$5 million worth of aggregate material in 1978 – equivalent dollars), or where it is judged that a high likelihood exists for their presence.
- **MRZ-3:** An area containing mineral deposits, the significance of which cannot be evaluated.
- **MRZ-4:** An area where available information is inadequate for assignment to any other MRZ zone.

Of the four categories, lands classified as MRZ-2 are of the greatest importance. Such areas are 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.”

In many regions, large portions of the areas classified as MRZ-2 are already committed to various urban uses that limit or prohibit access to underlying resources. As an aid to local planning agencies, classification reports prepared for metropolitan areas also identify MRZ-2 areas that have not been urbanized. These non-urbanized areas, called resource sectors, are areas judged to contain a significant deposit of construction quality aggregate

that is available, from a general land use perspective, to meet future needs (50 years) of the region. In other words, areas currently permitted for mining and areas found to have land uses compatible with possible mining are identified as sectors. No resource sectors are identified within the Project Study Area.

The database¹ maintained by the State Mining and Geology Board does not include MRZ information for the project study area. Since information pertaining to MRZs was not available, the General Plans of local jurisdictions within the Counties of Riverside and San Bernardino were utilized to identify mineral resources. Information contained within the Riverside County Integrated Project General Plan Final Program Environmental Impact Report (EIR) (County of Riverside 2003) identifies MRZs within the County. For the portion of the Project Area located within Riverside County, areas classified as MRZ-2 are identified within the community of Cabazon and the City of Banning, where the Whitewater River wash area heads south. The remaining portions of Riverside County in the vicinity of the Proposed Project alignment are designated as MRZ-3 or are unstudied.

The MRZ-2 designation located within the City of Banning applies to approximately 6.5 square miles of land along the alluvial fan of the San Gorgonio River that lie southeast of the Banning Bench, north and south of I-10 approximately 684 feet to the south of the Proposed Project alignment at its closest point. The alluvial deposit underlying the river consists of approximately 65 percent gravel with boulders up to 2 feet in diameter and the remaining portion consisting primarily of sand. The coarse clasts found at this location are predominantly metamorphic rocks with minor amounts of granitic rocks (State Mining and Geology Board 1987). The balance of the City of Banning is designated as “Unstudied,” with no portion of the planning area designated as MRZ-1 or MRZ-4. Robertson’s Ready Mix, located adjacent to the proposed 220 kilovolt (kV) transmission line right of way (ROW) of Segment 5, operates a quarry known as the Banning Rock Plant No. 66, which mines for rock, sand, and base materials used for concrete and construction. This quarry is located in MRZ-2 in the northeastern portion of the City between North Hathaway Street and North Hargrave Street. Sand and gravel, collectively referred to as aggregate, are the primary mineral resources that are actively being developed in the eastern portion of Banning (City of Banning 2006).

There are potential aggregate resources located adjacent to the drainage areas found in the western portion of the City of Beaumont; however, there have been no significant mineral deposits found in the City of Beaumont (City of Beaumont 2007). The City of Calimesa does not contain any significant sand, gravel, or rock resources (City of Calimesa 1994).

Information contained within the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act (SMARA) Mineral Land Classification of the Greater Los Angeles Area, Special Report 143, Part

¹ The database refers to the collection of mineral land classification maps and reports produced by staff of the California Geologic Survey’s Surface Mining and Reclamation Act (SMARA) Mineral Land Classification Project.

VII (State Mining and Geology Board 1987), identifies mineral resource areas within the San Bernardino Production-Consumption (P-C) region where a portion of the Proposed Project alignment is located. Within San Bernardino County, no portions of the Proposed Project alignment are designated as MRZ-2.

4.11.2 Regulatory Setting

4.11.2.1 Federal Regulatory Setting

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.

California Desert Conservation Area Plan

In 1976, Congress required the preparation of a comprehensive long-range plan for the California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA). The purpose of the plan is to establish guidance for the management of the public lands of the California desert by the BLM. The CDCA Plan includes a Geology, Energy, and Mineral Resources Element, which includes the goals of assuring the availability of known mineral resource lands for exploration and development, and encouraging the development of mineral resources in a manner which satisfies national and local needs and provides for economically and environmentally sound exploration, extraction, and reclamation processes (BLM 1980).

4.11.2.2 State Regulatory Setting

California Surface Mining and Reclamation Act

The California SMARA of 1975 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.

4.11.2.3 Local Regulatory Setting

The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) has jurisdiction over the siting and design of the Proposed Project because the CPUC regulates and authorizes the construction of investor-owned utility (IOU) facilities. Although such projects are exempt from local land use and zoning regulations and permitting, General Order (GO) No. 131-D, Section III.C requires “the utility to communicate with, and obtain the input of, local authorities regarding land-use matters and obtain any nondiscretionary local permits.” Table 4.11-1, Local Land Use Documents Related to Mineral Resources Applicable to the Proposed Project, summarizes key policies in local land use plans applicable to mineral resources. No portion of the project alignment is within an area zoned for mineral resource extraction.

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. The City of Yucaipa is outside the MRZ-2 area; however, the City of Yucaipa identifies policies that are applicable to mineral resources.

Table 4.11-1: Local Land Use Documents Related to Mineral Resources Applicable to the Proposed Project

Jurisdiction	Policy
City of Banning General Plan	<p>Policy 5 Assure a balance between the availability of mineral resources and the compatibility of land uses in areas where mineral resources are mined.</p> <p>Program 5.A The City shall monitor and regulate the safe and environmentally responsible extraction and recycling of significant mineral resources located within the planning area.</p> <p>Program 5.B The City shall establish a formal relationship with the County Geologist or other qualified agency to monitor mineral resource operations under SMARA.</p> <p>Program 5.C The City shall strictly enforce the provisions of the existing mining permit within City limits.</p>
City of Colton General Plan	<p>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.</p>
City of Palm Springs General Plan	<p>Goal RC8: Employ the efficient, sustainable, and environmentally appropriate use and management of energy and mineral resources to ensure their availability for future generations.</p> <p>Policy RC8.7: Require that new, non-mining land uses located adjacent to existing mining operations provide appropriate buffers between the uses. The buffer distance shall be based on evaluation of noise, aesthetics, drainage, operating conditions, biological resources, topography, lighting, traffic, operating hours, and air quality.</p>
City of Redlands General Plan	<p>Guiding Policies: Construction Aggregates</p> <p>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.</p> <p>7.42b Manage aggregate resources to ensure that extraction results in the fewest environmental impacts. Require preparation and assured implementation of a</p>

Table 4.11-1: Local Land Use Documents Related to Mineral Resources Applicable to the Proposed Project

Jurisdiction	Policy
	<p>reclamation plan for aggregate extraction sites as a condition of approval of mining.</p> <p>7.42c Reserve designated MRZ areas outside the Santa Ana Wash for agricultural or urban use.</p>
<p>City of Yucaipa General Plan</p>	<p>OS-3 A: Because the need for minerals is a present and future requirement for the City’s development and well-being, the City shall participate in the establishment of a County-wide mineral resource information, storage and retrieval system that will pursue the following actions.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Solicit, coordinate, and acknowledge lands designated by the State Mining and Geology Board and classified by the State Geologist 2. Incorporate the mineral classification or designation information, including the maps, where they are completed by the State Mining and Geology Board and the Division of Mines and Geology, including new and updated information. 3. Recognize and protect areas within the City that show or have proven to have significant mineral resources, and protect access to those areas. 4. Protect mineral resources and access from incompatible land uses. 5. Maintain and coordinate files and records to be kept with the Planning Department of the City. <p>OS-3 D: Because the City of Yucaipa needs to support mineral extraction and processing operations, the City shall implement the following actions.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Adopt a Mining/Reclamation application form that requests information necessary to assure compliance with the requirements of SMARA and the City. 2. Provide for natural resource management in the development of Specific Plans and other planning efforts within the undeveloped portions of the City. 3. Provide methods and procedures to review Mining/Reclamation Plans and methods for the extraction and processing of mineral resources. Assure adequate recovery of mineral resources, and provide for the reclamation of mined lands before issuing permits. 4. Provide for the monitoring of mining operations for compliance with the established operating guidelines, conditions of approval and the reclamation plan.
<p>County of Riverside, Multipurpose Open Space Element</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>OS 14.2 Restrict incompatible land uses within the impact area of existing or potential surface mining areas.</p> <p>OS 14.3 Restrict land uses incompatible with mineral resource recovery within areas designated Open Space-Mineral Resources. (AI 11)</p> <p>OS 14.4 Impose conditions as necessary on mining operations to minimize or eliminate the potential adverse impact of mining operations on surrounding properties, and environmental resources.</p> <p>OS 14.5 Require that new nonmining 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,</p>

Table 4.11-1: Local Land Use Documents Related to Mineral Resources Applicable to the Proposed Project

Jurisdiction	Policy
	<p>lighting, traffic, operating hours, and air quality.</p> <p>OS 14.6 Accept California Land Conservation (Williamson Act) contracts on land identified by the State as containing significant mineral deposits subject to the use and acreage limitations established by the County.</p> <p>Reche Canyon/Badlands Area Plan 15.1 Limit the future conversion of mining operations to uses that are compatible with the surrounding area.</p>
County of San Bernardino General Plan	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>CO 7.2 Implement the State Mineral Resource Zone (MRZ) designations to establish a system that identifies mineral potential and economically viable reserves.</p> <p>CO 7.3 Mining operators/owners will provide buffers between mineral resources (including access routes) and abutting incompatible land uses. New mineral and nonmineral development in these zones will be designed and reviewed according to the compatibility criteria specified in this policy.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>CO 7.6 Provide for the monitoring of mining operations for compliance with the established operating guidelines, conditions of approval and the reclamation plan.</p>

Morongo Reservation

The Proposed Project will traverse approximately 8 miles of the tribal trust lands of the Morongo Indian Reservation east of Banning, California. Except for approximately two miles of new corridor between Malki Road and the western boundary of the Reservation, the Proposed Project will utilize the transmission corridor that has been used by existing SCE 220 kV transmission lines starting in 1945, and as subsequently expanded. Matters concerning the use of the Reservation's trust lands are subject to approval by the Morongo Band's General Membership, which consists of all enrolled adult voting members. With limited exceptions, the Morongo Band does not release its internal ordinances and other laws to the public.

The Morongo Band's General Membership has voted to approve the Bureau of Indian Affairs' grants to SCE of the rights of way and easements necessary for SCE to continue

operating its existing 220 kV facilities on the Morongo Reservation and to replace and upgrade those facilities with the WOD Project. The Morongo Band's approval of these grants of rights of way and easements includes relocating approximately two miles of the corridor west of Malki Road into a new corridor depicted on Figure 2-3, Proposed and Alternative Transmission Line Routes, as either the Proposed Project (Alternative 1) or the Alternative Project (1X). The existing corridor, plus either Alternative 1 or 1X, thus would be consistent with all applicable tribal laws, and are the only corridors approved by the Morongo Band for the continued operation and eventual replacement of SCE's 220 kV facilities on and across the trust lands of the Morongo Indian Reservation.

4.11.3 Significance Criteria

4.11.3.1 CEQA Significance Criteria

The significance criteria for assessing the impacts to mineral resources come from the CEQA Environmental Checklist. According to the CEQA Checklist, a project causes a potentially 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; and/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.

4.11.3.2 NEPA Analysis

Unlike CEQA, NEPA does not have specific significance criteria. However, NEPA regulations contain guidance regarding significance analysis. Specifically, consideration of "significance" involves an analysis of both context and intensity (Title 40 Code of Federal Regulations 1508.27).

4.11.4 Impact Analysis

4.11.4.1 CEQA Impact Assessment

Would the project 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?

Construction Impacts

Substation Modifications. There are no new substations proposed as part of the Proposed Project. Modifications to existing substation equipment would be performed to accommodate continuous and emergency power on the West of Devers (WOD) 220 kV transmission lines between Vista, San Bernardino, El Casco, Etiwanda, and Devers substations. Additionally, modifications to Timoteo and Tennessee substations would also be performed to accommodate the 66 kV subtransmission line relocations. All substation-related work would be conducted within the existing substation walls or fence lines. The Proposed Project would not result in changes to access, parking, drainage

patterns, or modifications to perimeter walls or fencing at the existing substations. Modifications to existing substation equipment would not result in the loss of availability of any known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the State, as no mineral resource extraction activities currently occur within existing substation locations. No impact would occur.

220 kV Transmission Lines. The Proposed Project would include the removal and upgrade of approximately 181 circuit miles of existing 220 kV line facilities (approximately 48 corridor miles), primarily within the existing WOD corridor. The Proposed Project would primarily be constructed on a combination of new 220 kV double-circuit lattice steel towers (LSTs), double-circuit tubular steel poles (TSPs), and single-phase TSPs. Each of the proposed 220 kV transmission lines would consist of overhead wires (conductors).

Access and spur roads would be used to access the planned removal and construction areas. SCE's existing access roads are located within SCE ROW/easements. New and/or expanded easements may be required to construct new access/spur roads.

Temporary wood and/or steel structures would be used to facilitate construction of the new 220 kV transmission lines and would function as guard structures and/or shoo-fly structures. These temporary structures would be direct-buried and/or guyed and removed following completion of construction for the particular location.

Relocation of existing distribution facilities would be required to accommodate relocation of 220 kV transmission infrastructure. Distribution work resulting from 220 kV transmission portion of the Proposed Project would include overhead and underground construction. Distribution work resulting from 220 kV transmission line work would be conducted in franchise² or newly acquired utility ROW. The Dental 12 kV circuit would be relocated to a new underground system (approximately 1.5 miles). The Intern 12 kV circuit would be relocated into the same new underground system as the Dental 12 kV circuit, and a portion would be underbuilt on an existing 66 kV subtransmission line. Additionally, the relocations of both the San Bernardino-Redlands-Timoteo 66 kV and the San Bernardino-Redlands-Tennessee 66 kV subtransmission lines would require the additional relocation of existing distribution circuits and associated equipment from existing poles to new subtransmission poles exclusively in Segment 1.

The 220 kV transmission line would be located in areas zoned MRZ-2 by the State Geologist, including an active aggregate quarry, Robertson's Ready Mix Banning Rock Plant No. 66. However, construction of the Proposed Project would not result in the loss of these mineral resources. Construction of the Proposed Project would involve drilling holes for the footings of TSPs and LSTs and the rehabilitation and construction of new access roads. Where the footings for the new TSPs and LSTs would be located as well as the new access roads, mineral resources would not be available for extraction. Construction activities may temporarily interrupt the operation of Banning Rock Plant

² The term "franchise" refers to utility infrastructure ROW agreements that SCE holds with local jurisdictions.

No. 66; however, it would not result in the loss of this mineral resource. The proposed project would entail the removal of existing poles and conductor along the existing alignment and the new TSPs and LSTs would be shifted slightly to the south to accommodate the new proposed alignment. While the Proposed Project would result in a shift in the location of the transmission corridor at Banning Rock Plant No. 66, the Proposed Project condition will be very similar to the existing condition. There would be no or negligible impact to quarry operations. Prior to construction within the Banning Rock Plant No. 66, SCE would consult with the plant owners to determine the best way to proceed with Proposed Project construction through the area with the goal of minimizing any disruption to plant operations. Upon completion of project construction in the Banning Rock Plant No. 66 area, aggregate mining activities would resume. Construction impacts to known mineral resources would be temporary and would not result in the loss of availability of those resources. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

66 kV Subtransmission Lines. The Proposed Project would require relocation of portions of the existing San Bernardino-Redlands-Timoteo (approximately 2 miles) and the San Bernardino-Redlands-Tennessee 66 kV (approximately 3.5 miles) subtransmission lines located within Segment 1 to new routes within existing ROW or franchise, or newly acquired ROW. The relocated 66 kV subtransmission lines would be constructed within new ROW or existing franchise. The areas in which relocations of existing 66 kV subtransmission lines would occur are not located in areas designated for mineral resource extraction. Modifications to existing 66 kV subtransmission lines would not result in the loss of availability of any known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the State, as no mineral resource extraction activities currently occur within areas proposed for the relocation of 66 kV subtransmission lines. No impact would occur.

Telecommunications. The new telecommunications infrastructure would include additions and modifications to the existing telecommunications system in order to maintain telecommunications operations during and after construction of the Proposed Project. The telecommunication infrastructure would be constructed in new and existing underground conduit and cable trench, and on existing riser, distribution and subtransmission poles. Additionally, removal of the fiber optic portions from the 220 kV existing structures to connections in the field and/or at existing substations would be required. The areas in which additions and modifications to telecommunications infrastructure would occur would not affect any areas designated for mineral resource extraction. Construction of new telecommunication infrastructure would not result in the loss of availability of any known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the State, as no mineral resource extraction activities currently occur within areas proposed for telecommunication infrastructure additions and modifications. No impact would occur.

Staging Yards. SCE anticipates using one or more of the possible temporary staging yards listed in Table 3.2-A, Potential Staging Yard Locations, and seen in Figure 3.2-1, Potential Staging Yard Locations, used as a reporting location for workers, vehicle and equipment parking, and material storage. Typically, each yard would be 3 to 20 acres in

size, depending on land availability and intended use. Preparation of the staging yard would include temporary perimeter fencing and, depending on existing ground conditions at the site, include the application of gravel or crushed rock. Any land that may be disturbed at the staging yard would be restored to pre-construction conditions or to conditions agreed upon between SCE and the landowner following the completion of construction for the Proposed Project. The areas in which staging yards are proposed would not affect any areas currently designated for mineral resource extraction. Preparation of project-related staging yards would not result in the loss of availability of any known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the State, as no mineral resource extraction activities or designations currently occur within areas proposed for staging yards. No impact would occur.

Construction of the Proposed Project would not 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. This impact would be less than significant.

Operation Impacts

Substation Modifications. As previously identified, there are no new substations proposed as part of the Proposed Project. The Proposed Project would not result in changes to access, parking, drainage patterns, or modifications to perimeter walls or fencing at the existing substations. Maintenance activities associated with existing substations would continue to occur as currently implemented and would not result in the loss of availability of any known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the State, as no mineral resource extraction activities currently occur within existing substation locations. No impact would occur.

220 kV Transmission Lines. The proposed 220 kV transmission line relocation would be located in areas designated MRZ-2 by the State Geologist. MRZ-2 designated lands within the project limits are primarily located in Segment 5 on and adjacent to the Reservation. The Proposed Project primarily involves the removal of existing transmission infrastructure and the construction of new electrical towers and lines. The Proposed Project would not preclude MRZ-2 designated land from mineral resource production. Approximately 3.24 miles of the proposed 220 kV transmission line route would be located in MRZ-2 areas. Operation of the Proposed Project would include routine inspection and maintenance of the 220 kV transmission line; such activities would not result in a loss of availability of a known mineral resource. Therefore, the operation of the 220 kV transmission lines would be less than significant.

The Proposed Project would require removal and relocation of 12 kV distribution lines associated with the 220 kV transmission line work and the 66 kV subtransmission line work. Portions of the existing 12 kV circuit would be relocated in a new underground system as well as overhead placement. The relocated 12 kV distribution lines are not in an area designated for mineral resource extraction. The operation of relocated 12 kV distribution lines would not result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource. Impacts would be less than significant.

66 kV Subtransmission Lines. The Proposed Project would require removal of the existing San Bernardino-Redlands-Tennessee and the San Bernardino-Redlands-Timoteo 66 kV subtransmission lines and construction of new 66 kV subtransmission lines to an overhead position within existing ROW, franchise, or newly acquired ROW. The areas in which relocations of existing 66 kV subtransmission lines would occur are not located in areas designated for mineral resource extraction. Therefore, the operation of relocated 66 kV subtransmission lines in newly acquired ROW or existing franchise would not result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource, as no mineral resource extraction activities currently occur within areas proposed for new 66 kV subtransmission lines. No impact would occur.

Telecommunications. Telecommunications facilities would be removed and relocated as part of the Proposed Project. Equipment installation would occur within existing substations and within existing utility and street ROWs. Fiber optic cable would also be installed in a new underground system. The areas in which additions and modifications to telecommunications infrastructure would occur are not in areas designated for mineral resource extractions and would not result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource, as no mineral resource extraction activities currently occur within areas proposed for relocated telecommunication facilities. Impacts would be less than significant.

Operation of the Proposed Project would not 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. This impact would be less than significant.

Would the project 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?

Construction Impacts

Substation Modifications. Modifications to existing substation equipment would not result in the loss of availability of any known locally important mineral resource, as no mineral resource extraction activities currently occur within existing substation locations. No impact would occur.

220 kV Transmission Lines. The Proposed Project would be located in areas zoned MRZ-2, according to the County of Riverside General Plan, including the Banning Rock Plant No. 66 active aggregate quarry. The project activities at the quarry site include removal of existing transmission infrastructure and construction of new transmission infrastructure at a location adjacent to the existing corridor. As mentioned above, temporary impacts to facility operations may occur, but construction impacts to this known mineral resource would be temporary and would not result in the loss of availability of those resources; therefore, operation impacts would be less than significant.

66 kV Subtransmission Lines. The areas in which relocations of existing 66 kV subtransmission lines would occur are not located in areas designated for mineral resource extraction. Modifications to existing 66 kV subtransmission lines would not result in the loss of availability of any known locally important mineral resource that would be of value, as no mineral resource extraction activities currently occur within areas proposed for the relocation of 66 kV subtransmission lines. No impact would occur.

Telecommunications. The areas in which additions and modifications to telecommunications infrastructure would occur are not in areas designated for mineral resource extraction. Construction of new telecommunication infrastructure would not result in the loss of availability of any known locally important mineral resource, as no mineral resource extraction activities currently occur within areas proposed for telecommunication infrastructure additions and modifications. No impact would occur.

Staging Yards. The areas in which staging yards are proposed would not affect any areas currently designated for mineral resource extraction. Preparation of project-related staging yards would not result in the loss of availability of any known locally important mineral resource, as no mineral resource extraction activities currently occur within areas proposed for staging yards. No impact would occur.

Construction of the Proposed Project would not 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. This impact would be less than significant.

Operation Impacts

Substation Modifications. As previously identified, there are no new substations proposed as part of the Proposed Project. Maintenance activities associated with existing substations would continue to occur as currently implemented and would not result in the loss of availability of any known locally important mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the State, as no mineral resource extraction activities currently occur within existing substation locations. No impact would occur.

220 kV Transmission Lines. The proposed 220 kV transmission line relocation would be located in areas designated MRZ-2 by the State Geologist. MRZ-2 designated lands within the project limits are primarily located in Segment 5 on and adjacent to the Morongo Reservation. The Proposed Project primarily involves the removal of existing transmission infrastructure and the construction of new electrical towers and lines. The Proposed Project would not preclude MRZ-2 designated land from mineral resource production. Approximately 3.24 miles of the proposed 220 kV transmission line route would be located in MRZ-2 areas. Operation of the Proposed Project would include routine inspection and maintenance of the 220 kV transmission lines, similar to maintenance activities that currently occur. Such activities would not result in a loss of availability of a known mineral resource. Therefore, operation impacts would be less than significant.

The Proposed Project would require removal and relocation of 12 kV distribution lines associated with the 220 kV transmission line work and the 66 kV subtransmission line work. Portions of the existing 12 kV circuit would be relocated in a new underground system as well as overhead placement. 12 kV distribution lines are not located in MRZ-2 areas. The operation of the Proposed Project would not result in the loss of availability of a known locally important mineral resource, as existing mineral resource extraction activities would resume upon completion of construction.

66 kV Subtransmission Lines. The Proposed Project would require removal of the existing San Bernardino-Redlands-Tennessee and the San Bernardino-Redlands-Timoteo 66 kV subtransmission lines and construction of new 66 kV subtransmission lines to an overhead position within existing ROW, franchise, or newly acquired ROW. The relocated 66 kV subtransmission lines are not in areas designated for mineral resource extraction. The operation of relocated 66 kV subtransmission lines would not result in the loss of availability of a known locally important mineral resource, as no mineral resource extraction activities currently occur within areas proposed for new 66 kV subtransmission lines. No impact would occur.

Telecommunications. Telecommunications facilities would be relocated within existing substations and within existing utility and street ROWs. Fiber optic cable would also be installed in a new underground system. The areas in which additions and modifications to telecommunications infrastructure would occur are not in areas designated for mineral resource extraction. The operation of the telecommunications facilities would not result in the loss of availability of a known locally important mineral resource, as no mineral resource extraction activities currently occur within area proposed for relocated telecommunication facilities. No impact would occur.

Operation of the Proposed Project would not 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. This impact would be less than significant.

4.11.4.2 NEPA Impact Assessment

Based on the analysis performed, it is anticipated that the Proposed Project would not result in significant effects under NEPA.

4.11.5 Applicant Proposed Measures

Although the Proposed Project would result in less than significant impacts to mineral resources, an Applicant Proposed Measure has been included to further reduce impacts:

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 earth-moving days and will document said coordination.

4.11.6 Alternative Project

The 220 kV Line Route Alternative 2 (Alternative Project) would include relocation of an approximately 3-mile section of Segment 5 of the existing WOD corridor pursuant to an agreement between SCE and Morongo (see Figure 3.1-3, Transmission Line Route Description). Both the Proposed Project and Alternative Project include the same common elements outside of Segment 5.

The Alternative Project transects the Banning Plant No. 66 aggregate quarry at a location adjacent to the existing transmission corridor, in the same location as the Proposed Project. Construction activities may temporarily interrupt the operation of Banning Rock Plant No. 66; however, it would not result in the loss of this mineral resource. As with the Proposed Project, the Alternative Project would entail the removal of existing poles and wires along the existing alignment and the new TSPs and LSTs would be shifted slightly to the south to accommodate the Alternative Project alignment. While the Proposed Project would result in a shift in the location of the transmission corridor at Banning Rock Plant No. 66, the Proposed Project condition will be very similar to the existing condition. There would be no or negligible impact to quarry operations. Therefore, there would be no difference in construction or operational impacts to the aggregate quarry as a result of the Alternative Project.

The Alternative Project transects the Reservation in a different location than the Proposed Project. Both the Proposed Project and the Alternative Project are located in an area designated MRZ-2. The Alternative Project is approximately 0.13 mile longer than the Proposed Project. The impacts of the Alternative Project to mineral resources would be essentially the same as the Proposed Project.

4.11.7 No Project Alternative

Under the No Project Alternative, existing conditions would remain in place. The existing transmission corridor and associated facilities would continue to operate in the existing mineral resources environment. The No Project Alternative would not result in construction or operation of the Proposed Project. No new impacts to mineral resources would result.

4.11.8 References Cited

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