

5.12 Mineral Resources

5.12.1 Environmental Setting

Mineral resources in Shasta County include alluvial sand and gravel, crushed stone (made of andesite, basalt, granite, limestone, and shale), volcanic cinders, diatomite, metals (e.g., cadmium, chromite, copper, iron, lead, gold, mercury, manganese, molybdenite, silver, and tungsten), and other minerals (e.g., asbestos, clay, dimension stone, graphite, olivine, sulfur, and talc); however, the only five industrial minerals currently being commercially extracted are alluvial sand and gravel, crushed stone, volcanic cinders, limestone, and diatomite (Dupras 1997).

Under the California State Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1975, Mineral Resource Zones (MRZs) are defined by the State Geologist and used to classify areas by level of significance as a mineral resource. The following MRZ categories are used to classify land:

- MRZ-1: Areas 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: Areas where adequate information indicates that significant mineral deposits are present, or where it is judged that a high likelihood exists for their presence.
- MRZ-3: Areas containing mineral deposits, the significance of which cannot be evaluated from available data.
- MRZ-4: Areas where available information is inadequate for assignment to any other MRZ.

The entire project area is located in MRZ-4 as designated by the California Geological Survey. The MRZ-4 category indicates areas with no known occurrences of mineral resources.

There is one natural gas production well in the proposed project area. It is located on Monte Vista Road, near the intersection of Palm Avenue. The well is currently plugged (CDC 2014).

5.12.2 Regulatory Setting

Federal

There are no federal regulations regarding mineral resources that are applicable to the proposed project.

State

There are no state regulations regarding mineral resources that are applicable to the proposed project.

Local

Shasta County General Plan. The primary purpose of the Mineral Element of the Shasta County General Plan is to provide the necessary geologic information to ensure that there are adequate mineral resources available in Shasta County for at least the next 20 years.

The Shasta County General Plan does not identify any locally important mineral resources in the proposed project area (Shasta County 2004).

1 **5.12.3 Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures**

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3 The impact analysis below identifies and describes the proposed project’s potential impacts to mineral
4 resources within the proposed project area. Potential impacts were evaluated according to significance
5 criterion based on the checklist items presented in Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines and listed at the
6 start of each impact analysis section below. Both the construction and maintenance/operations phases
7 were considered; however, because the construction phase could result in physical changes to the
8 environment, analysis of construction phase effects warranted a detailed evaluation. The Shasta County
9 General Plan does not identify locally important mineral resources in the proposed project area. There
10 would be no impact under criterion (b), and a detailed discussion is therefore not provided.

11
12 **Applicant Proposed Measures**

13 The applicant has not incorporated APMs into the proposed project to specifically minimize or avoid
14 impacts on mineral resources. A list of all project APMs is included in Table 4-2 in Chapter 4.

15
16 **Significance Criteria**

17 Table 5.12-1 describes the significance criteria from Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines’ mineral
18 resources section, which the California Public Utilities Commission used to evaluate the environmental
19 impacts of the proposed project.

20 Table 5.12-1 Mineral Resources Checklist

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a. 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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. 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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

21
22 ***a. Would the project result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of***
23 ***value to the region and the residents of the State?***

24
25 No mining operations are present on or adjacent to the proposed project area. A natural gas well is located
26 in the project area, but it is currently plugged. The proposed project area is located in MRZ-4. The MRZ-
27 4 category indicates areas with no known occurrences of mineral resources. However, if mineral
28 resources were to exist in the proposed project area, the proposed project is not anticipated to result in
29 their loss. The land in the proposed project area is significantly disturbed, and no new development is
30 proposed. Therefore, the proposed project would not result in the loss of availability of a possible existing
31 mineral resource that would be of value to the region and residents of the state because the proposed
32 project would not result in new development. There would be no impact during construction or operation
33 and maintenance under this criterion.

34
35 **Significance: No impact.**

1 **Mitigation Measures**

2 Because the proposed project would have no impact on mineral resources, no mitigation measures are
3 required.
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