

**Lyons Canyon Ranch
Draft Environmental Impact Report**

5.8 MINERAL RESOURCES

This section addresses the potential impacts of the proposed project on mineral resources (i.e., sand, gravel and petroleum). The analysis describes the regulatory setting and the existing physical conditions of the proposed project site as related to such mineral resources. Impacts are addressed in terms of whether implementation of the proposed project would result in the permanent loss of, or loss of access to, any such resources occurring within the proposed project site.

5.8.1 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

EXISTING CONDITIONS

Regional Conditions

Mineral resources in California are regulated by the state Department of Conservation's California Geological Survey (CGS), formerly known as the Division of Mines and Geology. Mineral Resource Zone areas containing notable sand, gravel, or other mineral deposits, as designated by the CGS, are not located in, or near, the proposed project site.

Local Conditions

The geologic makeup at the project site consists of artificial fill, alluvium, colluvium, Saugus Formation, and Pico Formation. The fill soils consist of locally generated soil and rock material and range in thickness depending on location.

Although some sand and gravel is found within the geologic materials below the project site, the area has not been recognized as having a significant potential for mineral extraction, and is not designated a Mineral Resource Zone by the CGS. Furthermore, the *County of Los Angeles General Plan Open Space and Conservation Element* indicates that significant sand and gravel resources are not present on the project site.¹

Historically, oil exploration has occurred in the vicinity of the project site. However, petroleum resources (i.e., fossil fuels) beneath the project site, if any, are not known to be substantial.

5.8.2 SIGNIFICANCE THRESHOLD CRITERIA

Appendix G of the *CEQA Guidelines* contains the Initial Study Environmental Checklist form used during preparation of the project Initial Study, which is contained in Appendix A of this EIR. The Initial Study includes questions relating to mineral resources. The issues presented in the Initial Study Checklist have been utilized as thresholds of significance in this Section. Accordingly, a project may create a significant environmental impact if one or more of the following occurs:

¹ City of Santa Clarita. *City of Santa Clarita General Plan, Open Space and Conservation Element Amendment*. Exhibit OS-5, Mineral Resources. February 23, 1999.

Lyons Canyon Ranch

Draft Environmental Impact Report

- ◆ 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; 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.

5.8.3 IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

- ◆ ***DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATED WITH THE PROPOSED PROJECT COULD RESULT IN THE LOSS OF AVAILABILITY OF KNOWN MINERAL RESOURCES OR A LOCALLY IMPORTANT MINERAL RESOURCE RECOVERY SITE.***

Level of Significance Prior to Mitigation: Less Than Significant Impact.

Impact Analysis:

On-Site Impacts

The project site is not located in a designated Mineral Resource Zone or other known or potential mineral resource area, including those areas noted in the *City of Santa Clarita General Plan Open Space and Conservation Element* or in the *County of Los Angeles Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan* as being of local importance. Development associated with the proposed project would not result in permanent loss of, or loss of access to, any mineral resource that is located within a designated Mineral Resource Zone or other known or potential mineral resource area, including those noted in the as being of local importance. As such, no on-site mineral resource impacts would occur.

Off-Site Impacts

Construction of proposed uses would require the use of mineral resources such as sand and gravel, as well as various refined forms of petroleum resources, such as gasoline and diesel fuels. Inasmuch as the construction of the proposed project would require mineral resources from off-site areas, the proposed project would result in the reduction of mineral resource supplies on a regional basis. However, based on the incremental demand that a typical construction project similar to the proposed project in size and intensity would create, it is anticipated that the mineral construction material and petroleum fuel requirements for the proposed project would not result in a substantial reduction in available supplies relative to demand. The proposed project would not result in the permanent loss of, or loss of access to, a mineral resource area. As such, a less than significant impact is anticipated relative to mineral resources.

**Lyons Canyon Ranch
Draft Environmental Impact Report**

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

Level of Significance After Mitigation: Not applicable.

5.8.4 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

- ◆ ***DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATED WITH THE PROPOSED PROJECT AND OTHER CUMULATIVE PROJECTS COULD RESULT IN CUMULATIVE IMPACTS TO ON- AND OFF-SITE MINERAL RESOURCES AND MINERAL RESOURCE RECOVERY AREAS.***

Level of Significance Prior to Mitigation: Less Than Significant Impact.

Impact Analysis: Based on the fact that there are no designated Mineral Resource Zones or other known or potential mineral resource areas in or near the proposed project site, including those noted in the *City of Santa Clarita General Plan Open Space and Conservation Element or in the County of Los Angeles Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan* as being of local importance, implementation of the proposed project, in conjunction with all related projects, would not result in a permanent loss of, or loss of access to, mineral resources within such areas.

With respect to off-site mineral resources (e.g., sand and gravel, and petroleum), the consumption of such resources for the construction of other projects in the local vicinity is expected to be typical of new development, as provided for by the building materials and transportation fuels industries. The consumption of natural resources associated with the proposed project is relatively small, compared to the overall amount of resources that the market provides.

The proposed project, in conjunction with other related projects, is not anticipated to have a significant cumulative impact to a mineral resource that is located in a designated Mineral Resource Zone, or other known or potential mineral resource area, and there are no mineral resources at or near the proposed project site that are noted as being of local importance.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

Level of Significance After Mitigation: Less Than Significant.