

1 **3.12 MINERAL RESOURCES**

MINERAL RESOURCES - Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	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"/>

2 **3.12.1 Environmental Setting**

3 Three major classes of mineral resources have been found in SBC. Petroleum and
 4 natural gas in onshore and offshore fields are the principal mineral fuels, accounting for
 5 approximately half of the total value of mineral production. Mercury, the only metallic
 6 resource, has not been produced commercially in recent years. Non-metallic mineral
 7 resources include diatomite, limestone, phosphate, rock, sand, and gravel (SBC 2009).
 8 No other mineral resources are located in the immediate Project area. The onshore
 9 portion of the Project is located within Las Flores Canyon. The LFCPF is used primarily
 10 to support offshore platform petroleum production activities; however, the Project does
 11 not include oil and gas extraction. Numerous oil and gas wells have been drilled within
 12 the Capitan Oil Field boundary, which is bisected by Las Flores Canyon. The wells are
 13 regulated by the California Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resource who is
 14 mandated by Public Resources Code section 3106 to supervise the drilling, operation,
 15 maintenance, and abandonment of oil and gas wells. As shown in Figure 3.12-1 there
 16 are no active or abandoned oil or gas wells located within the vicinity of the onshore
 17 construction areas. Therefore, the Project will not disturb existing wells, and no
 18 structures will be placed in a manner that would impede future access to existing wells.

19 **3.12.2 Regulatory Setting**

20 3.12.2.1 Federal and State

21 There are no Federal laws pertaining to mineral resources in this area. State laws and
 22 regulations pertaining to this issue area and relevant to the Project are identified in
 23 Table 3.12-1.



Figure 3.12-1. Plugged Wells Within/Adjacent to Onshore Construction Area

Table 3.12-1. State Laws, Regulations, and Policies (Mineral Resources)

CA	Surface Mining and Reclamation Act (SMARA) (Pub. Resources Code, §§ 2710-2796),	<p>In accordance with SMARA, the California Geological Survey classifies the regional significance of mineral resources and assists in the designation of lands containing significant aggregate resources. Mineral Resource Zones (MRZs) have been designated to indicate the significance of mineral deposits. The MRZ categories are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 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.
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1 3.12.2.2 Local

2 The Comprehensive Plan - Conservation Element (SBC 2010) recommends that
 3 mineral resource activities be permitted within the county only if adverse impacts would
 4 not result, if flooding and erosion problems would not be increased, and if adopted
 5 Federal and state air and water quality standards would not be violated. No other local
 6 policies pertain to the Project area with respect to mineral resources.

7 **3.12.3 Impact Analysis**

8 ***a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of***
 9 ***value to the region and the residents of the State?***

10 ***b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource***
 11 ***recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use***
 12 ***plan?***

13 **a) and b). No Impact.** The Project would not result in the loss of any known mineral
 14 resources in the area. The Project is designed to be a replacement-in-kind in support of
 15 existing infrastructure (power cable) supporting processing facilities. No additional
 16 extraction would occur as a result of Project activities. There are no known oil or gas
 17 wells located within the vicinity of the proposed onshore construction areas; however,
 18 the Project site is located within the proximity of the abandoned Capitan field and the
 19 Department of Conservation, Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources
 20 (DOGGR), in its comments on the Proposed MND, requested that the MND mention the
 21 Division and its statutory authority over oil and gas extraction in the area; and
 22 recommended that well locations within proposed Project development be determined
 23 relative to any proposed installation and any structures be placed in a manner that
 24 would not impede future access to said well(s) (Letter from Patricia A. Abel, DOGGR, to
 25 Cynthia Herzog, CSLC, June 26, 2014). Consequently, the Applicant proposes the

1 following Applicant-Proposed Measure (APM) to avoid disturbance to abandoned oil or
2 gas wells or supporting infrastructure.

3 **APM MIN-1: Coordination with Department of Conservation, Division of Oil,**
4 **Gas, and Geothermal Resources (DOGGR).** In the event that unanticipated oil
5 and/or gas resources in the form of formerly abandoned wells or supporting
6 infrastructure are encountered during onshore construction activities, work
7 activities will cease in that location and the DOGGR Santa Maria District office
8 shall be contacted at (805) 937-7246 in order to coordinate identification and
9 avoidance of the resource.

10 **3.12.4 Mitigation Summary**

11 No impact is anticipated; implementation of APM MIN-1 is proposed to enhance
12 coordination.

- 13 • APM MIN-1: Coordination with Department of Conservation, Division of Oil, Gas,
14 and Geothermal Resources (DOGGR).