3.3.10 Mineral Resources

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>X. MINERAL RESOURCES: Would the Project:</th>
<th>Potentially Significant Impact</th>
<th>Less Than Significant with Mitigation</th>
<th>Less Than Significant Impact</th>
<th>No Impact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>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?</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>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?</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

3.3.10.1 Environmental Setting

The onshore portion of the project area lies within the southern portion of the Coast Ranges Geomorphic Province, which is characterized by northwest-trending mountains and valleys composed of Mesozoic and Cenozoic marine and terrestrial sedimentary deposits underlain by Franciscan formation metamorphic rocks and/or granitic rocks of the Salinian Block. The Coast Ranges Geomorphic Province is bounded by the offshore Santa Maria Basin to the west. Within the Coast Range Geomorphic Province, the project area is within the South Coastal Santa Lucia Range that is delineated by the Nacimiento Fault and the Pacific Ocean (Miles and Goudey 1997). Onshore and adjacent lands contain ragged seacliffs with examples of varying erosion and exposure of the Miguelito member of the Pismo Formation. These lands are composed of repetitive beds of diatomite or clayey porcellanite, diatomaceous mudstone, dolomite and chert (California Department of Parks & Recreation 2006).

No mineral resource development operations occur on or near the proposed onshore or offshore Project areas. The Project area is within an existing MPA that precludes any mineral development or other similar activities without prior authorization from the CGFC.

3.3.10.2 Regulatory Setting

**Federal.** There are no federal regulations related to mineral resources relevant to the Project.

**State.**

**Marine Life Protection Act of 1999 (MLPA).** As noted above, the Project area is within an existing MPA that precludes any mineral development or other similar activities without prior authorization from the CGFC.

**Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1975 (SMARA).** The CGS, formerly the California Division of Mines and Geology, classifies the regional significance of mineral resources in accordance with SMARA 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 follow:
Environmental Checklist – Mineral Resources

- **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.

**Local.** The San Luis Obispo County Local Coastal Plan designates areas containing mineral resources with the zoning overlays EX (Energy or Extractive Resource Area) or EX1 (Extractive Resource Area). The Project area is located within an area designated by the County as EX.

3.3.10.3 Impact Analysis

  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?**

  See response below.

  b) **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?**

  The Project area has an EX zoning overlay designation. The EX designation refers to the ongoing energy production at DCCP. This zoning overlay designation does not refer to a resource extraction (e.g., mining) operation. There are no known mineral extraction operations onsite or on adjacent lands; therefore, no impact would occur. All proposed project activities are consistent with the EX land use designation.

3.3.10.4 Mitigation and Residual Impacts

**Mitigation.** The proposed project would have no impact on mineral resources and no mitigation is required.

**Residual Impacts.** The proposed project would have no impact on mineral resources, no mitigation is required, and no residual impacts would occur.