

SECTION 8: EFFECTS FOUND NOT TO BE SIGNIFICANT

This section is based on the Initial Study/Notice of Preparation (IS/NOP) prepared for the project and included in this Master Environmental Impact Report (Master EIR) as Appendix A-1, Initial Study and Notice of Preparation, as well as additional information added after the preparation of the IS/NOP that supports the less than significant and no impact findings. There was only one environmental topic, mineral resources, that was scoped out of this Master EIR. All other environmental topics are addressed in Section 5, Environmental Impact Analysis, of this Master EIR.

During the scoping of the environmental issues to be addressed in the Master EIR, there was one comment that requested a discussion of the project's impact on the regional mineral resources. Following is the discussion of Mineral Resources.

8.1 - Mineral Resources

8.1.1 - Impact Discussion

The principal area for mineral resources is located in and immediately adjacent to the Planning Area along the San Joaquin River Corridor. These materials are removed via surface mining operations. These areas have been and are proposed to continue to be designated as Open Space, and the activities have been and will continue to require conditional use permits. The City anticipates that these uses will continue until the resources are substantially removed, and it is no longer economically feasible to mine the areas.

To further ensure less than significant impacts to mineral resources occur during the implementation of the proposed project, the City of Fresno General Plan Update includes an objective and policies to conserve aggregate mineral resources. These objective and policies are identified below.

Resource Conservation and Resilience Element

Objective RC-10: Conserve aggregate mineral resources within the Planning Area, as identified by the Division of Mines and Geology, and allow for responsible extraction to meet Fresno's needs.

Policy RC-10-a: Meet Future Needs. Adopt land use and resource protection regulations that support mining of the high-quality, close-to-market aggregate resources to meet the needs of the Fresno Production-Consumption Region.

RC-10-b: Zoning in San Joaquin Riverbottom. Maintain zoning consistent with on-going mineral extraction in the San Joaquin Riverbottom that also allows multiple open space uses in conformance with State law and the City's Surface Mining Ordinance.

RC-10-c: Processing-Mining Link. Accommodate only those mineral processing activities in the San Joaquin Riverbottom that are associated and co-located with mining operations when such industrial activities will sunset with the mining operation and do not stimulate unplanned growth or conversion of multi-use open space to urban uses.

RC-10-d: Manage MRZ-2 Areas. Prohibit land uses and development projects that preclude mineral extraction in potential high-quality mineral resource areas designated MRZ-2 by the California Department of Conservation Division of Mines and Geology.

RC-10-e: Existing Permits. Honor surface mining permits approved by Fresno County upon annexation, provided that the mining operation is in compliance with the terms of its current permit(s) and State law. Require new permit applications in the event of noncompliance, permit expiration, or permit revocation, and ensure compliance with law or regulations.

RC-10-f: Cooperate on Uniform Criteria. Work with Fresno County, Madera County, and the City of Clovis to develop uniform criteria applicable to existing, new, and altered mineral extraction sites in the San Joaquin Riverbottom.

8.1.2 - Conclusion

With the future implementation of the General Plan and Development Code Update as well as the above objective and policies, future development would result in less than significant impacts to mineral resources.