



## 15.0 MINERAL RESOURCES

### 15.1 Regulatory Setting

There are no federal or state plans, policies, regulations, or laws that are applicable to mineral resources within the PWP planning area.

### 15.2 Environmental Setting

The PWP planning area is not located within a known oil and gas field, nor are there any active oil and gas wells (California Geologic Energy Management Division [CalGEM] 2020). The Santa Maria Refinery, which is owned and operated by Phillips 66, is closing, and State Parks plans to potentially lease or acquire the land for the Phillips 66/Southern Entrance Project. The Santa Maria Refinery does not extract oil or gas from the existing property; rather, crude oil is piped to the facility from other sources via underground pipelines.

Under the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act (SMARA), the State Mining and Geology Board may designate certain mineral deposits as being regionally significant to satisfy future needs. The board’s decision to designate an area is based on a classification report prepared by CGS and on input from agencies and the public. The PWP planning area lies within the designated San Luis Obispo-Santa Barbara Production-Consumption Region for concrete aggregate, which includes all designated lands within the marketing area of the active aggregate operations supplying the greater San Luis Obispo-Santa Barbara urban areas. In compliance with SMARA, CGS established a classification system (Table 15-1) to indicate the location and significance of key extractive resources.

**Table 15-1. California Geological Survey Mineral Land Classification System**

Classification	Description
MRZ-1	Areas where available geologic information indicates that little likelihood exists for the presence of significant aggregate resources.
MRZ-2	Areas where geologic data indicates that significant mineral resources are present.
MRZ-3	Areas containing known or inferred aggregate resources of undetermined significance.
MRZ-4	Areas where available data are inadequate for placement in any other mineral resource zone

Note: MRZ = Mineral Resource Zone

Source: Busch and Miller 2011

A small portion of the Pismo Dunes Natural Preserve is classified as MRZ-2 for specialty sands; the remainder is classified as MRZ-3. The Oceano Dunes SVRA (excluding the Oso Flaco Improvement Project), Trash Enclosure Project, Safety and Education Center Project, 40 Acre Riding Trail Project, Oso Flaco Lake Boardwalk Replacement Project, and Phillips 66/Southern Entrance Project are classified as MRZ-3. The Oso Flaco Improvement Project is classified as MRZ-1. Pismo State Beach, and the Pismo Creek Estuarine (Floating) Bridge Project, North Beach Campground Facility Improvements Project, Butterfly



Grove Public Access Project, Pismo State Beach Boardwalk Project, Pier and Grand Avenue Entrances and Lifeguard Towers Project, Park Corporation Yard Improvement Project, Oceano Campground Infrastructure Improvement Project, and Oceano Campground Campfire Center Replacement Project are not classified for mineral resources because they are located inside the city limits of Pismo Beach and Grover Beach. (Busch and Miller 2011.)

### 15.3 Project Impacts

#### Thresholds of Significance

Based on Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines, implementation of the PWP would result in a potentially significant impact related to mineral resources if it would:

- 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?
- 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?

#### 15.3.1 Impacts and Mitigation

##### 15.3.1.1 Impacts from PWP Implementation

A small area in the Pismo Dunes Natural Preserve is designated as MRZ-2; this a regionally significant designation for specialty sands. However, State Parks does not allow sand or construction aggregate mining activities within the PWP planning area, and this MRZ-2 area has not been mined since the area was acquired by State Parks between 1958 and 1964. The Pismo Dunes Natural Preserve was classified as a preserve in 1974. The remainder of the PWP planning area is not located in a regionally significant (MRZ-2) mineral resource area (Busch and Miller 2011). Furthermore, there are no known oil or gas resources in the PWP planning area (CalGEM 2020). Therefore, ongoing operations and maintenance activities associated with PWP implementation would have **no impact** on mineral resources.

##### 15.3.1.2 Impacts from PWP Development Projects and Other Small Development Projects

#### Impact 15-1 Loss of Availability of Regionally Important Mineral Resources

The proposed PWP Development Projects and Small Development Projects would not be located within regionally significant (MRZ-2) mineral resource deposits (Busch and Miller 2011). Furthermore, there are no known oil or gas resources in the PWP planning area (CalGEM 2020). The Santa Maria Refinery (which is closing) does not extract oil or gas from the existing property; rather, crude oil is piped to the facility from other sources via underground pipelines. Thus, there would be **no impact** from loss of availability of regionally important mineral resources.

#### Impact 15-2 Loss of Availability of Locally Important Mineral Resources

As a State agency, State Parks is not required to consider the impacts of its projects related to local general plans. However, to comply with this CEQA threshold, State Parks has consulted the relevant local general plans, and presents the following for informational purposes. The City of Pismo Beach General Plan/Local Coastal Plan states that no



known mineral resources are present, and Policy CO-29 prohibits mining activities within the city limits (City of Pismo Beach 2014). The draft Conservation and Open Space Element for the Grover Beach General Plan Update does not include mineral resources (because there are none within the City limits) (City of Grover Beach 2020). The San Luis Obispo General Plan designates the same mineral resource areas as those designated by CGS (San Luis Obispo County 2010). Thus, the proposed site-specific projects would not be located within any locally-designated areas of significant mineral resources, and there would be **no impact**.

#### **15.4 Cumulative Effects**

Because there would be no project-level impacts to mineral resources from implementation of the site-specific PWP projects or from ongoing PWP operations and maintenance activities, the PWP would also not contribute to any cumulative impacts related to mineral resources. Thus, there would be **no cumulative effects**.



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