

4.10.1 INTRODUCTION

This resource section evaluates the potential environmental effects related to mineral resources associated with implementation of PLAN Hermosa. There are no applicable PLAN Hermosa policies or implementation actions that address mineral resources. Further, non-fuel mineral resources are protected in California by the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act (SMARA), and no known non-fuel mineral resources exist in the city.

NOP Comments: No comments were received in response to the Notice of Preparation (NOP) addressing mineral resource concerns. Comments included written letters and oral comments provided at the NOP scoping meeting.

Reference Information: Information for this section is based on numerous sources, including the PLAN Hermosa Technical Background Report and other publicly available documents. The Technical Background Report prepared for the project is attached to this Draft EIR as **Appendix C-13**.

4.10.2 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The State Mining and Geology Board (SMGB) last updated the Southern California Mineral Resource Zone (MRZ) maps in 1994. As mapped by the SMGB, the majority of Hermosa Beach is in the San Fernando Valley Production-Consumption Region in Los Angeles County. A small portion of Hermosa Beach south of 2nd Street is in the San Gabriel Valley Production-Consumption Region. A review of the Generalized Mineral Land Classification Map of Los Angeles County – South Half (DOC 1994) shows that the entire planning area is designated as MRZ-3 land. The MRZ-3 classification indicates areas of undetermined mineral resource significance. Although mineral resources may be present, the presence or absence of resources is considered speculative because of a lack of available data.

Although mineral resources may be present, the classification of this MRZ-3 area was not broken down to the more detailed MRZ-3a or MRZ-3b categories because no mining has occurred in the area. Additionally, the urbanized nature of Hermosa Beach effectively precludes mining activities in the planning area.

4.10.3 REGULATORY SETTING

State regulations and policies provide a regulatory framework to protect mineral resources that would be affected by implementation of a local government's general plan. Because mining is effectively precluded in the planning area, PLAN Hermosa would not affect state mineral resources. Therefore, this section includes the federal, state, and local mineral resources regulatory framework for informational purposes.

FEDERAL

No federal plans, policies, regulations, or laws related to mineral resources apply to Hermosa Beach.

STATE

- **Surface Mining and Reclamation Act:** The Surface Mining and Reclamation Act (SMARA) of 1975 (Public Resources Code, Division 2, Chapter 9, Section 2710 et seq.) mandated the classification of mineral lands throughout the state to help identify and protect mineral resources in areas subject to urban expansion or other irreversible land uses that would preclude mineral extraction. Since 1975, the SMGB has mapped areas in California that contain regionally significant mineral resources. Deposits of construction aggregate

4.10 MINERAL RESOURCES

resources (sand, gravel, or crushed stone) were the initial commodity targeted for classification by the SMGB because of their importance to the state. Once areas are mapped, the SMGB is required to designate for future use those areas that contain aggregate deposits which are of prime importance to meeting the region's future need for construction quality aggregates.

The key objective of mineral lands classification under SMARA is for each jurisdiction to develop policies that will conserve important mineral resources, if feasible, when such resources are needed. SMARA requires that once policies are adopted, land use decisions by the local agency must be in accordance with that local agency's management policies for mineral resources. These decisions must also balance the mineral value of the resource to the market region as a whole, not just their importance to the local jurisdiction.

The State Geologist developed the California Mineral Land Classification System to assist in the implementation of SMARA. The system identifies the following types of MRZs for mapping and reporting purposes (DOC 2010):

- **MRZ-1:** Areas where adequate geologic information indicates that no significant mineral deposits are present or where it is judged that little likelihood exists for their presence.
- **MRZ-2a:** Areas underlain by mineral deposits where geologic data show that significant measured or indicated resources are present. Areas classified MRZ-2a contain discovered mineral deposits that are either measured or indicated reserves as determined by such evidence as drilling records, sample analysis, surface exposure, and mine information. Land included in the MRZ-2a category is of prime importance because it contains known economic mineral deposits.
- **MRZ-2b:** Areas underlain by mineral deposits where geologic information indicates that significant inferred resources are present. Areas classified MRZ-2b contain discovered deposits that are either inferred reserves or deposits that are presently sub-economic as determined by limited sample analysis, exposure, and past mining history.
- **MRZ-3a:** Areas containing known mineral deposits that may qualify as mineral resources, which could be considered hypothetical resources. MRZ-3a areas are considered to have a moderate potential for the discovery of economic mineral deposits.
- **MRZ-3b:** Areas containing inferred mineral deposits that may qualify as mineral resources, which could be considered speculative resources. Land classified MRZ-3b represents areas in geologic settings which appear to be favorable environments for the occurrence of specific mineral deposits.
- **MRZ-4:** Areas where geologic information does not rule out either the presence or absence of mineral resources. The distinction between the MRZ-1 and MRZ-4 categories is important for land use considerations. It must be emphasized that the MRZ-4 classification does not imply that there is little likelihood for the presence of mineral resources, but rather that there is a lack of knowledge regarding mineral occurrence.

LOCAL

- **Measure O:** Oil drilling is currently banned in Hermosa Beach. A vote of the people would be required to lift the existing ban. A recent ballot measure, Measure O, proposed to lift the existing ban, but failed at a ratio of four to one. Thus, the likelihood of new oil extractions taking place in the city is low.

4.10.4 IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

THRESHOLDS OF SIGNIFICANCE

For the purposes of this Draft EIR, impacts on mineral resources are considered significant if adoption and implementation of PLAN Hermosa would:

- 1) 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.
- 2) 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.

ANALYSIS APPROACH

The analysis of impacts is based on the likely consequences of adoption and implementation of PLAN Hermosa compared to existing conditions.

DRAFT PLAN HERMOSA POLICIES AND IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS

PLAN Hermosa does not include policies or implementation actions addressing mineral resources.

IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

IMPACT 4.10-1 *Would PLAN Hermosa Result in the Loss of Availability of Mineral Resources? PLAN Hermosa would guide future development and reuse projects in the city in a manner that would not result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource or of a locally important mineral resource recovery site. Therefore, the project would have **no impact**.*

The entirety of Hermosa Beach is classified as Mineral Resource Zone 3 (MRZ-3) under the California Mineral Land Classification System. In MRZ-3 areas, mineral resources are present, but the significance of the resource is considered speculative because no mining has historically occurred in the area. Additionally, since most of the area has been developed with residential and commercial uses, and the development pattern is relatively compact with limited areas appropriate for industrial uses, mining activities would not likely be feasible in the city. Subsurface oil deposits are also present in Hermosa Beach; nonetheless, oil drilling is not allowed within the city and PLAN Hermosa would not impact such deposits.

Mining activities are classified as an industrial use, and the Light Industrial land use designation in PLAN Hermosa identifies the range of allowable light industrial uses as follows: "production uses for light manufacturing, creative art, or design services with professional office as an allowed accessory use." Mining and oil extraction, due to the associated equipment and potential nuisances, would not be considered a light industrial use. Therefore, there would be virtually no locations under PLAN Hermosa in which mining activities would be allowed. Implementation of PLAN Hermosa would not result in the direct or indirect loss of availability of a known or locally important mineral resource, because of the urbanization in the MRZ-3 area and limited areas in which industrial activities would be allowed. Therefore, implementation of PLAN Hermosa would have **no impact** on mineral resources.

Mitigation Measures

None required.

4.10 MINERAL RESOURCES

4.10.5 REFERENCES

- DOC (California Department of Conservation). 1994. *Generalized Mineral Land Classification Map of Los Angeles County – South Half*. Accessed January 2014. ftp://ftp.consrv.ca.gov/pub/dmg/pubs/ofr/OFR_94-14/OFR_94-14_Plate1B.pdf.
- . 2010. *Guidelines for Classification and Designation of Mineral Lands*. State Mining and Geology Board. Accessed July 2014. <http://www.conservation.ca.gov/smgb/Guidelines/Pages/guidelines.aspx>.