

5.11 MINERAL RESOURCES

The two components of the proposed Project analyzed herein are:

- 1) Adoption and implementation of the General Plan Update (Beaumont 2040 Plan), and
- 2) Adoption and implementation of the revised Zoning Ordinance and Zoning Map.

Since an initial study was not prepared with the issuance of the Notice of Preparation, the focus of the following discussion is related to potential impacts to the loss of availability of known mineral resources and to the loss of availability of a locally important resource site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan, or other land use plan.

5.11.1 Setting

In the context of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), mineral resources are land areas or deposits deemed significant by the California Department of Conservation (DOC). Mineral resources include oil, natural gas, and metallic and nonmetallic deposits, including aggregate resources.

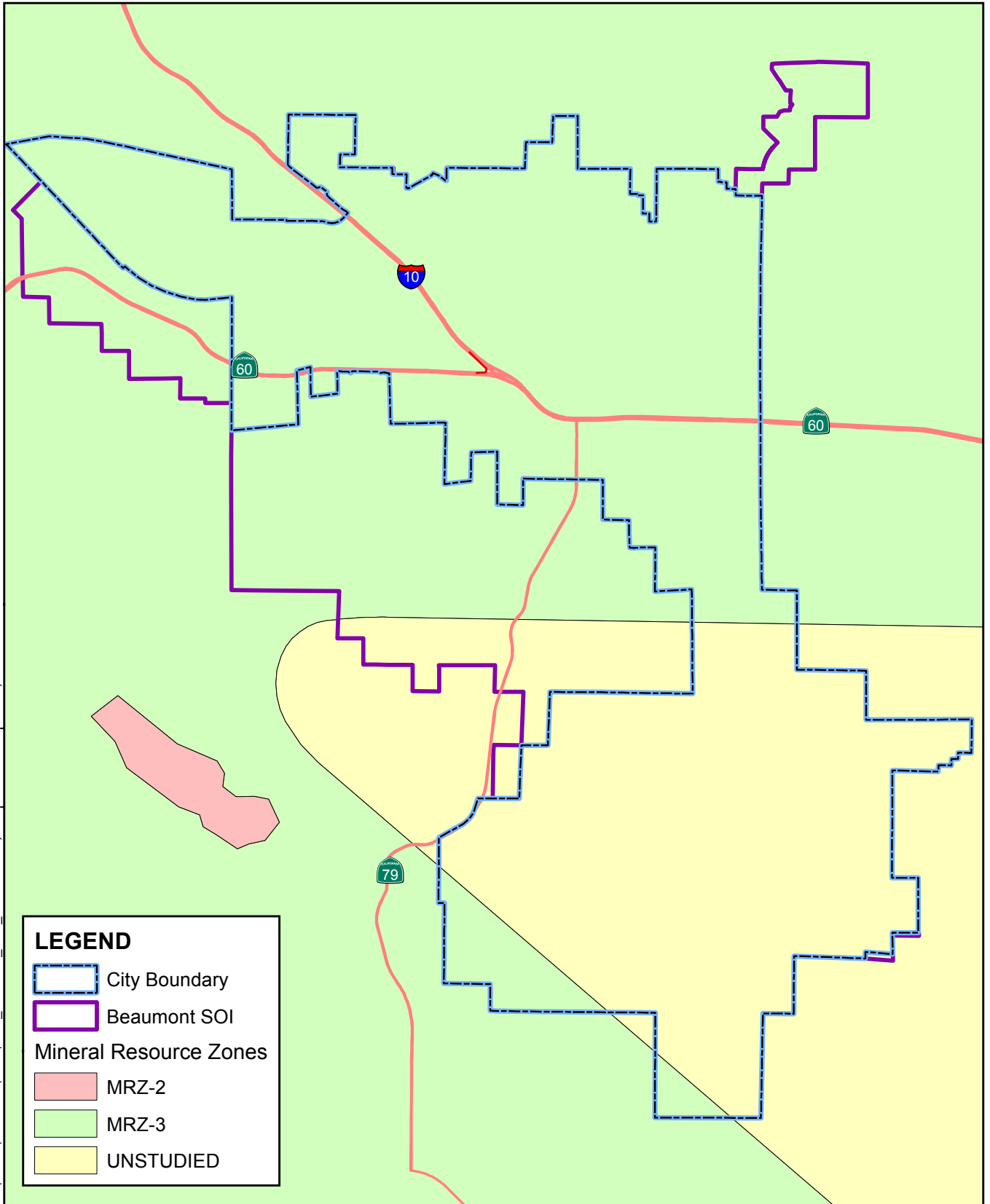
The State Mining and Geology Board (SMGB) is responsible for administration of a mineral lands inventory process termed classification designation. Areas are classified on the basis of geologic factors without regard to existing land use and land ownership. The SMGB has established Mineral Resources Zones (MRZ) using the following classifications:

- MRZ-1: Areas where adequate geologic information indicates 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.
- MRZ-2b: Areas underlain by mineral deposits where geologic information indicates that significant inferred resources are present.
- MRZ-3a: Areas containing known mineral deposits that may qualify as mineral resources. Further exploration work within these areas could result in the reclassification of specific localities into the MRZ-2a or MRZ-2b categories.
- MRZ-3b: Areas that may have inferred mineral deposits which may qualify as mineral resources. Further exploration work could result in the reclassification of all or part of these areas into the MRZ-3a category or specific localities into the MRZ-2a or MRZ-2b categories.
- MRZ-4: Areas where there is not enough geologic information available to determine the presence or absence of mineral resources.

As depicted on **Figure 5.11-1 – Mineral Resource Zones**, the upper portion of the City limits and SOI is located in MRZ-3 where the significance of mineral deposits are undetermined; the lower portion of the City limits and SOI is located either in MRZ-3 or in an unstudied area (no MRZ designation issued).

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G:\2017\17-0033\GIS\EIR_Mineral_Res_Zones.mxd; Map revised April 16, 2020.



Sources: Riverside Co. GIS, 2007;
Raimi+ Assoc. 2019.

Figure 5.11-1 Mineral Resource Zones

City of Beaumont General Plan Update



0 1 2 3 Miles



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There have been no significant amounts of mineral deposits found in the City. However, since much of the Planning Area is characterized by alluvial materials, which eroded and washed down from the mountains resulting in areas of aggregate mineral resources from open spaces adjacent to drainage courses. There are no delineated sites of locations of mineral resources with the Planning Area. Although there are likely accretions of aggregate along watercourses and drainage within the Planning Area. These resources occur primarily within the westerly portions of the City and its SOI. (Beaumont 2040 Plan, p. 8-7.)

5.11.2 Related Regulations

Federal Regulations

There are no federal regulations related to mineral resources that are applicable to the proposed Project.

State Regulations

Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1975

The State of California has recognized that mineral resources are essential to the needs of society and the economic well-being of the state. In 1975, the State Legislature passed the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act (SMARA), Public Resources Code (PRC) Section 2710, et seq. The intent of SMARA is to promote production and conservation of mineral resources, minimize the environmental effects of mining and ensure mined lands are reclaimed to conditions suitable for alternative uses. Reclaiming land for other uses once mining operations are completed is important for the general health, safety and welfare of the community. Under SMARA, permits are required for all mining activities commencing operation on or after January 1, 1976. All cities and counties in California must incorporate such designated mineral resource zones into their general plans. Please refer to the MRZ classifications previously outlined under Section 5.11.1 of this section.

Mineral Resources and Mineral Hazards Mapping Program

California's Mineral Resources and Mineral Hazards Mapping Program (MRMHMP) provides data about nonfuel mineral resources, naturally occurring mineral hazards (such as asbestos, radon, and mercury), and historic mining activities throughout the state. The MRMHMP is divided into two projects; the Mineral Resources Project, which provides information about California's nonfuel mineral resources, and the Mineral Hazards Project, which maps and monitors minerals related to public health and safety concerns.

Regional Regulations

County of Riverside Ordinance No. 555

Ordinance No. 555 implements SMARA and addresses the importance of mineral extraction to the economic well-being of Riverside County. It regulates all surface mining operations in the unincorporated portions of Riverside County, as authorized by SMARA, to ensure that:

- The production and conservation of minerals is encouraged while considering and balancing values relating to recreation, watershed, wildlife, range and forage, and aesthetic enjoyment. And, at the same time, eliminating or minimizing the residual hazards to public health and safety.
- The adverse effects of surface mining operations are prevented or minimized and that mined lands are reclaimed to a useable condition readily adaptable for alternative land use.

- The reclamation of mined lands is carried out in a way that permits the continued mining of minerals.

This ordinance is intended to ensure the conservation of mineral resources within the City's SOI which currently is under the jurisdiction of Riverside County.

Local Regulations

Beaumont Municipal Code Section 17.03.160 – Mineral Resources Overlay Zone

This section of the Beaumont Municipal Code is intended to facilitate mining and quarry activities within the properties subject to the land use regulations of the City. Mining, quarrying, excavating, beneficiating, concentrating, processing, and stockpiling of rock, sand, gravel, decomposed granite, clay gypsum, limestone, metallic ores, and similar materials, the reclamation of the resulting excavations and the manufacturing of cement, rock crushing plants, aggregate washing, screening and drying facilities and equipment, and concrete batching plants are permitted uses in conformance with certain development and performance standards provided the operator holds a valid surface mining permit issued pursuant to this section.

5.11.3 Beaumont 2040 Plan and Revised Zoning Ordinance and Revised Zoning Map

Beaumont 2040 Plan

Indicating the relative absence of specific mineral resources in the Planning Area, the Beaumont 2040 Plan does not establish goals, policies, and implementation which directly address such resources.

Revised Zoning Ordinance and Revised Zoning Map

The Revised Zoning Map does not include any land uses designations regarding mineral resources. To be consistent with the lack of a mineral resources designation in the Beaumont 2040 Plan and Revised Zoning Map, one of the proposed revisions to the Zoning Ordinance is the deletion of the Mineral Resources Overlay Zone currently set forth in Section 17.03.160.

5.11.4 Thresholds of Significance

The City has not established local CEQA significance thresholds as described in Section 15064.7 of the *CEQA Guidelines*. Therefore, significance determinations utilized in this section are from Appendix G of the *CEQA Guidelines*. A significant impact will occur if implementation of the proposed Project will:

- (Threshold 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; or
- (Threshold 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.

5.11.5 Environmental Impacts before Mitigation

For purposes of the below analyses, the discussion includes the City limits as well as the City's SOI (collectively referred to as "Planning Area"). Future development on properties within the City's SOI that are annexed to the City would be subject to the City's entitlement process while future development within the City's SOI that is under the County's land use control would be subject to the County's entitlement requirements.

Threshold A: *Would the Project 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 City has no known or identified mineral resources of regional or statewide importance. As shown on **Figure 5.11-1 – Mineral Resource Zones**, the upper portion of the Planning Area is located in MRZ-3 where the significance of mineral deposits are undetermined; the lower portion of the Planning Area is located either in MRZ-3 or in an unstudied area (no MRZ designation issued). Approximately 11,000 acres within the City limits is and approximately 5,730 acres within the City's SOI are within MRZ-3; approximately 7,930 acres within the City limits and approximately 1,420 acres within the City's SOI are within an unstudied area.

Where no mineral resource information is available (e.g., MRZ-3 and unstudied areas), no impacts to "known mineral resources" would occur with implementation of the Beaumont 2040 Plan, Revised Zoning Ordinance, and Revised Zoning Map since the presence and extent of important mineral resources has not been established for the Planning Area. Development pursuant to the Beaumont 2040 Plan, Revised Zoning Ordinance, and Revised Zoning Map will not restrict access to mineral resources outside of the Planning Area. Therefore, the potential for adoption and implementation of the Beaumont 2040 Plan and Revised Zoning Map to result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and residents of the State is considered **less than significant**.

Threshold B: *Would the Project 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.*

As shown in **Figure 5.11**, the Planning Area does not contain any "locally important mineral resource recovery sites." Although the current Zoning Ordinance has a Mineral Resources Overlay Zone (Section 17.03.160, neither the City's 2006 General Plan, existing Zoning Map, or any specific plan within the Planning Area identifies a locally-important mineral resource recovery site. Therefore, impacts in this regard are considered to be **less than significant**.

5.11.6 Proposed Mitigation Measures

An EIR is required to describe feasible mitigation measures, which could minimize significant adverse impacts (*CEQA Guidelines*, Section 15126.4). Implementation of the proposed Project will not result in any potentially significant impact related to mineral resources; therefore, mitigation measures are not necessary.

5.11.7 Levels of Significance after Mitigation

No mitigation measures are necessary regarding the Project's impacts to mineral resources, because the Project's potential impacts were found to be **less than significant**.

5.11.8 References

The following references were used in the preparation of this section of the Draft PEIR:

BMC City of Beaumont, *Beaumont Municipal Code, Section 17.03.160 Mineral Resources Overlay Zones*. (Available at https://library.municode.com/ca/beaumont/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=TIT15BUCO_CH15.40PEST_ARTIGEPR_15.40.030DE, accessed April 16, 2020.)