

Initial Study  
 Silver Lake Mine Phase 3 Quarry  
 APN: 544-401-04, 05  
 March 2021

## SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY INITIAL STUDY/MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST FORM

This form and the descriptive information in the application package constitute the contents of Initial Study pursuant to County Guidelines under Ordinance 3040 and Section 15063 of the State CEQA Guidelines.

### PROJECT LABEL:

<b>APNs:</b>	544-401-04, 05	<b>USGS Quad:</b>	Red Pass Lake, NE
<b>Applicant:</b>	Hahm International and Levand Steel and Supply Corporation (mine operators)	<b>T, R, Section:</b>	T15N, R6E, Sections 11, 12, 13 and 14
<b>Location</b>	Township 15 North, Range 6 East, in the southeast ¼ of Section 11, southwest ¼ of Section 12, northwest ¼ of Section 13, and the northeast ¼ of Section 14. The site is accessed from Interstate 15 at Baker, then traveling northwest on Highway 127 for 12 miles, and proceeding west from Silver Lake Dry Lake Bed 12 miles on Silver Lake Road.	<b>Thomas Bros</b>	Map E, San Bernardino and Riverside Counties (2013)
<b>Project No:</b>	PRAA-2020-00045	<b>Community Plan:</b>	N/A
<b>Rep</b>	Lilburn Corporation	<b>LUC: Zone:</b>	Resource/Land Management (RLM) Resource Conservation
<b>Proposal:</b>	Operation of iron ore mine quarry on 25.9 acres site located within the U.S. Army Fort Irwin National Training Center.	<b>Overlays:</b>	N/A

### PROJECT CONTACT INFORMATION:

**Lead agency:** County of San Bernardino  
 Land Use Services Department  
 385 N. Arrowhead Avenue, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
 San Bernardino, CA 92415-0182

**Contact person:** Reuben Arceo, Planner  
**Phone No:** (909) 387-4387    **Fax No:** (909) 387-3223  
**E-mail:** Reuben.Arceo@lus.sbcounty.gov

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The partnership of Hahm International and Levand Steel and Supply Corporation (Applicant) operates the Silver Lake Mine Quarries 1, 2 and 3 (also referred to as Phase I Quarry, Phase 2, Quarry and Phase 3 Quarry) located at the eastern edge of the Fort Irwin National Training Center.

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The entire mine including Quarry 3 is on private land and access to the mine crosses government (United States Army) land.

The Silver Lake Mine is a vested mining operation located twenty-two miles northwest of the town of Baker and is accessed by traveling west 12 miles on a dirt road from Highway 127 to the northwest. (Figure 1 & Figure 2 shows the regional location & vicinity of Silver Lake Mine). The Silver Lake Mine has been operated continuously since 1978 for purposes of iron ore recovery. The mine originally operated on a 333-acre property, of which 250 acres were patented mining claims administered by San Bernardino County and 83 acres un-patented mine claims administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Surface mining permits and mine reclamation plans were issued under the auspices of these two agencies that regulated mine operations. The mine currently operates exclusively on the patented claims totaling 250 acres (private). The current reclamation plan originally issued in 1991 and amended most recently in 2007 allows the mine to operate in compliance with the California Surface Mine and Reclamation Act of 1975 ("SMARA"). Since the expansion of the U.S. Army Fort Irwin National Training Center (U.S. Army) in 2007 the Silver Lake Mine has operated under an access easement authorization issued by the U.S. Army allowing joint use access to the mine. The U.S. Army is now the authorizing land use authority for the mine; however, the County of San Bernardino is the lead agency pursuant to SMARA with the authority to authorize mining and reclamation with an approved Mining/Reclamation Plan. In February of 2020, the U.S. Army authorized the Applicant to an extended easement accessing the Silver Lake Mine through June 11, 2027. This corresponds with the expiration date of the existing mine reclamation plan and the Applicant is currently operating within that 2027 expiration date. The current amended mine reclamation plan timeframe is consistent with the Army's easement timeframe.

The Silver Lake Mine is an important iron ore resource for the regional market. Phase 1 Quarry has been mined and reclaimed. The Phase 2 Quarry is currently being excavated for iron ore. The amendment would add an additional quarry area (Phase 3 Quarry, or Quarry 3) to be mined. Phase 3 Quarry as configured would increase the total mine disturbance area by 25.9 acres, from 64 to 90 acres total (See Figure 3 Mine Plan). Quarry 3 is located within the existing ore body and was considered in analysis in the original mine plan reclamation application of 1991 and subsequent amendments (see Figure 4, Reclamation Plan).

An existing unpaved dirt access accesses Quarry 3 and the operations area (refer to Figure 3, Mine Plan). An amendment to the existing approved mining and reclamation plan is therefore requested to access and remove iron ore from Quarry 3 identified in the present application. The reclamation plan is amended to reflect development of this quarry, including location and final configuration. All other approved operational conditions remain unchanged.

In preparation for the mining operation to occur at Quarry 3, Hahm International/Levand Steel and Supply Corporation has submitted an application to the County for a Mining and Reclamation Plan, as well as post-mining reclamation. As San Bernardino County is the SMARA lead agency, implementation of the plan amendment requires discretionary approvals from the County, and the Project is subject to the environmental review requirements pursuant to CEQA. The County is the lead agency for the CEQA Process.

Figure 1 Regional Map



**REGIONAL LOCATION**

Silver Lake Iron Mine  
Fort Irwin, California

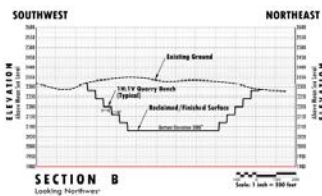
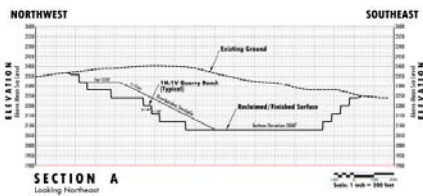
Figure 2 Vicinity Map



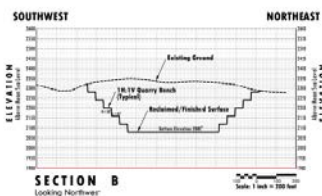
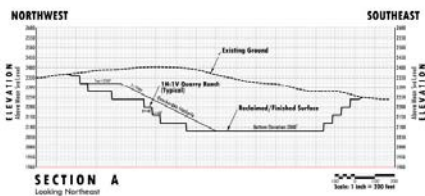
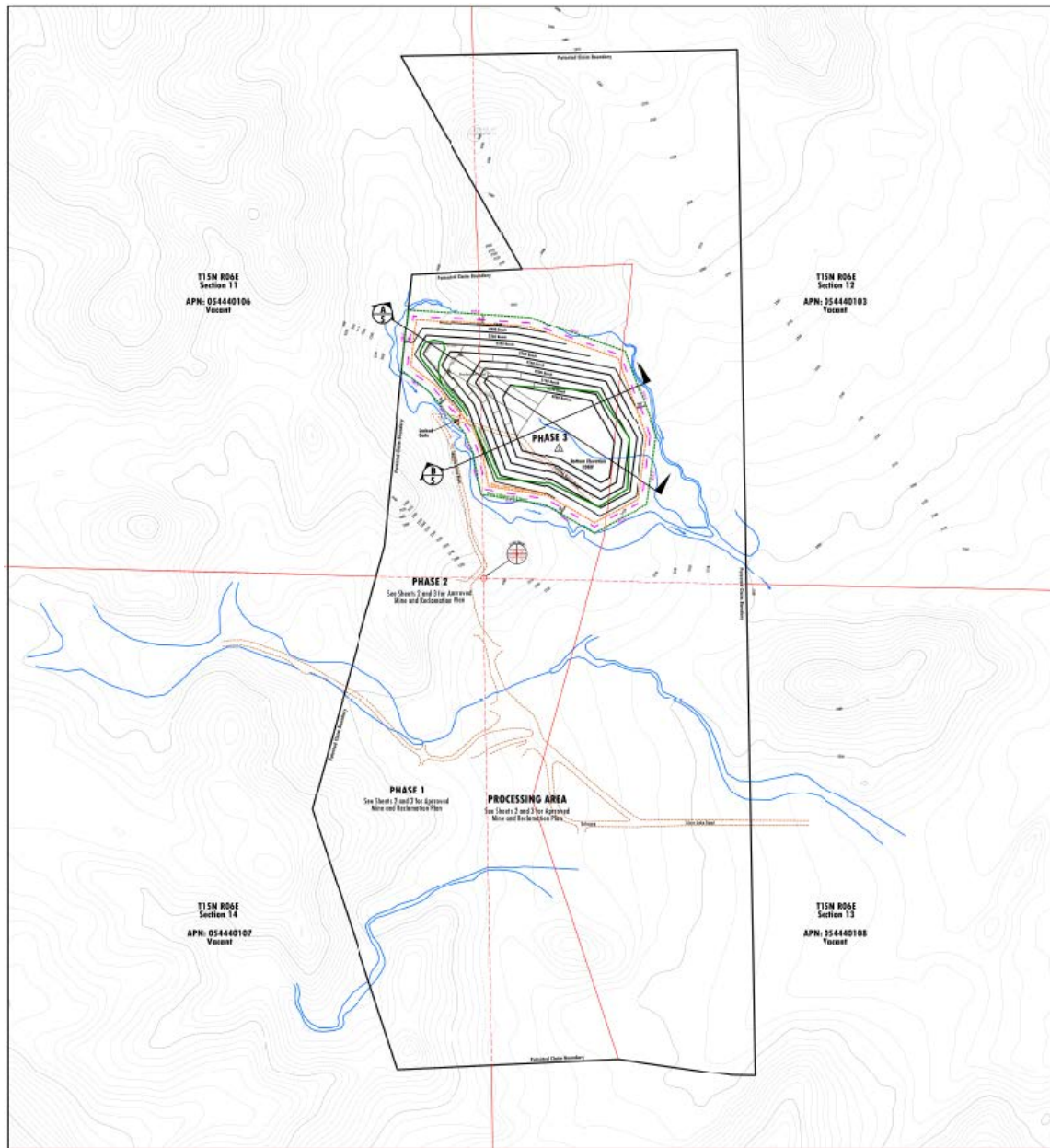
**PROJECT VICINITY**  
Silver Lake Iron Mine  
Foothills, California

FIGURE 2

Figure 5 of 5 Quarry 3  
 Mine Plan



**Figure 6 of 6 Quarry 3  
 Reclamation Plan**



**99**  
**Reclamation Plan - Phase 3**  
 Silver Lake Mine  
 County of San Bernardino, California

- LEGEND**
- Phase 3 Quarry Limits
  - Wiring Corridor
  - Warning Sign and/or Bank Barrier
  - Drainage Course
  - Existing Contour
  - Proposed Outer Boundary
  - Existing Dr. Road
  - MG&E Survey Station



DATE	BY	APP'D
12/15/20	12/15/20	12/15/20
12/15/20	12/15/20	12/15/20
12/15/20	12/15/20	12/15/20

**LILBURN**  
 CONSULTANTS

## MINING OPERATIONS

Based on historical drilling since the 1940s, the site has estimated proven and inferred reserves of 18,000,000 tons of iron ore with an average concentration of 52 percent of iron. The site is permitted to be mined at a maximum average production rate of 400,000 tons annually which will provide reserves for up to 45 years (approximate year of 2055). The mine is currently allowed to process 4,500,000 tons of ore over its permitted operation. The average annual production is currently 250,000 tons. The mine operates 8 hours/day, 7 days/week, and up to 365 days/year at the discretion of access limitations dictated by the U.S. Army. There are 6 employees on-site during peak operations.

The final floor elevation for Phase 3 Quarry will be 2,040 feet above sea level (ASL). Phase 3 Quarry depth will be 360 feet from the top of slope to quarry floor at the northwestern edge, and 170 feet below ground surface at the southeastern edge (See Figure 4 Mine Plan for the Cross Sections). The finished quarry benches shall be inclined 1:1 (horizontal to vertical), with the vertical faces  $\pm$  40 feet in height consistent with Phases 1 and 2. Refer to the Slope Stability Report on file.

Mining operations will begin in the area of the existing benches. The operation will consist of drilling and blasting the quarry faces and loading the broken rock onto trucks with a mechanical shovel. The trucks will take the broken rock to stockpiles. The material will be removed from the stockpiles to the jaw crusher by loaders. The jaw crusher will be run by electricity from a generator set. The crushed ore will proceed on conveyors to a two-deck screen which will separate plus and minus  $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch rock. The plus  $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch material will be sent through a cone crusher and returned to the process loop via conveyors. All material (minus  $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch) will be run through a magnetic separator. High grade ore will be sold for its iron content and low-grade material will be used for road base aggregate. Most equipment will run on diesel fuel and electricity will be produced by a diesel fuel generator. Diesel fuel will be stored in a 10,000 gallon above-ground tank. Water will be stored in an existing 10,000 gallon above-ground tank. All equipment is currently existing and located near Quarry 2; no additional equipment will be needed for mining Quarry 3.

<b>Equipment List (Typical)</b>	
<i>Number</i>	<b>Description</b>
1	6-yard bucket loader
1	4-yard bucket loader
3	Trucks, 22 tons
1	D-8 Caterpillar Dozer
1	#14 Caterpillar Blade
1	Drill and Compressor
1	Water Truck (4,000 gal)
1	Shop Van (40')
1	Service Truck
1	Mobile Home (12' x 70')
1	10,000-gallon fuel tanks, above-ground
1	10,000-gallon water tanks, above-ground
1	Jaw Crusher
1	Feeder 4' x 16'
1	Cone Crusher 46"

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1	2 Deck Screen 5' x 16'
1	Magnetic Separator
1	Stacker 80'
±100 LF	Conveyors
1	Generator 335 kW

Water will be necessary for dust control and is not available at the site. Water is available at Silver Lake and at Baker and will require hauling by truck.

**Surrounding Land Uses and Setting**

The Project Site and surrounding area are owned by the United States Department of Defense. The Project Site is surrounded by vacant, open desert lands. The Fort Irwin National Training Center is for training combined armed forces in brigade-sized maneuvers. The army occupies and utilizes the Silver Lake Mine site during mine access restrictions (the Army is allowed to access the Site at any given time).

The County of San Bernardino, although no longer the land use administrator, identifies the Project Site and surrounding area as Resource/Land Management land use category and Resource Conservation Zone. For purposes of CEQA analysis' those land use categories will be identified.

Existing Land Use and Land Use Category			
Location	Existing Land Use	Land Use Category	Zoning
Project Site	Undeveloped and Vacant	Resource/Land Management	Resource Conservation
North	Undeveloped and Vacant	Resource/Land Management	Resource Conservation
South	Silver Lake Mine	Resource/Land Management	Resource Conservation
East	Undeveloped and Vacant	Resource/Land Management	Resource Conservation
West	Undeveloped and Vacant	Resource/Land Management	Resource Conservation

**Project Site Location, Existing Site Land Uses and Conditions**

The Project Site is located north of existing Quarry 1 and Quarry 2. The total Silver Lake Mine site has been mined for a period of 43 years, and the estimated total disturbance area is approximately 64 acres. Existing disturbances consist of a series of mined benches, exploration pits, and a processing area with stockpiles, along with various operation equipment and access roads for on-site travel. The site is bisected by an ephemeral drainage wash that runs west to east. The wash lies north of the Phase 1 Quarry and processing area, and south of the Phase 2



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Quarry area. The remainder of the project area consists of steep rugged hills and gently sloping washes. Elevations at the site range from 2,225 to 2,450 feet above sea level (ASL).

**ADDITIONAL APPROVAL REQUIRED BY OTHER PUBLIC AGENCIES**

Federal: None

State of California: SMARA through is local lead agency.

County of San Bernardino: Surface Mine and Reclamation Plan consultation through Land Use Services Department-Building and Safety, Public Health-Environmental Health Services, Special Districts, and Public Works.

Regional: Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District. MDAQMD permits in place.

Local: None

**CONSULTATION WITH CALIFORNIA NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBES**

Have California Native American tribes traditionally and culturally affiliated with the project area requested consultation pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080.3.1? If so, is there a plan for consultation that includes, for example, the determination of significance of impacts to tribal cultural resources, procedures regarding confidentiality, etc.?

On January 11, 2021, the County of San Bernardino mailed notification pursuant to AB52 to the following tribes: Colorado River Indian Tribes, San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians, Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians, Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians, Morongo Band of Mission Indians, and San Manuel Band of Mission Indians. Requests for consultations were due to the County by February 11, 2020. The table below shows a summary of comments and responses.

**AB 52 Consultation**

<b>Tribe</b>	<b>Comment Letter Received</b>	<b>Summary of Response</b>	<b>Conclusion</b>
San Manuel Band of Mission Indians	January 13, 2021	Proposed Project is located outside of Serrano ancestral territory	No request for consultation

Note: Conducting consultation early in the CEQA process allows tribal governments, lead agencies, and project proponents to discuss the level of environmental review, identify and address potential adverse impacts to tribal cultural resources, and reduce the potential for delay and conflict in the environmental review process. (See Public Resources Code section 21083.3.2.) Information may also be available from the California Native American Heritage Commission’s Sacred Lands File per Public Resources Code section 5097.96 and the California Historical Resources Information System administered by the California Office of Historic Preservation. Please also note that Public Resources Code section 21082.3(c) contains provisions specific to confidentiality.

**EVALUATION FORMAT**

This Initial Study is prepared in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21000, et seq. and the State CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations Section 15000, et seq.). Specifically, the preparation of an Initial

Study is guided by Section 15063 of the State CEQA Guidelines. This format of the study is presented as follows. The project is evaluated based on its effect on 20 major categories of environmental factors. Each factor is reviewed by responding to a series of questions regarding the impact of the project on each element of the overall factor. The Initial Study checklist provides a formatted analysis that provides a determination of the effect of the project on the factor and its elements. The effect of the project is categorized into one of the following four categories of possible determinations:

Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant	No Impact
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Substantiation is then provided to justify each determination. One of the four following conclusions is then provided as a summary of the analysis for each of the major environmental factors.

1. **No Impact:** No impacts are identified or anticipated, and no mitigation measures are required.
2. **Less than Significant Impact:** No significant adverse impacts are identified or anticipated, and no mitigation measures are required.
3. **Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated:** Possible significant adverse impacts have been identified or anticipated and the following mitigation measures are required as a condition of project approval to reduce these impacts to a level below significant. The required mitigation measures are: (List of mitigation measures)
4. **Potentially Significant Impact:** Significant adverse impacts have been identified or anticipated. An Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is required to evaluate these impacts, which are (List of the impacts requiring analysis within the EIR).

At the end of the analysis the required mitigation measures are restated and categorized as being either self- monitoring or as requiring a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program.

**ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED:**

The environmental factors checked below will be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is a "Potentially Significant Impact" as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Aesthetics</u>                | <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Agriculture and Forestry Resources</u> | <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Air Quality</u>                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Biological Resources</u>      | <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Cultural Resources</u>                 | <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Energy</u>                             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Geology/Soils</u>             | <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Greenhouse Gas Emissions</u>           | <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Hazards &amp; Hazardous Materials</u>  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Hydrology/Water Quality</u>   | <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Land Use/Planning</u>                  | <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Mineral Resources</u>                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Noise</u>                     | <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Population/Housing</u>                 | <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Public Services</u>                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Recreation</u>                | <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Transportation</u>                     | <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Tribal Cultural Resources</u>          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Utilities/Service Systems</u> | <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Wildfire</u>                           | <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Mandatory Findings of Significance</u> |

**DETERMINATION:** Based on this initial evaluation, the following finding is made:

<input type="checkbox"/>	The proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION shall be prepared.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there shall not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION shall be prepared.
<input type="checkbox"/>	The proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.
<input type="checkbox"/>	The proposed project MAY have a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated" impact on the environment, but at least one effect 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required.

*Reuben J. Arceo*

Signature: (Reuben Arceo, Planner)

*4/21/2021*

Date

*David Prusch*

Signature: (David Prusch, Supervising Planner)

*04/21/2021*

Date

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant	No Impact
<b>I. AESTHETICS</b> – Except as provided in Public Resources Code Section 21099, would the project:				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including but not limited to trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) In non-urbanized areas, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from a publicly accessible vantage point). If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare, which will adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**SUBSTANTIATION:** (Check  if project is located within the view-shed of any Scenic Route listed in the Countywide Plan):

**San Bernardino Countywide Plan, approved October 27, 2020, adopted November 27, 2020; San Bernardino Countywide Plan Draft EIR; San Bernardino County Development Code; Reclamation Plan for Silver Lake Mine**

a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?

The Project Site is not located within a scenic vista recognized by the San Bernardino Countywide Plan (Countywide Plan). The Project Site is located approximately twelve miles off of the State Highway 127 and out of the view of any scenic routes within a restricted access military training facility. Furthermore, the eventual reclamation of the site will remove all equipment and facilities and recontour the quarry benches and operation disturbance areas to blend with the surrounding areas. Therefore, less than significant impacts are identified or anticipated, and no mitigation measures are required.

**Less Than Significant Impact**

- b) *Substantially damage scenic resources, including but not limited to trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?*

The Project Site is not located adjacent to or within the vicinity of a designated State Scenic Highway. The nearest officially designated State Scenic Highway, as identified by the Countywide Plan: NR-3 Scenic Routes & Highways Map, is a portion of State Route 127 which is located approximately twelve miles east of the Project Site.<sup>1</sup> The Project Site is out of view from State Route 127. Therefore, no significant impacts are identified or anticipated, and no mitigation measures are required.

#### **Less Than Significant Impact**

- c) *In non-urbanized areas, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from a publicly accessible vantage point). If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?*

The Project Site is in a remote desert area surrounded by vacant and undeveloped land. The mine site is not viewed by significant numbers of viewers or visible from any prominent viewpoints. No residences or recreational areas are in the area. Public access is restricted. The Project Site occurs north of existing Silver Lake Dry Lakebed. Impacts to visual resources are based on changes to the existing character of the landscape, viewer sensitivity, and the number of viewers that may view the project activities. The level of change associated with the Proposed Project is considered to be low as the Project Site is currently a mine. The completion of mining (all quarries) will be followed by reclamation which shall take place in order to reshape mining features and revegetate disturbed areas to minimize aesthetic impacts. With implementation of the proposed Reclamation Plan, impacts are considered temporary and less than significant. Therefore, less than significant impacts are identified or anticipated, and no mitigation measures are required.

#### **Less Than Significant Impact**

- d) *Create a new source of substantial light or glare, which will adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?*

The Proposed Project would not create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area as no permanent new light sources are proposed. No lighting is proposed, however, in the event temporary lighting is needed, the operator shall consult with appropriate Fort Irwin National Training Center representatives. This includes fully shielding lights as required to preclude light pollution or light trespass on adjacent property, other property (directly or reflected), and members of the public on adjacent roads. Annual production and operations would remain the same. All current conditions of approval restrictions and conformance criteria would continue to apply. The proposal will not alter the proposed mine reclamation

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<sup>1</sup> San Bernardino Countywide Plan: NR-3 Scenic Routes & Highways  
<https://www.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=01c32a4480954deba20af965275b81e7>

conditions nor will it affect the overall approved operational timeframe. All existing regulatory restrictions and conditions of compliance would remain in place. With consultation of Fort Irwin National Training Center representative, no significant adverse impacts are identified or are anticipated, and no mitigation measures are required.

**Less Than Significant Impact**

**No significant adverse impacts are identified or anticipated, and no mitigation measures are required.**

	<i>Issues</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less than Significant</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
<b>II.</b>	<b>AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY RESOURCES</b> - In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Dept. of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. In determining whether impacts to forest resources, including timberland, are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to information compiled by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection regarding the state's inventory of forest land, including the Forest and Range Assessment Project and the Forest Legacy Assessment project; and forest carbon measurement methodology provided in Forest Protocols adopted by the California Air Resources Board. Would the project:				
a)	Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland) as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b)	Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c)	Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d)	Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

- e) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?

**SUBSTANTIATION:** (Check  if project is located in the Important Farmlands Overlay):

**Countywide Plan; California Department of Conservation Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program; San Bernardino County Agricultural Resources GIS Map; Submitted Project Materials**

- a) *Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland) as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?*

According to the Countywide Plan: NR-5 Agricultural Resources Map, no Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance is identified on-site or on adjacent parcels.<sup>2</sup> Therefore, no impacts are identified or are anticipated, and no mitigation measures are required.

**No Impact**

- b) *Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?*

As shown on the Countywide Plan: NR-5 Agricultural Resources Map, the Project Site is not identified within any agricultural land use or Williamson Act boundaries.<sup>3</sup> As such, the Proposed Project does not conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use or a Williamson Act contract. No impacts are identified or are anticipated, and no mitigation measures are required.

**No Impact**

- c) *Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?*

The Project Site is surrounded by vacant, open desert lands. The primary use for lands within the adjacent Fort Irwin National Training Center is for training combined armed forces in brigade-sized maneuvers. With the addition of Quarry 3, the mine's total annual production and operations would remain the same. All current conditions of approval restrictions and conformance criteria would continue to apply, including slope and bench restrictions. The mining of Quarry 3 will not alter the proposed mine

<sup>2</sup> San Bernardino Countywide Plan: NR-5 Agricultural Resources.  
<https://www.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=fcb9bc427d2a4c5a981f97547a0e3688>

<sup>3</sup> San Bernardino Countywide Plan: NR-5 Agricultural Resources.  
<https://www.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=fcb9bc427d2a4c5a981f97547a0e3688>

reclamation conditions, nor will it affect the overall approved operational timeframe unless an extension is granted. Therefore, implementation of the Proposed Project would not conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land, timberland, or timberland zoned for Timberland Production. Therefore, no impacts are identified or anticipated, and no mitigation measures are required.

**No Impact**

- d) *Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?*

The Project Site does not support forest land and implementation of the Proposed Project would not convert forest land to non-forest use. Therefore, no impacts are identified or are anticipated, and no mitigation measures are required.

**No Impact**

- e) *Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?*

The primary use surrounding properties within Fort Irwin National Training Center have been used for training combined armed forces in brigade-sized maneuvers. Mining activities associated with the Silver Lake Mine includes disturbances consisting of a series of mined benches, exploration pits, and a processing area with stockpiles, operational equipment, and access roads for on-site travel. As such, implementation of the Proposed Project would not result in the conversion of farmland to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use. No impacts are identified or are anticipated, and no mitigation measures are required.

**No Impact**

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**No impacts are identified or anticipated, and no mitigation measures are required.**

<i>Issues</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less than Significant</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
<b>III. AIR QUALITY</b> - Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management district or air pollution control district might be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:				
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard?

- |   |                          |                          |                          |                                     |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| c) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| d) Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors adversely affecting a substantial number of people)? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

**SUBSTANTIATION:** *(Discuss conformity with the Mojave Desert Air Quality Management Plan, if applicable):*

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**Countywide Plan; Submitted Project Materials**

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a) *Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?*

The Project Site is within the Mojave Desert Air Basin (MDAB) and under the jurisdiction of the MDAQMD. The MDAQMD is responsible for updating the Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP). The AQMP was developed for the primary purpose of controlling emissions to maintain all federal and state ambient air standards for the district. The Proposed Project is a conditionally acceptable use within the RC (Resource Conservation) land use designation as demonstrated by the San Bernardino County Development Code Table 82-4, Allowed Land Uses and Permit Requirements for Agricultural and Resource Management Land Use Zoning Districts. The Proposed Project would not require any additional equipment or manpower. The number of truck trips would not increase. The Proposed Project would not significantly increase local air pollutant emissions and therefore would not conflict with or obstruct implementation of the AQMP. Therefore, no significant adverse impacts are identified or are anticipated, and no mitigation measures are required.

**No Impact**

b) *Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the Project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard?*

The Proposed Project will not increase existing annual ore production. The average annual production will remain at 250,000 tons. The mine operates 8 hours/day, 7 days/week, up to 365 days/year at the discretion of access limitations dictated by the U.S. Army. There will be 6 employees on site during peak operations.

The operations consist of drilling and blasting the quarry faces and loading the broken rock onto trucks with a mechanical shovel. The trucks transport the broken rock to stockpiles. The material is moved from the stockpiles to the jaw crusher by loaders. The jaw crusher is run by electricity from a set of generators. The crushed ore proceeds by conveyors to a two-deck screen which separates plus and minus ¾-inch rock. The plus ¾-inch material is sent through a cone crusher and returned to the process loop via conveyors. All material (minus ¾-inch) is run through a magnetic separator. High grade ore is sold for its iron content and low-grade material is used for road base aggregate. Most equipment runs on diesel fuel and electricity produced by diesel fuel generators.

Reclamation will be conducted upon termination of mining operations. Final reclamation will include the removal of all mobile equipment, buildings, structures, processing plant equipment, tanks and debris will be removed from the site. Any concrete pads and footings will be broken up and buried.

The Proposed Project was screened for emission generation using MDAQMD “Rule Book” guidelines, and Off-Road Mobile Source Emissions Factors (2020). The criteria pollutants screened for included: reactive organic gases (ROG), nitrous oxides (NOx), carbon monoxide (CO), and particulates (PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub>). Two of these, ROG and NOx, are ozone precursors.

Typical daily operations were screened for the following: a crane, loader, grader, a miscellaneous material handling equipment, and a rubber-tired dozer. Refer to Table 1 for emissions.

**Table 1  
 Operational Emissions  
 (Pounds per Day)**

<b>Source<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>ROG</b>	<b>NO<sub>x</sub></b>	<b>CO</b>	<b>SO<sub>x</sub></b>	<b>PM<sub>10</sub></b>	<b>PM<sub>2.5</sub></b>
Crane	0.1	0.6	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0
Dozer	0.8	5.9	3.1	0.0	0.2	0.2
Excavator	0.1	0.4	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0
Generator	0.1	0.6	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0
Grader	0.1	0.5	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.0
Loader	3.0	18.0	18.4	0.0	0.9	0.9
Other Material Handling Equipment	0.7	4.6	3.5	0.0	0.2	0.2
<b>Totals (lbs/day)</b>	<b>4.8</b>	<b>30.5</b>	<b>27.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>1.4</b>
MDAQMD Threshold (lbs/day)	137	137	548	137	82	65
<b>Significant</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>No</b>

<sup>1</sup> Off-Road Mobile Source Emissions Factors (SCAQMD 2021)

As shown in Table 1, operational emissions would not exceed MDAQMD thresholds.

Compliance with MDAQMD Regulation II and Rules 402 and 403

Although the Proposed Project does not exceed MDAQMD thresholds, the Applicant is required to comply with all applicable MDAQMD rules and regulations as the MDAB is in non-attainment status for ozone and suspended particulates (PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub> (State)). The Proposed Project shall comply with Regulation II which requires the Applicant to obtain and implement condition for a Permit to Construct and a Permit to Operate the proposed crush/screening plant and power generator. To limit dust production, the Applicant must comply with Rules 402 nuisance and 403 fugitive dust, which require the implementation of Best Available Control Measures (BACM) for each fugitive dust source. This would include, but not be limited to the following BACMs:

1. The Project proponent shall ensure that any portion of the site to be graded shall be pre-watered prior to the onset of grading activities.

- I. The Project proponent shall ensure that watering of the site or other soil stabilization method shall be employed on an on-going basis after the initiation of any grading and mining activity on the site. Portions of the site that are actively being mined shall be watered to ensure that a crust is formed on the ground surface and shall be watered at the end of each workday.
- II. The Project proponent shall ensure that all disturbed areas are treated to prevent erosion.
- III. The Project proponent shall ensure that all mining and processing activities are suspended when winds exceed 25 miles per hour.

Exhaust emissions from vehicles and equipment and fugitive dust generated by equipment traveling over exposed surfaces, would increase NO<sub>x</sub> and PM<sub>10</sub> levels in the area. Although the Proposed Project would not exceed MDAQMD thresholds during operations, the Applicant would be required to implement the following conditions as required by MDAQMD:

2. All equipment used for mining and construction must be tuned and maintained to the manufacturer's specification to maximize efficient burning of vehicle fuel.
3. The operator shall maintain and effectively utilize and schedule on-site equipment and on-site and off-site haul trucks in order to minimize exhaust emissions from truck idling.
4. The operator shall comply with all existing and future CARB and MDAQMD regulations related to diesel-fueled trucks, which may include among others: (1) meeting more stringent emission standards; (2) retrofitting existing engines with particulate traps; (3) use of low sulfur fuel; and (4) use of alternative fuels or equipment.
5. The aggregate crusher must obtain permits to construct and annually renew permits to operate from the MDAQMD and be in compliance with such permits.

MDAQMD rules for diesel emissions from equipment and trucks are embedded in the compliance for all diesel fueled engines, trucks, and equipment with the statewide CARB Diesel Reduction Plan. These measures will be implemented by CARB in phases with new rules imposed on existing and new diesel-fueled engines. Therefore, less than significant impacts are identified or anticipated, and no mitigation measures are required.

### **Less Than Significant Impact**

- c) *Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?*

The Proposed Project is located on U.S. Army land in a remote area of San Bernardino County with no residences or recreational areas in the vicinity. No sensitive receptors are located within the project vicinity. Therefore, no impacts are identified or are anticipated, and no mitigation measures are required.

### **No Impact**

- d) Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors adversely affecting a substantial number of people?

The Proposed Project is the operation of Quarry 3 of an existing iron ore mine. The generation of objectionable odors is typically not associated with surface mining operations and there are no sensitive receptors within the project vicinity. Therefore, no impacts are identified or are anticipated, and no mitigation measures are required.

**No Impact**

**Therefore, no significant adverse impacts are identified or anticipated, and no mitigation measures are required.**

<i>Issues</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less than Significant</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
<b>IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES - Would the project:</b>				
a) Have substantial adverse effects, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, and regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or US Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

- f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional or state habitat conservation plan?

**SUBSTANTIATION:** (Check if project is located in the Biological Resources Overlay or contains habitat for any species listed in the California Natural Diversity Database ):

**Countywide Plan; Submitted Project Materials; Biological Resources Assessment,**

- a) Have substantial adverse effects, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?

A Supplemental Final Environmental Impact Statement was prepared for the Proposed Additional of Maneuver Training Land at Fort Irwin, CA dated 2005 by CALIBRE Systems, Inc (EIS).

The EIS states the Study Area is within the central Mojave Desert floristic. The broadest vegetation classification within a province is vegetation type, or the plant form of the native dominant vegetation. Vegetation types include grassland, sparse scrub, dense scrub, woodland, forest, and fellfield. Vegetation types that occur in the Study Area are primarily shrubland, with some woodland. Only small portions of the Study Area contain grassland. A plant community is a group of plants that interact and exist under similar environmental conditions. Primary shrubland communities in the Mojave Desert include desert sink scrub, saltbush scrub, creosote bush scrub, Mojave wash scrub, and Mojave mixed woody scrub. Primary woodland communities in the Mojave Desert are Joshua tree and Pinyon-Juniper woodland, and the primary grassland community is alkaline meadow. Vegetation communities in the Study Area include desert sink scrub, creosote bush scrub, desert wash scrub, Joshua tree woodland, Mojave mixed woody scrub, and saltbush scrub.

Plants & Vegetation

According to EIS: Figure 3.5-1: Vegetation Communities, the Project Site occurs in a Creosote bush community boundary. Creosote bush scrub is the dominant upland community on alluvial fans in the Sonora, Mojave, and Chihuahuan Deserts. Creosote bush has a wide ecological tolerance and can occur in rocky or sandy soils and be an important part of the vegetation in either granitic or carbonate substrate. It can make up as much as 70 percent of the vegetative cover of the central Mojave Desert. Creosote bush is relatively tall and broad when compared to other Mojave Desert shrubs and visually dominates the bajadas where it occurs. Creosote bush may be found in pure stands or with various other common and widespread shrubs. Burrobush is the most common shrub found with creosote bush. Other shrub commonly occurring with creosote bush include spiny hopsage, winterfat (*Kraschennikovia lanata*), wolfberry (*Lycium andersonii*), golden cholla, beavertail (*Opuntia basilaris*), Mormon tea (*Ephedra nevadensis* and *E. californica*) and Acton daisy (*Encelia actonii*).

The EIS identifies several sensitive plant species within the Base expansion Study Area, which include Alkali Mariposa Lily (*Calochortus striatus*), Barstow Woolly Sunflower (*Eriophyllum mohavense*), Clokey's Cryptantha (*Cryptantha clokeyi*), Crucifixion Thorn (*Castela emoryi*), Desert Cymopterus (*Cymopterus deserticola*), Lane Mountain Milk-vetch (*Astragalus jaegerianus*), Mojave Monkeyflower (*Mimulus mohavensis*), and Parish's Phacelia (*Phacelia parishii*). The Project Site is located in the eastern portion the Study Area. As such, the only sensitive plant species found is the Small-Flowered Androstephium (*Androstephium breviflorum*) which occurs in the eastern portion of Study Area.

### Wildlife

According to the Biological Resource Survey, a total of 17 wildlife species were observed or detected on the site during July 1991 field survey. eight reptiles, six birds and three mammals. Some common species present include desert iguana (*Dipsosaurus dorsalis*), western whiptail (*Cnemidophorus tigris*), loggerhead shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*), black-throated sparrow (*Amphispiza bilineata*), and white-tailed antelope squirrel (*Ammospermophilus leucurus*).

The EIS included several biological studies and literature sources for wildlife species located within the base expansion Subject Area ranging between the years of 1976 through 1996. Studies conducted in areas south of the Fort Irwin National Training Center include biological studies for the preferred alternative identified in the 1996 DEIS and of the desert tortoise along the northern slope of the Alvord Mountains. Chambers Group studied the biological resources of the eastern portion of the Study Area in the fall of 1992. General wildlife studies of the Silurian Valley and vicinity, as well as a survey of desert tortoise populations in the area, were conducted in September and October 1992. Other literature sources referenced for pertinent ecological information include the Peterson field guides to mammals; amphibians and reptiles, western birds, hawks, eagles, and falcons of North America, and California's Wildlife, Volumes I thru III. The CNDDDB was also accessed for information on sensitive wildlife known to occur in the vicinity of the base expansion Study Area.

### Insects

Several invertebrate species, mostly insects, occur, or are likely to occur, within the Region of Influence ROI. The orthopterans (crickets, grasshoppers, and others) are the most commonly observed insects. Also commonly observed are coleopterans (beetles) and hymenopterans (ants, wasps, and bees). The pallid-winged grasshopper (*Trimerotropis pallidipennis*) is the grasshopper most often observed in the Study Area. Three other Mojave Desert grasshoppers, the creosote bush grasshopper (*Boottettix argentatus*), desert clicker grasshopper (*Ligurotettix coquilletti*), and furnace heat lubber (*Tytthoyle maculata*), also occur within the Study Area, and all are associated with creosote bush. Darkling beetles are the abundant ground-dwelling beetle species within the Study Area. The two most common species are *Cryptoglossa verrucosa* and *Eleodes armata*. Ant species associated with several Mojave Desert vegetation types, including the California harvester ant (*Pogonomyrmex californicus*) and rough harvester ant (*Pogonomyrmex rugosus*), are also common within the Study Area. Butterflies, moths,

and skippers are also found in the Study Area. The most common butterfly species observed in the area are painted lady (*Vanessa cardui*), west coast painted lady (*V. annabella*), red admiral (*V. atalanta*), pygmy blue (*Brephidium exile*), monarch (*Danaus plexippus*), and several species of skippers (*Erynnis funeralis*, *Heliopetes ericetorum*, *Hylephila phyleus*, *Hesperopsis libya*), sulphurs, and whites (*Nathalis iole*, *Pieris rapae*, *Euchloe hyantis*). The ubiquitous cabbage white (*Artogeia rapae*) is found at the alfalfa fields along the Mojave River and may fly over the Study Area. Microlepidoptera, such as yucca moths (*Tegiticula sp.*), are seasonally common in the region when Joshua Trees are in bloom.

#### Amphibians

The only amphibian species observed in the Study Area is the red-spotted toad (*Bufo punctatus*) at Paradise Springs, in the southwestern portion of the Study Area. They may occur at springs, including those springs that are active for only a portion of the year, and man-made water sources within the Study Area. The Project Site located on the eastern portion of the Study Area. Therefore, no other species of frog, salamander, or toad are expected to occur.

#### Fishes

Although there are active perennial springs located in the Study Area, there is no documentation of fish species occurring in any of these springs.

#### Reptiles

The reptilian species observed in the Study Area are characteristic of those found in creosote scrub habitat. Zebra-tailed lizards (*Callisaurus draconoides*), side-blotched lizards (*Uta stansburiana*), and western whiptails (*Cnemidophorus tigris*) are common throughout the Study Area. Other lizard species observed include the desert horned lizard (*Phrynosoma platyrhinos*), long-nosed leopard lizard (*Gambelia wislizenii*), collared lizard (*Crotophytus collaris*), and the desert iguana (*Dipsosaurus dorsalis*). The chuckwalla (*Sauromalus obesus*), a FSOC, was observed in the eastern portion of the Study Area and in the Alvord Mountains and Goldstone area in the southern and southwestern portions of the Study Area. It is likely to occur throughout the rocky substrate of the Avawatz, Alvord, and other mountain ranges in the Study Area. The Desert tortoise (*Gopherus agassizii*) occurs in varying densities throughout the Study Area. The Mojave fringe-toed lizard (*Uma scoparia*) occurs in the active dune systems and other blow sand habitats in the southern and southeastern portions of the Study Area.

Sixteen snake species have been documented in the region. The most commonly observed snakes are the gopher snake (*Pituophis melanoleucus*), coachwhip or red racer (*Masticophis flagellum*), Mojave green rattlesnake (*Crotalus scutulatus*), and sidewinder (*Crotalus cerastes*) rattlesnake. Less commonly observed snakes in the area include western patch-nosed snake (*Salvadora hexalepis*), western shovel-nosed snake (*Chionactis occipitalis*), rosy boa (*Lichanura trivirgata*), kingsnake (*Lampropeltis getulus*), and western speckled rattlesnake (*Crotalus mitchellii*).

## Birds

Birds may have different occurrence patterns; they may be permanent residents, overwinter residents, or nesting residents, or they may occasionally pass through the ROI during migration. The diversity and density of bird species in the Mojave Desert is relatively low, especially at the lower elevations vegetated by saltbush scrub. The low numbers and lack of bird diversity is due to the absence of permanent water sources and lack of a tree overstory that is used by birds for cover and foraging. Seed-eating birds are generally found at lower elevations. The most commonly observed birds in the area include black-throated sparrows (*Amphispiza bilineata*), house finches (*Carpodacus mexicanus*), Gambel's quail (*Callipepla gambellii*), ground and mourning doves (*Zenaidura macroura*) and other sparrows such as the white crowned sparrow (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*) and fox sparrow (*Passerella iliaca*).

Insect-eating birds are more common at the higher elevations in Joshua tree woodland. Ash-throated flycatchers (*Myiarchus cinerascens*), western kingbirds (*Tyrannus verticalis*), and Scott's oriole (*Icterus parisorum*) are common during spring in Joshua tree woodland in the Superior Valley, located in the southwestern portion of the Study Area. Black-tailed gnatcatchers (*Polioptila nigriceps*) and nighthawks (*Chordeiles acutipennis*) are common in the Study Area. LeConte's thrashers (*Toxostoma lecontei*) have been observed in the Superior Valley area. Loggerhead shrikes (*Lanus ludovicianus*) and roadrunners (*Geococcyx californicus*) have also been observed in the area hunting for lizards and insects. The smaller Mojave race of the raven (*Corvus corax*) forage on roadkill and trash or hunt for insects, small mammals, or eggs in the areas around the Fort Irwin National Training Center and within the Study Area.

Fall and spring migrants use springs and other sources of water. Riparian and forest dwellers, such as vireos and warblers, may be observed using springs in the Region of Influence (ROI) during migration periods. Springs are a valuable resource to most resident and migratory bird species. Springs, including the Paradise Springs, in the southwestern portion of the Study Area also support a variety of resident and migratory species. Other species of migrants include shore birds, birds of inland waterways, and raptors. Although the numbers are not large, the sheer diversity of species is significant. Well over 100 species of birds pass through the Study Area during migration. Costa's hummingbirds (*Calypte costae*) nest in the Mojave Desert, and Anna's hummingbirds (*Calypte anna*) over-winter in the area. Cactus wrens (*Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus*) use the cholla and Joshua trees in the Superior Valley. Rock wrens (*Salpinctes obsoletus*) and canyon wrens (*Catherpes mexicanus*) use the rocky canyons and boulder piles in the Study Area. Red-tailed hawks (*Falco jamaicensis*) are the most common raptor, while northern harriers (*Circus cyaneus*), golden eagles (*Aquila chrysaetos*), and prairie falcons (*Falco mexicanus*) have also been observed in the area. Hawks and falcons use steep rocky cliffs for nesting sites. The barn owl (*Tyto alba*) is the most common nocturnal avian predator in the area. It usually roosts in abandoned buildings and large trees on homesteads. Turkey vultures (*Cathartes aura*) may also be observed in the area in the fall during migration. Several species of shore birds may be seen using lakebeds, which often contain standing water after heavy rains. The most common shore birds include black-necked stilts (*Himantopus mexicanus*), long-billed curlew (*Numenius americanus*), and American avocets (*Recurvirostra americana*).



## Mammals

Numerous mammal species are observed or detected within the Study Area and vicinity. Small mammals are observed throughout the Study Area, including blacktailed hares (*Lepus californicus*) and desert cottontails (*Sylvilagus audubonii*). Hares and cottontails are also a few of the largest and most commonly observed herbivores on valley floors and alluvial fans in the Mojave Desert. Jackrabbits are active at twilight and are commonly seen resting in the shade of shrubs during the heat of the day. Antelope ground squirrel (*Ammospermophilus leucurus*), Mohave ground squirrel (*Spermophilus mohavensis*), and round tailed ground squirrel (*Spermophilus tereticaudus*) have been observed in the Study Area and are active during the day in summer. Merriam's rat (*Dipodomys merriami*), Panamint rat (*Dipodomys panamintinus*), desert kangaroo rat (*Dipodomys deserti*), deer mice (*Peromyscus maniculatus*), and pocket mice (*Perognathus penicillatus*) are the most numerous nocturnal rodents that are found in the area. Desert woodrats (*Neotoma lepida*) are also found in the Study Area, especially in the Paradise Range, and nest in rock outcrops and boulder piles.

The most common large mammal in the Study Area is the coyote (*Canis latrans*). Other mammals that are widespread throughout the region and are known to occur in the Study Area include kit fox (*Vulpes macrotis*), bobcats (*Lynx rufus*), and badgers (*Taxidea taxus*). Nelson's bighorn sheep (*Ovis canadensis nelsoni*) occur in the higher elevations of the Avawatz Range, which spans the eastern portion of the Study Area, which include Project Site. Mountain lions (*Felis concolor*) have been observed venturing from the Newberry Springs, Ord Mountain Ranges, and Barstow and may venture north into the Study Area.

Mineshafts, natural caves, and rocky outcrops located throughout the Study Area provide potential roosting and nesting habitat for bats. Springs located in the Study Area provide foraging habitat. Fourteen bat species were determined to occur potentially on the Fort Irwin National Training Center and surrounding areas, based on the species' known range and habitat requirements. Eight of the potential species were observed or detected during field surveys on the Fort Irwin National Training Center. They include the western pipistrelle (*Pepistrellus hesperus*), California myotis (*Myotis californicus*), and the big brown bat (*Eptesicus fuscus*). Also observed where the Pallid bat (*Antrozous pallidus*), California leaf-nosed bat (*Macrotus californicus*), Townsend's big-eared bat (*Corynorhinus townsendii*), Mexican free-tailed bat and western mastiff bat (*Eumops perotis*). These five species are also State of California Species of Special Concern (CSSC). These species may also occur within the Study Area and in the general vicinity surrounding Fort Irwin.

## Sensitive Species

The wildlife species range between Bureau of Land Management sensitive species, Candidate species, California Species of Special Concern, Endangered species, Federal Species of Concern and Threatened species status. The sensitive wildlife identified to occur within base expansion Study Area are as follows:

Reptiles: Desert Tortoise (*Gopherus agassizii*), Mojave Fringe-Toed Lizard (*Uma scoparia*)

Birds: Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), Bendire's Thrasher (*Toxostoma bendirei*), Brown-crested Flycatcher (*Myiarchus tyrannulus*), Burrowing Owl (*Athene cunicularia*), California Horned Lark (*Eremophila alpestris actia*), Cooper's Hawk (*Accipiter cooperi*), Ferruginous Hawk (*Buteo regalis*), Gila Woodpecker (*Melanerpes uropygialis*), Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*), Gray Vireo (*Vireo vicinior*), Least Bell's Vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*), LeConte's Thrasher (*Toxostoma lecontei*), Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*), and Long-eared Owl (*Asio otus*), Mountain Plover (*Charadrius montanus*), Northern Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*), Prairie Falcon (*Falco mexicanus*), Sharp-shinned Hawk (*Accipiter striatus velox*), Short-eared Owl (*Asio flammeus*), Snowy Plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus*), Southwestern Willow Flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*), Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*), Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*), Vermillion Flycatcher (*Pyrocephalus rubinus*), Yellow-billed Cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus*), Yellow-breasted Chat (*Icteria virens*), Yellow Warbler (*Dendroica petechia*)

Mammals: California Leaf-nosed Bat (*Macrotus californicus*), Mohave Ground Squirrel (*Spermophilus mohavensis*), Nelson's Bighorn Sheep (*Ovis canadensis nelsoni*), Pallid Bat (*Antrozous pallidus*), Spotted Bat (*Euderma maculatum*), Townsend's Big-eared Bat (*Corynorhinus townsendii*), and Western Mastiff Bat (*Eumops perotis californicus*)

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers have already accounted for the disturbed of the Survey Area and Project Site. As shown in EIS: Figure 4.5-2 Proposed Conservation Areas for Lane Mountain Milk-Vetch & Desert Tortoise, the Study Area includes several conservation areas (East Paradise, NTC-Gemini, UTM 90 Spur, UTM 90 West UTM 90 east, & 2 square mile) designated for sensitive species. The EIS: Figure 4.5-2 Proposed Conservation Areas for Lane Mountain Milk-Vetch & Desert Tortoise also shows that Silver Lake Mine Project Site is not within designated Conservation area. Furthermore, the base expansion Study Area and mine Project Site has already been disturbed by military training and adjacent mining activities. As such, the potential impacts to sensitive species remain. The mine is assumed to be potentially occupied habitat for desert tortoise with existing mitigation conditions applied. Annual production and operations would remain the same. All current conditions of approval restrictions and conformance criteria would continue to apply. The proposal will not alter the proposed mine reclamation conditions, nor will it affect the overall approved operational timeframe unless an extension is granted. All existing regulatory restrictions and conditions of compliance would remain in place. Silver Lake Mine operations currently adhere to the recommendations identified within the Biological Resource Survey as mitigation measures and will remain as conditions of approval. Therefore, no new impacts are identified or are anticipated, and no additional mitigation measures are required.

### **Less Than Significant Impact**

- b) *Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, and regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or US Fish and Wildlife Service?*

According to the EIS, field investigations conducted by Fort Irwin Department of Public Work (FIDPW) have identified wetlands within the Study Area.<sup>4</sup> The only amphibian species observed in the Study Area is the red-spotted toad (*Bufo punctatus*) at Paradise Springs, in the southwestern portion of the Study Area. They may occur at springs, including those springs that are active for only a portion of the year, and man-made water sources within the Study Area.<sup>5</sup> The Project Site located on the eastern portion of the Study Area. Furthermore, the Project Site does not include wetlands, riparian habitat, nor sensitive natural communities. Therefore, no impacts are identified or are anticipated, and no mitigation measures are required.

#### **Less Than Significant Impact**

- c) *Have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?*

As stated, “b” above, the Project Site does not include wetlands. Therefore, no permits or authorizations will be required. No impacts are identified or are anticipated, and no mitigation measures are required.

#### **Less Than Significant Impact**

- d) *Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?*

The primary use for lands within the Fort Irwin National Training Center is for training combined armed forces in brigade-sized maneuvers. The Project Site and surrounding area has been disturbed due to military and mining activities. Implementation of the Proposed Project is not anticipated to interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors.

#### **Less Than Significant Impact**

- e) *Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?*

According to the Biological Resource Survey prepared for the 2005 EIS, no sensitive plants or trees occur on the Project Site. The EIS: Figure 4.5-2 Proposed Conservation Areas for Lane Mountain Milk-Vetch & Desert Tortoise shows that Project Site is not within any Designated Conservation Plans. The Proposed Project would not conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance. Therefore, no significant adverse impacts are identified or are anticipated, and no mitigation measures are required.

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<sup>4</sup> Supplemental Final Environmental Impact Statement, Proposed Addition of Maneuver Training Land at Fort Irwin. 2005. Page 3 – 22.

<sup>5</sup> Supplemental Final Environmental Impact Statement, Proposed Addition of Maneuver Training Land at Fort Irwin. 2005. Page 3 – 45.

**Less Than Significant Impact**

- f) *Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional or state habitat conservation plan?*

The Project Site is not within any Designated Conservation Plans. The primary use for lands within the Fort Irwin National Training Center is for training combined armed forces in brigade-sized maneuvers. The Project Site and surrounding area has been disturbed due to military and mining activities. No significant adverse impacts are identified or are anticipated, and no mitigation measures are required.

**Less Than Significant Impact**

**Therefore, no significant adverse impacts are identified or anticipated and no mitigation measures are required.**

<i>Issues</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less than Significant</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
<b>V. CULTURAL RESOURCES - Would the project:</b>				
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to §15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Disturb any human remains, including those outside of formal cemeteries?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b><i>SUBSTANTIATION:</i></b> (Check if the project is located in the Cultural <input type="checkbox"/> or Paleontologic <input type="checkbox"/> Resources overlays or cite results of cultural resource review):				
<b><i>Class III Cultural Resources Inventory, CRM Tech; January 2019</i></b>				

a,b) *Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to §15064.5?*

*Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?*

A Supplemental Final Environmental Impact Statement was prepared for the Proposed Additional of Maneuver Training Land at Fort Irwin, CA dated 2005 by CALIBRE Systems, Inc (EIS). The EIS Study Area includes the Project Site. According, the Section 3.6 Cultural Resources and Paleontology of the EIS, five primary phases of fieldwork were conducted for the Proposed Project between 1988 and 2003. Department of Defense Instruction 4715-3 defines cultural resources as buildings, structures, sites, districts, and objects that are eligible to be or included on the National Register of Historic Places.

Cultural resource inventories were conducted on the Fort Irwin National Training Center on a case-by-case basis based on training needs, with the majority of survey work conducted within the Installation's active training areas – areas where cultural resources are at a greater risk of significant ground disturbance. These areas are primarily situated within basins and areas of moderate to low topographic relief.

According to the EIS, there were 506 identified cultural resource sites within the Study Area, and 20 different site type varieties. Prehistoric resource types include lithic scatters, lithic reduction sites, lithic quarries, campsites, habitation sites, food processing sites, rock shelters, rock art, rock alignments, stone circles, cleared circles, hearths, and trails. Historic resource types include mining sites, military sites, ranching sites, homestead sites, refuse disposal sites, campsites, rock alignments, roads, and trails. Cultural resources located within the Study Area were fragile, nonrenewable resources representing thousands of years of human history. The importance of these sites lies in their ability to contribute information that can be used to develop a better understanding of human adaptation to an arid, marginal environment over a long period of time. The Fort Irwin National Training Center manages the resources under their purview according to all applicable cultural resources' laws and regulations.

As shown on Figure 3.61: Cultural Resource Survey Areas of the EIS, the Project Site is not within a Cultural Survey boundary. As such, earthmoving activities associated with the Proposed Project may uncover potential buried historical and archaeological resources. According to a comment letter from the Archaeological Information Center at the San Bernardino County Museum for the previous Initial Study performed in 1992 for the Silver Lake Mine CUP, the Project Area is considered moderate potential for buried prehistoric archaeological resources to occur on or near the site. Adherence to previous conditions of approval would remedy any impacts associated with prehistoric archaeological resources. As such, no new mitigation measures are required as the existing mitigation measures and conditions of approval will apply to Quarry 3.

### **Less Than Significant Impact**

- c) *Disturb any human remains, including those outside of formal cemeteries?*

Mining activities could potentially disturb human remains interred outside of a formal cemetery. Thus, the potential exists that human remains may be unearthed during implementation of the Proposed Project.

California state law (California Health & Safety Code 7050.5) and federal law and regulations ([Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA) 16 USC 470 & 43 CFR 7], [Native American Graves Protection & Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) 25 USC 3001 & 43 CFR 10] and [Public Lands, Interior 43 CFR 8365.1-7]) require that should human remains and/or cremations be encountered during any earthmoving activities, all work shall stop immediately in the area in which the find(s) are present (suggested 100-ft radius area around the remains and project personnel will be excluded from the area and no photographs will be permitted), and the County of San Bernardino Coroner will be notified. The County of San Bernardino and the Project Proponent shall also be called and informed of the discovery. The Coroner will determine if the bones are historic/archaeological or a modern legal case. The Coroner will immediately contact the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) in the event that remains are determined to be human and of Native American origin, in accordance with California Public Resources Code Section 5097.98.

All discovered human remains shall be treated with respect and dignity. California state law (California Health & Safety Code 7050.5) and federal law and regulations ([Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA) 16 USC 470 & 43 CFR 7], [Native American Graves Protection & Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) 25 USC 3001 & 43 CFR 10] and [Public Lands, Interior 43 CFR 8365.1-7]) require a defined protocol if human remains are discovered in the State of California regardless if the remains are modern or archaeological.

**Less Than Significant Impact**

**Therefore, no significant adverse impacts are identified or anticipated, and no new mitigation measures are required.**

<i>Issues</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less than Significant</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
<b>VI. ENERGY – Would the project:</b>				
a) Result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

- b) Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?

***SUBSTANTIATION: Submitted Project Materials***

- a) *Result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation?*

Fuel

During operations, transportation energy consumption is dependent on the type of vehicles used, number of vehicle trips, fuel efficiency of vehicles, and travel mode. Transportation fuel use such as gasoline and diesel during operations would result from the use of trucks, construction equipment, and employee vehicles. According to the current mine operator, operational activities of Silverlake Mine consumed an estimated 30,000 gallons of diesel fuel for operation of heavy-duty equipment during year 2020. The Proposed Project will not generate additional fuel consumption as the operational fleet and equipment will remain the same.

The Proposed Project does not include uses or operations that would inherently result in excessive and wasteful vehicle trips or vehicles miles travelled or associated wasteful vehicle energy consumption. The Proposed Quarry 3 operations are not expected to result in a substantial demand for energy that would require expanded supplies or the construction of other infrastructure or expansion of existing facilities. Therefore, the Proposed Project would not result in wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources. No significant adverse impacts are identified or anticipated, and no mitigation measures are required.

**Less Than Significant Impact**

- b) *Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?*

The Silver Lake Mine has an existing approved mobile home/ office structure which is not a part of Quarry 3. No portions of Quarry 3 would need to be designed to comply with the County of San Bernardino Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Plan, and the State Building Energy Efficiency Standards (Title 24). With no additional structures as part of the Proposed Project, project development would not cause inefficient, wasteful and unnecessary energy consumption, and no adverse impacts would occur.

The Proposed Project would not conflict with any applicable plan, policy or regulation of an agency adopted to reduce GHG emissions, including Title 24, AB 32, and SB 32; therefore, the Proposed Project is consistent with AB 32, which aims to decrease emissions statewide to 1990 levels by to 2020. The Proposed Project would not conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency.

Therefore, less than significant impacts are identified or anticipated, and no mitigation measures are recommended.

**Less Than Significant Impact**

**Therefore, no significant impacts are identified or anticipated, and no mitigation measures are required.**

<i>Issues</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less than Significant</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
<b>VII. GEOLOGY AND SOILS - Would the project:</b>				
a) Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:				
i. Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map Issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ii. Strong seismic ground shaking?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iii. Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iv. Landslides?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>



- f) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?

**SUBSTANTIATION:** (Check  if project is located in the Geologic Hazards Overlay District):

**Countywide Plan; Submitted Project Materials; Fault Activity Map of California, 2010; Class III Cultural Resources Inventory; Reclamation Plan for Silver Lake Mine**

- a) Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:
- i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map Issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42
  - ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?

According to the Countywide Plan: HZ-1 Earthquake Fault Zones, The Project Site is not within an Alquist Priolo Fault Zone.<sup>66</sup> The Project Site does not contain habitable structures and no such structures are proposed. As such, implementation of mining activities is not anticipated to expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death following rupture of a known earthquake fault. Therefore, no significant adverse impacts are identified or anticipated, and no mitigation measures are required.

#### **Less Than Significant Impact**

- iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?

Liquefaction is a process in which cohesion-less, saturated, fine-grained sand and silt soils lose shear strength due to ground shaking and behave as fluid. The Project Site is not located in an area susceptible to liquefaction as demonstrated in the Countywide Plan: HZ-2 Liquefaction & Landslides Map.<sup>7</sup> Therefore, no significant adverse impacts are identified or anticipated, and no mitigation measures are required.

#### **Less Than Significant Impact**

- iv) Landslides?

The Project Site is not located in an area susceptible to landslides as demonstrated by Countywide Plan: HZ-2 Liquefaction & Landslides Map. Therefore, no significant adverse impacts are identified or anticipated, and no mitigation measures are required.

<sup>66</sup> San Bernardino Countywide Plan: HZ-1 Earthquake Fault Zones.  
<https://www.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=d88e2db7ee5649478d70e95c56b0d62d>

<sup>7</sup> San Bernardino Countywide Plan: HZ-2 Liquefaction & Landslides.  
<https://www.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=5864a434814c4e53adc74101b34b1905>

### **Less Than Significant Impact**

b) *Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?*

Due to the lack of fine surface material and low rainfall (less than 4 inches/year) the site has little potential for erosion and sedimentation. The processing area slopes gently 2-3% to the east. The intermittent wash that bisects the site has been lined with large rock along  $\pm$  280 feet of its length to protect the processing area from erosion. The 100-year, 1-hour storm will produce 1.2 inches of rainfall. Control of surface drainage and erosion for the operations area involves the following typical components:

- Limiting surface disturbance to the minimum area required for active operations;
- Diverting run-off from undisturbed areas around the active mining area as necessary;
- Using berms, ditches, sediment basins, and localized control and maintenance measures to intercept and control disturbed area drainage as necessary; and
- Stabilizing disturbed areas through grading or water spraying to form a crust.

Erosion control measures along the access road and around the perimeter of stockpiled material will include construction of temporary diversions and a collection of ditches, berms, and other measures individually or in combination as necessary. No drainage facilities will be established or maintained after reclamation. Therefore, no significant adverse impacts are anticipated or are identified, and no mitigation measures are required.

### **Less Than Significant Impact**

c) *Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?*

The Project Site is not located in an area susceptible to landslides or liquefaction as demonstrated by Countywide Plan: HZ-2 Liquefaction & Landslides Map. Although the Project Site's susceptibility to lateral spreading and subsidence is unknown at this time, reclamation of the mine will be undertaken at the completion of mining operations. The finished quarry benches shall be inclined 1:1 (horizontal to vertical), with the vertical faces  $\pm$  40 feet in height. The benches shall be inclined 2% toward the faces to capture precipitation and falling material. The bench areas shall be posted with signs warning of rock-fall hazard. The ends of the benches will be blocked with large rock (larger than  $\frac{1}{4}$  ton) to prevent access. Furthermore, the Proposed Project does not include construction of habitable structures or permanent facilities; therefore, implementation would not expose people or structures to substantial risks due to unstable soil. No significant adverse impacts are identified or are anticipated, and no mitigation measures are required.

### **Less Than Significant Impact**

- d) *Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property?*

The Proposed Project does not include construction of habitable structures or permanent facilities; therefore, implementation would not expose people or structures to substantial risks due to expansive soils. No impacts are identified or are anticipated, and no mitigation measures are required.

#### **Less Than Significant Impact**

- e) *Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?*

Septic tanks and/or alternative wastewater supply systems are not proposed as part of the Quarry 3 operations. Therefore, no impacts are identified or are anticipated, and no mitigation measures are required.

#### **No Impact**

- f) *Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?*

According to the Geologic map of California, the Project Site occurs within tertiary (Tc) soils, which are nonmarine sedimentary rocks.<sup>8</sup> These soils are considered to be young soils and generally do not contain significant paleontological features or fossils. The ore body is a surface deposit void of overburden overlying sediments. Sediments are typically not contacted, mined or disturbed. However, construction activities may unearth deposits below the surface. All existing regulatory restrictions and conditions of compliance would remain in place. Silver Lake Mine operations currently adhere to the mitigation measure for monitoring, and such will remain a condition of approval. Therefore, no new impacts are identified or are anticipated, and no additional mitigation measures are required.

#### **Less Than Significant Impact**

**Therefore, potential impacts can be reduced to less than significant level with implementation of mitigation measure above.**

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<sup>8</sup> California Department of Conservation. Interactive Geologic Map of California. Accessed 2/5/21 from <https://maps.conservation.ca.gov/cgs/gmc/>

<i>Issues</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less than Significant</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
<b>VIII. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS – Would the project:</b>				
a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with any applicable plan, policy or regulation of an agency adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

***SUBSTANTIATION:***

***Countywide Plan; Submitted Project Materials; Greenhouse Gas Emissions (GHG) Reduction Plan (September 2011)***

- a) *Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?*

In September 2011, the County adopted a Greenhouse Gas Emissions (GHG) Reduction Plan (September 2011) (GHG Plan). The GHG Plan presents a comprehensive set of actions to reduce the County's internal and external GHG emissions to 15% below current levels (2007 levels) by 2020, consistent with the AB 32 Scoping Plan. GHG emissions impacts are assessed through the GHG Development Review Process (DRP) by applying appropriate reduction requirements as part of the discretionary approval of new development projects. Through its development review process, the County will implement CEQA requiring new development projects to quantify project GHG emissions and adopt feasible mitigation to reduce project emissions below a level of significance. A review standard of 3,000 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent (MTCO<sub>2</sub>e) per year is used to identify projects that require the use of Screening Tables or a project-specific technical analysis to quantify and mitigate project emissions. The purpose of the Screening Tables is to provide guidance in measuring the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions attributable to certain design and construction measures incorporated into development projects.

Implementation of the County's GHG Plan is achieved through the Development Review Process by applying appropriate reduction requirements to projects, which reduce GHG emissions. All new developments are required to quantify the project's GHG emissions and adopt feasible mitigation to reduce project emissions below a level of significance. A review standard of 3,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (MTCO<sub>2</sub>e) per year is used to identify and mitigate project emissions.

As shown in Table 3, the Reclamation GHG emissions are not anticipated to exceed the interim GHG emissions threshold; therefore, a less than significant impact is anticipated.

**Table 3  
 Reclamation Greenhouse Gases**

<b>Emissions</b>	<b>CO<sub>2</sub><sup>1</sup></b>	<b>CH<sub>4</sub><sup>1</sup></b>	<b>N<sub>2</sub>O<sup>2</sup></b>
lbs/g Per Day	8,409.20	0.44	6.01
Total Per Day (lbs)	8,409.20	0.44	0.01
MTCO <sub>2</sub> e Per Year <sup>3</sup>	793.39	1.16	0.30
<b>Total MTCO<sub>2</sub>e Per Year</b>	<b>993.57</b>		
San Bernardino County Threshold	3,000		
<b>Significant</b>	<b>No</b>		

<sup>1</sup> Off-Road Mobile Source Emission Factors; SCAQMD 2021

<sup>2</sup> N<sub>2</sub>O: California Climate Action Registry General Reporting Protocol, 2009I; Table A9-8-C SCAQMD Handbook; Climate Leaders EPA, Section 3, Table 2

<sup>3</sup> Duration Days: 365

- b) *Conflict with any applicable plan, policy or regulation of an agency adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?*

The state and local regulatory programs for GHG emissions and climate change are described above. There are no existing GHG plans, policies, or regulations that have been adopted by CARB or SCAQMD that would apply to this type of emissions source. It is possible that CARB may develop performance standards for Project-related activities prior to Project construction. In this event, these performance standards would be implemented and adhered to, and there would be no conflict with any applicable plan, policy, or regulation; therefore, impacts would be less than significant, and no mitigation would be required.

**Less Than Significant Impact**

**Therefore, less than significant impacts are identified or anticipated, and no mitigation measures are required.**

<i>Issues</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less than Significant</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
<b>IX. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS – Would the project:</b>				
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
g) Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b><i>SUBSTANTIATION:</i></b>				
<b><i>Submitted Project Materials; EnviroStor Database; Reclamation Plan for Silver Lake Mine</i></b>				

- a) *Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?*

The Hazardous Materials Division of the San Bernardino County Fire Department is designated as the Certified Unified Program Agency or "CUPA" for the County of San Bernardino to focus the management of specific environmental programs at the local government level. There will be no imported waste materials or chemicals brought to the Project Site besides fuel and equipment maintenance fluids. Maintenance and fueling will be conducted by a mobile maintenance truck and BMPs will be implemented. All used fluids will be removed from the equipment and from the site in accordance with applicable regulations. No used fluids will be stored on-site. Therefore, no significant impacts are identified or anticipated, and no mitigation measures are required.

#### **Less Than Significant Impact**

- b) *Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?*

Reclamation will include the removal of all equipment, structures, tanks and debris from the site. Compacted surface material in the processing area will be loosened by mechanical means and the entire site, processing area and quarries, will be reseeded with native plant species. The finished quarry benches shall be inclined 1:1 (horizontal to vertical), with the vertical faces  $\pm$  40 feet in height. The benches shall be inclined 2% toward the faces to capture precipitation and falling material. The bench areas shall be posted with signs warning of rock-fall hazard. The ends of the benches will be blocked with large rock (larger than  $\frac{1}{4}$  ton) to prevent access. No other openings or adits exist or are proposed. Therefore, less than significant impacts are identified or anticipated, and no mitigation measures are required.

#### **Less Than Significant Impact**

- c) *Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?*

The Proposed Project involves the use of materials common to the mining industry and includes the transport, storage and use of fuels and lubricants. The operator would continue to comply with all applicable federal and state safety rules and regulations regarding hazardous materials during reclamation of the site. During reclamation, diesel exhaust would be generated by heavy construction equipment; however, no school facilities or proposed school facilities are located within one-quarter mile radius of the Project Site. The school located nearest to the Project Site is Baker Elementary School, which is located approximately 16 miles southeast of the Project Site. Therefore, no impacts or anticipated and no mitigation measures are required.

#### **No Impact**

- d) *Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?*

The Project Site was not found on the list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 by the California Department of Toxic Substances Control's EnviroStor data management system.<sup>9</sup> EnviroStor tracks cleanup, permitting, enforcement and investigation efforts at hazardous waste facilities and sites with known or suspected contamination issues. No hazardous materials sites are located within or in the immediate vicinity of the Project Site. Therefore, no impacts are identified or are anticipated, and no mitigation measures are required.

**No Impact**

- e) *For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area?*

According to the Countywide Plan: HZ-9 Airport Safety Areas, the Project Site is within Airport Safety Review Area 4 (AR4). As described by the San Bernardino County Development Code, AR4 includes the low altitude/high speed corridors designed for military use.<sup>10</sup> Therefore, the Project Proponent shall adhere to the Review Procedures outlined by Section 82.09.050 of the San Bernardino County Development Code. Furthermore, the Proposed Project does not include construction of habitable structures, structure over 30 feet in height, or permanent facilities and, therefore, the Proposed Project would not result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area. No significant adverse impacts are identified or are anticipated, and no mitigation measures are required.

**No Impact**

- f) *Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?*

Activities associated with the Proposed Project would not impede existing emergency response plans for the Project Site and/or other land uses in the project vicinity. Vehicles and stationary equipment would be staged off public roads and would not block emergency access routes. Therefore, implementation of the Proposed Project would not impair implementation of, or physically interfere with, an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan. No impacts are identified or are anticipated, and no mitigation measures would occur.

**No Impact**

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<sup>9</sup>California Department of Toxic Substances Control. EnviroStor.  
<https://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/map/?myaddress=baker+ca>

<sup>10</sup> San Bernardino Countywide: HZ-9 Airport Safety Areas  
<https://www.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=5dc02b81369c49c9a1947aedfc300a45>



- g) Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires?

According to Countywide Plan: HZ-5 Fire Hazard Severity Zones Map, the Project Site is within the boundary of Fire Hazard Severity Class identified Moderate.<sup>11</sup> However, the Proposed Project does not include construction of habitable structures or permanent facilities and, therefore, implementation would not expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires. No impacts are identified or are anticipated, and no mitigation measures are required.

**Less Than Significant Impact**

**Therefore, no significant adverse impacts are identified or anticipated, and no mitigation measures are required.**

<i>Issues</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less than Significant</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
<b>X. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY - Would the project:</b>				
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would:				
i. result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site;	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ii. substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on or offsite;	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iii. create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

<sup>11</sup> San Bernardino Countywide Plan: HZ-5 Fire Hazard Severity Zone  
<https://www.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=355f9beb4a8f446e8869459e91d58431>

- |    |  |                          |                          |                                     |                                     |
|----|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
|    | or provide substantial additional sources of runoff; or  |                          |                          |                                     |                                     |
|    | iv. impede or redirect flood flows?  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| d) | In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?                     | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| e) | Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |

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**SUBSTANTIATION:**

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**Countywide Plan; Submitted Project Materials; Reclamation Plan for Silver Lake Mine**

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- a) *Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality?*
- e) *Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?*

The Silver Lake Mine operation was notified by the Regional Water Quality Control Board, Lahonton Region, that as proposed it was determined that the project will not have a significant effect on water quality. The lack of readily available water coupled with the fact that water is only used on-site for dust control reduces the impacts to water quality or off-site discharge. The arid nature of the region allows most water to evaporate before infiltrating any soils. Water is acquired from the Silver Lake Reservoir or from the County's Community Services District in Baker and is stored in a tank on-site. The Proposed Project would not generate additional use of water. No pumping of groundwater occurs in the area of the mine. No impacts would be associated with water quality, discharge, or aquifer depletion. Past performance of specified mitigation measures has minimized adverse impacts to water quality or water supplies. Therefore, no significant impacts are identified or anticipated, and no mitigation measures are required.

**Less Than Significant Impact**

- b) *Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?*

Water use on-site will be utilized to minimize dust generation. A water truck will be used for wetting-down material and roads during mining activities and for wetting-down haul trucks prior to site departure. As stated, water is acquired from the Silver Lake Reservoir or from the County's Community Services District in Baker and is stored in a tank on-site. No pumping of groundwater occurs in the area of the mine. No impacts would be associated with water quality, discharge, or aquifer depletion. As such, the Proposed Project is not anticipated to substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable

management of the Mojave basin. No significant adverse impacts are identified or are anticipated, and no mitigation measures are required.

### **Less Than Significant Impact**

- c) *Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would:*
- i) *Result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site;*

Erosion is the wearing away of the ground surface as a result of the movement of wind or water, and siltation is the process by which water becomes dirty due to fine mineral particles in the water. Control of surface drainage and erosion for the operations area involves the following typical components:

- Limiting surface disturbance to the minimum area required for active operations.
- Diverting run-off from undisturbed areas around the active mining area as necessary.
- Using berms, ditches, sediment basins, and localized control and maintenance measures to intercept and control disturbed area drainage as necessary; and
- Stabilizing disturbed areas through grading or water spraying to form a crust.

Erosion control measures along the access road and around the perimeter of stockpiled material will include construction of temporary diversion and collection of ditches, berms, and other measures individually or in combination, as necessary. Due to the lack of fine surface material and low rainfall (less than 4 inches/year) the site has little potential for erosion and sedimentation. Furthermore, no new substances will be introduced into the raw minerals or water which will be drawn from trenches and wells for the proposed operations. No chemicals are used in the production process. The water used in the production process will be turned into the water trenches where the dirt will settle. As a result, no significant adverse impacts are anticipated or are identified, and no mitigation measures are required.

### **Less Than Significant Impact**

- ii) *Substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on or offsite;*
- iii) *Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of runoff; or*
- iv) *Impede or redirect flood flows?*

According to the Countywide Plan: HZ-4 Flood Hazards, the Project Site is not within a 100-Year Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) flood zone, 100-year Department of Water Resources Awareness Zone, or a 500-year FEMA flood zone.<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>12</sup> San Bernardino Countywide Plan Draft EIR. Hydrology and Water Quality. Figure 5.9-2 "Flood Hazard Zones in the Valley and Mountain Regions."

The Proposed Project will not substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on or off-site. There are no drainage or runoff channels that will be affected by the mining. No storm water drainage systems exist in the vicinity of the Silver Lake Mine. Water used on-site is for dust control and evaporates before it can be captured in a stormwater system. Rain waters are allowed to flow over desert soils and eventually evaporate due to the arid conditions. The lack of available water requires the mining operation to store water in reservoirs or tanks for later use. Equipment remaining on-site overnight is parked in a designated area with the surface covered in waste rock to avoid possible oil leaks coming in contact with bare soil. The Regional Water Quality Control Board determined that the project would not have a significant effect on water quality. The Proposed Project is not anticipated to create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff. No groundwater wells exist on the project site. No impact would be expected to water quality. As such, no significant adverse impacts are identified or are anticipated, and no mitigation measures are required.

#### **Less Than Significant Impact**

- d) *In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?*

As shown by Countywide Plan: HZ-3 Dam & Basin Hazards Map, the Project Site is not located within a dam inundation area.<sup>13</sup> The Countywide Plan: HZ-4 Flood Hazards Map does not identify the Project Site within the 100-year and 500-year flood zones boundaries.<sup>14</sup> Tsunamis are large waves generated in open bodies of water by fault displacement of major ground movement. Due to the inland location of the Project Site, tsunamis are not considered to be a risk. Seiches are standing waves generated in enclosed bodies of water in response to ground shaking. The Project Site is not located in the immediate vicinity of a known large body of water or water storage facility and therefore impacts from potential seiches are not anticipated. Therefore, the Proposed Project is not anticipated to risk release of pollutants due to project inundation. No impacts are identified or are anticipated, and no mitigation measures are required.

#### **No Impact**

**Therefore, no significant adverse impacts are identified or anticipated, and no mitigation measures are required.**

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<sup>13</sup> San Bernardino Countywide Plan: HZ-3 Dam & Basin Hazards  
<https://www.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=ca51d39ef1ee444eb4bb17ca5d4297dc>

<sup>14</sup> San Bernardino Countywide Plan: HZ-4 Flood Hazards  
<https://www.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=d276e645a4ae4e2bb95694ff06b4f0be>

<i>Issues</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less than Significant</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
<b>XI. LAND USE AND PLANNING - Would the project:</b>				
a) Physically divide an established community?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

***SUBSTANTIATION:***

***Countywide Plan; Submitted Project Materials; Reclamation Plan for Silver Lake Mine***

- a) *Physically divide an established community?*
- b) *Cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?*
- a/b) The Project Site is located in a remote area of northern San Bernardino County. According to Countywide LU-1 Land Use Map, the Project Site occurs within the RC (Resource Conservation) zone.<sup>15</sup> The Project Site and surrounding area are owned by the United States /Department of Defense. The mine is a private inholding within the military base. The Project Site and existing Silver Lake Mine are surrounded by vacant, open desert lands. The primary use of the Project Site and surrounding area within the Fort Irwin National Training Center have been used for training combined armed forces in brigade-sized maneuvers. The County of San Bernardino identifies the Project Site and surrounding area as Resource/Land Management land use category and Resource Conservation Zone. The RC designation allows for low-intensity land uses such as agricultural, mining, national forest designations, wilderness, and residential units no less than 40 acres in size.

The physical division of an established community is typically associated with construction of a linear feature, such as a major highway or railroad tracks, or removal of a means of access, such as a local road or bridge, which would impair mobility in an existing community or between a community and an outlying area. The Proposed Project does include the construction of a linear feature or removal of a means of access. Annual production and operations would remain the same. All current conditions of approval restrictions and conformance criteria would continue to apply. The proposal will not alter the proposed mine reclamation conditions, nor will it affect the overall approved operational timeframe unless an extension is granted. All existing regulatory restrictions and conditions of compliance would remain in place. Therefore, the Proposed Project would neither physically divide an established community nor

<sup>15</sup> San Bernardino Countywide Plan: LU-1 Land Use Map.  
<https://www.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=f23f04b0f7ac42e987099444b2f46bc2>

cause a significant environmental impact due to conflict with any land use plans or policies. No impacts are identified or anticipated, and no mitigation measures are required.

**No Impact**

**Therefore, no impacts are identified or anticipated, and no mitigation measures are required.**

<i>Issues</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less than Significant</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
<b>XII. MINERAL RESOURCES - Would the project:</b>				
a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that will be of value to the region and the residents of the state?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**SUBSTANTIATION:** (Check  if project is located within the Mineral Resource Zone Overlay):

**Countywide Plan; Submitted Project Materials; Mineral Land Classification; Reclamation Plan for Silver Lake Mine**

- a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that will 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?

The State's Guidelines for Classification and Designation of Mineral Lands help implement California Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1975 (SMARA) by providing the State Geologist with direction in carrying out mineral resource classification of lands in California that are threatened by uses that will be incompatible with or will preclude quarrying. In addition, these guidelines describe how the State Mining and Geology Board (SMGB) may elect to designate mineral-bearing areas of statewide or regional significance.

Classification is the process of identifying lands containing significant mineral deposits. Designation is the formal recognition by the SMGB, after consultation with lead agencies and other interested parties, of areas containing mineral deposits of regional or statewide significance. The objective of classification and designation processes is to ensure, through appropriate lead agency policies and procedures, that mineral deposits of statewide or of regional significance are available when needed. Classification is

completed by the State Geologist in accordance with the SMGB's priority list, into Mineral Resource Zones (MRZ). Classification is based on geologic and economic factors without regard to existing land use and land ownership.

The Countywide Plan: NR-4 Mineral Resource Zones Map identifies the Project Site as a San Bernardino County Mine "Silver Lake Mine" and the mineral resource commodity as iron.<sup>16</sup> No loss would occur to a known mineral resource. The currently permitted mining operation extracts beneficial iron ore and the proposed Phase 3 Quarry would allow for additional iron ore extraction. Therefore, the Proposed Project would result in adding to the availability of a known mineral resource that is of value to the region and residents. No significant adverse impacts are identified or are anticipated, and no mitigation measures are required. Additionally, the Project Site has a current zoning of Resource Conservation. The Proposed Project would supply iron ore resources to the region. Therefore, the Proposed Project would not result in the loss of availability; rather, it would provide a mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the State. No impacts are identified or are anticipated, and no mitigation measures are required.

**No Impact**

**Therefore, no impacts are identified or anticipated, and no mitigation measures are required.**

<i>Issues</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less than Significant</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
<b>XIII. NOISE - Would the project result in:</b>				
a) Generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the Project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

<sup>16</sup> San Bernardino Countywide Plan: NR-4 Resource Zones  
<https://www.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=9948b9bc78f147fd9ea193c2ce758081>

**SUBSTANTIATION:** (Check if the project is located in the Noise Hazard Overlay District  or is subject to severe noise levels according to the Countywide Plan Noise Element ):

**Countywide Plan; Submitted Project Materials; Reclamation Plan for Silver Lake Mine**

- a) *Generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?*

Approval of the Proposed Project would require reclamation activities to conform to all applicable noise control regulations. Noise will be produced from the on-site equipment and blasting approximately once per month. Noise generation is anticipated to be minimal. Annual production and operations would remain the same. All current conditions of approval restrictions and conformance criteria would continue to apply. It would comply with all slope and bench restrictions. The proposal will not alter the proposed mine reclamation conditions, nor will it affect the overall approved operational timeframe. All existing regulatory restrictions and conditions of compliance would remain in place. The Proposed Project would continue to conform to applicable noise control regulations as outlined in Section 83.01.080, Noise, of the San Bernardino County Development Code. There are no nearby noise sensitive land uses within the vicinity of the Project Site. Therefore, no significant impacts are identified or are anticipated, and no mitigation measures are required.

**Less Than Significant Impact**

- b) *Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?*

As stated, the Project Site is within a primarily undeveloped area consisting of open space and a military training center. Blasting at Quarry 3 would be done by permitted personnel approximately once per month. The Project Site is not located near potential sensitive receptors. Groundborne vibration will be produced from the on-site equipment and blasting, however, operations would be required to conform to applicable vibration control regulations as outlined in Section 83.01.090, Vibration, of the San Bernardino County Development Code. Therefore, no significant impacts from excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels would result.

**Less Than Significant Impact**



- c) For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the Project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?

According to the Countywide Plan: HZ-9 Airport Safety & Planning Areas, the Project Site is within Airport Safety Review Area 4 (AR4).<sup>17</sup> It is not located within the vicinity of a private airstrip but is adjacent to the Fort Irwin National Training Center which conducts flight maneuvers. As described by the San Bernardino County Development Code, AR4 includes the low altitude/high speed corridors designed for military use. Therefore, the Project Proponent shall adhere to the Review Procedures outlined by Section 82.09.050 of the San Bernardino County Development Code. Therefore, no impacts are identified or anticipated, and no mitigation measures are required.

**No Impact**

**Therefore, no significant adverse impacts are identified or anticipated, and no mitigation measures are required.**

<i>Issues</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less than Significant</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
<b>XIV. POPULATION AND HOUSING - Would the project:</b>				
a) Induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b><i>SUBSTANTIATION:</i></b>				
<b><i>Countywide Plan; Submitted Project Material; Reclamation Plan for Silver Lake Mine</i></b>				

<sup>17</sup> San Bernardino Countywide: HZ-9 Airport Safety & Planning Areas  
<https://www.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=5dc02b81369c49c9a1947aedfc300a45>

- a) *Induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?*

The mine will not increase production rates or hours of operation. No jobs would be created upon the approval for Proposed Project. The Project Site and surrounding area are owned by the United States /Department of Defense. The Project Site and existing Silver Lake Mine are surrounded by vacant, open desert lands. The County of San Bernardino identifies the Project Site and surrounding area as Resource/ Land Management land use category and Resource Conservation Zone. The RC designation allows for low-intensity land uses such as agricultural, mining, national forest designations, wilderness, and residential units no less than 40 acres in size.

The primary use for lands within the Fort Irwin National Training Center is for training combined armed forces in brigade-sized maneuvers. Annual production and operations would remain the same. All current conditions of approval restrictions and conformance criteria would continue to apply. The Proposed Project would comply with all slope and bench restrictions. The proposal will not alter the proposed mine reclamation conditions nor will it affect the overall approved operational timeframe. All existing regulatory restrictions and conditions of compliance would remain in place. Therefore, implementation of the Proposed Project would not induce substantial growth in the area. No significant adverse impacts are identified or anticipated, and no mitigation measures are required.

#### **Less Than Significant Impact**

- b) *Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?*

The proposed uses would not displace substantial numbers of existing housing units, or require the construction of replacement housing, as no housing units are proposed to be demolished as a result of the Proposed Project. Therefore, no impacts are identified or are anticipated, and no mitigation measures are required.

#### **No Impact**

**Therefore, no significant adverse impacts are identified or anticipated, and no mitigation measures are required.**

<i>Issues</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less than Significant</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
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**XV. PUBLIC SERVICES**

- a) Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:

Fire Protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Police Protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Schools?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Parks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other Public Facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

***SUBSTANTIATION:***

***Countywide Plan; Submitted Project Materials; Reclamation Plan for Silver Lake Mine***

- a) *Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:*

*Fire Protection?*

According to the Countywide Plan: HZ-6 Responsibility Areas Map, the Project Site is located in the Federal Responsibility Area.<sup>18</sup> The Countywide Plan: HZ-5 Fire Hazard Severity Zones Map shows the fire threat at the Project Site is considered moderate.<sup>19</sup> Fire protection services are provided by Baker Fire Station and San Bernardino County Fire Department (SBCFD) provides administration and support for the fire district. The closest SBCFD Station to the Project Site is Baker Fire Station located at 72734 Baker Boulevard, approximately 16 miles southeast of the Project Site. As such, the Proposed Project would receive adequate fire protection services and would not result in the need for new or physically altered fire protection facilities. Therefore, no significant adverse impacts are identified or are anticipated, and no mitigation measures are required.

**Less Than Significant Impact**

<sup>18</sup> San Bernardino Countywide Plan: HZ-6 Responsibility Areas  
<https://www.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=1510b4688d8741e8be076d9e25afec2d>

<sup>19</sup> San Bernardino Countywide Plan: HZ-5 Fire Hazard Severity Zones  
<https://www.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=355f9beb4a8f446e8869459e91d58431>

*Police Protection?*

Police services will be provided to the Project Site through a contractual agreement with the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department. The station located nearest to the Project Site is the San Bernardino County Sheriff Substation located at 72730 Baker Boulevard approximately 16 miles southeast of the site. The Proposed Project is a conditionally acceptable use within the RC zone and therefore would result in the requirement of police protection that is already anticipated by the County. Therefore, no significant adverse impacts are identified or are anticipated, and no mitigation measures are required.

**Less Than Significant Impact**

*Schools?*

The Proposed Project would not create a direct demand for public school services as the Proposed Project does not include any type of residential use or other land use that may induce population growth. It is expected that the employment generated by the Proposed Project would be filled from the local area and would not result in substantial growth that was not already anticipated by the County. As such, the development would not generate any new school-aged children requiring public education. Furthermore, the Proposed Project is a conditionally acceptable use within the RC zone and therefore would not change the requirement of public schools that is already anticipated by the County. Therefore, no significant adverse impacts are identified or are anticipated, and no mitigation measures are required.

**Less Than Significant Impact**

*Parks?*

The Proposed Project does not include any type of residential use or other land use that may generate a population that would increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities in the vicinity. Employees are anticipated to come from the local labor pool and implementation of the Proposed Project would not result in an increased use or substantial physical deterioration of an existing neighborhood or regional park. Therefore, no significant adverse impacts are identified or are anticipated, and no mitigation measures are required.

**No Impact**

*Other Public Facilities?*

The Proposed Project is not expected to result in a demand for other public facilities/services, such as libraries, community recreation centers, and/or animal shelter. Implementation of the Proposed Project would not adversely affect other public facilities or require the construction of new or modified facilities. Therefore, no significant adverse impacts are identified or are anticipated, and no mitigation measures are required.

**No Impact**

**Therefore, no significant adverse impacts are identified or anticipated, and no mitigation measures are required.**

<i>Issues</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less than Significant</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
<b>XVI. RECREATION</b>				
a) Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility will occur or be accelerated?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

***SUBSTANTIATION:***

***Submitted Project Materials; Reclamation Plan for Silver Lake Mine***

- a) *Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility will occur or be accelerated?*

No residential use or other land use that may generate a population that would increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities in the vicinity is proposed. Accordingly, implementation of the Proposed Project would not result in the increased use or substantial physical deterioration of an existing neighborhood or regional park. Therefore, no impacts are identified or are anticipated, and no mitigation measures are required.

**No Impact**

- b) *Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?*

The Proposed Project does not include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities, which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment. Therefore, no impacts are identified or are anticipated, and no mitigation measures are required.

**No Impact**

**Therefore, no adverse impacts are identified or anticipated, and no mitigation measures are required.**

<i>Issues</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less than Significant</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
<b>XVII. TRANSPORTATION – Would the project:</b>				
a) Conflict with a program plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Would the project conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3 subdivision (b)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Result in inadequate emergency access?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

***SUBSTANTIATION:***  
***Countywide Plan; Submitted Project Materials***

- a) *Conflict with a program plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities?*

According to the Countywide Plan: TM-4 Bicycle & Pedestrian Planning Map, there are no transit, bicycle and pedestrian facilities in the vicinity of the Project Site.<sup>20</sup> The number of vehicles making trips to the site would not change nor would the amount of equipment required at the site change. No additional amounts of traffic would be generated by the project. Access to the site will continue to be from Silver Lake Road. Therefore, no significant adverse impacts are identified or are anticipated, and no mitigation measures are required.

Therefore, less than significant impacts are identified or anticipated, and no mitigation measures are required.

<sup>20</sup> San Bernardino Countywide Plan: TM-4 Bicycle & Pedestrian Planning  
<https://www.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=ee080eba63564bdab37de1d8576d46c4>

### **Less Than Significant Impact**

- b) *Would the project conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3 subdivision (b)?*

Reclamation activities would not result in an additional truck trips beyond approved mining activities. During operation of the Proposed Project, the number of vehicles making trips to the site would not change nor would the amount of equipment required at the site change. Therefore, in accordance with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3, subdivision (b), implementation of the Proposed Project would allow the local need for construction material to be met while producing a minimal number of vehicles miles traveled. Therefore, no significant impacts are identified or anticipated, and no mitigation measures are required.

### **Less Than Significant Impact**

- c) *Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?*

The Proposed Project would not affect public streets. The Proposed Project does not involve any road development or design features that could substantially increase hazards on public roads, or changes in the transportation of materials on public roads. Access to the site will be from existing Silver Lake Road. Therefore, no impacts are identified or are anticipated, and no mitigation measures are required.

### **No Impact**

- d) *Result in inadequate emergency access?*

Activities associated with the Proposed Project would not impede existing emergency response plans for the Project Site and/or other land uses in the project vicinity. All vehicles and stationary equipment would be staged off public roads and would not block emergency access routes. In addition, no road closures would be required. The Proposed Project would not involve any long-term increase in traffic that would conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation. Therefore, less than significant impacts are identified or anticipated, and no mitigation measures are required.

### **Less Than Significant Impact**

**Therefore, no significant adverse impacts are identified or anticipated, and no mitigation measures are required.**

<i>Issues</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less than Significant</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
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**XVIII. TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES**

- a) Would the Project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:
- |  |                          |                          |                                     |                          |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| i) Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1(k), or   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| ii) A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resource Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

***SUBSTANTIATION:***

***Class III Cultural Resources Inventory, CRM Tech, January 2019, Tribal Consultation; AB52 Consultation***

- a) *i) Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1(k), or;*
- ii) A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resource Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe?*

California Assembly Bill 52 (AB52) was approved by Governor Brown on September 25, 2014. AB52 specifies that CEQA projects with an effect that may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource may have a significant effect on the environment. As such, the bill requires lead agency consultation with California Native American tribes traditionally and culturally affiliated with the geographic area of a proposed project, if the tribe requested to the lead agency, in writing, to be informed of proposed projects in that geographic area. The legislation further requires that the tribe-requested consultation be completed prior to determining whether a negative declaration, mitigated negative declaration, or environmental impact report is required for a project.



On January 11, 2021, the County of San Bernardino Department of Land Use Services sent project notification letters to the following California Native American tribes, which had previously submitted general consultation request letters pursuant to 21080.3.1(d) of the Public Resources Code:

- Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians
- Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians
- San Manuel Band of Mission Indians
- Morongo Band of Mission Indians
- Colorado River Indian Tribes
- San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians

Each recipient was provided a brief description of the Proposed Project and its location, the lead agency contacts information, and a notification that the tribe has 30 days to request consultation. The 30-day response period concluded on February 11, 2021.

Below is a summary of responses received by the County of San Bernardino Department of Public Works and subsequent consultation actions and results:

- San Manuel Band of Mission Indians: January 13, 2021: “Thank you for contacting the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians (SMBMI) regarding the above-referenced project. SMBMI appreciates the opportunity to review the project documentation, which was received by the Cultural Resources Management Department on January 11th, 2021. The proposed project is located outside of Serrano ancestral territory and, as such, SMBMI will not be requesting to receive consulting party status with the lead agency or to participate in the scoping, development, or review of documents created pursuant to legal and regulatory mandates.”

The Archaeological Information Center at the San Bernardino County Museum for the previous Initial Study performed in 1992 for the Silver Lake Mine CUP reported a moderate potential for buried prehistoric archaeological resources to occur on or near the site.

As stated above, the County of San Bernardino contacted six regional tribes which include Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians, Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians, San Manuel Band of Mission Indians, Morongo Band of Mission Indians, Colorado River Indian Tribes and San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians. The County of San Bernardino received one response from the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians, which states that the Proposed Project is located outside of Serrano ancestral territory and, as such, SMBMI will not be requesting to receive consulting party status with the lead agency or to participate in the scoping, development, or review of documents created pursuant to legal and regulatory mandates.

**Less Than Significant Impact**

**Less than significant impacts are anticipated with implementation of the applicable Mitigation Measure.**

<i>Issues</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less than Significant</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
<b>XIX. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS - Would the project:</b>				
a) Require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the Project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the Project that it has adequate capacity to serve the Project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Generate solid waste in excess of state or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b><i>SUBSTANTIATION:</i></b>				
<b><i>Countywide Plan; Submitted Project Materials; California Energy Commission Energy Report</i></b>				

- a) *Require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?*

The proposed water use will remain the same as current operations. Mine operations consist of water used for dust control, wash water and other non-potable uses. Water is applied to the working areas and material transfer points. Water is not available at the site and will be hauled from Silver Lake or Baker. The estimated maximum usage is 4,000 gallons/day. Currently, the water used for dust control evaporates and therefore, the project will not produce any wastewater. This water usage is approximately equal to that of 5 single family residences. Water is stored in an existing 10,000 gallon above-ground tank. The Proposed Project would not require the relocation or relocation of new or expanded water utilities.

All human waste is removed by professional portable restroom services. The Proposed Project would not require sewer collection or treatment services and therefore no off-site discharge of treated wastewater would occur.

All operations on-site would comply with a NPDES General Permit for Storm Water Discharges associated with industrial activities and employ storm water Best Management Practices. The Proposed Project would not require the relocation or construction of new storm water drainage facilities.

Most equipment will run on diesel fuel and electricity. Power will be produced by diesel fueled generators. The Proposed Project would not require natural gas. An on-site satellite is used for telecommunication. Therefore, less than significant impacts are identified or anticipated, and no mitigation measures are required.

#### **Less Than Significant Impact**

- b) *Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the Project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?*

The proposed water use will remain the same as current operations. Mine operations consist of water used for dust control, wash water and other non-potable uses. Water is applied to the working areas and material transfer points. Water is not available at the site and is hauled from Silver Lake or Baker. The estimated maximum usage is 4,000 gallons/day. Currently, the water used for dust control evaporates and therefore, the project will not produce any wastewater. This water usage is approximately equal to that of 5 single family residences. Water is stored in an existing 10,000 gallon above-ground tank. This water usage is approximately equal to that of 5 single family residences. Water supplies would be sufficient to serve the Proposed Project. Therefore, less than significant impacts are identified or anticipated, and no mitigation measures are required.

#### **Less Than Significant Impact**

- c) *Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the Project that it has adequate capacity to serve the Project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?*

All human waste is removed via professional portable restroom services. The Proposed Project would not require sewer collection or treatment services and therefore no off-site discharge of treated wastewater would occur. Therefore, no impacts are identified or are anticipated, and no mitigation measures are required.

**No Impact**

- d) *Generate solid waste in excess of state or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?*
- e) *Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?*

Reclamation activities would not result in waste generation. Equipment maintenance will be done on-site. Waste oil, lubricants, and solvents will be removed from the site and disposed of at permitted facilities. All refuse will be kept in closed containers and removed from the site to permitted facilities as needed. Upon reclamation, Silverlake Mine will be required under SMARA to submit an annual status report on forms provided by the California Department of Conservation – Office of Mine Reclamation. SMARA requires the lead agency to conduct an inspection of the mining operation within six months of receipt of the required Annual Report. Additionally, it is expected that the BLM will conduct periodic inspections of the site. As such, less than significant impacts are identified or are anticipated, and no mitigation measures are required.

**Less Than Significant Impact**

**Therefore, less than significant adverse impacts are identified or anticipated, and no mitigation measures are required.**

<i>Issues</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less than Significant</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
<b>XX. WILDFIRE:</b> If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the project:				

- |  |                          |                          |                                     |                          |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| a) Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to, pollutant concentrations from wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

- c) Require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water resources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment?
- d) Expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes?

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**SUBSTANTIATION:**

**County of San Bernardino Countywide Plan; Submitted Project Materials; Reclamation Plan**

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- a) *Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?*

Equipment and facilities are properly maintained and have fire extinguishers in or near each piece of equipment and or facility. There are no flammable trees, growth, etc. to cause damage to the property and environment. Activities associated with the Proposed Project would not impede existing emergency response plans for the Project Site and/or other land uses in the project vicinity. Vehicles and stationary equipment would be staged off public roads and would not block emergency access routes. Therefore, implementation of the Proposed Project would not substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan. All vehicles and stationary equipment would be staged off public roads and would not block emergency access routes. Implementation of reclamation activities would not impair implementation of, or physically interfere with, an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan. Therefore, less than significant adverse impacts are identified or are anticipated, and no mitigation measures are required.

**Less Than Significant Impact**

- b) *Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to, pollutant concentrations from wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire?*

According to the Countywide Plan: HZ-5 Fire Hazard Severity Zones Map, the Project Site is within with area identified as Moderate for Fire Hazard Severity Class.<sup>21</sup> The Project Site is accessed by Silver Lake Road approximately twelve miles west of Highway 127. The site is bordered in all directions by vacant land. Additionally, the Proposed Project does not include construction of habitable structures or permanent facilities and, therefore, implementation would not expose project occupants to

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<sup>21</sup> San Bernardino Countywide Plan: HZ-5 Fire Hazard Severity Zones.  
<https://www.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=355f9beb4a8f446e8869459e91d58431>

pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire. No impacts are identified or are anticipated, and no mitigation measures are required. Therefore, less than significant impacts are identified or anticipated, and no mitigation measures are required.

**Less Than Significant Impact**

- c) *Require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water resources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment?*

The Project Site is situated twenty-two miles northwest of the town of Baker and is accessed by Silver Lake Road approximately twelve miles west of Highway 127. The site is bordered in all directions by vacant land. As stated in Section 19(a), the Proposed Project will not require the construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities. Therefore, the Proposed Project is not anticipated to require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary ongoing impacts to the environment. No significant impacts are identified or are anticipated, and no mitigation measures are required.

**Less Than Significant Impact**

- d) *Expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes?*

According to Countywide Plan: HZ-5 Fire Hazard Severity Zones Map, the Project Site is within the boundary of Fire Hazard Severity Class identified Moderate. However, the Proposed Project does not include construction of habitable structures or permanent facilities and, therefore, implementation would not expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires. No impacts significant are identified or are anticipated, and no mitigation measures are required.

**Less Than Significant Impact**

<i>Issues</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less than Significant</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
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**XXI. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE:**

a) Does the project have the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?

b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? (“Cumulatively considerable” means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?

c) Does the project have environmental effects, which would cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?

a) *Does the project have the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?*

The results of the Initial Study show that there are potentially significant impacts to Biological Resources and Cultural Resources. These impacts will be reduced to less than significant levels after incorporation of mitigation measures and compliance with existing rules and regulations. Therefore, the Proposed Project will not substantially degrade the quality of the environment and impacts to habitat, wildlife populations, plant and animal communities, rare and endangered species or important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory; no additional mitigation is warranted.

**Less than Significant with Mitigation**

- b) *Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? (“Cumulatively considerable” means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?*

Cumulative impacts are defined as two or more individual affects that, when considered together, are considerable or that compound or increase other environmental impacts. The cumulative impact from several projects is the change in the environment that results from the incremental impact of the development when added to the impacts of other closely related past, present, and reasonably foreseeable or probable future developments. Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor, but collectively significant, developments taking place over a period. The CEQA Guidelines, Section 15130 (a) and (b), states:

(a) Cumulative impacts shall be discussed when the project's incremental effect is cumulatively considerable.

(b) The discussion of cumulative impacts shall reflect the severity of the impacts and their likelihood of occurrence, but the discussion need not provide as great detail as is provided of the effects attributable to the project. The discussion should be guided by the standards of practicality and reasonableness.

Impacts associated with the Proposed Project would not be considered individually adverse or unfavorable. The Proposed Project is a conditionally acceptable use identified in and previously evaluated as part of the San Bernardino Countywide Plan and EIR. No cumulative impacts are identified or are anticipated, and no mitigation measures are required.

### **Less Than Significant Impact**

- c) *Does the project have environmental effects, which would cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?*

Reclamation will include the removal of all equipment, structures, tanks and debris from the site. Compacted surface material in the processing area will be loosened by mechanical means and the entire site, processing area and quarries, will be reseeded with native plant species. The proposed site is ± 64 acres and includes ± 46 acres of previously disturbed land, an overhead loading bin and stockpiles of crushed ore. Reclamation of the site includes removal of the existing overhead loading bin and stockpiled ore and reseeded of all disturb areas including the areas that were disturbed during previous mining activities. The existing public access road will remain. Reclamation will be conducted in phases corresponding to the mining phases. The existing stockpiles will be removed from the processing area during start-up of mining activities. The Phase I quarry area will be revegetated when mining is completed within the phase and concurrent with Phase II quarry operations. The Phase II quarry area will be revegetated upon completion of mining in that area and revegetation of the processing area shall be done upon removal of all equipment and structures from the site.



*Initial Study*  
*Silver Lake Mine Phase 3 Quarry*  
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The finished quarry benches shall be inclined 1:1 (horizontal to vertical), with the vertical faces  $\pm$  40 feet in height. The benches shall be inclined 2% toward the faces to capture precipitation and falling material. The bench areas shall be posted with signs warning of rock-fall hazard. The ends of the benches will be blocked with large rock (larger than  $\frac{1}{4}$  ton) to prevent access.

The Applicant will be required to obtain air quality permits from MDAQMD to operate, and ultimately perform reclamation of the site. All emission levels associated with the Proposed Project were less than adopted thresholds and therefore no significant adverse impacts are identified or are anticipated, and no mitigation measures are required.

### **Less Than Significant Impact**

**Therefore, no significant adverse impacts are identified or anticipated with incorporation of mitigation measures.**

*Initial Study*  
*Silver Lake Mine Phase 3 Quarry*  
APN: 544-401-04, 05  
April 2021

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