

4.17 OTHER RESOURCE TOPICS

4.17.1 INTRODUCTION

Pursuant to the CEQA Guidelines Section 15128, “An Environmental Impact Report (EIR) shall contain a statement briefly indicating the reasons that various possible significant effects of a project were determined not to be significant and were therefore not discussed in detail in the EIR.” Based on the scope of the project, comment letters in response to the Notice of Preparation, site visits, and review of project plans and technical reports, the following resource topics were found to not have impacts that would be considered potentially significant or significant.

4.17.2 FORESTRY RESOURCES

California is known for its forest resources along the coast and in its mountainous areas. According to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), forests cover one-third of California’s land area. Forestry resources, e.g., timber and habitat areas, are monitored and controlled by both State and federal agencies depending on ownership and resources. Therefore, forestry resources are included as an environmental parameter in the CEQA Guidelines *Appendix G* Environmental Checklist form (“Appendix G”) as referenced in the questions below:

Would the project:

- II.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]);
- II.d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use;
- II.d) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of forest land to non-forest use.

There are no forestry resources within the city limits of the City of Half Moon Bay according to the State’s Timberland Conservation Program map for Region 3. The area is not suitable to support timber and forestry resources.

Therefore, there are no local or State plans concerning forestry resources within the City. The project site was an active agricultural site until 2013 and has not supported any forestry resources in the recent past. Due to lack of forestry resources on the project site, no impacts to forestry resources would occur as a result of the project.

4.17.3 MINERAL RESOURCES

The California Department of Conservation, Mineral Lands Classification Map provides information on existing mineral resources and regionally significant resource areas. The Mineral Lands Classification map was used to establish whether mineral resources are present in the project area. The project is in the Half Moon Bay Quadrangle of the *Regionally Significant Aggregate Resource Areas Map in the South San Francisco Bay Production-Consumption Region*. The following *Appendix G* questions concern impacts to mineral resources:

Development of the project site would not:

- XII.a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the State;
- XII.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.

There are no Mineral Resource Zones in the Half Moon Bay area according to the California Department of Conservation Mineral Lands Classification Map.¹ Sector HH, Pilarcitos Quarry, which contains granite rock deposits, is located approximately 3 miles northeast of the project site. Sector HH is one of the 42 sectors in San Mateo County containing extractable aggregate deposits. The project would not directly or indirectly impede access to Sector HH due to the distance between the resources and the project site (3 miles), and the project type (a hotel). The project would not interfere with mineral resource recovery; therefore, no impact would occur.

¹ California Department of Conservation, 1996. Update of Mineral Land Classification: Aggregate Materials in the South San Francisco Bay Production-Consumption. Available: http://webcache.googleusercontent.com/search?q=cache:1tEsyOOH1Z0J:ftp://ftp.consrv.ca.gov/pub/dmg/pubs/ofr/OFR_96-03/OFR_96-03_Text.pdf+&cd=1&hl=en&ct=clnk&gl=us. Accessed: 6/20/2019

4.17.4 WILDFIRE

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (“CALFIRE”) Fire Hazard Severity Zone (FHSZ) Maps include FHSZ Maps for State Responsibility Area lands and separate draft Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone Maps for Local Responsibility Area lands.

Parts of Half Moon Bay are located in the natural vegetation of the foothills and are thus inherently at risk from wildfires. The project site is located approximately 0.5 miles from a Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) area². The following *Appendix G* questions concern impacts to proximity to wildfire hazard zones:

Development of the project site would not:

- WLD.a) Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan;
- WLD.b) Exacerbate wildfire risks or expose project occupants to pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors;
- WLD.c) Require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment;
- WLD.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 the CALFIRE FHSZ Maps, the project is in a Non-Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone (Non-VHFHSZ) (CALFIRE, 2008).³ However, the project site is located approximately 0.5 miles from an area of “Very High” FHSZ of State Responsibility. Therefore, it is possible that there is risk of wildfire near the project site.

As explained in **Section 4.14, Public Services and Recreation**, the Coastside Patrol Bureau does not foresee any interference that this project could have on emergency response, plans, or evacuation routes. The topography of the immediate area is generally flat and surrounding

² The Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) is any area where structures and other human developments meet or intermingle with wildland vegetative fuels such as shrubs, trees, and grasses.

³ Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE), 2008. Fire Hazard Severity Zone Maps. Available: <https://egis.fire.ca.gov/FHSZ/>. Accessed: January 2022.

development to the northeast hinders strong winds; therefore, the project site and adjacent land uses would not exacerbate wildlife risks due to slopes or strong winds. Therefore, the project would not expose people or structures to significant risk due to landslides or slope instability. Sloping hills past the residential and agricultural land uses to the northeast have the potential to exacerbate wildfire risk. Strong winds have the potential to occur due to the lack of development along the west and south sides of the project site. However, the project site is located far enough from the VHFHSZ that it would not require the installation or maintenance of infrastructure to reduce fire risk. Due to the flat topography and general nature of the project, implementation of the project would not exacerbate wildfire risk; therefore, this impact would be less than significant.

4.17.5 REFERENCES

California Department of Conservation, 1996. Update of Mineral Land Classification: Aggregate Materials in the South San Francisco Bay Production-Consumption. Available: <https://maps.conservation.ca.gov/cgs/informationwarehouse/index.html?map=mlc>. Accessed: January 2022.

California Department of Conservation, 2016. San Mateo County Important Farmland 2016. Available: <https://www.conservation.ca.gov/dlrp/fmmp/Pages/SanMateo.aspx>. Accessed: January 2022.

Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CALFIRE), 2008. Fire Hazard Severity Zone Maps. Available: <https://egis.fire.ca.gov/FHSZ/>. Accessed: January 2022.