

5.10 MINERAL RESOURCES

The six components of the project analyzed herein are:

- 1) Adoption and implementation of the General Plan;
- 2) Adoption and implementation of the revised Zoning Code;
- 3) Adoption and implementation of the revised Subdivision Code;
- 4) Adoption and implementation of an amendment to the Noise Code;
- 5) Adoption and implementation of the Magnolia Avenue Specific Plan (MASP) and;
- 6) Adoption and implementation of the Citywide Design and Sign Guidelines.

Of the six project components, projects like the Subdivision Code, Noise Code Amendment, Magnolia Avenue Specific Plan, and the Citywide Design and Sign Guidelines address site planning, building design, and community aesthetics, rather than physical changes to the land, and are thus not considered to have impacts related to mineral resources and will not be analyzed further in this Section. Impacts related to the adoption and implementation of the General Plan and the revised Zoning Code will be addressed herein.

The Mineral Resource section of this EIR has been changed from the previously circulated EIR. In addition to the overall changes listed in the Project Description section of this EIR, background information and analysis was added for the Planning Area. Information for all topics within this section was verified and updated as necessary.

This analysis focuses on the project's six components and the impacts they have directly to mineral resources in the City. Since an initial study was not prepared with the issuance of the Notice of Preparation, the focus of the following discussion is related to the potential impacts to the loss of availability of known mineral resources and to loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan.

In addition to other reference documents, the following references were used in the preparation of this section of the EIR:

- City of Riverside, *General Plan*, 1994.
- City of Riverside, Municipal Code – *Chapter 5.46 Surface Mining and Reclamation, Section 5.46.020 Definitions*.
- Department of Conservation, California Surface Mining and Reclamation Policies and Procedures, *Guidelines for Classification and Designation of Mineral Lands*, January 2000.
- The Office of Mine Reclamation, *Statute and Regulations*, January 2006.

Setting

For decades, mining operations have not been active within the Planning Area. There are scattered areas within the City and Sphere Areas that have deposits of feldspar, silica, limestone and other rock products. All that is left are the past remnants of mining activities, and the maximum potential for mineral extraction that had occurred. Historically, granite rock was a significant industry in Riverside. Now, the quarry site is mostly used for recreational purposes.

As a result of the California Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1975, the City of Riverside has designated the area located between Market Street and Mission Boulevard between the Santa Ana River and Lake Evans as a state-classified mineral resource zone (MRZ-2). While this area was once suitable for mining operations, the surrounding urban environment establishes inappropriate conditions for extraction and transport of mineral resources. This zone now includes open space, the Camp Evans Boy Scout Camp and a portion of Fairmount Park. As shown in the Riverside County Integrated Plan, areas in the Sphere of Influence are designated MRZ-4; indicating that the area has available geologic information that indicates that mineral deposits exist or are likely to exist, however, the significance of the deposits are undetermined, see **Figure 5-10-1, Mineral Resources**.

Thresholds of Significance

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

- results in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state; or
- results 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.

Related Regulations

The California Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1975 (SMARA) requires that all cities incorporate into their general plans mapped mineral resources designations approved by the State Mining and Geology Board. SMARA was enacted to limit new development in areas with significant mineral deposits. The State Geologist classifies land in California based on availability of mineral resources. Because available aggregate construction material is limited, five designations have been established for the classification of sand, gravel, and crushed rock resources:

- SZ – Scientific Resource area containing unique or rare occurrences of rocks, minerals, or fossils that are of outstanding scientific significance.
- MRZ-1 – Mineral Resource Zone – adequate information indicates that no significant mineral deposits are present or likely to be present.



LEGEND

MRZ-2

MRZ-4

F&S FELDSPAR AND SILICA

L LIMESTONE

RP ROCK PRODUCTS

--- RIVERSIDE CITY BOUNDARY

— RIVERSIDE PROPOSED SPHERE OF INFLUENCE

SOURCE: RIVERSIDE COUNTY GIS DATA

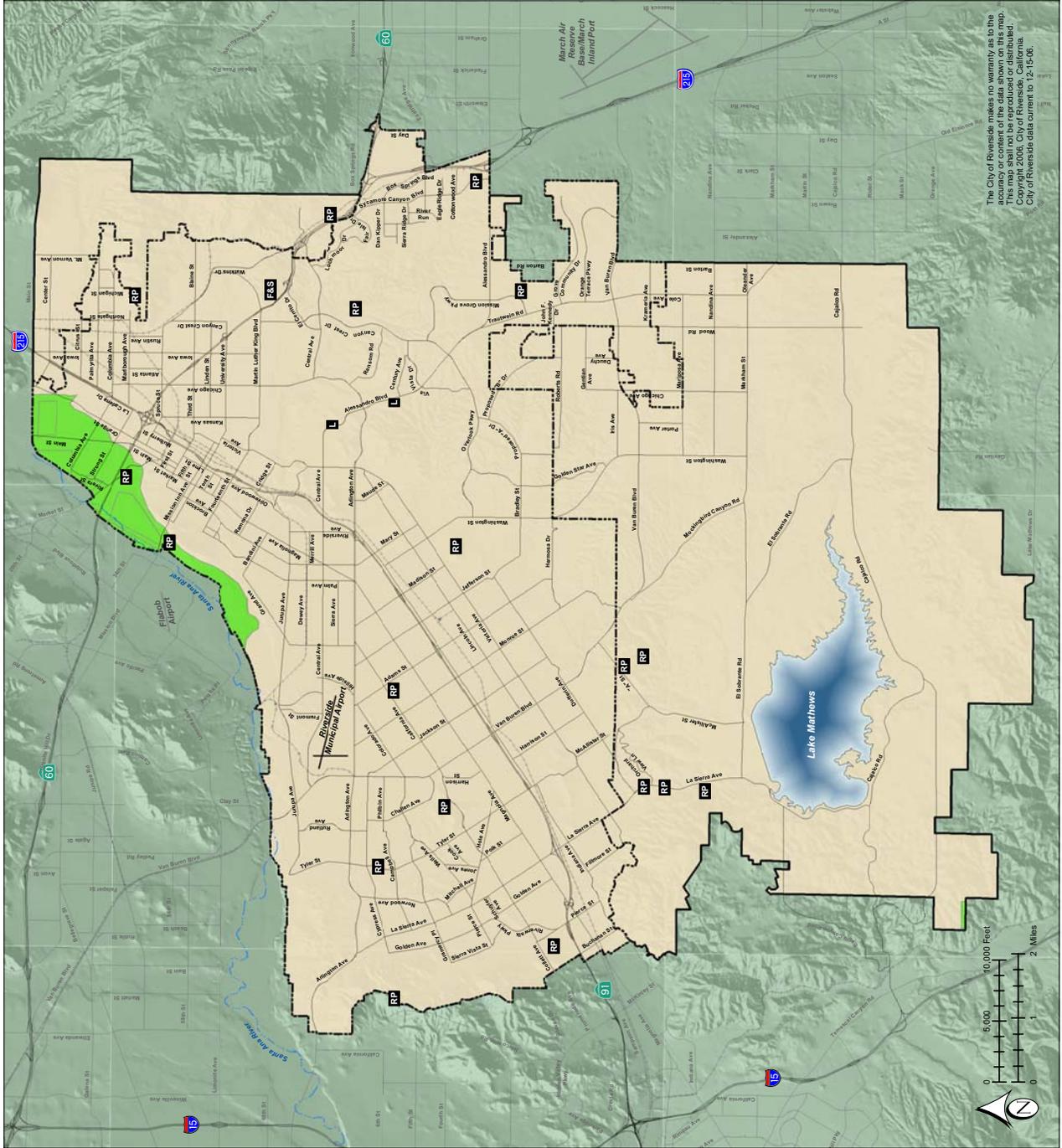


Figure 5.10-1
**MINERAL
RESOURCES**

- MRZ-2 – Mineral Resource Zone – adequate information indicates that significant mineral deposits are present or there is a high likelihood for their presence and development should be controlled.
- MRZ-3 – Mineral Resource Zone – the significance of mineral deposits cannot be determined from the available data.
- MRZ-4 – Mineral Resource Zone – there is insufficient data to assign any other MRZ designation.

The classification system is intended to ensure consideration of statewide or regionally significant mineral deposits by the City in planning and development administration. These mineral designations are intended to prevent incompatible land use development on areas determined to have significant mineral resource deposits. Permitted uses within a mineral resource zone include mining, uses that support mining such as smelting and storage of materials, or uses that will not hinder future mining such as grazing, agriculture, large lot rural development, recreation, silviculture and open space.

Related General Plan Policies

Implementation of the following General Plan policies will assist in minimizing adverse impacts related to mineral resources. The updated General Plan includes the following policies, the adherence to which will reduce potential environmental impacts to mineral resources:

Overarching Objectives – Open Space Element

- Policy OS-1.1: Protect and preserve open space and natural habitat wherever possible.
- Policy OS-1.2: Establish an open space acquisition program that identifies acquisition area priorities based on capital costs, operation and maintenance costs, accessibility, needs, resource preservation, ability to complete or enhance the existing open space linkage system and unique environmental features.
- Policy OS-1.3: Work with Riverside County and adjacent cities, landowners and conservation organizations to preserve, protect, and enhance open space and natural resources.
- Policy OS-1.4: Support efforts of State and Federal agencies and private conservation organizations to acquire properties for open space and conservation uses. Support efforts of nonprofit preservation groups, such as the Riverside Land Conservancy, to acquire properties for open space and conservation purposes.
- Policy OS-1.7: Work closely with the County of Riverside pursuant to the Joint Cities/County Memorandum of Understanding, emphasizing the City's need to participate in the development review process of projects proposed in surrounding unincorporated areas. Work to ensure that such developments

proceed consistent with City standards, including hillside and arroyo grading preservation standards.

Policy OS-1.8: Encourage residential clustering as means of preserving open space.

Policy OS-1.10: Utilize a combination of regulatory and acquisition approaches in its strategy for open space preservation.

Environmental Impacts Before Mitigation

***Threshold:** Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the State; or*

General Plan

State-classified MRZ-2 and MRZ-4 areas in the Planning Area are shown in **Figure 5.10-1, Mineral Resources**. The proposed General Plan Land Use Policy Map provides for the preservation of the majority of MRZ-2 land as either open space or parks/recreation, both of which do not preclude mining activities. The six General Plan Land Use designations for the MRZ-2 land are Open Space/Natural Resources, Public Parks, Public Facilities/Institutional, Medium Density Residential, Office and Private Recreation.

The Open Space/Natural Resource designation assists in the protection of natural resources while maintaining open space for the protection of public health and safety. The Public Parks designation is assigned to parks that provide passive and active recreational opportunities. A small portion of the MRZ-2 area lies in Public Facilities/Institutional designation, which allows for schools, hospitals, libraries, utilities, and government institutions.

Both the Open Space/Natural Resource and Public Parks designations are fully compatible with the MRZ-2 area. There are two zones consistent with the Public Facilities and Institutional Uses General Plan land use designation. These two zones are the Public Facilities (PF) Zone and the Airport (AIR) Zone. Neither of these Zones permits mining or mineral extraction. The Office and Private Recreation General Plan land use designation also do not permit for mining or mineral extraction. For mining or mineral extraction to occur at this location a General Plan amendment, change of Zone and a conditional use permit would be required. Although these land use designations are incompatible with the MRZ-2 area according to the City's Municipal Code, specific sites for any public/semipublic uses on MRZ-2 areas (see **Figure 5.10-1, Mineral Resources**) will be subject to separate discretionary approval by the Planning Department. In any event, the MRZ-2 area has been highly urbanized for nearly a century, and mining in this area is not considered reasonably foreseeable. Based on **Figure 5.10-1, Mineral Resources**, the majority of the Planning Area is designated MRZ-4 which means there is insufficient data to make a determination if there are significant mineral resources in the area.

Therefore, the Land Use Plan has taken the MRZ-2 designated area in the City into consideration, and the land use designations do not preclude the mining of the underlain resources. Additionally, it is unknown and therefore unlikely that there are areas of significant

mineral deposits in the MRZ-4 areas that would be affected by the implementation of the General Plan, therefore, impacts are considered **less than significant**.

Zoning Code Update

The Zoning Code Update is consistent with the General Plan. Therefore, since the General Plan is consistent with the above mentioned policies and plans, **no significant impact** is anticipated with the Zoning Code Update.

***Threshold:** 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.*

General Plan

There are no specific areas with the City or Sphere Area, which have locally important mineral resource recovery sites. As stated above, the implementation of the General Plan will not significantly preclude the ability to extract state-designated resources.

Zoning Code Update

The Zoning Code Update is consistent with the General Plan. As stated above, there are no specific areas within the City that have locally important mineral resource recovery sites. **No significant impact** is anticipated with the Zoning Code Update.

Proposed Mitigation Measures

Impacts were found to be **less than significant**; therefore, no mitigation measures are necessary.

Summary of Environmental Effects After Mitigation Measures Are Implemented

Implementation of the General Plan and Zoning Code Update will not physically disrupt or prohibit the mining of state-designated areas. Impacts are considered **less than significant**.