3.10 Mineral Resources

As a result of the analysis undertaken in the Initial Study for the proposed 2009 Master Plan, the LACCD determined that the proposed project may result in environmental impacts to mineral resources. Therefore, this issue is being carried forward for detailed analysis in this EIR. This analysis was undertaken to identify opportunities to avoid, reduce, or otherwise mitigate potential significant impacts to Mineral Resources, and to identify potential alternatives.

The analysis of mineral resources consists of a summary of the regulatory framework that guides the decision-making process, the existing conditions at the proposed 2009 Master Plan area, thresholds for determining whether the proposed 2009 Master Plan would result in significant impacts, anticipated impacts (direct, indirect, and cumulative), mitigation measures, and level of significance after mitigation. The potential for impacts to mineral resources at the proposed 2009 Master Plan site have been evaluated in accordance with Appendix G of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines.¹

3.10.1 Setting

3.10.1.1 Regulatory Setting

Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1975

In accordance with the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act² of 1975, the responsible parties for the sites of all mining activities in operation as of January 1976 and those placed in operation after that date are required to submit a surface mining and reclamation plan that provides for appropriate measures to rehabilitate the site prior to its abandonment. The California Department of Conservation, Division of Mines and Geology, provides a special publication, Mines and Mineral Producers Active in California³, which contains the names, addresses, commodities, and locations of mines believed to have produced mineral commodities in California.

Regional Comprehensive Plan and Guide

The Southern California Association of Governments provides goals for open-space conservation that include the protection of mining operations. To support and ensure a high quality of life and equity for southern California residents, goals have been established for each of the four major types of open space areas defined in the Regional Comprehensive Plan and Guide⁴, including Resource Production areas, which consist of areas within open space that are designated for the production of crops, fishers, timber, and mineral resources. The goal of the Resource Production areas is to maintain adequate viable resource production lands, particularly lands devoted to commercial, agricultural, and mining operations.

¹ California Code of Regulations, Title 24, Division 6, Chapter 3, Sections 15000-15387. Available at http://ceres.ca.gov/topic/env_law/ceqa/guidelines/
² Public Resources Code (PRC), Division 2, Chapter 9 et seq.,1975. “Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1975.”
³ CDMG, 1990.
3.0 Setting, Environmental Impact Analysis, Mitigation Measures

3.10 Mineral Resources

City of Los Angeles

According to The City of Los Angeles General Plan\(^5\) (General Plan), local governments are responsible for designated lands that contain regionally significant mineral resources identified in the local General Plan, to assure resource conservation in areas of intensive competing land uses. The law has resulted in preparation of mineral land classification maps delineating Mineral Resource Zones (MRZ). The proposed Athletics Fields site contains areas delineated within an MRZ.

3.10.1.2 Environmental Setting

Soils in the proposed 2009 Master Plan area are characterized by Pleistocene terrace deposits overlain by Holocene alluvium. The proposed 2009 Master Plan site is underlain by these dense, reddish alluvial soils extending to depths as far as 6 feet below the ground surface along the Pacoima Wash. The Pleistocene material consists of poorly consolidated continental gravels, sands, and clay derived from basement rocks that form the northern boundary of the Sylmar Basin.

Previous geotechnical investigations were performed by Lowney Associates (Lowney) in 2003\(^6\) and Wilson Geosciences (Wilson) in 2003\(^7\) on the LAMC Main Campus and Athletic Fields sites. The investigations indicated that the subsurface of the LAMC Main Campus is constituted predominantly of surficial fill soils, generally consisting of stiff to very stiff sandy silt and sandy clay with occasional fine gravels ranging from approximately 3.5 to 9.5 feet thick, which generally increase in the downslope direction to the southwest. Very loose to medium dense sandy fill deposits are present in the southern portion of the LAMC Main Campus.

The investigations indicated that the Athletic Fields site consists of a surface partially covered with dumped piles of debris mixed with relatively loose silty sands with gravel and cobbles down to depths of 12 feet. The Athletic Fields site is within the Pacoima Wash area and is designated MRZ-2. MRZ-2 areas contain adequate information to indicate that significant mineral deposits are present or are judged to have a high likelihood for their presence. Sand and gravel from the Pacoima Wash area is of mining quality. The proposed Athletic Fields area is currently undeveloped and not used for extraction of any mineral resources.

3.10.2 Significance Thresholds

As noted in the Initial Study, for the purposes of this EIR, and in accordance with Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines, an impact to mineral resources is considered significant if the proposed project would do either of the following:

- 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

\(^5\) City of Los Angeles Planning Department, General Plan Framework EIR, Figure GS-1 – Areas Containing Significant Mineral Deposits in the City of Los Angeles, February 1994.


3.0 Setting, Environmental Impact Analysis, Mitigation Measures

3.10 Mineral Resources

- 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

3.10.3 Environmental Impact Analysis

3.10.3.1 Methodology

The approach used to determine potential impacts regarding mineral resources involved:

- Reviewing local and state maps depicting areas identified to contain mineral resources
- Determining whether, or to what degree, the project would potentially result in the permanent loss of, or loss of access to, a mineral resource that is in a known or potential mineral resource area
- Determining whether the mineral resource is of regional or statewide significance, or is noted as being of local importance

3.10.3.2 Campus Impacts

Loss of Availability of Known Mineral Resource

The Nursery Property and Eldridge Avenue Streetscape Improvements are not within an area identified as a Mineral Resource Zone 2 area (MRZ-2). Therefore, developments in this area would have no impact on the loss of availability of known mineral resources.

Loss of Availability of Locally Important Mineral Resource

The Nursery Property and Eldridge Avenue Streetscape Improvements are not within an area designated to contain a locally important mineral resource. Therefore, no impacts to these resources would occur.

3.10.3.3 Athletic Fields Impacts

Loss of Availability of Known Mineral Resource

The Athletic Fields site within the Pacoima Wash is identified as an MRZ-2 because it contains mineral resources such as sand and gravel. The grading materials that would potentially include sand and gravel would remain on site to be used for other components of the proposed Athletic Fields. The proposed Athletic Fields would prevent future mining of the sand and gravel resources. However, the quantity of mineral resources on the site is not substantial considering the quantities that would remain available in the vast Pacoima Wash area. Therefore, the impact on known mineral resources would be less than significant.

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8 City of Los Angeles Planning Department, General Plan Framework EIR, Figure GS-1 – Areas Containing Significant Mineral Deposits in the City of Los Angeles, February 1994.
9 City of Los Angeles Planning Department, General Plan Framework EIR, Figure GS-1 – Areas Containing Significant Mineral Deposits in the City of Los Angeles, February 1994.
Loss of Availability of Locally Important Mineral Resource

No known locally important mineral resources were identified in the proposed Athletic Fields area. Therefore, the proposed Athletic Fields would have no impact on the availability of a locally important mineral resource.

3.10.3.4 Cumulative Impacts

Other projects are being developed in southern California in areas that have known mineral resources. As a result, development of the proposed project area, together with other development within local MRZ-2 zones, will reduce availability of sand and gravel resources. Because the area near LAMC is already extensively developed, there is not a great local need for these resources at this time. Regional needs are adequately handled by existing quarries along the San Gabriel River and elsewhere throughout southern California. Therefore, these impacts are considered to be less than significant on a cumulative basis.

3.10.4 Mitigation Measures for Significant Impacts

No significant impact would occur, so no mitigation measures are necessary.

3.10.5 Level of Significance after Mitigation

Impacts would be less than significant.