Section 4.11
Mineral Resources

4.11.1 Introduction

This section of the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) addresses potential impacts of the proposed project on mineral resources. This section also describes the environmental and regulatory settings in relation to mineral resources. California Department of Conservation and Kern County publications and maps were used in preparation of this section.

4.11.2 Environmental Setting

The State Geologist has classified 2,971 square miles of land in Kern County as Mineral Resource Zones (MRZs) of varying significance. Significant mineral resources located in southeastern Kern County include borates, limestone, gold, and dimension stone. MRZs are classified as follows (Koechner, 1999):

- **MRZ-2a**: Areas underlain by mineral deposits where geologic data indicate that significant measured or indicated resources are present. Areas classified MRZ-2a contain discovered mineral deposits that are either measured or indicated reserves. Land included in MRZ-2a is of prime importance because it contains known economic mineral deposits.

- **MRZ-2b**: Areas underlain by mineral deposits where geologic information indicates that significant inferred resources are present. Areas classified MRZ-2b contain inferred mineral resources as determined by their lateral extension from proven deposits or their similarity to proven deposits. Further exploration could result in upgrading areas classified MRZ-2b to MRZ-2a.

- **MRZ-3a**: Areas containing known mineral occurrences of undetermined economic significance. Further exploration could result in reclassification of all or part of these areas into the MRZ-2a or MRZ-2b categories.

- **MRZ-3b**: Areas containing inferred mineral occurrences of undetermined economic significance. Further exploration could result in the reclassification of all or part of these areas into the MRZ-2a or MRZ-2b categories.

Site Characteristics

General geologic conditions in the project area are described in Section 4.6, “Geology and Soils.” The proposed project site is not located in any mining district (Troxel and Morton, 1962), and no MRZs underlie the site. The nearest MRZs to the proposed project site are limestone resources of unknown significance (MRZ-3a) located one mile west of the westernmost site boundary. There are no other mineral resources located in the vicinity of the project site (Koechner, 1999). Neither the proposed gen-tie line routes nor the transmission reinforcement are located in the immediate vicinity of any MRZs.

The proposed project site is not located on or immediately adjacent to lands classified as Mineral and Petroleum areas (Kern County, 2011). The nearest Mineral and Petroleum area, designated by map code 8.4 (Mineral and Petroleum) on the Kern County General Plan (KCGP) map, is located two miles east of the easternmost boundary of the proposed project site. Neither of the gen-tie line routes are located on lands classified as Mineral and Petroleum areas.