Policies

- **Policy 14.** Emphasize conservation and development of identified mineral deposits.

- **Policy 17.** Lands classified as MRZ-2, as designated by the State of California, should be protected from encroachment of incompatible land uses.

- **Policy 25.** Discourage incompatible land use adjacent to Map Code 8.4 (Mineral and Petroleum) areas.

Implementation Measures

- **Implementation Measure H.** Use the California Geological Survey’s latest maps to locate mineral deposits until the regional and statewide importance mineral deposits map has been completed, as required by the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act.

- **Implementation Measure K.** Protect oilfields and mineral extraction areas through the use of appropriate implementing zone districts: A (Exclusive Agriculture), DI (Drilling Island), NR (Natural Resource), or PE (Petroleum Extraction).

Kern County Zoning Ordinance

The WE Combining District (Chapter 19.64) contains development standards and conditions (Section 19.64.140) that would be applicable to the siting and operation of wind turbine generators (WTGs). None of the provisions of Chapter 19.64 apply to mineral resources issues related to the proposed project.

4.11.4 Impacts and Mitigation Measures

**Methodology**

California Department of Conservation publications, the KCGP map, and aerial photos were compared to identify potential conflicts of the proposed project’s presence and operations with mineral resource extraction.

**Thresholds of Significance**

The Kern County California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Implementation Document and Kern County Environmental Checklist state that a project would normally be considered to have a significant impact if it would:

- 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

- 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.

As discussed in Appendix A (Notice of Preparation/Initial Study [NOP/IS]), the proposed project was determined to have no impact with regard to the following impact 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.

This issue is not discussed further in this EIR.
Project Impacts

Impact 4.11-1: 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 and Petroleum areas (Map Code 8.4 in the KCGP) located within 1 mile of the proposed project site. Therefore, development of the proposed project would not impact access to locally important mineral resources.

Mitigation Measures

No mitigation measures are required.

Level of Significance

Impacts would be less than significant.

Cumulative Setting Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Cumulative Setting

Cumulative impacts are two or more individual impacts that, when considered together, are considerable or that compound or increase other environmental impacts. The geographic scope for cumulative impacts to mineral resources includes all of Kern County. This geographic scope of analysis is appropriate because the loss of availability of mineral resources anywhere in the County would combine with mineral resource impacts of the proposed project to result in a cumulative impact on County-wide mineral resources.

Impact 4.11-2: Contribute to Cumulative Mineral Resource Impacts

A cumulative impact analysis first identifies whether a cumulatively significant impact exists in the given resource area. If so, it determines whether the project will make a considerable contribution to that impact. Where a cumulative impact is severe, even a small contribution may be considerable (Section 15130(b) of the State CEQA Guidelines).

With regard to the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource, the proposed project would not impact access to any locally designated Mineral and Petroleum areas. Impacts of the proposed project would not have the potential to restrict access to additional Mineral and Petroleum areas. Therefore, impacts of the proposed project would not have the potential to combine with impacts from past, present, or reasonably foreseeable projects to result in a cumulative impact.

Mitigation Measures

No mitigation measures are required.

Level of Significance

Impacts would be less than significant.