

3.2 Effects Found Not Significant during Initial Study

This section provides discussions of the environmental issue areas for which the effects were identified as not significant or less than significant during preparation of the Initial Study and did not require further analysis. These issue areas are mineral resources, population and housing, and parks and recreation. These environmental issue areas were screened out as part of preliminary evaluation and as part of the scoping process for the Campo Wind Project with Boulder Brush Facilities (Project). Further, no public comments were received during the scoping process indicating that these topics should be addressed further. The Initial Study was made available by the County of San Diego (County) at the time the Notice of Preparation was released (February 14, 2019) and is included in Appendix A of this Environmental Impact Report. A summary of the findings from the Initial Study for these issue areas is provided in this section.

3.2.1 Mineral Resources

The Boulder Brush Corridor is underlain by Cretaceous plutonic rock and contains no significant amounts of alluvial deposits. To produce crushed rock for use as construction aggregate requires significant mining and processing, including ripping, drilling, blasting, and crushing of the rock, which makes crushed rock materials more costly to produce than naturally occurring alluvial sand and gravel deposits. The expense of mining and processing crushed rock, combined with transportation costs, currently restricts crushed rock operations to urbanized areas within the Western San Diego Consumption Region of the County.

Sand mining activities on the Campo Band of Diegueño Mission Indians Reservation (i.e., Campo Materials) would not be affected by the Project. A sand quarry is located in the central portion of the Reservation, immediately west of Church Road. However, mining activities on the Reservation are limited, and no other marketable mineral deposits resources are known to exist on the Reservation.

There are some mining claims¹ approximately 2 miles west of the Project Area (The Diggings 2018), although no mining, either current or in the past, is evident. The Project Area is not in the vicinity of a Mineral Resource Zone, and no mineral resource recovery site is delineated in the Project Area in the County General Plan (see Appendix A). The Project Area would not be near a mineral extraction operation; therefore, direct and cumulative impacts related to the potentially significant loss of availability of a known mineral resource of value to the region and the residents of the state as a result of the Project would be less than significant.

¹ A mining claim is a parcel of land for which the claimant has asserted a right of possession and the right to develop and extract a discovered, valuable mineral deposit (BLM 2018).

3.2.2 Population and Housing

The Project is a wind energy project and would not include a residential component that would cause permanent or temporary population increases. The Project would not displace housing or residents. Therefore, the Project would not result in a direct impact to population and housing. Because of the presence of locally available workers (in San Diego and Imperial Counties), and because of the relatively short duration of construction (approximately 14 months), workers are not expected to relocate to the area with their families. Therefore, the Project would not result in a population increase across the Mountain Empire Subregion that would result in people in the area being displaced or requiring additional housing. For this reason, the Project would have no direct or cumulative impacts on population and housing.

3.2.3 Parks and Recreation

The Project would not include any residential use, such as a residential subdivision or mobile home park, that would cause a direct increase in population. The Project would not include any new or physically altered parks or any recreational component. Since construction workers would be working in the area temporarily and are not expected to relocate to the area with their families, they are not expected to generate a substantial demand for local park services. The Project would not directly, through physical alteration, or indirectly, through increased use, result in the necessity to construct or expand recreational facilities or the need for additional new or physically altered parks or recreational facilities. The Project would have no direct or cumulative impacts on parks and recreational facilities.