

8. Impacts Found Not to Be Significant

California Public Resources Code Section 21003 (f) states:

...it is the policy of the state that...[a]ll persons and public agencies involved in the environmental review process be responsible for carrying out the process in the most efficient, expeditious manner in order to conserve the available financial, governmental, physical, and social resources with the objective that those resources may be better applied toward the mitigation of actual significant effects on the environment.

This policy is reflected in the State California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines (Guidelines) Section 15126.2(a), which states that

... [a]n EIR [environmental impact report] shall identify and focus on the significant environmental impacts of the proposed project...

and Section 15143, which states that

[t]he EIR shall focus on the significant effects on the environment.

Guidelines Section 15128 requires that an EIR contain a statement briefly indicating the reasons that various possible significant effects of a project were determined not to be significant and were therefore not discussed in detail in the Draft EIR.

This chapter includes an environmental analysis and finding of no impact or less than significant impact for the topics that were precluded from detailed discussion in Chapter 5, *Environmental Analysis*, of this DEIR.

As stated in the City's CEQA Manual, the City has not mapped Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide importance within the City according to the mapping provided by the Department of Conservation. Furthermore, the City's General Plan does not designate any parcels within the City with an agricultural or forestry land use designation. Consequently, all projects in the City will not impact agriculture and forestry resources as these resources are currently defined by CEQA.

The entire City is mapped within Mineral Resource Zones (MRZ) MRZ-1 and MRZ-3 by the California Department of Conservation (California Department of Conservation 1995) as shown in Figure 5 of the City's CEQA Manual. MRZ-1 identifies areas where adequate information indicates that no significant mineral deposits are present or where it is judged that little likelihood exists for their presence. MRZ-3 identifies areas containing mineral deposits, the significance of which cannot be evaluated from available data. However, there are no areas in the City designated by the General Plan or Zoning Code for mineral resources or mineral resource activities.

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8.1 AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY RESOURCES

Impact AG-1: **The proposed project would not convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to nonagricultural use.**

CEQA considers impacts to three categories of important farmland: Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, and Unique Farmland. According to the California Department of Conservation's Important Farmland Finder, there are no important farmlands in the project site (DOC 2016). There are also no existing agricultural uses on the project site. Therefore, the proposed project would have no impact on important farmlands nor convert any farmland to nonagricultural use.

Level of Significance Before Mitigation: No Impact.

Impact AG-2: **The proposed project would not conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, with a designated Agricultural Opportunity Area, or with a Williamson Act contract.**

The California Department of Conservation Division of Land Resource Protection maintains updated maps showing lands bearing Williamson Act contracts. According to the State of California Williamson Act Contract Land map (dated 2016) there are no lands within all of Laguna Niguel under Williamson Act contracts (DOC 2016). Additionally, the project site is not zoned for agricultural use (Laguna Niguel 2012). Therefore, development in accordance with the proposed project and any zoning district changes proposed under the proposed project would not conflict with existing agricultural zoning or impact any Williamson Act lands.

Level of Significance Before Mitigation: No Impact.

Impact AG-3: **The proposed project would not conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g)).**

See Impact AG-2. The current and proposed zoning for the project site does not include any zoning for forest land, timberland, or timberland production. There is no forest land on the project site.

Level of Significance Before Mitigation: No Impact.

Impact AG-4: **The proposed project would not result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to nonforest use.**

See response to Section AG-3.

Level of Significance Before Mitigation: No Impact.

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Impact AG-5: The proposed project would not involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of farmland to nonagricultural use or conversion of forest land to nonforest use.

See responses to Sections AG-1 through AG-3.

Level of Significance Before Mitigation: No Impact.

8.2 MINERAL RESOURCES

Impact M-1: Project implementation would not 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.

The project site is mapped as Mineral Resource Zone 1 by the California Geological Survey, indicating adequate information that no significant mineral deposits are present, or it is judged that little likelihood exists for their presence (CDMG 1994). The project site is not available as a mining site because it is already partially developed with the South County Justice Center building, library, and maintenance yard. Therefore, project development would not cause the loss of availability of mineral resources valuable to the region and the state.

Level of Significance Before Mitigation: No Impact.

Impact M-2: Implementation of the proposed project would not 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.

According to the Laguna Niguel General Plan, there are no mineral resources within the city. The City of San Juan Capistrano to the south and east contains some sand and gravel operations along Trabuco Creek (Laguna Niguel 1992). However, development in Laguna Niguel and the project site would not impact those operations. Thus, the project would not cause a loss of availability of mineral recovery sites.

Level of Significance Before Mitigation: No Impact.

8.3 REFERENCES

California Department of Conservation (DOC). 2016. California Important Farmland Finder.
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California Division of Mining and Geology (CDMG). 1994. Generalized Mineral Land Classification of Orange County, California, Aggregate Resources Only.
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<http://www.cityoflagunaniguel.org/index.aspx?NID=132>.

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———. 2012, February. City of Laguna Niguel Official Zoning Code Map.
<https://www.cityoflagunaniguel.org/DocumentCenter/View/702/Zoning-Map?bidId=>.