

I. MINERAL RESOURCES

Existing Conditions

For purposes of this analysis, Mineral Resources refers to aggregate and petroleum resources. Aggregate resources refer to construction grade sand and gravel. Petroleum resources refer to oil and natural gas deposits.

Aggregate Resources

Aggregate resource areas are based on Mineral Resource Zone Maps developed by the California Department of Conservation Division of Mines and Geology. The maps have been prepared in accordance with the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act (SMARA) of 1975. SMARA mandated that aggregate resources throughout the state be mapped so that local governments could make land use decisions in light of the presence of aggregate resources and the need to preserve access to them. One of the primary objectives of SMARA is to protect mineral resources of regional and statewide significance in the face of competing land uses and urban expansion.

The Generalized Aggregate Mineral Resource Zone for the campus and vicinity is MRZ-3, which is defined as “areas containing mineral resources the significance of which cannot be evaluated from available data.” Deposits of sand and pebbly sands occur in the Baldwin Hills, but their suitability as a source of aggregate is in doubt as field observations indicate that it is unlikely that “any significant amount of aggregate could be developed from this area.” (Page 26, 1979, California Division of Mines and Geology, Mineral Land Classification of the Greater Los Angeles Area.)

Other economically recoverable surface minerals have also not been identified by the California Division of Mines and Geology (under the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act 1975, Article 4, Section 2761).

Petroleum Resources

According to the California Department of Conservation Division of Oil, Gas and Geothermal Resources Oil and Gas District 1 Map, the Inglewood Oil Field is located directly to the north and east of the campus in the Baldwin Hills. The oil field is within deposits trapped in an anticline structure that covers approximately 700 acres extending diagonally along the trend of the hills along the axis of the faulted Newport/Inglewood fault line (Baldwin Hills Conservancy, May 2002). The oil field contains approximately 1,200 wells, consisting of 430 active wells, 215 inactive or shut-in wells and approximately 530 abandoned wells. Field production as of October 2000 was 6,700 barrels of oil per day and 2,650,000 cubic feet of gas per day (Baldwin Hills Park Master Plan, May 2002).

Within the boundaries of the College, no active oil or natural gas recovery occurs.

Thresholds of Significance

The proposed campus expansion would result in significantly adverse impacts if it can be reasonably shown that the project would:

- Result in the loss of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and 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.

Project Impacts

Aggregate Resources

WLAC campus or potential access route does not contain areas that are currently utilized or likely to be utilized in the future for surface mining of any minerals. No impact is expected.

Build out of the structures identified Facilities Master Plan would require the use of aggregate resources in construction. Aggregate resources will be used in the manufacture of many of the construction materials used during construction (e.g. concrete and asphalt). Given that the new buildings represent an extremely small portion of all new buildings that are likely to be constructed in the region over the next twenty years the project will not utilize aggregate resources in amounts sufficient to result in the loss of availability of these resources.

Petroleum Resources

Immediately north of the campus is the Baldwin Hills, which, as discussed above, is underlain by the Inglewood Oil Field and contains existing oil and gas production facilities.

Petroleum resources (e.g. gasoline, diesel) will be used to operate construction equipment during the construction of the project; however, not in amounts sufficient to result in the loss of availability of these resources.

Petroleum products extraction wells do not occur on the campus, thus on-campus development will not affect the resource. However, to provide a second access to the campus three northerly roadway linkages have been proposed. Where the routes leave the urban designation as mapped on the Beverly Hills USGS Map, i.e., Sophomore Drive, they initially enter oil production lands of the Baldwin Hills. Where they traverse oil fields, the routes tend to follow existing oil production roads. As a formally designated campus access road any of the routes would require widened roadbeds and regulated gradients in the course of their development. A suitably engineered public roadway through the Baldwin Hills oil fields, while possibly requiring production facilities and/or pipeline adjustments to accommodate its course, would not require the cessation of subsurface petroleum products recovery. Although extraction activities may be temporary halted for short durations for the period of construction of the selected road alignment.

Neither the completion of the proposed improvements on the campus nor the completion of a second public access road around or through a portion of the Baldwin Hills would result in a significantly adverse impact upon the availability of a known mineral resource.

Cumulative Impacts

Twenty-eight projects are included on the cumulative projects list. The closest is located 0.25 miles northwest of the campus near Jefferson Boulevards and Pearson Street. The farthest away is located 2.85 miles to the southwest near the intersection of Lincoln and Jefferson Boulevards. All cumulative project are located within urban “built up” landscapes of the Los Angeles Basin. The proposed project does not result in the loss of availability of a mineral resource and would not contribute to any potential cumulative impact.

Mitigation Measures

The proposed project does not result in a significant mineral resources impact. No mitigation measures are proposed or required.

Significant Project Impacts After Mitigation

Neither the completion of the proposed improvements on the campus nor the completion of a second public access road around or through a portion of the Baldwin Hills would result in a significantly adverse impact upon the availability of a known mineral resource.