

Section 8.0: Impacts found to be Insignificant

Pursuant to Section 15128 of the CEQA Guidelines, an EIR shall contain a statement briefly indicating the reasons that various possible significant effects of a project are determined not to be significant and are, therefore, not discussed in detail in the EIR. The Initial Study that was prepared for the Guasti Plaza Specific Plan Amendment indicated that future residential development under the proposed Specific Plan Amendment is not expected to have the potential to cause significant adverse effects on Agricultural Resources and Mineral Resources. A discussion of the impacts of the proposal on these issue areas is provided below.

8.1 AGRICULTURE AND FOREST RESOURCES

The City of Ontario started as an agricultural area during the first half of the 20th century, with the Guasti community operating as a 1,500-acre vineyard and winery. The Guasti Plaza Specific Plan area, including the project site, is part of the vineyard's historic core. While several of the structures associated with the Guasti community remain on the site, agricultural uses have since ceased and the Specific Plan area is now designated for future commercial and residential uses in TOP. No agricultural lands are present in the Specific Plan area, although there is a vineyard nearby (west of Archibald Avenue).

Currently, the northern and central sections of the City of Ontario are largely developed, with dairy farms and agricultural fields confined to the New Model Colony area to the south. The New Model Colony area is located at the southern section of the City, generally south of the Pomona (SR-60) Freeway and Riverside Avenue. The project site is located approximately 3.3 miles north of this area.

An area north of the project site, along the I-10 Freeway, is designated as Farmland of Local Importance by the California Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program but is not in agricultural use. Since the project site is not designated as Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance, no impacts are expected from future residential development under the proposed Amendment.

The project site is not zoned for agriculture nor is it under a Williamson Act contract. The proposed Amendment or future development under the Amendment would not convert farmland to non-agricultural use and no impacts on agricultural uses are expected.

There are no forest lands or timberlands in or near the site or the City.

The EIR for the Guasti Plaza Specific Plan identified a 22-acre area of Prime Farmland within the Specific Plan area (now designated as Farmland of Local Importance), along the I-10 Freeway. Potential loss of agriculture uses was not considered a significant adverse impact in the previous EIR. The vineyard on this area has been cleared as part of the proposed development for Airport Towers.

The EIR for the Guasti Redevelopment Plan stated that while Farmlands are designated in the Project Area, no agricultural uses are present. The vineyard to the north of the site was no longer under cultivation in 2001. However, urban development on areas designated as Farmland was considered a significant impact. Mitigation for the City to consider agricultural conservation in its General Plan update was included. Impacts would remain significant.

No designated farmlands are present on the site and no land in agricultural use is present on or near the site. Thus, no impacts on agriculture and forest resources would occur with the proposed Amendment or future residential development allowed under the Amendment.

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8.2 MINERAL RESOURCES

There are no known aggregate resource, mineral, oil or geothermal resources at the project site. No oil fields or oil wells are present in or near the project area, although a plugged and abandoned well is present in the Specific Plan area. This oil well is identified as the Italian Vineyard Company and is located at the southern end of the site. Since it is abandoned, this well would not affect future residential development.

There are mineral resource zones to the northwest and northeast of the site, across the I-10 Freeway. However, these areas are not under active mining operations. The project site is also not subject to oil, gas, or mining operations. Thus, future residential development would not affect oil, gas or mining operations.

Policy ER 5-5 of the TOP states that future mining operations are prohibited where the resource extraction activities are incompatible with existing or proposed adjacent land uses. Future residential development under the proposed Amendment would be located in an area where no aggregate resources have been identified. Existing commercial and airport uses near the site are not compatible with mining operations. Additionally, there are no mining operations on or near the site. The proposed Amendment would not lead to the loss of availability of locally important mineral resources. No impacts are expected and no mitigation measures are required.

Sand, gravel, and other materials needed for construction of future residential uses are not expected to represent a significant amount of local aggregate resources, when compared to available resources and the cumulative demand for these resources by construction activities in the region. Thus, the demand for sand and gravel resources, as needed for construction of future residential uses, would have less than significant impacts on mineral resources in the region.

The EIR for the Guasti Plaza Specific Plan did not analyze impacts on mineral resources. The EIR for the Guasti Redevelopment Plan stated that no mineral resources of statewide or regional significance are known to occur in the Project Area and no impacts on mineral resources are expected.

No significant adverse impact on mineral resources is expected.