

3.16 Other Issue Areas

As discussed in Section 15121(a) of the CEQA Guidelines, an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is an informational document intended to identify the significant environmental impacts of a project and identify possible ways to minimize these significant impacts. The Project would not result in significant impacts to recreation, mineral resources, public services, utilities and service systems, or population and housing; and no mitigation measures are required for these resources. This section describes the adverse, but less than significant impacts (*Class III*) that would occur to these resources if the Project were implemented.

3.16.1 Recreation

The Lompoc Wind Energy Facility (LWEF) would be located on privately owned land that is used for agricultural, not recreational, purposes; thus, no direct, physical impacts to recreational resources would result from use of this site. Public access to San Miguelito Road and Sudden Road, beyond their intersection, could be restricted as a result of the Project, but this area is remote, and only a limited area that is currently accessible to the public would be affected; that is, approximately 1.5 miles along San Miguelito Road and approximately 1,000 feet along Sudden Road. Thus, the potential loss of recreational opportunities such as cycling, birding, and sightseeing would be low.

Aesthetic impacts to more distant recreational resources from the introduction of wind turbine generators to their viewsheds are addressed in Section 3.2, Aesthetics/Visual Resources.

A portion of the 115-kilovolt power line would be constructed along San Miguelito Road in the vicinity of Miguelito County Park, a day use park containing barbecue grills, picnic tables, group picnic areas, hiking trails, horseshoes, a playground, and restrooms. Construction would cause a temporary increase in noise levels and traffic near the park; additionally, the park could experience increased usage by construction workers. Access to the park would not be restricted, however, and recreational activities would not be precluded. The potential temporary increase in park usage by construction workers would not be sufficient to result in substantial physical deterioration of park facilities. Impacts would cease once construction in the vicinity of the park was completed. Power line construction may temporarily disrupt traffic and the use of bike paths and roadways along San Miguelito Road and State Route 1, but impacts in any given location would be short-term and would cease upon the completion of construction.

3.16.2 Mineral Resources

A number of mineral resources are found near the Project area, including diatomite, oil and gas, limestone, flagstone, and road gravel. Portions of the LWEF site historically have been used for rock quarrying, but mineral resources are not known to be present in significant quantities onsite. A maximum of 32 acres would be permanently disturbed, and it is unlikely that the disturbed area would contain significant quantities of mineral resources. A portion of the power line would traverse the Celite Corporation's Lompoc facility where diatomaceous earth mining and processing occurs, but construction would affect only a limited area (each power pole would permanently disturb only 314 square feet) and would

not result in the loss of production capabilities at the Celite facility. The Project would not result in the significant loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region or the residents of the state or the significant loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated in local general plans.

3.16.3 Public Services

Project impacts to fire protection and emergency services are addressed in Section 3.8. As discussed in greater detail in Section 6.5, Growth-inducing Impacts, the Project would not result in additional permanent population and thus would not result in population-based impacts to public services such as police protection, schools, and parks; no new or altered facilities would be required to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives. As discussed in Section 3.16.1, construction workers may result in a temporary increase in the use of Miguelito County Park during construction. However, this would cease after construction, and no new or expanded park facilities would be required.

3.16.4 Utilities/Service Systems

Reclaimed water from the Lompoc Wastewater Plant would be trucked in as needed for dust control during construction. As many as 9,000 gallons of water could be required on days when dust control is needed. Total water usage for dust control and foundation construction would be approximately 38 acre-feet. Additional water would be trucked in for the concrete batch plant(s) and would be obtained from the City of Lompoc just below its storage facility at the north end of San Miguelito Road. Adequate water supplies are available from existing sources to meet construction needs. Water for the Operations and Maintenance (O&M) facility operations would either be obtained from an unused well on the property or trucked in from Lompoc. Less than 500 gallons per day would be needed for the facility, and adequate supplies are available to from existing sources to serve the Project.

Effluent from the O&M drains would be disposed of through a leach line system to be installed on the west side of the O&M facility and would not require treatment by the regional wastewater treatment plant.

Where appropriate, soil and rock excavated during construction would be reused onsite and would not be transported to a landfill; and only minor amounts of solid waste would be generated by the O&M facility. Landfill capacity would not be exceeded, and all construction and operations waste materials would be disposed of in accordance with applicable regulatory requirements.

No new storm drainage facilities would be required other than those included as part of the Project.

3.16.5 Population/Housing

It is anticipated that the 50 to 100 construction workers would reside in the surrounding area, as would the limited number of permanent employees required to operate the facility. The Project would not directly require the construction of new housing or displacement of housing. Growth-inducing impacts are discussed in detail in Section 6.5.