

Section 3.8 | Mineral Resources

3.8.1 Introduction

This section describes the affected environment for mineral resources, the regulatory setting associated with mineral resources, the impacts on mineral resources that would result from the project, and the mitigation measures that would reduce these impacts.

3.8.2 Regulatory Setting

3.8.2.1 Federal

No federal regulations related to mineral resources would be applicable to the proposed project.

3.8.2.2 State

Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1975

The State Mining and Reclamation Act of 1975 (SMARA) requires that the State Mining and Geology Board (SMGB) map areas throughout the State of California that contain regionally significant mineral resources. Aggregate mineral resources within the state are classified by the SMGB through application of the Mineral Resource Zone (MRZ) system. The MRZ system is used to map all mineral commodities within identified jurisdictional boundaries. The MRZ system classifies lands that contain mineral deposits and identifies the presence or absence of substantial sand and gravel deposits and crushed rock source areas (i.e., commodities used as, or in the production of, construction materials). The State Geologist classifies MRZs within a region based on the following factors:

- MRZ-1: 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-2: Areas where adequate information indicates that significant mineral deposits are present, or where it is judged that a high likelihood exists for their presence.
- MRZ-3: Areas containing mineral deposits for which the significance cannot be determined from available data.
- MRZ-4: Areas where available information is inadequate for assignment of any other MRZ category.

Mining operations and mine reclamation activities are required to be performed in accordance with laws and regulations adopted by the SMGB. The State Department of Conservation's Office of Mine Reclamation (OMR) oversees reclamation requirements.

Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources

The California State Department of Conservation maintains the Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources (DOGGR). The DOGGR is responsible for monitoring the drilling, operation, maintenance, and abandonment of oil, gas, and geothermal wells with the intention of environmental protection, public health and safety, and general environmental conservation methods. The DOGGR is also responsible for collecting groundwater, oil, gas, and geothermal resource data for maintaining a record of all drilled and abandoned well locations.

Division of Mines and Geology

The California Division of Mines and Geology (DMG) operates within the Department of Conservation. The DMG is responsible for assisting in the utilization of mineral deposits and the identification of geological hazards.

3.8.2.3 Local

Los Angeles County General Plan

General Goals

The *County of Los Angeles General Plan* (County of Los Angeles 1980a) contains several general goals and policies. These general goals express the purpose of all elements of the general plan and are intended to be used as a guide for implementation. One of the general goals applicable to the proposed project and mineral resources is listed below:

- Conserve resources and protect the environment.

Conservation and Open Space Element

The *Conservation and Open Space Element of the County of Los Angeles General Plan* sets policy direction for open space resources in the County. These resources include mineral production. The element's policies are based on the need to conserve natural amenities, protect against natural hazards, and meet the public's desire for open space experiences.

Objectives

The conservation and open space element includes the following objectives to implement its stated policies:

- Support local efforts to improve air quality.
- Conserve energy resources and develop alternative energy sources.
- Conserve water and protect water quality.
- Preserve and protect prime agricultural lands, forests, fisheries, significant ecological areas, and other biotic resources.
- Protect mineral resources.

- Preserve and protect sites of historical, archaeological, scenic, and scientific value.
- Reduce the risk to life and property from seismic occurrences, flooding, erosion, wildland fires, and landslides.
- Improve opportunities for a variety of outdoor recreational experiences.

Needs and Policies

Policy 15 of the conservation and open space element states the following:

- Protect and conserve existing mineral resources, evaluate the extent and value of additional deposits, and require future reclamation of depleted sites.

3.8.3 Environmental Setting

This section discusses the existing conditions related to mineral resources in the study area. According to the *County of Los Angeles General Plan*, major local mineral resources consist of oil, rock deposits, and sand and gravel. California is the largest producer of sand and gravel in the nation and the greater Los Angeles area is the nation's leading producer for its geographical size. The County has high quantities of sand and gravel, which are located close to the market. Major sand and gravel extraction sites are located in the alluvial fans of the Big Tujunga Wash in the San Fernando Valley and in the San Gabriel River near Irwindale. Other extraction areas are located in northern Los Angeles County in other washes. (County of Los Angeles 1980a.)

Several areas identified as MRZ-2 are located in the project vicinity. These areas are located east and north of downtown Los Angeles, near the City of Burbank and in the Santa Clarita Valley and Antelope Valley areas. Other areas within the project area identified as MRZ-2 are near La Canada Flintridge and the City of San Marino. The El Monte, Covina, and Azusa areas also contain areas identified as MRZ-2. There are also several oil fields located within the vicinity of the project (California Department of Conservation 2001, 2003).

3.8.4 Project Impacts and Mitigation Measures

This section describes the impact analysis relating to mineral resources for the Bicycle Master Plan at the program level. It describes the methods used to determine the impacts of the project and lists the thresholds used to conclude whether an impact would be significant. Measures to mitigate (i.e., avoid, minimize, rectify, reduce, eliminate, or compensate for) significant impacts accompany each impact discussion, if necessary. Detailed analysis at the project level will determine the significance of impacts for individual Bicycle Master Plan projects and, if necessary, the applicability of mitigation measures.

3.8.4.1 Methods

This section was prepared using a qualitative analysis that included the following steps in order to document existing conditions: 1) review the Bicycle Master Plan and other existing County planning

documents to document existing mineral resources conditions of the project area; and 2) review state-maintained maps to identify areas containing mineral resources. In order to assess potential impacts of the proposed bikeways, their alignments were reviewed to identify where mineral resources and/or oil drilling occur.

3.8.4.2 Thresholds of Significance

For this analysis, an impact pertaining to mineral resources was considered significant if it would result in a “yes” answer to any of the following questions from the Los Angeles County Initial Study Checklist.

- Would the project 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?
- Would the project result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource discovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan, or other land use plan?

3.8.4.3 Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Impact 3.8-1: 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.

As discussed in Section 3.8.3, the project area contains areas of gas and oil reserves and areas identified as MRZ-2, which are zones that include known mineral deposits or where there is a high likelihood for their presence.

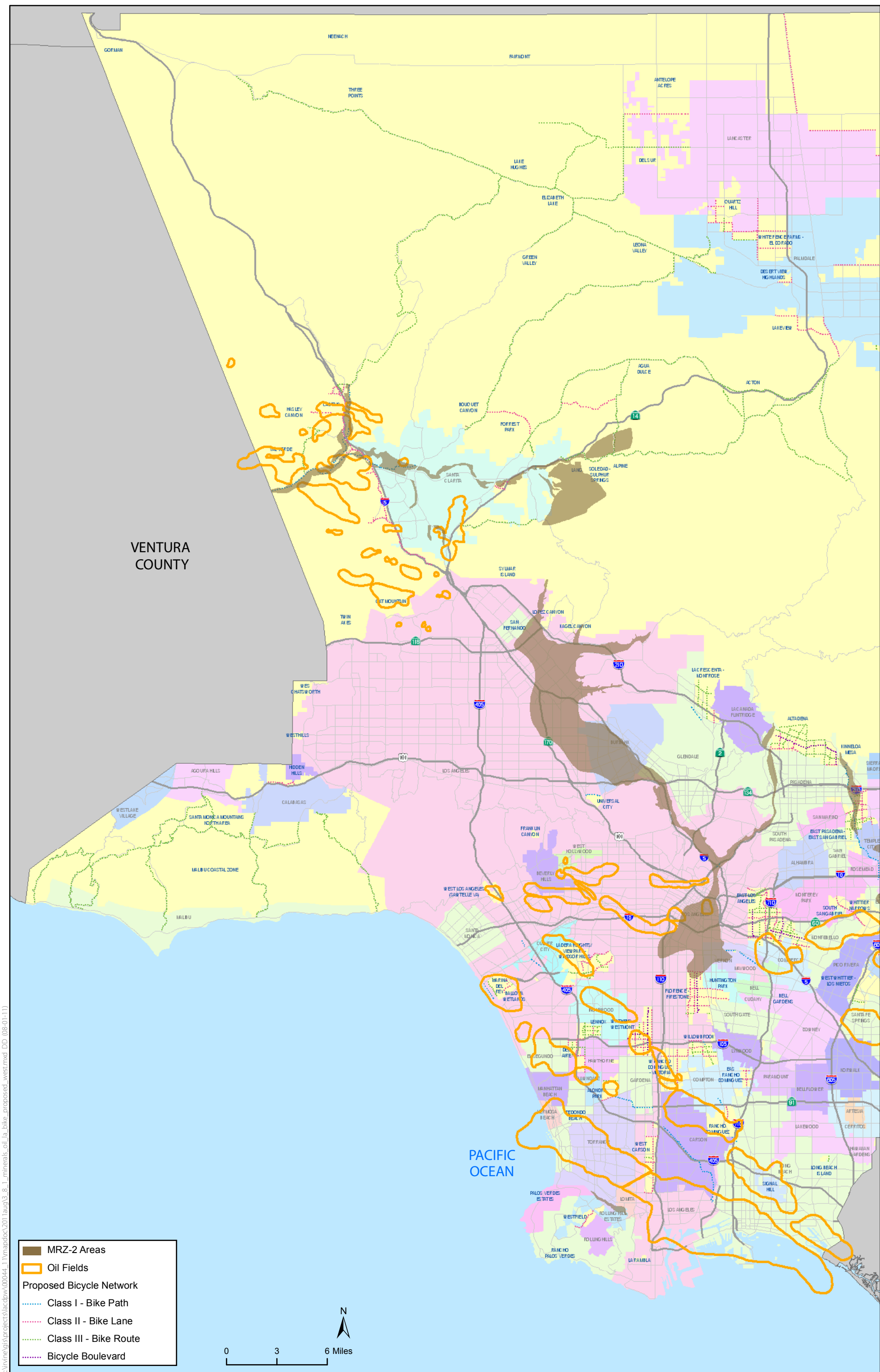
Construction

Impacts related to loss of availability of known mineral resources would be permanent. See discussion under Operation, below.

Operation

Depending on the nature and extent of extraction activity, operation of the bikeways included in the Bicycle Master Plan may result in the disruption or removal of existing extraction operations or may preclude the future extraction of resources due to the location of bikeways on known mineral resource areas. The bikeway network could result in a traffic or access conflicts with extraction of mineral resources of regional or statewide importance. This would be a significant impact.

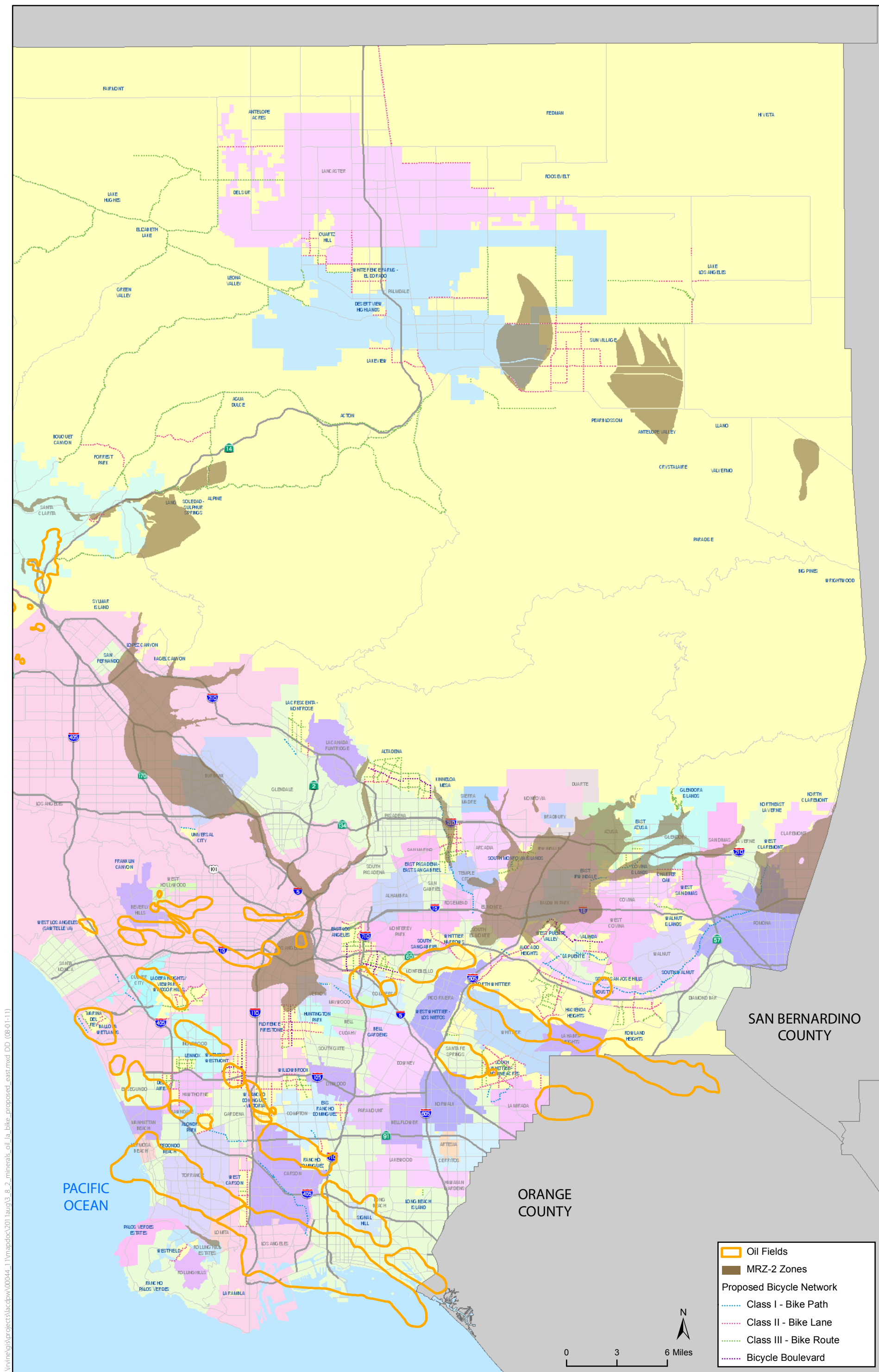
Under the proposed project, most of the bikeway network would be along or within existing roadways. New Class I bike paths may include new right-of-way. New on-road bikeways may include minor road widening in some locations. The Plan includes bike paths that would go through areas identified as MRZ-2, which are zones that include known mineral deposits as shown in Figures 3.8-1 and 3.8-2. Table 3.8-1 identifies the general area within the County and the type of bikeway proposed for that specific area. Additionally, there are oil fields located along portions of the proposed bikeway network as shown in Figures 3.8-1 and 3.8-2.



K:\vme\gis\project\lactd\w\00044_1\mapdoc\2011aug\3_8_1_minerals_oil_la_bike_proposed_west.mxd_DD (08-01-11)

Source: California Department of Conservation (2001); ESRI Streetmap USA (2008); Alta Planning + Design (2011)

Figure 3.8-1
Mineral Resources and Oil Fields in West Los Angeles County
Los Angeles County Bicycle Master Plan



I:\v\m\gis\project\slacdpw\000944_1\1\mapdoc\2011aug\3_8_2_minerals_oil_la_bike_proposed_east.mxd DD (08-01-11)

Source: California Department of Conservation (2001); ESRI Streetmap USA (2008); Alta Planning + Design (2011)

Figure 3.8-2
Mineral Resources and Oil Fields in East Los Angeles County
Los Angeles County Bicycle Master Plan

Table 3.8-1. MRZ-2 Areas Located Within the Proposed Project Area

| General Location of MRZ-2 Area | Type of Bikeway Proposed |
|---|---------------------------------|
| South Central Area (near Vernon /Huntington Park) | Class II |
| East of San Marino (along the 210 Freeway) | Class I, II, III |
| North County (near Castaic, Val Verde, Santa Clarita) | Class I, II |
| East of Santa Clarita | Class III |
| East of Palmdale | Class II |
| West Puente Valley, South Baldwin Park | Class II, III |
| North Pomona | Class I |
| Charter Oak | Class II |
| Covina Islands | Class I, III |
| East Irwindale | Class I, II |
| South Monrovia Islands | Class II, III |
| South of West Claremont | Class I |
| North of Alpine | Class III |

Mitigation Measures

Detailed analysis of impacts related to mineral resources and oil and gas resources will be required prior to implementation of individual Bicycle Master Plan projects to identify any mineral resources and oil and gas resources within the project's vicinity (based on SMGB mapping, DOGGR mapping, and the County of Los Angeles General Plan, including updates). If the proposed bikeways are located in these areas, the analysis will determine whether or not the proposed bicycle facility is compatible with the existing resources and operations. This compatibility analysis will determine whether the proposed bicycle facility would affect extraction, processing, or transportation of the resource, primarily related to safety issues but potentially also including air quality, noise, or visual compatibility.

MM 3.8-1: Implement measures to protect existing mineral resource and oil and gas resource operations in the vicinity of Bicycle Master Plan projects.

If an individual Bicycle Master Plan project is found to be incompatible with the existing mineral resource or oil and gas resource operations in the site-specific analysis, the project will include measures to address safety, air quality, noise, visual, or other impacts, such as incorporation of fencing, barriers screening, etc. If such measures are not feasible or cannot reduce incompatibility impacts to a less-than-significant level, then the bicycle facility will be relocated to an appropriate location that would not result in significant compatibility impacts.

Level of Significance after Mitigation

With implementation of MM 3.8-1, impacts would be less than significant.

Impact 3.8-2: Result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource discovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan, or other land use plan.

The County has not identified additional mineral resources or oil fields beyond those identified by SMGB (MRZs) and DOGGR. Therefore, no known locally important mineral resource discovery sites would be affected by the Bicycle Master Plan. The County is currently updating their general plan, and a draft general plan is currently available for public review (Chung 2011). Once adopted, it is possible that the general plan will identify additional mineral or oil resources. If this occurs, the planned bikeways could affect these resources or the ability to access these resources. This would be a significant impact.

Mitigation Measures

Implement MM 3.8-1 (Implement measures to protect existing mineral resource and oil and gas resource operations in the vicinity of Bicycle Master Plan projects).

Level of Significance after Mitigation

With implementation of MM-3.8-1, impacts would be less than significant.

3.8.5 Cumulative

Access to mineral resources and oil and gas reserves is a significant issue in any urban area. Often, urban development is incompatible with existing and potential extraction activities. Because the majority of the bikeways proposed in the Bicycle Master Plan would be located in areas with existing development, these facilities would have limited impacts on these resources. With the implementation of MM 3.8-1, which would ensure that bikeways would be compatible with exploitation of mineral and oil and gas resources, or be relocated to avoid incompatibility, the Bicycle Master Plan elements would not contribute to a significant cumulative impact to mineral resources or oil and gas reserves.