3.2.6 Public Services

3.2.6.1 No Action Alternative

Impacts

No increase in demand for public fire protection services would occur at the site under the No Action Alternative. Because there would be no mining at the site, there would be no potential fire hazard from structures, equipment, or fuel storage.

Mitigation Measures

No mitigation measures would be required.

3.2.6.2 Reduced North Fines Storage Area Alternative Analysis

Impacts

Since this is an alternative to the Concept Plan (Proposed Action) of mining, the same onsite activities would occur, thus the potential for impacts is the same as that described for the Proposed Action.

Mitigation Measures

The mitigation measures are the same as those identified for the Proposed Action (measures PS1 through PS8). Any potential impacts would be mitigated to less than significant.

3.2.6.3 Batch Plant Location Alternative Analysis

Impacts

If the batch plant were located offsite, rather than onsite, it would spread the Project facilities over a larger area. No additional potential impacts would result from locating the batch plant offsite near Lang Station in an area of industrial development. Site construction and operation would entail the removal and maintenance of vegetation. TMC would have the heavy equipment to accommodate a first response to an incident. No additional constraints on the local providers would occur. The potential for impacts would remain as described for the Proposed Action.

Mitigation Measures

The mitigation measures are the same as those identified for the Proposed Action (measures PS1 through PS8). Any potential impacts would be mitigated to less than significant.

3.2.6.4 Addition of Water/Reclaimed Water Alternative Analysis

Impacts

The addition of a pipeline to bring in water to the site would not result in the addition of any potential impacts to fire protection services. The action of bringing water to the site by trucks also would not result in any additional impacts to fire protection services. The potential for impacts would remain as described for the Proposed Action.

Mitigation Measures

The mitigation measures are the same as those identified for the Proposed Action (measures PS1 through PS8). Any potential impacts would be mitigated to less than significant.

3.2.6.5 Product Transportation Alternative Analysis

Impacts

The use of rail to move processed material from the site would entail construction of a spur to the site. No additional impacts to fire protection services would be expected to occur. The potential for impacts to public services would remain as described for the Proposed Action.

Mitigation Measures

The mitigation measures are the same as those identified for the Proposed Action (measures PS1 through PS8). Any potential impacts would be mitigated to less than significant.

3.2.6.6 Alternative North Fines Storage Area Analysis

Impacts

This alternative would spread the NFSA over a larger area and further from mining activities. A longer roadway or conveyor would be required to reach the NFSA. More acreage of mixed chapparal and coastal sage scrub/desert chapparal would be required to be removed prior to fines deposition (81.8 acres for this alternative as compared to 63.1 for the Proposed Action). While there would appear to be a greater potential for fire, the project actions would still require that vegetation removal be conducted with the same setback requirements as stipulated for the Proposed Action (see mitigation measure PS8).

Mitigation Measures

The mitigation measures are the same as those identified for the Proposed Action (measures PS1 through PS8). Any potential impacts would be mitigated to less than significant.

3.2.6.7 Reduced Quantity Mining Concept Alternative Analysis

Impacts

As with the Proposed Action, fire protection and water would be provided onsite as the same activities would occur. No impacts on public services would result from this alternative.

Mitigation Measures

The mitigation measures are the same as those identified for the Proposed Action (measures PS1 through PS8). Any potential impacts would be mitigated to less than significant.

3.2.7 Air Quality

3.2.7.1 No Action Alternative

Impacts

There would be no site-related air quality impacts under the No Action Alternative because there would be no activities. Existing energy consumption and air pollutant emissions onsite are minimal.

Mitigation Measures

Project related mitigation measures would not be applicable for the No Action Alternative. (Ramifications of the regional consideration of No Action are addressed in Section 1.3).

3.2.7.2 Reduced North Fines Storage Area Alternative Analysis

Impacts

The Reduced NFSA Alternative would not change the daily emissions from offsite transportation of rock product compared to the Proposed Action. However, other changes in the onsite operations due to this alternative could reduce the emissions associated with mine excavation, processing, fines transport, and fines placement compared to the Proposed Action. In order to quantify the potential reduction in impacts of this alternative, the haul road distance from the processing plant to the NFSA was calculated. Over the life of the Project, the Reduced NFSA approach would reduce the total miles of fines haulage by approximately 28 percent. This estimate takes into consideration the storage of fines in the Cut 3 area as well as the shorter duration of use of the NFSA. In addition to the beneficial decrease in onsite haul truck emissions and fugitive dust associated with fines transport, this alternative would also decrease operational emissions compared to the Proposed Action due to decreased rock excavation and processing, and decreased materials handling associated with fines placement. While these decreases in operations emissions are considered beneficial, they would not be substantial enough to reduce the daily emission to below SCAQMD thresholds of significance. Mitigation measures listed for the Proposed Action are applicable to this alternative.