The control of pollutants associated with the quarry activities that may affect the quality of storm water discharges and thereby beneficial uses of surface or ground waters, is identified in the site's SWPPP prepared to meet the General Permit requirements. The Azusa Rock Quarry SWPPP is dated February 15, 2005 and contains site-specific BMPs that are implemented to minimize storm water impacts to water quality. The BMPs are included in Exhibit D of the SWPPP.

The Project Site also operates under a Hazardous Materials Business Plan, which contains basic information on the location, type, quantity, and health risks of hazardous materials stored, used, or disposed of on-site. An SPCCP is in place to address potential spills of certain hazardous materials and includes spill response instructions.

The SWPPP also requires regular monitoring, inspections, and record keeping to evaluate the effectiveness of BMPs and the need for updating the SWPPP. Regular monitoring reports are also submitted in an annual report to the LARWQCB in accordance with the General Permit. To date, the Azusa Rock Quarry has not been charged with violations of its permit conditions.

Upon development and approval of a SWPPP and Hazardous Waste Business Plan for the Proposed Project operations and reclamation, potential to the biological integrity of waterways would be less than significant.

Mitigation: No Mitigation Required

HWQ-6: Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?

Impact: Potentially Significant

As discussed under impact HWQ-5 the quarry currently operates under a NPDES permit issued by the LARWQCB and is compliant with applicable water quality standards and discharge requirement. No violations have been reported during required permit reporting received by the RWQCB. Impacts regarding violation of water quality standards would be less than significant.

Mitigation: No Mitigation Required

HWQ-7: Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?

Impact: Potentially~~Less Than~~ Significant

The groundwater elevation at the site is estimated to be greater than 700 feet amsl. The aquifer material below the site is hard rock and groundwater is likely present in the open fractures of the rock. Groundwater is not used during mining operations. Use of the on-site settling basin to detain storm water may act to replenish the groundwater table via percolation.

Production water (non-potable) is used on-site for dust control during mining operations, and is obtained from an off-site well (No. 1903119) located across the San Gabriel River channel at the former Owl Rock Mine facility north of Stoddard Road. The well is operated by Azusa Rock, Inc. through City Resolution No. 99-C75, and is delivered to the quarry via a pipeline. Domestic water supplied to the on-site office is provided by CalAmerican, a utility water supplier that serves the office and administrative structures on-site through a standard metered domestic water line service.

According to the 2008-2009 Watermaster report, Vulcan is entitled to produce 0.90740% of the Basin Safe Yield of the Main San Gabriel Groundwater Basin. During the Fiscal Year 2009-2010, this amounts to an entitlement of 1,542.58 acre-feet (AF) of water. Last year, Vulcan pumped 600 AF, of which, approximately 26.14 acre-feet were used at the Azusa Rock Quarry. Aggregate production during that same period was approximately 925,000 tons, resulting in a water usage rate of approximately 1 AF for every 35,386.4 tons mined. Under the adjudication of the San Gabriel Groundwater Basin, Vulcan (and other overlying users) is not subject to any limit on the amount of water that it may pump, provided, however, that any pumping beyond its share of the Basin Safe Yield is subject to the payment of basin replenishment fees. These funds are used by the Watermaster to purchase replenishment water for recharge back into the Basin. The net outcome of this arrangement is that the long-term sustainability of Basin water levels and of Basin pumping practices is assured.

Increasing the Quarry's production level to 6 million tons per year would require the use of an estimated 170 AF per year of groundwater (1 AF of water used for every 35,386.4 tons mined based on 2009 water use levels). This is approximately 11% of Vulcan's entitlement to groundwater pumped from the Main San Gabriel Groundwater Basin. Therefore no new or expanded entitlements would be needed, and there would be no unmet increase in water demand. As a consequence, no significant environmental effects would result.

After mining is completed under the Proposed Project, the Project Site will be revegetated and left as open space and therefore have no water demand. ~~No groundwater will be used after reclamation is completed; therefore, neither the groundwater supply, volume, or level will be depleted or lowered as a result of the project. Therefore, potential impacts would be less than significant.~~

Mitigation: No Mitigation Required

HWQ-8: Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?

Impact: Potentially Significant Impact

The on-site drainage system that will exist throughout the period of active mining and reclamation consists of a series of berms that direct storm water into an on-site detention basin. From the basin, storm water is allowed to percolate into the groundwater table or evaporate. The basin also allows sediments in the storm water to settle out, and the NPDES permit covering the