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**PLANNING AND NATURAL  
RESOURCES DEPARTMENT**

Planning  
Community Development  
Administrative Operations

December 11, 2020

File: CUP 17, Map 117

ADDRESSEE LIST (See Distribution List)

**Re: Revised Notice of Availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Johe Ranch Mining Project by Diatom, LLC (PP12316)**

Dear Interested Party:

On November 6, 2020, the Kern County Planning and Natural Resources Department distributed a Notice of Availability for a Draft Environmental Impact Report (Draft EIR) for the above referenced project. The Notice of Availability stated that a public hearing had been scheduled with the Kern County Planning Commission to receive comments on the document on January 21, 2021, or soon thereafter.

Based on the 2021 Planning Commission Hearing schedule, there will be no Planning Commission hearing on that date. Therefore, the Planning Commission Hearing scheduled for this project will be on **January 28, 2021**. For purposes of clarity, the Department is providing the attached revised Notice of Availability to make certain that all agencies and interested individuals are aware of the revised hearing date.

Please be advised that the circulation dates of the Draft EIR and comment due date remain unchanged. Therefore, if we have not received a reply from you by **December 21, 2020, at 5:00 P.M.**, we will assume that you have no comments regarding this Draft EIR.

**Should you have any questions regarding this project, please do not hesitate to contact me at (661) 862-8612 or via email at [CatesR@kerncounty.com](mailto:CatesR@kerncounty.com).**

Sincerely,

Randall Cates, Planner III  
Advanced Planning Division

**DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT  
NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY FOR PUBLIC REVIEW**

This is to advise that the Kern County Planning and Natural Resources Department has prepared an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the project identified below. As mandated by State law, the minimum public review period for this document is 45 days. The document and documents referenced in the Draft EIR are available for review at the Planning Natural Resources Department, 2700 "M" Street, Suite 100, Bakersfield, CA 93301 or on the Departmental website (<https://kernplanning.com/planning/environmental-documents/>).

A public hearing has been scheduled with the Kern County Planning Commission to receive comments on the document on: ~~January 21, 2021~~, **January 28, 2021** at 7:00 p.m. or soon thereafter, Chambers of the Board of Supervisors, First Floor, Kern County Administrative Center, 1115 Truxtun Avenue, Bakersfield, California

The comment period for this document closes on **December 21, 2020**. Testimony at future public hearings may be limited to those issues raised during the public review period either orally or submitted in writing by 5:00 p.m. the day the comment period closes.

**Project Title:** EIR 09-17; Johe Ranch Mining Project by Diatom, LLC (PP12316); Conditional Use Permit 17, Map 117.

**Project Location:** North and south sides of State Route 58, 8.5 miles west of the unincorporated community of McKittrick; also being a portion of Section 7 of Township 30 South, Range 21 East, MDBM, County of Kern, State of California.

**Project Description:** A Conditional Use Permit (CUP) for a 93.67-acre surface mining operation and development of a reclamation plan on an approximately 331-acre project site, in accordance with the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act (SMARA) of 1975.

Access to the site is obtained via State Route 58. The project proponent proposes to employ open pit mining techniques to mine diatomaceous earth (a mineral suitable for industrial uses including the production of cement) and overburden material (earth overlying the diatomaceous earth, proposed to be sold for use as a landfill liner, and to solidify liquid waste after it is deposited in a landfill). As proposed, all overburden material (typically considered as non-marketable waste in the mining industry) which is excavated will be exported from the project site and sold; as such, no waste is proposed to be generated.

The life of the operation is proposed to be 50 years. The maximum annual removal of material is estimated to be 330,000 tons (310,000 tons of diatomaceous earth, 20,000 tons of overburden material), and the maximum total is estimated to be 6,600,000 tons (6,200,000 tons of diatomaceous earth, 400,000 tons of overburden material). Proposed maximum depth of operation is 162 feet for Mine Area 1, 125 feet for Mine Area 2, and 40 feet for Mine Area 3. Although there are three proposed mine areas, the project consists of a single phase. Maximum operational slopes for the mining areas, and the blending and screening site, will be 2:1 (horizontal:vertical). Maximum final reclaimed slopes for the mining areas, and the blending and screening site, will be 3:1 (horizontal:vertical). Maximum operational cut and fill slopes for the proposed access road will be 1:1.75 (horizontal:vertical). Maximum final reclaimed cut and fill slopes for the proposed access road will be 1:1.75 (horizontal:vertical). Operations are scheduled to occur between the hours of 6:00 a.m. to 7:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, with a maximum of ten employees on site at any one time.

The approximately 331-acre project site consists of grazing land and four abandoned wells (all of which are identified as abandoned gas wells with the exception of the well titled Lynn 1) as shown on Figures 3-3a and 3-3b, although none of the aforementioned wells are within the proposed 93.67-acre reclamation plan area. Approximately 1.4 acres of the project site has been previously disturbed as a result of existing roads used in conjunction with ranching operations. A 2.42 acre area is proposed as a blending and screening site for diatomaceous earth, to blend and screen the material as necessary to meet customer demand.

**Anticipated Significant Impacts on Environment:** Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Document can be viewed online at: <https://kernplanning.com/planning/environmental-documents/>

For further information, please contact Randall P. Cates, Planner III ((661) 862-8612).

LORELEI H. OVIATT, AICP, Director  
Planning and Natural Resources Department

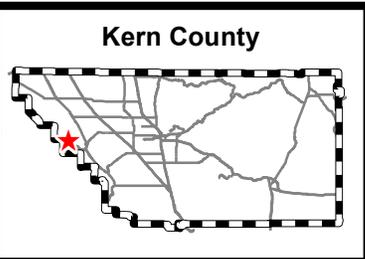
To be published once only on next available date and as soon as possible

**TAFT MIDWAY DRILLER**

RPC:sc (12/11/20)

cc: County Clerk (2) (with fee)  
Environmental Status Board  
Sierra Club/Kern Kaweah Chapter  
LiUNA  
Supervisory District No. 4

California Native Plant Society/Kern Chapter  
Kern County Archaeological Society  
Native American Heritage Pres. Council/Kern County  
Center on Race, Poverty and Environment (2)



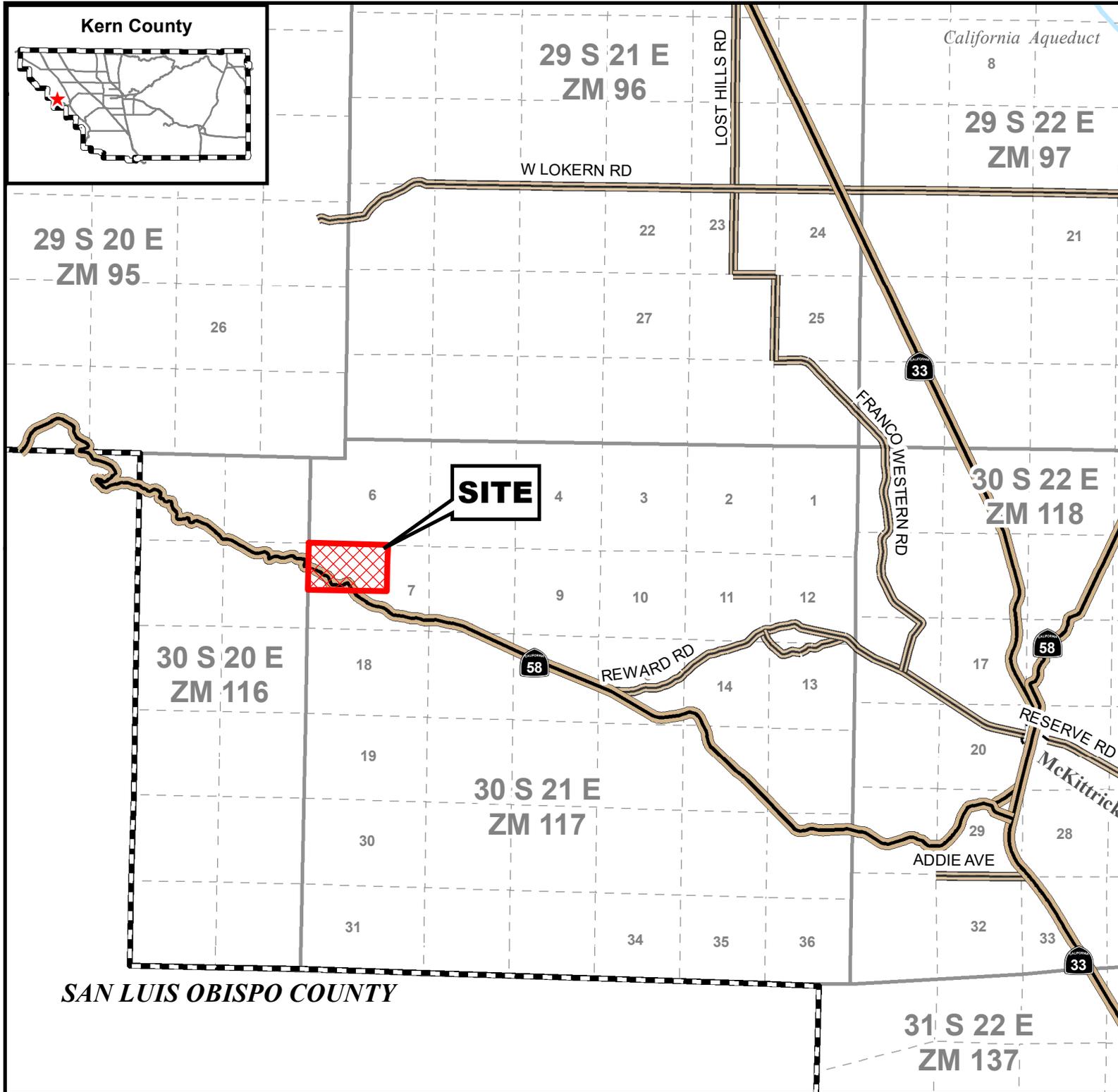
Kern County

# CUP 17, Map No. 117

## Vicinity Map

Johe Ranch Mining Project  
by: Diatom, LLC

-  Site
-  STATE HWY
-  Arterials
-  Kern County Boundary
-  Township/Range
-  Sections
-  Water Courses
-  Unincorporated Cities



SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY

APN: 156-070-01, 156-070-02,  
& 156-070-10

Sec. 7 -T30S/R21E  
Created on: 9/8/2020



0 3,250 6,500 9,750 13,000 Feet



Kern County  
Planning & Natural  
Resources Department