

Notice of Completion & Environmental Document Transmittal

Mail to: State Clearinghouse, P. O. Box 3044, Sacramento, CA 95812-3044 (916) 445-0613
For Hand Delivery/Street Address: 1400 Tenth Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

SCH # 2019011010

Project Title: EIR 09-17; Johe Ranch Mining Project by Diatom, LLC

Lead Agency: Kern County Planning and Natural Resources Department

Contact Person: Randall Cates

Mailing Address: 2700 "M" Street Suite 100

Phone: 661-862-8612

City: Bakersfield

Zip: 93301-2323

County: Kern

Project Location: County: Kern City/Nearest Community: McKittrick

Cross Streets: The project site is located on the north and south sides of State Route 58, approximately 8.5 miles west of the unincorporated community of McKittrick, being a portion of Section 7 of T30S, R21E, MDB&M, County of Kern, State of California

Lat. / Long.: 35° 19'56.2655" N/ 119° 46'4.2659" W Total Acres: approximately 331 acres

Assessor's Parcel No.: portions of 156-070-01, 156-070-02 & 156-070-10 Section: 7 Twp.: 30S Range: 21E Base: MDB&M

Within 2 Miles: State Hwy #: 58 Waterways: multiple intermittent drainage channels

Airports: N/A

Railways: N/A

Schools: N/A

Document Type:

CEQA: NOP Draft EIR Supplement/Subsequent EIR (Prior SCH No.) Other Response to Comments (Chapter 7 of the Final EIR)

NEPA: NOI EA Draft EIS FONSI

Other: Joint Document Final Document Other _____

Local Action Type:

General Plan Update Specific Plan Rezone Annexation
 General Plan Amendment Master Plan Prezone Redevelopment
 General Plan Element Planned Unit Development Use Permit Coastal Permit
 Community Plan Site Plan Land Division (Subdivision, etc.) Other _____

Development Type:

Residential: Units _____ Acres _____ Water Facilities: Type _____ MGD _____
 Office: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____ Transportation: Type _____
 Commercial: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____ Mining: Mineral: diatomaceous earth and overburden material
 Industrial: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____ Power: Type _____ MW _____
 Educational _____ Waste Treatment: Type _____ MGD _____
 Recreational _____ Hazardous Waste: Type _____
 Other: _____

Project Issues Discussed in Document:

Aesthetic/Visual Fiscal Recreation/Parks Vegetation
 Agricultural Land Flood Plain/Flooding Schools/Universities Water Quality
 Air Quality Forest Land/Fire Hazard Septic Systems Water Supply/Groundwater
 Archeological/Historical Geologic/Seismic Sewer Capacity Wetland/Riparian
 Biological Resources Minerals Soil Erosion/Compaction/Grading Wildlife
 Coastal Zone Noise Solid Waste Growth Inducing
 Drainage/Absorption Population/Housing Balance Toxic/Hazardous Land Use
 Economic/Jobs Public Services/Facilities Traffic/Circulation Cumulative Effects
 Other Energy, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Tribal Cultural Resources, Wildfire

Present Land Use/Zoning/General Plan Designation:

Present Land Use: Grazing Land / Zoning: A (Exclusive Agriculture) / Kern County General Plan: 8.3 (extensive agriculture (min. 20-acre parcel size, 80 acres with Williamson Act Contract)), 8.3/2.4 (extensive agriculture (min. 20-acre parcel size, 80 acres with Williamson Act Contract) / steep slope overlay), 8.4 (mineral and petroleum (min. 5 acre parcel size)), 8.4/2.2 (mineral and petroleum (min. 5 acre parcel size) / landslide overlay), 8.4/2.4 (mineral and petroleum (min. 5 acre parcel size) / steep slope overlay)

Project Description: *(please use a separate page if necessary)*

A Conditional Use Permit (CUP) for a 93.67-acre surface mining operation and development of a reclamation plan on 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.

Reviewing Agencies Checklist

Lead Agencies may recommend State Clearinghouse distribution by marking agencies below with and "X". If you have already sent your document to the agency please denote that with an "S".

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Air Resources Board | <input type="checkbox"/> Office of Emergency Services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Boating & Waterways, Department of | <input type="checkbox"/> Office of Historic Preservation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> California Highway Patrol | <input type="checkbox"/> Office of Public School Construction |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CalFire | <input type="checkbox"/> Parks & Recreation |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> S Caltrans District # 6 | <input type="checkbox"/> Pesticide Regulation, Department of |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Caltrans Division of Aeronautics | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Utilities Commission |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Caltrans Planning (Headquarters) | <input type="checkbox"/> Regional WQCB # _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Central Valley Flood Protection Board | <input type="checkbox"/> Resources Agency |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy | <input type="checkbox"/> S.F. Bay Conservation & Development Commission |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Coastal Commission | <input type="checkbox"/> San Gabriel & Lower L.A. Rivers and Mtns Conservancy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Colorado River Board | <input type="checkbox"/> San Joaquin River Conservancy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation, Department of | <input type="checkbox"/> Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Corrections, Department of | <input type="checkbox"/> State Lands Commission |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Delta Protection Commission | <input type="checkbox"/> SWRCB: Clean Water Grants |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Education, Department of | <input type="checkbox"/> SWRCB: Water Quality |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Energy Commission | <input type="checkbox"/> SWRCB: Water Rights |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fish & Game Region # _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Tahoe Regional Planning Agency |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Food & Agriculture, Department of | <input type="checkbox"/> Toxic Substances Control, Department of |
| <input type="checkbox"/> General Services, Department of | <input type="checkbox"/> Water Resources, Department of |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Health Services, Department of | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Housing & Community Development | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Integrated Waste Management Board | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Native American Heritage Commission | |

Local Public Review Period (to be filled in by lead agency)

Starting Date March 25, 2021 Ending Date April 8, 2021

Lead Agency (Complete if applicable):

| | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Consulting Firm: _____ | Applicant: _____ |
| Address: _____ | Address: _____ |
| City/State/Zip: _____ | City/State/Zip: _____ |
| Contact: _____ | Phone: _____ |
| Phone: _____ | |

Signature of Lead Agency Representative: _____ **/s/** _____ **Date:** March 25, 2021

Authority cited: Section 21083, Public Resources Code. Reference: Section 21161, Public Resources Code.