

California Department of Transportation

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT 10 RURAL PLANNING
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July 6, 2023

Mr. Chuck Beatty
Planning Director
Amador County Planning Department
810 Court Street
Jackson, CA 95642

**AMA-88- PM 3.615
Jackson Valley Quarry
Use Permit (UP-06; 9-2)
SCH 2007042002**

Dear Mr. Beatty:

Caltrans appreciates the opportunity to review and respond to the Jackson Valley Quarry Use Permit that proposes to modify Condition of Approval ("COA") #15 of the Jackson Valley Quarry (JVQ) Use Permit (UP-06; 9-2) to allow operational / reclamation activities (e.g., excavation, processing, load-out, and hauling) to occur during extended hours of Quarry operation from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday through Friday to: 1) 6:00 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Friday; and 2) 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Saturdays (load-out and hauling only), and 3) Operations outside of these hours allowed to meet project / contract demands or to maximize power supply management ("Project"). No change to the approved hours of operation for site preparation activities or blasting is requested. The Project will not modify the existing production levels, materials to be mined, area of disturbance, equipment types or mining methods, the number of employees, or otherwise expand or intensify the existing use. The Project site is an existing hard rock quarry located on the south side of State Route (SR) 88, approximately ½ mile east of the most westerly junction of Jackson Valley Road and SR 88 in the community of Jackson.

Activities were thoroughly analyzed in the 2013 environmental impact report (EIR), and mitigation measures were adopted as conditions of approval by the County Board of Supervisors to adequately mitigate potential impacts from site activities. Relevant to the proposed Project, the existing Use Permit (UP-06; 9-2) contains conditions of approval for noise (COAs #44-#49), lighting (COA #23), and biological resources (COAs #50-#53) that will be maintained and adhered to. To analyze the proposed Project's potential impacts, updated technical analyses related to noise and vibration, nighttime lighting, and biological effects were prepared as part of an Initial Study prepared in March of 2022. New avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures have been integrated into the proposed Project.

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Caltrans at this time has the following comments:

Caltrans' response letter addressing JVQ's revised Conditional of Approval (COA) #15 of the Use Permit dated 12/15/2021, "Caltrans suggests Amador County Planning Department continue to consult with Caltrans to identify and address potential cumulative transportation impacts that may occur from this project and other developments on or near this location. This will assist Caltrans in ensuring that traffic safety and quality standards are maintained for the traveling public on existing and future state transportation facilities" still applies.

Environmental

If extending the operational hours will result in new/additional activities in Caltrans Right of Way (ROW), the project proponent must apply for an Encroachment Permit to the Caltrans District 10 Encroachment Permit Office. All California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) documentation, with supporting technical studies, must be submitted with the Encroachment Permit Application. These studies will include an analysis of potential impacts to any cultural sites, historic properties, biological resources, hazardous waste locations, scenic highways, and/or other environmental resources within Caltrans Right of Way, at the project site(s). The Initial Study (IS) describes the nesting bird season as March to October. However, if there is any construction related activities in Caltrans ROW as a result of this proposal, that work is subjected to a nesting bird season of February 1 - September 30 to meet Caltrans standards. There are mature trees within and/or near Caltrans ROW that could provide suitable nesting habitat. If work will occur between February 1 and September 30 of any year, a pre-construction bird survey must be conducted by a qualified biologist prior to the start of any construction related activities in Caltrans ROW. If an active nest is observed, a protective buffer must be established around the nest per CDFW guidelines. No work is allowed within the protective buffer limits until the young have fledged and until authorized by the Caltrans District 10 Environmental Office. Results of the pre-construction bird survey(s) must be provided to the Caltrans District 10 Environmental Office prior to the start of construction.

Outdoor Advertising:

It is important to note that any advertising structure visible to the National Highway System (NHS) is subject to the provisions of the California Outdoor Advertising Act outlined in Business and Professions Code Section 5200 et seq. Any advertising structure that displays off-premise commercial copy visible from the NHS will require a permit from the Office of Outdoor Advertising (ODA).

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Any advertising structure that only advertises goods and services available on-premise will not require a permit from ODA, provided it adheres to the provisions of Business and Professions Code Section 5272 and 5274 and California Code of Regulations 2243 and 2246. Each of the proposed advertising structures should refrain from operating in any of the conditions outlined in Business and Professions Code Section 5403. For questions related to the ODA permit application process please visit our website at: <http://www.dot.ca.gov/trafficops/oda/>.

If any future project activities encroach into Caltrans Right-of-Way (ROW), the project proponent must submit an application for an Encroachment Permit to the Caltrans District 10 Encroachment Permit Office. Appropriate environmental studies must be submitted with this application. These studies will include an analysis of potential impacts to any cultural sites, biological resources, hazardous waste locations, and/or other resources within Caltrans ROW at the project site(s). For more information, please visit the Caltrans Website at: <https://dot.ca.gov/programs/traffic-operations/ep/applications>

If you have any question or would like to discuss these comments, please contact Paul Bauldry at (209) 670-9488 (email: paul.bauldry@dot.ca.gov) or me at (209) 483-7234 (email: Gregoria.Ponce@dot.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

Gregoria Ponce'

Gregoria Ponce', Chief
Office of Rural Planning