



June 9, 2021

Mr. Steven Valdez
County of San Bernardino
Land Use Services Department
385 North Arrowhead Avenue, First Floor
San Bernardino, CA 92415-0187

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

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STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

SUBJECT: ALVIC AND ALUMINA QUARRY PROJECT: INITIAL STUDY/MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION; STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NO. 2021050223

Dear Mr. Valdez:

Thank you for including the Department of Conservation's Division of Mine Reclamation (Division) in the environmental review process for the Alvic and Alumina Quarry Project (Proposed Project) Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND). San Bernardino County (County), as lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), has prepared the IS/MND for the Proposed Project.

The Proposed Project is 11 miles northeast of the town of Apple Valley and adjacent to the Black Mountain Cement Plant. As described in the IS/MND, CEMEX Construction Materials Pacific, LLC. is proposing to amend the existing use permit and Reclamation Plan Amendment (RPA) to expand mining operations, extend the Proposed Project by 100 years, and continue mining within the existing pit area.

The County submitted an RPA for this Proposed Project (CA Mine ID #36-0105) November 18, 2020, which the Division reviewed and provided a comment letter dated January 19, 2021. The description of the Proposed Project includes the following elements that have a nexus with the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1975 (SMARA; Public Resources Code Section 2710 et seq.):

- Expand mining operations on the existing quarry by 141 acres for a total disturbed area of 163 acres
- Extend mining operations and reclamation activities by 100 years, culminating December 31, 2120
- Mine the existing pit area to a depth of 4,050 feet to the 3,750-foot elevation amsl; approximately 700 feet below existing ground surface

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The Division's primary focus is on active surface mining; however, the Division also addresses issues related to abandoned (pre-1976) legacy mines. The Division has review responsibilities associated with lead agency implementation of SMARA. SMARA provides a comprehensive surface mining and reclamation policy to assure that:

- Adverse environmental effects of surface mining operations are prevented or minimized and mined lands are reclaimed to a usable condition which is readily adaptable for alternative land uses.
- Production and conservation of minerals are encouraged, while giving consideration to values relating to recreation, watershed, wildlife, range and forage, and aesthetic enjoyment.
- Residual hazards to the public health and safety are eliminated.

Division staff has reviewed the subject IS/MND pursuant to CEQA statutes and guidelines and offers the following comment at this time:

- The IS/MND should be revised to remove Desert Alyssum (*Alyssum desertorum*) from the proposed plant palette for revegetation. Table 5 of the June 2020 Revegetation Plan and IS/MND map Sheet 3 include the proposed seed palette for revegetating the site. *Alyssum desertorum* is non-native to California and currently is not known to be onsite (see Table 1 of the Revegetation Plan for complete list of plants inventoried).

The Division requests to be included on the distribution list for this Proposed Project. Additionally, the Division requests that any subsequent project documents (e.g., hearing notices and any supplemental environmental documents), as well as a copy of the approved IS/MND be sent to the Division at the mailing address on the bottom of page 1 of this letter or to DMR-Submittals@conservation.ca.gov. If you have any questions, please contact either of us at (916) 323-9198.

Sincerely,

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