

**SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY  
 INITIAL STUDY/MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION  
 ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST FORM**

This form and the descriptive information in the application package constitute the contents of Initial Study pursuant to County Guidelines under Ordinance 3040 and Section 15063 of the State CEQA Guidelines.

**PROJECT LABEL:**

<b>APNs:</b>	0464-051-02, -24 & -25	<b>USGS Quad:</b>	Stoddard Well and Fairview Valley Quadrangles
<b>Applicant:</b>	CEMEX Construction Materials Pacific, LLC	<b>T, R, Section:</b>	T6N, R2W, Sections 3 & 4, SBB&M
<b>Location</b>	11 miles Northeast of Apple Valley; adjacent to Black Mtn. Cement Plant	<b>Community Plan:</b>	None
<b>Project No:</b>	PRAA-2020-00031 84M-012	<b>Land Use Category (LUC):</b>	General Industrial (GI)
<b>Rep</b>	Christine Jones - CEMEX	<b>Zoning District:</b>	Regional Industrial (IR)
<b>Proposal:</b>	A Revised Reclamation Plan to expand current mine operations and reclamation at the Alvic & Alumina Quarry by an additional 141 acres. The vested Quarry will increase from 22 acres to a total of 163 acres.	<b>Overlays:</b>	NR-4: Minerals Resources Zones

**PROJECT CONTACT INFORMATION:**

**Lead agency:** County of San Bernardino  
 Land Use Services Department  
 385 N. Arrowhead Avenue, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
 San Bernardino, CA 92415-0182

**Contact person:** Steven Valdez, Senior Planner  
**Phone No:** (909) 601-4743     **Fax No:** (909) 387-3223  
**E-mail:** [Steven.Valdez@lus.sbcounty.gov](mailto:Steven.Valdez@lus.sbcounty.gov)

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

**Mining Operations**

CEMEX Construction Materials Pacific, LLC (CEMEX) submitted an application for a Revised Reclamation Plan (2020 Plan or Proposed Project) for the Alvic & Alumina Quarry (Reclamation Plan #84M-012) (CA Mine ID # 91-36-0105). The Alvic & Alumina Quarry (Quarry) has been explored and mined historically since the 1940s. It is a source of high alumina material used as an additive in the production of cement for CEMEX's cement operations. It is a vested mining operation.

The Quarry is located approximately 11 miles northeast of the Town of Apple Valley and consists of lands in portions of Sections 3 and 4, Township 6 North, Range 2 West, San Bernardino Base

and Meridian. The Alvic Quarry is located within Assessor Parcel Numbers (APNs) 0464-051-02, 0464-051-24 and 0464-051-25. The site is located east of and adjacent to the CEMEX Black Mountain Cement Plant. The site is accessed from Interstate 15 (I-15) via Stoddard Wells Road to Quarry Road (paved public road) through the CEMEX guarded security gate onto private paved roads on the western portion of the CEMEX property (See Figure 1- Regional Map and Figure 2 - Vicinity Map)

The existing Reclamation Plan #84M-012 (1984 Plan) for the Alvic & Alumina Quarry was approved by San Bernardino County (County) in 1984 and covers approximately 50 acres; approximately 22 acres currently disturbed. A revision to the 1984 Plan was approved by the County on October 11, 2011 for an increase in production to 100,000 tons per year (tpy). The County conditioned the 1984 Plan with an expiration date of February 23, 2034.

The Quarry is located on patented (private) lands owned by CEMEX. The existing quarry and access road consist of approximately 22 disturbed acres. The Proposed Project will include mining and reclamation on an additional approximately 141 acres for a total plan area of approximately 163 acres (see Figure 3). Surrounding land uses include the CEMEX Black Mountain Cement Plant, the Black and White Mountain limestone mining operations to the west and southwest of the Quarry, the Victorville Aggregate Rail Loadout facility to the southwest, and vacant public lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to the east, south, and north. There are no other adjacent or nearby uses or residences within 5 miles.

Existing elevations at the site range from 3,900 to 4,600 feet above mean sea level (amsl), a natural 700-foot change from west to east. Water strictly for dust control is supplied to the site by water truck from wells located at the adjacent CEMEX cement plant. There will be no substantial change in the amount of water used. The plant community within the boundary of the Project Site and adjacent open space areas is creosote desert scrub. (See Site Photos.)

The Quarry is estimated to contain approximately 43 million cubic yards or 81.7 million short tons (1.9 short tons/cubic yard) of high alumina volcanic rocks of the Jurassic Sidewinder Volcanic Series. The site will be mined at a maximum average production rate of 250,000 tons annually which will provide adequate reserves for up to 100 years (approximate end of year 2120). Mining operations will consist of drilling and blasting, excavating by loader, and loading ore into a portable crushing/screening plant within the quarry. The crushed/screened ore will be loaded onto 100-ton off-road haul trucks by a loader and transported to the adjacent CEMEX cement plant as an additive for the production of cement.

The 2020 Plan proposes to continue mining within the existing pit area creating a horseshoe-shaped quarry daylighting to the southwest with slopes ranging from 400 feet high on the north, 500 feet on the east, and 800 feet on the south. The pit depth will be deepened from 4,050 feet to the 3,750-foot elevation amsl; approximately 700 feet below existing ground surface. Overburden will be mainly placed in the western portion of the pit with two additional sites located outside the pit as needed. The portable processing operation and ore stockpiles in the southwest area of the quarry cover approximately 5 acres. Table 1 lists the existing and planned operational areas for the quarry, overburden stockpiles, topsoil, operational area, buffer areas, and roads (refer to Figure 3).

**Table 1**  
**Existing and Planned Operational Areas**  
**Alvic & Alumina Quarry**

Quarry or Overburden Areas	Existing Quarry (acres)	Planned Quarry (acres)	Total Project Areas (acres)
Quarry	20.7	101.6	122.3
Quarry Buffer Area	---	25.1	25.1
Overburden Stockpile 1	---	(10.0) <sup>1</sup>	(10.0) <sup>1</sup>
Overburden Stockpile 2	---	8.0	8.0
Overburden Stockpile 3	---	6.5	6.5
Operations Area	---	(5.0) <sup>1</sup>	(5.0) <sup>1</sup>
Topsoil Stockpile	---	(2.0) <sup>1</sup>	(2.0) <sup>1</sup>
Test Plots	---	(0.5) <sup>1</sup>	(0.5) <sup>1</sup>
Access Road	1.3	---	1.3
<b>Totals</b>	<b>22.0</b>	<b>141.2</b>	<b>163.2</b>

Source: CEMEX, Lilburn 2020

<sup>1</sup> Within overall quarry area

Notes: Totals may be slightly different due to rounding.

### **Surrounding Land Uses and Setting**

The Project Site is in unincorporated San Bernardino County. The Countywide Policy Plan Land Use Map (November 2020) shows that the project site is within Land Use Category (LUC) General Industrial (GI) and within Regional Industrial (IR) zoning. Surrounding land uses include the CEMEX Black Mountain Cement Plant, the Black and White Mountain limestone mining operations to the west and southwest of the Quarry, the Victorville Aggregate Rail Loadout facility to the southwest, and vacant public lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to the east, south, and north. The following table lists the existing land uses, land use categories, and zoning designations per the Countywide Policy Plan (November 2020).

<b>Existing Land Use Category and Zoning (Countywide Policy Plan November 2020)</b>			
Location	Existing Land Use	Land Use Category	Zoning District
<b>Project Site</b>	Alvic & Alumina Quarry	General Industrial (GI)	Regional Industrial (IR)
North	Vacant, BLM	Light Industrial (LI)	Community Industrial (IC)
South	Vacant, BLM, Victorville Aggregate Rail Loadout facility	LI & GI	IR & IC
East	Vacant, BLM	Resource/Land Management (RLM)	Resource Conservation (RC)
West	CEMEX Black Mountain Cement Plant, Black and White Mountain limestone mining operations	General Industrial (GI)	IR (Regional Industrial)

**Project Site Location, Existing Site Land Uses and Conditions**

The site is located east of and adjacent to the CEMEX Black Mountain Cement Plant. The site is accessed from Interstate 15 (I-15) via Stoddard Wells Road to Quarry Road (paved public road). The Quarry is located approximately 11 miles northeast of the Town of Apple Valley and consists of lands in portions of Sections 3 and 4, Township 6 North, Range 2 West, San Bernardino Base and Meridian. Existing elevations at the site range from 3,900 to 4,600 feet above mean sea level (amsl), a natural 700-foot change from west to east. The Project Site contains the existing Alvic & Alumina Quarry. The Project Site occurs within the General Industrial (GI) LUC and the Regional Industrial (IR) zoning (Countywide Policy Plan, November 2020).

**ADDITIONAL APPROVAL POTENTIALLY REQUIRED BY OTHER PUBLIC AGENCIES**

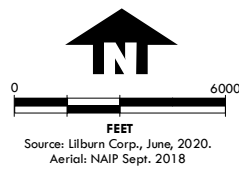
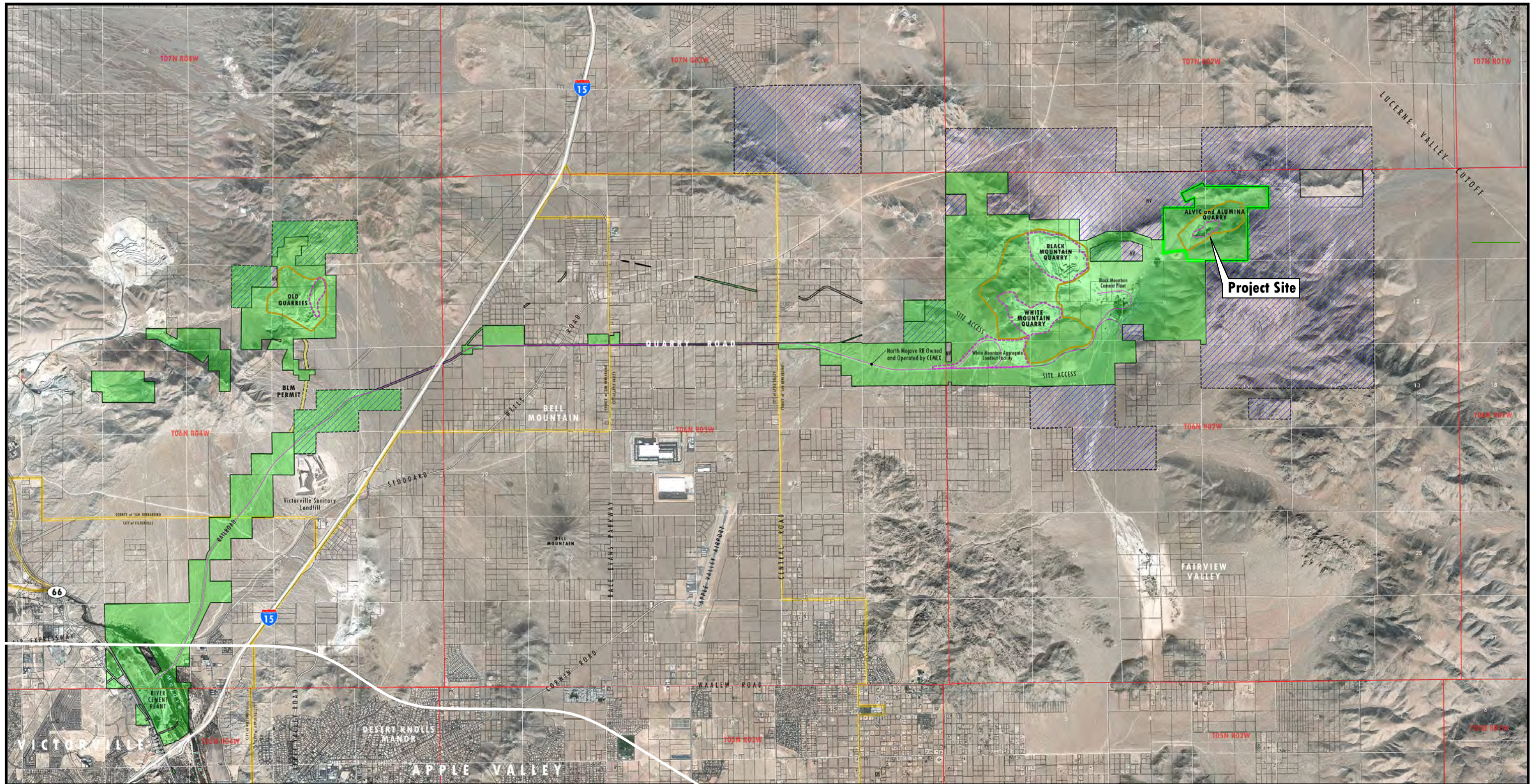
Federal: None.

State of California: None.

County of San Bernardino: None

Regional: None

Local: None



### LEGEND

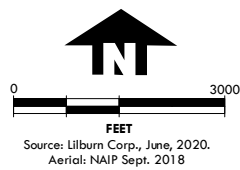
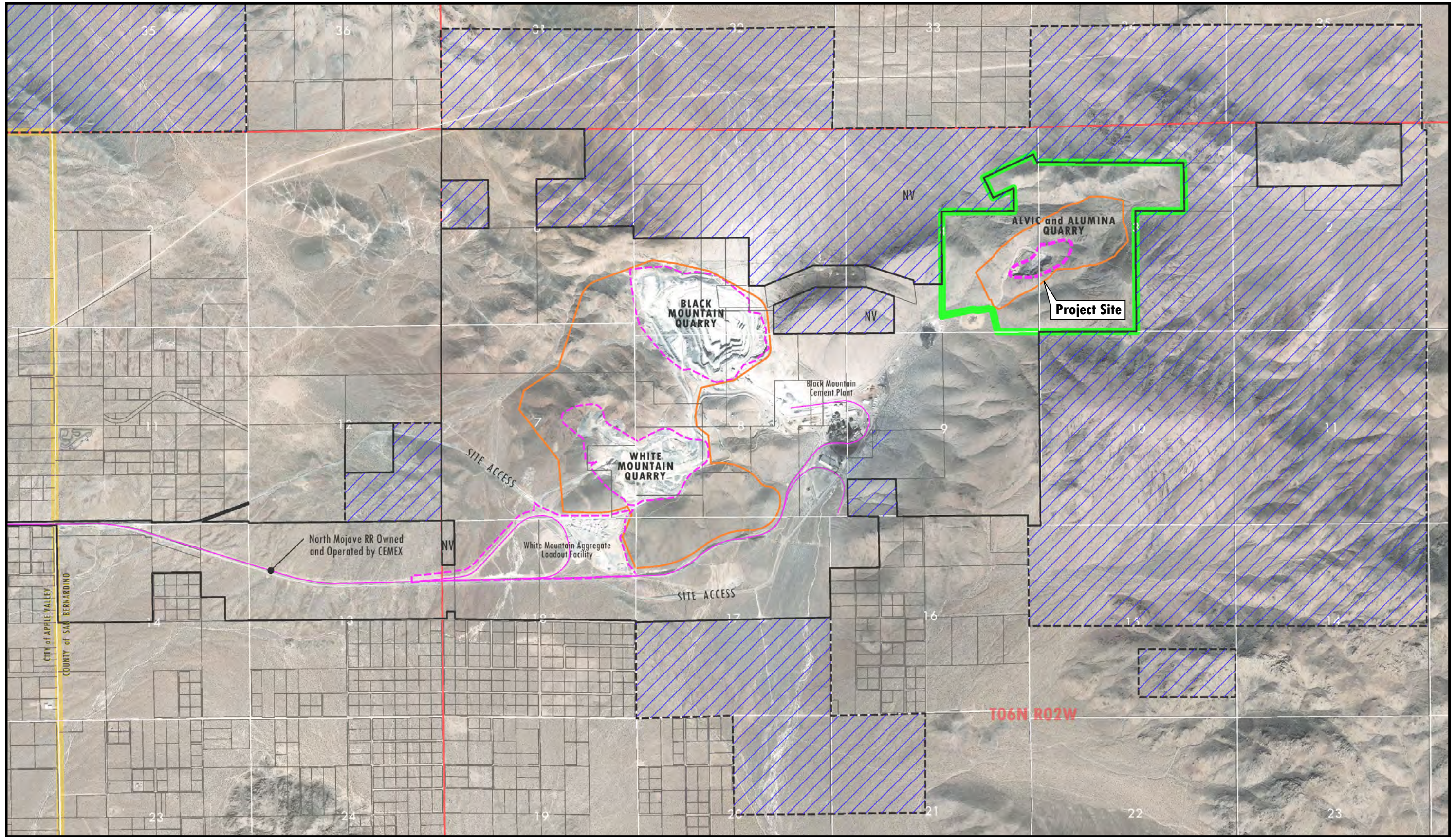
- Property Boundary (In-fee)
- Unpatented Claims
- Approved Facilities
- Vested (Private Land and Unpatented Claims)
- Planned Quarries
- USGS Township and Range
- USGS Section (shown as white)
- Parcel Line
- City Boundary

### REGIONAL LOCATION

CEMEX - Alvic and Alumina Quarry  
 RECLAMATION PLAN No. 84M-012  
 CA Mine ID # 91-36-0105

San Bernardino County, CA

FIGURE 1



**LILBURN**  
CORPORATION

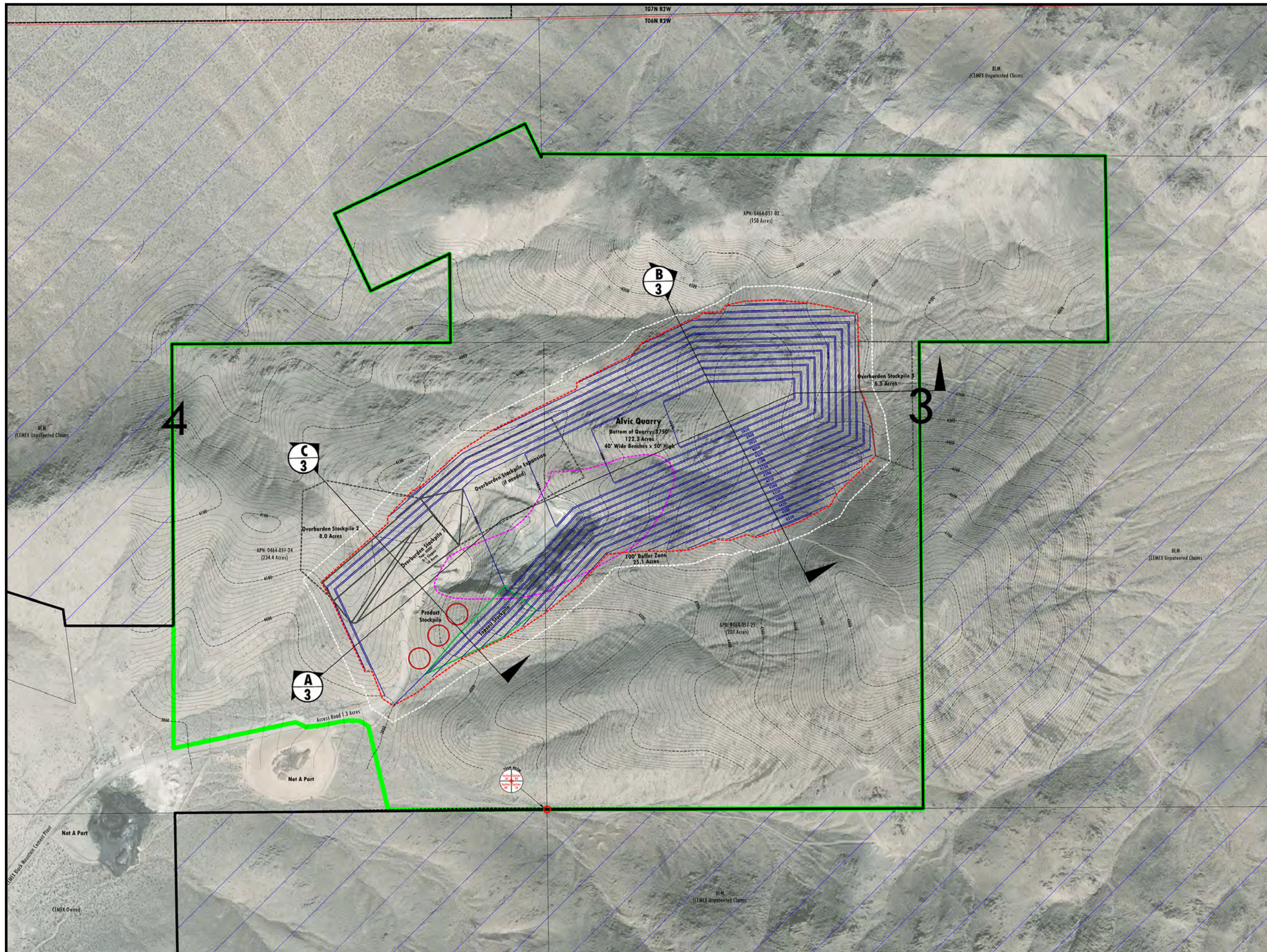
- LEGEND**
- Property Boundary (In-fee)
  - Unpatented Claims
  - Approved Facilities
  - Reclamation Plan Boundary
  - Planned Quarries
  - USGS Township and Range
  - USGS Section (shown as white)
  - Parcel Line
  - City Boundary

**PROJECT VICINITY**

CEMEX - Alvic and Alumina Quarry  
RECLAMATION PLAN No. 84M-012  
CA Mine ID # 91-36-0105

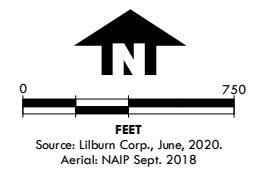
San Bernardino County, CA

**FIGURE 2**



# LEGEND

- Property Boundary (In-fee)
- Reclamation Plan Boundary  
535 Acres
- Approved Mine Plan Boundary  
20.7 Acres
- Unpatented Claim
- Planned Reclamation Limit  
(shown as white)
- 106N 022W USGS Township and Range
- APN: 0464-051-02 Parcel Line and Number



**LILBURN**  
CORPORATION

**MINE PLAN**  
**CEMEX - Alvic and Alumina Quarry**  
 RECLAMATION PLAN No. 84M-012  
 CA Mine ID # 91-36-0105  
 San Bernardino County, CA  
**FIGURE 3**

## SITE PHOTOGRAPHS



Photo 1: Looking at the southwest corner of the site where the existing dirt access road enters the project site.



Photo 2: From the northern boundary of the project site looking south towards existing mining area.

Source: ELMT Consulting 2020



## SITE PHOTOGRAPHS



Photo 3: View of the steep rolling hills on the northeastern portion of the project site.



Photo 4: From the eastern portion of the project site looking west over the existing mine area. CEMEX cement plant in distance to west.

Source: ELMT Consulting 2020

## **CONSULTATION WITH CALIFORNIA NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBES**

*Have California Native American tribes traditionally and culturally affiliated with the project area requested consultation pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080.3.1? If so, is there a plan for consultation that includes, for example, the determination of significance of impacts to tribal cultural resources, procedures regarding confidentiality, etc.?*

Yes, consultation was requested and completed. See Tribal Cultural Resources Section XVIII for details.

On April 6, 2021, the County of San Bernardino mailed notification pursuant to Assembly Bill 52 (AB-52) to the following Tribes:

- AhaMakav Cultural Society
- Colorado River Indian Tribes
- Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians
- Morongo Band of Mission Indians

Requests for consultations were due to the County by around May 6, 2021. The County has not received any requests for consultation or comments from any of the Tribes.

In addition, McKenna et al., the cultural resource consultant, contacted the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) and inquired into the presence or absence of known religious or sacred Native American sites within or near the project site prior to conducting field surveys. On February 20, 2020, McKenna et al. obtained response and a listing of local Native American representatives wishing to consult with respect to projects in the area associated with the project site. Letters were sent to these individuals (also on February 20, 2020) requesting comments or issues they would want addressed in the technical study. No responses were received.

## **EVALUATION FORMAT**

This Initial Study is prepared in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21000, et seq. and the State CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations Section 15000, et seq.). Specifically, the preparation of an Initial Study is guided by Section 15063 of the State CEQA Guidelines. This format of the study is presented as follows. The project is evaluated based on its effect on 20 major categories of environmental factors. Each factor is reviewed by responding to a series of questions regarding the impact of the project on each element of the overall factor. The Initial Study checklist provides a formatted analysis that provides a determination of the effect of the project on the factor and its elements. The effect of the project is categorized into one of the following four categories of possible determinations:

Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant	No Impact
--------------------------------	--	-----------------------	-----------

Substantiation is then provided to justify each determination. One of the four following conclusions is then provided as a summary of the analysis for each of the major environmental factors.

1. **No Impact:** No impacts are identified or anticipated and no mitigation measures are required.
2. **Less than Significant Impact:** No significant adverse impacts are identified or anticipated and no mitigation measures are required.
3. **Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated:** Possible significant adverse impacts have been identified or anticipated and the following mitigation measures are required as a condition of project approval to reduce these impacts to a level below significant. The required mitigation measures are: (List of mitigation measures)
4. **Potentially Significant Impact:** Significant adverse impacts have been identified or anticipated. An Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is required to evaluate these impacts, which are (List of the impacts requiring analysis within the EIR).

At the end of the analysis the required mitigation measures are restated and categorized as being either self- monitoring or as requiring a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program.

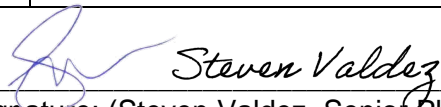
**ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED:**

The environmental factors checked below will be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is a "Potentially Significant Impact" as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Aesthetics</u>                | <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Agriculture and Forestry Resources</u> | <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Air Quality</u>                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Biological Resources</u>      | <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Cultural Resources</u>                 | <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Energy</u>                             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Geology/Soils</u>             | <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Greenhouse Gas Emissions</u>           | <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Hazards &amp; Hazardous Materials</u>  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Hydrology/Water Quality</u>   | <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Land Use/Planning</u>                  | <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Mineral Resources</u>                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Noise</u>                     | <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Population/Housing</u>                 | <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Public Services</u>                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Recreation</u>                | <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Transportation</u>                     | <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Tribal Cultural Resources</u>          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Utilities/Service Systems</u> | <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Wildfire</u>                           | <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Mandatory Findings of Significance</u> |

**DETERMINATION:** Based on this initial evaluation, the following finding is made:

<input type="checkbox"/>	The proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION shall be prepared.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there shall not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION shall be prepared.
<input type="checkbox"/>	The proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.
<input type="checkbox"/>	The proposed project MAY have a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated" impact on the environment, but at least one effect 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required.

  
 Signature: (Steven Valdez, Senior Planner)

5/10/2021  
 Date

David Prusch *David Prusch*  
 Signature (David Prusch, Supervising Planner)

05-10-2021  
 Date

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant	No Impact
<b>I. AESTHETICS</b> – Except as provided in Public Resources Code Section 21099, would the project:				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including but not limited to trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) In non-urbanized areas, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from a publicly accessible vantage point). If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare, which will adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**SUBSTANTIATION:** (Check  if project is located within the view-shed of any Scenic Route listed in the Countywide Policy Plan):  
**San Bernardino Countywide Policy Plan 2020; Submitted Project Materials**

a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?

The Project Site is not located within a scenic vista recognized by the Countywide Policy Plan. Therefore, the Proposed Project would not have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista. No impacts are identified or anticipated, and no mitigation measures are required.

**No Impact**

b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including but not limited to trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?

The Project Site is not located on or within proximity to a state scenic highway. The nearest highway to the Project Site is Interstate 15 (I-15) approximately 8.5 miles to the west of the site, therefore no substantial damage to scenic resources, including, but not limited to trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway would occur. Therefore, no impacts are identified or anticipated, and no mitigation measures are required.

**No Impact**

- c) *In non-urbanized areas, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from a publicly accessible vantage point). If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?*

Impacts to visual resources are based on changes to the existing character of the landscape, viewer sensitivity, and the number of viewers that may view the project activities. The level of change associated with the Proposed Project is considered to be minimal as the Proposed Project has been disturbed since the 1940s, has no publicly accessible vantage point, and is an acceptable use within the General Industrial (GI) Land Use Category and Regional Industrial (IR) Zoning designations. Furthermore, following the completion of mining, reclamation shall take place in order to reshape mining features and revegetate disturbed areas to minimize aesthetic impacts. With implementation of the proposed Reclamation Plan and adherence to the County Development Code, impacts are considered temporary and less than significant. No significant adverse impacts are identified or anticipated, and no mitigation measures are required.

**Less Than Significant Impact**

- d) *Create a new source of substantial light or glare, which will adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?*

The Proposed Project would not create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area as no permanent new light sources are proposed. No lighting is proposed, however, in the event temporary lighting is needed, the operator shall comply with the requirements outlined by County Development Code Section 83.07.040, Glare and Outdoor Lighting – Mountain & Desert Regions. This includes fully shielding lights as required to preclude light pollution or light trespass on adjacent property, other property (directly or reflected), and members of the public on adjacent roads. With adherence to existing regulations, no significant adverse impacts are identified or anticipated, and no mitigation measures are required.

**No Impact**

**No significant adverse impacts are identified or anticipated and no mitigation measures are required.**

	<i>Issues</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less than Significant</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
<b>II.</b>	<b>AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY RESOURCES</b> - In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Dept. of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. In determining whether impacts to forest resources, including timberland, are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to information compiled by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection regarding the state’s inventory of forest land, including the Forest and Range				

Assessment Project and the Forest Legacy Assessment project; and forest carbon measurement methodology provided in Forest Protocols adopted by the California Air Resources Board. Would the project:

- |    |   |                          |                          |                          |                                     |
|----|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) | Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland) as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) | Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| c) | Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| d) | Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| e) | Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

**SUBSTANTIATION:** (Check  if project is located in the Important Farmlands Overlay):

**San Bernardino Countywide Policy Plan 2020; California Department of Conservation Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program; Submitted Project Materials**

- a) *Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland) as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?*

The Project Site is designated as “grazing land” and is not designated as Prime, Unique or Grazing farmland, or considered Farmland of Statewide or Local Importance, according to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program. The Project Site is not designated as agricultural, according to the Countywide Policy Plan. The Proposed Project would not convert Prime or Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide or Local Importance. Therefore, no impacts are identified or anticipated, and no mitigation measures are required.

**No Impact**

- b) *Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?*

The Project Site is designated as “grazing land” and is not a part of a Williamson Contract<sup>5</sup>. Property adjacent to, and in the vicinity of, the Project Site are all designated as “urban and built-up land” and “grazing land”. The Project Site is not designated as

agricultural, according to the Countywide Plan. The Proposed Project would not result in conflicts with existing zoning for agriculture use, or a Williamson Contract. Therefore, no impacts associated with the conflict of existing zoning for agriculture use or a Williamson Contract would occur. No impacts are identified or anticipated, and no mitigation measures are required.

**No Impact**

- c) *Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?*

The Project Site and surrounding area do not occur within forest land, timberland, or timberland zoned production. Impacts to these resource lands would not result with implementation of the Proposed Project. No impacts are identified or anticipated, and no mitigation measures are required.

**No Impact**

- d) *Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?*

The Project Site does not support forest land and implementation of the Proposed Project would not convert forest land to non-forest use. Therefore, no impacts are identified or anticipated, and no mitigation measures are required.

**No Impact**

- e) *Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?*

The Project Site contains no agricultural resources or farmland that would be converted as a result of the Proposed Project. The Project Site is not zoned for agriculture or considered Farmland. Therefore, no impacts involving other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland to non-agriculture use would occur. No impacts are identified or anticipated, and no mitigation measures are required.

**No Impact**

**No impacts are identified or anticipated and no mitigation measures are required.**

<i>Issues</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less than Significant</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
<b>III. AIR QUALITY - Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management district or air pollution control district might be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:</b>				

- |    |  |                          |                          |                                     |                          |
|----|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| a) | Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b) | Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the Project region is | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |



non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard?

- |    |  |                          |                          |                          |                                     |
|----|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| c) | Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| d) | Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors adversely affecting a substantial number of people)? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

***SUBSTANTIATION:*** *(Discuss conformity with the Mojave Desert Air Quality Management Plan, if applicable):*

***San Bernardino Countywide Policy Plan 2020; Submitted Project Materials***

- a) *Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?*

The Project site falls under the jurisdiction of the Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District (MDAQMD) and is located in the Mojave Desert Air Basin (MDAB). The Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP) provides a program for obtaining attainment status for key monitored air pollution standards, based on existing and future air pollution emissions resulting from employment and residential growth projections. The AQMP is developed using input from various agencies' General Plans and other projections for population and employment growth. The Project site is designated within the Mojave Desert Planning Area for nonattainment of PM<sub>10</sub>. The MDAB is also a designated nonattainment basin for ozone. Equipment usage would result in emissions of PM<sub>10</sub> and ozone precursors, including NO<sub>x</sub> and volatile organic compounds (VOC).

The Countywide Policy Plan Land Use Map shows that the project site is within Land Use Category General Industrial (GI) and within Regional Industrial (IR) zoning. A Policy Plan amendment or zone change is not required. The Proposed Project is within an industrial area utilized for the extraction of minerals and the production of cement. No changes or amendments to land use, land use categories, or zoning are proposed; only the continuation of activities previously approved and ongoing on-site and in the surrounding area consistent with the Countywide Policy Plan. The Proposed Project is a revision to an approved Reclamation Plan to continue mining on historical and vested mining areas. The site includes an increase in annual production of 150,000 tons per year and operations on an additional 90 days per year. Criteria emission increases are below the MDAQMD CEQA thresholds.

Therefore, the emissions associated with the Proposed Project have already been taken into account in the AQMP and approval of the Proposed Project would not conflict with the AQMP. Applicable MDAQMD rules and regulations will be complied with. No significant adverse impacts are identified or are anticipated, and no mitigation measures are required.

**Less Than Significant Impact**

- b) *Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the Project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard?*

The Proposed Project's emissions were estimated for this Initial Study by Lilburn Corporation. Emissions were estimated using the latest emission factors from the following sources:

- MDAQMD's "Emissions Inventory Guidance for Mineral Handling and Processing Industries" (April 2000);
- CARB EMFAC2017 Emission Rates;
- SCAQMD "Air Quality Handbook" as updated (2019);
- SCAQMD and the California Emissions Estimator Model (CalEEMOD) Off-Road Mobile Source Emissions Factors as applicable;
- CEMEX's existing and future equipment inventory and Tier levels;
- EPA's AP-42 Section 13.2.2 unpaved roads (November 2006);
- SCAQMD Particulate Matter Emission Factors (July 2010); and
- CARB Carl Moyer Program Guidelines for In-Use Off-Road Diesel-Fueled Emissions (2017) and CARB Fleet's Regulations.

### **Stationary Emission Sources**

There are no permanent stationary processing plants or facilities on the project site. The portable processing plant utilized onsite is permitted under the Statewide Portable Equipment Registration with CARB. Future plants used onsite will comply with applicable air quality rules. The small diesel generators used to power the portable plant and dust emissions are assessed below and included in Table 2 below.

### **Mobile Equipment Exhaust Emissions**

#### *Existing Baseline Conditions (2019)*

The operations, the production rates, and hauling plans are listed below for the existing baseline conditions.

- Ore Production – Existing up to 1,667 tons/day, 100,000 tons/year (depending on demand).
- Hours of Operation – 1 shift; 10 hours/day, 60 days/year; equipment hours vary depending on demand).
- Ore is transported by off-road 100-ton capacity haul trucks directly to the cement plant 1.2 miles to west of quarry – 100-ton trucks, 60 days/year; up to 17 truck-trips/day.
- Overburden – approx. 10% of ore that varies annually depending on quarry excavation location; 100-ton capacity trucks directly to the overburden stockpile area; 100-ton trucks, 60 days/year; about 2 trucks/day.
- Portable aggregate plant with one crusher, two to three screens, and three conveyors (typical); permitted through CARB portable equipment registration or through contractor with MDAQMD.
- Haul trucks and diesel equipment meet requirements of CARB off-road diesel vehicles regulation and fleet averaging requirements to reduce diesel pollutants.

### *Future Operations (2021)*

The operations, the production rates, and hauling plans are listed below for the future conditions from year 2021.

- Ore Production – Same as existing; 1,667 tons/day, up to 250,000 tons/year (depending on demand).
- Hours of Operation – 1 shift; 10 hours/day, 150 days/year; equipment hours vary depending on demand.
- Ore is transported by off-road 100-ton capacity haul trucks directly to the cement plant 1.2 miles to west of quarry – 100-ton trucks, 150 days/week up to 17 truck-trips/day.
- Overburden – approx. 10% of ore that varies annually depending on quarry excavation location; 100-ton capacity trucks directly to the overburden stockpile area; 100-ton trucks, 150 days/year; about 2 trucks/day
- Portable aggregate plant with one crusher, two to three screens, and three conveyors (typical) ; permitted through CARB portable equipment registration or through contractor with MDAQMD;
- Haul trucks and diesel equipment will meet requirements of the CARB off-road diesel vehicles regulation and fleet averaging requirements to reduce diesel pollutants.

Typical equipment used onsite and hours of operations are shown in Table 2.

Mining will typically occur with a loader and a dozer to break, move, and load material directly into a portable screening plant on-site and the into off-road trucks with capacities of up to approximately 100 tons (typical). Additionally, a water truck will be utilized for dust control on mining areas, haul roads, and stockpiles. A grader and a drill rig are also used as needed. Exhaust or criteria pollutants will be produced from the mobile equipment. Operational emissions for the Proposed Project's mobile equipment were estimated utilizing CARB-Carl Moyer Program Guidelines 2017 revisions and EMFAC2017.

Fugitive dust is generated by other activities onsite including drilling, blasting, dozing, loading screening, and dumping material, and wind erosion of active mine areas and ore and overburden stockpiles. Dust equations in EPA AP-42, the MDAQMD Guidance Handbook, and/or the SCAQMD guidelines were utilized to estimate dust emissions. Water spraying is used at the active quarrying and loading areas, active ore and overburden stockpiles, roads, and at the portable crushing/screening plant area when operational.

**Table 2**  
**Typical Quarry Equipment for Alvic & Alumina Quarry**

Equipment	Typical No.	Current Days/Yr	Planned Days/Yr	Hrs/Day (ave.)	Purpose
Front-End Loader (CAT 996 typ.)	1	60	150	10	Loading of excavated materials into the processing plant at quarry.
Front-End Loader (CAT 992 typ.)	1	60	150	8	Loading of processed materials into off-road haul trucks.
Dozer (CAT D8 typ.)	1	10	20	8	Mining and stockpiling of material. Construction and maintenance of roads and quarry benches. Used as needed.
Grader (CAT 140 typ.)	1	10	20	8	Construction and maintenance of roads. Use as needed.
Drill Rig (varies with contractor)	1	15	30	2	Drill holes for placement of explosives. 8 hrs./day for up to 30 days/year.
Off-Road Haul Trucks (100-ton CAT 777 typ.)	1	60	150	8	Transportation of excavated material to the cement plant and overburden to stockpiles.
Water Truck (4,000 gallons typ.)	1	60	150	4	Water spray haul roads, active quarry areas, overburden stockpiles, and general dust control.
Processing plant (vibrating grizzly, crusher, screen, and conveyors)	1	60	150	8	Portable tracked crushing/screening plant (currently Sandvik QA340) brought on-site as needed to process ore prior to shipping. Permitted under Statewide Portable Equipment Registration with CARB. Future plants shall comply with applicable air quality rules.
Ancillary Equipment	Varies		Varies	---	Maintenance vehicles, pick-ups, SUVs, etc.

Source: CEMEX 2020

List above is typical equipment to be used on-site. Equipment types are not expected to vary. Specific equipment will change during the life of the project due to replacement of aging equipment and updated equipment and fleet emission standards.

Operations are required to comply with the existing MDAQMD regulations for mobile equipment and fugitive dust control. Existing dust control measures are in compliance with MDAQMD Rules 401 (limiting visible emissions); 402 (avoid nuisance emissions to people

or businesses or property); 403 (prohibits visible dust from crossing property lines); and 403.2 (requirements for controlling fugitive dust) and meet the required air quality standards. The dust control measures are in place and operative with periodic monitoring by MDAQMD and CEMEX personnel ensuring that the regulatory standards are met. The principal dust control measure is the water spraying at the processing plant and roads, operational quarry areas, and active overburden stockpiles. A 4,000 gallon water truck is used for dust control. Water for dust control will continue to be obtained from existing wells and storage tanks located at the adjacent CEMEX cement plant.

Operational and fugitive dust emissions from existing baseline on-site activities and road dust are estimated and compared to the Future Operations and summarized in Table 3 below. As shown below, the anticipated operational emissions are less than the MDAQMD thresholds and would be considered less than significant. However, compliance with MDAQMD rules and CARB's Off-Road Diesel Vehicle regulations would maintain limitations and further reduce future emissions.

**Table 3**  
**Alvic & Alumina Quarry**  
**Existing Annual Baseline Compared to Future Conditions**  
**Estimated Annual Maximum Air Pollutant Emissions (tons/year)**

EMISSIONS SOURCES	ROG		NO <sub>x</sub>		CO		PM <sub>10</sub>		PM <sub>2.5</sub>	
	Existing Baseline	Future	Existing Baseline	Future	Existing Baseline	Future	Existing Baseline	Future	Existing Baseline	Future
Mobile Equip. & Haul Trucks (Exhaust)	0.04	0.07	0.84	2.11	1.62	4.05	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.02
Portable Generators	0.0012	0.03	0.11	0.27	0.11	0.28	0.0024	0.015	0.0024	0.0135
Processing Plant Fugitive Dust	---	---	---	---	---	---	0.12	0.29	0.02	0.06
Fugitive Dust	---	---	---	---	---	---	2.54	4.34	0.60	1.02
<b>Emission Totals (tons/year)</b>	<b>0.04</b>	<b>0.10</b>	<b>0.95</b>	<b>2.38</b>	<b>1.73</b>	<b>4.33</b>	<b>2.67</b>	<b>4.67</b>	<b>0.63</b>	<b>1.09</b>
<b>Emission Change</b>	<b>0.06</b>		<b>1.73</b>		<b>2.60</b>		<b>2.0</b>		<b>0.46</b>	
MDAQMD CEQA Thresholds	25		25		100		15		15	
<b>Significant</b>	<b>No</b>		<b>No</b>		<b>No</b>		<b>No</b>		<b>No</b>	

Source: Lilburn Corporation Air Emissions Inventory October 2020.  
 Emission Sources: CARB Carl Moyer Program Guidelines 2017 Revisions; EMFAC2017.  
 Note: SOX Threshold is 25 tons per year. Operational emissions from SOX is negligible.

**Less Than Significant Impact**

c) *Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?*

The proposed project is a Revision to an approved Reclamation Plan and operations and uses are not anticipated to change substantially from existing conditions. The area's LUC and zoning are for industrial uses. The MDAQMD CEQA and Federal Conformity Guidelines (August 2016) describes sensitive receptors as being residences, schools, daycare centers, playgrounds and medical facilities. Surrounding land uses include the CEMEX Black Mountain Cement Plant, the Black and White Mountain limestone mining operations to the west and southwest of the Quarry, the Victorville Aggregate Rail Loadout facility to the southwest, and vacant public lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to the east, south, and north. There are no other adjacent or nearby sensitive receptors or residences within 5 miles.

In addition, the emissions modeling results (as shown in Table 3) indicate that approval of the Proposed Project is not anticipated to exceed MDAQMD emissions thresholds. Therefore, no significant adverse impacts are identified or are anticipated, and no mitigation measures are required.

**No Impact**

d) *Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors adversely affecting a substantial number of people?*

Surrounding land uses include the CEMEX Black Mountain Cement Plant, the Black and White Mountain limestone mining operations to the west and southwest of the Quarry, the Victorville Aggregate Rail Loadout facility to the southwest, and vacant public lands administered by the BLM. There are no adjacent or nearby sensitive receptors or residences within 5 miles.

The proposed project is a Revision to an approved Reclamation Plan and operations and uses are not anticipated to change substantially from existing conditions. The area's Land Use Category and zoning are for industrial uses. Potential odor sources associated with the Proposed Project may result from construction equipment diesel exhaust; however, there are no uses with substantial number of people in the surrounding area. The Proposed Project would also be required to comply with MDAQMD Rule 402 to prevent occurrences of public nuisances. Therefore, no significant adverse impacts are identified or are anticipated, and no mitigation measures are required.

**No Impact**

**Therefore, no significant adverse impacts are identified or anticipated and no mitigation measures are required.**

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant	No Impact
<b>IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES - Would the project:</b>				
a) Have substantial adverse effects, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, and regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or US Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional or state habitat conservation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**SUBSTANTIATION:** (Check if project is located in the Biological Resources Overlay or contains habitat for any species listed in the California Natural Diversity Database ):

**San Bernardino Countywide Policy Plan, 2020; Submitted Project Materials; Habitat and Jurisdictional Assessment**

- a) Have substantial adverse effects, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?

A *Habitat and Jurisdictional Assessment* (June 2020) was prepared by ELMT Consulting Inc. (ELMT) in June 2020. The habitat and jurisdictional assessment was conducted to characterize and confirm existing site conditions and assess the probability of occurrence for special-status plant and wildlife species that could pose a constraint to implementation of the Proposed Project. Special attention was given to the suitability of the Project Site to support special-status plant and wildlife species identified by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's (CDFW) California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB), and other electronic databases as potentially occurring in the general vicinity of the Project Site.

#### Special-Status Plants

No special-status plant species were observed on-site during the field investigation. Further, based on habitat requirements for the identified special-status species and known distributions, it was determined that the undeveloped portions of the Project Site that support Mojavean desert or creosote bush scrub plant community do not have the potential to support any of the special-status species documented as occurring within the vicinity of the Project Site are presumed absent. The Project Site is located at the maximum elevational range for most of the special-status species. As a result, no impacts to special-status plant species are expected to occur. In addition, note that there are no Joshua trees (*Yucca brevifolia*) on the project site.

#### Special-Status Wildlife

No special-status wildlife species were observed on-site during the habitat assessment. Based on habitat requirements for specific species and the availability and quality of on-site habitats, it was determined that the Proposed Project site has a moderate potential to provide suitable habitat for loggerhead shrike (*Lanius ludocivianus*), and low potential to provide suitable habitat for Cooper's hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*), golden eagle (*Aquila chysaetos*), burrowing owl, and prairie falcon (*Falco mexicanus*). Further it was determined that the Project Site does not provide suitable habitat for any of the other special-status wildlife species known to occur in the area. No desert tortoise (*Gopherus agassizii*) or sign were observed during the field investigation.

The project site is not located within federally designated Critical Habitat. The closest Critical Habitat designation is located approximately 7.1 miles east of the site for Mojave desert tortoise and 13 miles southwest of the site (Mojave River) for southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*). Therefore, no impacts to federally designated Critical Habitat will occur from implementation of the proposed project.

No active nests or birds displaying nesting behavior were observed during the field survey. The Mojavean desert scrub plant community provides suitable foraging and nesting habitat for year-round and seasonal avian residents, as well as migrating songbirds that have adapted to conditions in the Mojave Desert. Nesting bird species, with potential to occur, are protected by California Fish and Game Code Sections 3503, 3503.5, and 3800, and by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) (16 USC 703–711). These laws regulate the take, possession, or destruction of the nest or eggs of any migratory bird or bird of prey. Therefore, possible significant adverse impacts have been identified or anticipated and the following mitigation measure is required to reduce these impacts to a level below significant. The required mitigation measure is:



**Mitigation Measure BIO-1:** *If clearing of undisturbed lands occurs between February 1st and August 31st, a pre-construction clearance survey for nesting birds should be conducted within three (3) days of the start of any vegetation removal or ground disturbing activities to ensure that no nesting birds will be disturbed during construction. The biologist conducting the clearance survey should document a negative survey with a brief letter report indicating that no impacts to active avian nests will occur.*

*If an active avian nest is discovered during the pre-construction clearance survey, construction activities should stay outside of a 300-foot buffer around the active nest. For listed and raptor species, this buffer should be expanded to 500 feet. A biological monitor should be present to delineate the boundaries of the buffer area and monitor the active nest to ensure that nesting behavior is not adversely affected by construction activities. Once the young have fledged and left the nest, or the nest otherwise becomes inactive under natural conditions, construction activities within the buffer area can occur.*

With implementation of Mitigation Measure BIO-1, the Proposed Project is not anticipated to have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the CDFW or USFWS.

#### **Less than Significant with Mitigation**

- b) *Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, and regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or US Fish and Wildlife Service?*

There are no riparian habitats and no other sensitive natural communities located on the Project site. Implementation of the Proposed Project would not result in impacts to riparian habitat or to other sensitive natural communities in the vicinity. Therefore, no impacts are identified or anticipated, and no mitigation measures are required.

#### **No Impact**

- c) *Have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?*

The Project Site was evaluated for the presence of jurisdictional waters of the United States, waters of the State, and/or jurisdictional streambeds. Suspected jurisdictional areas were checked for the presence of definable channels, soils, and hydrology. Based on ELMT's review and field investigation, approximately three to four riverine resources were identified immediately adjacent to the project site. These features are ephemeral features that follow topography within the canyon bottoms of the rolling hills. Surface flows within with these features are only provided by direct precipitation from storm events. No surface water was observed during the field investigations. Based on the proposed mining expansion boundary, none of the mapped riverine resources will be impacted from project implementation. Therefore, regulatory approvals will not be

required for project implementation. No impacts are identified or anticipated, and no mitigation measures are required.

### **No Impact**

- d) *Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?*

Habitat linkages provide connections between larger habitat areas that are separated by development. Wildlife corridors are similar to linkages but provide specific opportunities for animals to disperse or migrate between areas. A corridor can be defined as a linear landscape feature of sufficient width to allow animal movement between two comparatively undisturbed habitat fragments. Adequate cover is essential for a corridor to function as a wildlife movement area. It is possible for a habitat corridor to be adequate for one species yet still inadequate for others. Wildlife corridors are features that allow for the dispersal, seasonal migration, breeding, and foraging of a variety of wildlife species. Additionally, open space can provide a buffer against both human disturbance and natural fluctuations in resources.

The Project Site does not function as a major wildlife movement corridor or linkage. Therefore, no significant adverse impacts are identified or anticipated, and no mitigation measures are required.

### **Less Than Significant Impact**

- e) *Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?*

The Mojavean desert or creosote bush scrub plant community occurs throughout the undeveloped/undisturbed portions of the Project Site and is the dominant plant community within the surrounding landscape. No special-status plant species were observed on-site and were determined to be absent from the project site. The Revised Reclamation Plan shall be implemented to revegetate disturbed areas. With implementation of the Reclamation Plan, including revegetation, the Proposed Project is not anticipated to conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance. No significant adverse impacts are identified or are anticipated, and no mitigation measures are required.

### **Less Than Significant Impact**

- f) *Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional or state habitat conservation plan?*

The Project Site is not located within the planning area of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan as identified in the CDFW California Regional Conservation Plans Map. No impacts are identified or anticipated, and no mitigation measures are required.

### **No Impact**

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant	No Impact
<b>V. CULTURAL RESOURCES - Would the project:</b>				
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to §15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Disturb any human remains, including those outside of formal cemeteries?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**SUBSTANTIATION:** (Check if the project is located in the Cultural  or Paleontological  Resources overlays or cite results of cultural resource review):  
**San Bernardino Countywide Policy Plan, 2020; McKenna et al. "A Cultural Resources Investigation and Paleontological Overview"; submitted Project Materials**

a),b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to §15064.5?

Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?

McKenna et al. prepared the cultural resources investigation and paleontological overview for the Proposed Project (*A Cultural Resources Investigation and Paleontological Overview*, McKenna et. al. November 2020. Note that this report is on file with the County of San Bernardino and is not available to the general public.) The study area covered not only the Proposed Project but included the adjacent Black and White Quarries to the west. McKenna conducted the following:

- Archaeological Records Search;
- Project understanding and location;
- Native American Consultation;
- Paleontological Overview;
- Historic Background Research;
- Field Studies; and
- Analysis and Report Preparation

Historic period cultural resources were identified in two forms: archaeological resources and standing structures (built environments). For reference, the State (and County) define resources as being at least 50 years old. For planning purposes, resources older than 45 years of age are assessed. As such, resources pre-dating 1975 are considered

“historic” but not necessarily significant and those post-dating 1975 are considered modern and not historically significant.

There are no historic resources associated with the Proposed Project area. It is a modern working mine with no permanent or historic structures.

The survey of the Proposed Project including the Black and White Mountain Quarries to the west resulted in the identification of a single prehistoric archaeological resource (defined as a lithic scatter) and not far from this scatter, an isolated rhyolite core was identified. Both of these features were found approximately 3 miles to the southwest of the Alvic & Alumina Quarries.

Based on the findings within the referenced study, no significant historical or archaeological resources will be impacted by the Proposed Project. However, the possibility of discovering an unanticipated find remains and Mitigation Measure CR-1, defined below, shall be implemented to ensure that less than significant impacts to historical and/or archaeological resources occur.

**Mitigation Measure CR-1:** *If cultural resources are encountered during ground-disturbing activities, work in the immediate area shall cease and an archaeologist meeting the Secretary of the Interior’s Professional Qualifications Standards for archaeology (National Park Service [NPS] 1983) shall be contacted immediately to evaluate the find(s). If the discovery proves to be significant under CEQA, additional work such as data recovery excavation may be warranted and will be reported to the County of San Bernardino.*

### **Less than Significant with Mitigation**

- c) *Disturb any human remains, including those outside of formal cemeteries?*

Mining activities could potentially disturb human remains outside of a formal cemetery. Thus, the potential exists that human remains may be unearthed during implementation of the Proposed Project. Therefore, Mitigation Measure CR-2, defined below, shall be implemented to ensure that less than significant impacts regarding human remains occur.

**Mitigation Measure CR-2:** *Should human remains and/or cremations be encountered during any earthmoving activities, all work shall stop immediately in the area in which the find(s) are present (suggested 100-ft radius area around the remains and project personnel will be excluded from the area and no photographs will be permitted), and the County of San Bernardino Coroner will be notified. The County of San Bernardino and the Project Proponent shall also be informed of the discovery. The Coroner will determine if the bones are historic/archaeological or a modern legal case. The Coroner will immediately contact the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) in the event that remains are determined to be human and of Native American origin, in accordance with California Public Resources Code Section § 5097.98.*

*All discovered human remains shall be treated with respect and dignity. California state law (California Health & Safety Code § 7050.5) and federal law and regulations*

*([Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA) 16 USC 470 & 43 CFR 7], [Native American Graves Protection & Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) 25 USC 3001 & 43 CFR 10] and [Public Lands, Interior 43 CFR 8365.1-7]) require a defined protocol if human remains are discovered in the State of California regardless if the remains are modern or archaeological.*

**Less than Significant with Mitigation**

The mitigation measure will be included in the Proposed Project’s required Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program.

<i>Issues</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less than Significant</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
<b>VI. ENERGY – Would the project:</b>				
a) Result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

***SUBSTANTIATION: San Bernardino Countywide Policy Plan 2020; Submitted Materials***

California is one of the lowest per capita energy users in the United States, ranked 48th in the nation, due to its energy efficiency programs and mild climate (United States Energy Information Administration [EIA] 2018). California consumed 292,039 gigawatt-hours (GWh) of electricity and 2,110,829 million cubic feet of natural gas in 2017 (California Energy Commission [CEC] 2019; EIA 2018). In addition, Californians consume approximately 18.9 billion gallons of motor vehicle fuels per year (Federal Highway Administration 2019). The single largest end-use sector for energy consumption in California is transportation (39.8 percent), followed by industry (23.7 percent), commercial (18.9 percent), and residential (17.7 percent) (EIA 2018).

Most of California’s electricity is generated in-state with approximately 30 percent imported from the Northwest and Southwest in 2017. In addition, approximately 30 percent of California’s electricity supply comes from renewable energy sources such as wind, solar photovoltaic, geothermal, and biomass (CEC 2018). Adopted on September 10, 2018, SB 100 accelerates the State’s Renewables Portfolio Standards Program by requiring electricity providers to increase procurement from eligible renewable energy resources to 33 percent of total retail sales by 2020, 60 percent by 2030, and 100 percent by 2045.

To reduce statewide vehicle emissions, California requires that all motorists use California Reformulated Gasoline, which is sourced almost exclusively from in-state

refineries. Gasoline is the most used transportation fuel in California with 15.4 billion gallons sold in 2019 and is used by light-duty cars, pickup trucks, and sport utility vehicles (CEC 2020 & California Department of Tax and Fee Administration 2018). Diesel is the second most used fuel in California with 3.1 billion gallons sold in 2019 and is used primarily by heavy duty-trucks, delivery vehicles, buses, trains, ships, boats and barges, farm equipment, and heavy-duty construction and military vehicles (CEC 2016). Both gasoline and diesel are primarily petroleum-based, and their consumption releases greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, including CO<sub>2</sub> and NO<sub>x</sub>. The transportation sector is the single largest source of GHG emissions in California, accounting for 41 percent of all inventoried emissions in 2016 (California Air Resources Board [CARB] 2018).

#### *Building Energy Efficiency Standards*

The California Energy Conservation and Development Commission (CEC) adopted Title 24, Part 6, of the California Code of Regulations; energy Conservation Standards for new residential and nonresidential buildings in June 1977 and standards are updated every three years. Title 24 ensures building designs conserve energy by requiring the use of new energy efficiency technologies and methods into new developments. Currently, the CEC Title 24 2016 Building Energy Efficiency Standards are in effect; however, with the updated 2020 Building Energy Efficiency Standards now in effect. The Building Energy Efficiency Standards state that nonresidential buildings will use about 30 percent less energy compared to the 2016 standards due mainly to lighting upgrades.

#### *Senate Bill 350*

Senate Bill (SB) 350 (de Leon) was signed into law in October 2015 and established new clean energy, clean air, and greenhouse gas reduction goals for 2030. SB 350 establishes periodic increases to the California Renewables Portfolio Standard (RPS) Program with the target to increase the amount of electricity generated per year from eligible renewable energy resources to an amount that equals at least 33% of the total electricity sold annually to retail customers, by December 31, 2020. The SB 350 specifically calls for the quantities of eligible renewable energy resources to be procured for all other compliance periods reflecting reasonable progress in each of the intervening years to ensure that the procurement of electricity products from eligible renewable energy resources achieves 40 percent by December 31, 2024, 45 percent by December 31, 2027, and 50 percent by December 31, 2030.

#### *Senate Bill 100*

Senate Bill 100 (SB 100) was signed into law September 2018 and increased the goal of the California RPS Program to achieve at least 50 percent renewable resources by 2026, 60 percent renewable resources by 2030, and 100 percent renewable resources by 2045. SB 100 also includes a State policy that eligible renewable energy resources and zero-carbon resources supply 100 percent of all retail sales of electricity to California end-use customers and 100 percent of electricity procured to serve all State agencies by December 31, 2045. Under the bill, the State cannot increase carbon emissions elsewhere in the western grid or allow resource shuffling to achieve the 100 percent carbon-free electricity target.

- a) *Result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation?*

Energy use would be primarily fuel consumption to operate heavy equipment, trucks, and small generators during mining, crushing, screening, loading, and trucking operations. The current energy consumption from equipment and vehicles, including truck trips to and from the cement plant is approximately 24,000 gallons of diesel fuel per year. No electricity or natural gas consumption is used onsite or is proposed.

Diesel fuel use would increase by about 35,000 gallons per year with the proposed increase in production to approximately 59,000 gallons of diesel fuel per year. In comparison, County retail sales of diesel fuel was about 159 million gallons in 2019 with a state-wide total of taxable diesel fuel usage of over 3 billion gallons in 2019 (California Energy Commission 2019 Annual Report (CEC-A15; September 2020).

Energy use would be typical of similar-sized long-term construction-type and mining projects in the region. In the interest of cost efficiency, operations are not anticipated to utilize fuel in a manner that is wasteful or unnecessary. Therefore, project impacts would not result in a potential impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, and no operational-related energy impact would occur.

**No Impact**

- b) *Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?*

As stated, the Proposed Project would not require implementation of new or expanded electric power or natural gas facilities as it will not be using electricity, natural gas, or any other energy resources nor utilize substantial fuel volumes. Therefore, the Proposed Project would not conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency. No impacts are identified or anticipated, and no mitigation measures are required.

**No Impact**

**Therefore, no impacts are identified or anticipated and no mitigation measures are required.**

	<i>Issues</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less than Significant</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
<b>VII.</b>	<b>GEOLOGY AND SOILS - Would the project:</b>				

- a) Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:

- i. Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map Issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.

ii. Strong seismic ground shaking?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iii. Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
iv. Landslides?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on or off site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**SUBSTANTIATION:** (Check  if project is located in the Geologic Hazards Overlay District): **San Bernardino Countywide Policy Plan, 2020; Submitted Project Materials**

- a) *i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map Issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.*

The Project Site is not located within, or in the immediate vicinity of, an Alquist Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone.<sup>1</sup> The Alquist Priolo Earthquake Fault located nearest to the Project Site is the Helendale Fault which is located approximately four miles southwest of the Project Site. Therefore, less than significant impacts are identified or anticipated, and no mitigation measures are required.

**Less Than Significant Impact**

- ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?*

<sup>1</sup> County of San Bernardino. Policy Plan web maps. HZ-1 "Earthquake Fault Zones"



Seismic ground shaking is influenced by the proximity of the site to an earthquake fault, the intensity of the seismic event, and the underlying soil composition. The Project Site has supported past mining and staging operations and does not contain habitable structures and no such structures are proposed. Therefore, no significant adverse impacts are identified or anticipated, and no mitigation measures are required.

### **Less Than Significant Impact**

#### *iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?*

The Project Site is not located in an area susceptible to liquefaction.<sup>2</sup> Therefore, no impacts are identified or anticipated, and no mitigation measures are required.

### **No Impact**

#### *iv) Landslides?*

The Project Site is not located in an area susceptible to landslides.<sup>2</sup> Therefore, no impacts are identified or anticipated, and no mitigation measures are required.

### **No Impact**

#### *b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?*

Due to the hard bedrock material, lack of fine surface material, and low rainfall (less than 4 inches/year) the site has little potential for erosion and sedimentation. Control of surface drainage, erosion, and sedimentation of the operations involves the following primary components:

- Limiting surface disturbance to the minimum area required for active operations;
- Monitoring erosion on slopes and implementation of one or more soil stabilization practices as applicable for the site such as: earthen berms or dikes; silt fence; fiber rolls; straw bales; gravel bags; sediment basin(s); and straw mulch.
- Stabilizing disturbed areas through grading slopes to 3H:1V; and
- After project completion - final revegetation by seeding or hydro-seeding with native species.

All operations on-site will comply with the Storm Water Pollution Protection Plan (SWPPP) for the cement plant and the Alvic Quarry site to be updated periodically with mine site development and implementation of storm water best Management practices (BMPs). The quarry will be cut into bedrock and precipitation falling within the quarry will be allowed to flow into the quarry and percolate or evaporate. Final revegetation will be used for the long-term control of erosion. Furthermore, access and haul routes, and

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<sup>2</sup> San Bernardino Countywide Policy Plan Draft EIR. Geology and Soils. Figure 5.6-3 "Liquefaction and Landslide Susceptibility."

mined surfaces will be water sprayed as necessary to reduce wind erosion during operations. With implementation of a SWPPP and associated BMPs, no significant adverse impacts are identified or anticipated, and no mitigation measures are required.

#### **Less Than Significant Impact**

- c) *Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on or off site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?*

The Project Site is not located in an area susceptible to landslides or liquefaction.<sup>3</sup> Although the Project Site's susceptibility to lateral spreading and subsidence is unknown at this time, reclamation of the mine will be undertaken at the completion of mining operations. Furthermore, the Proposed Project does not include construction of habitable structures or permanent facilities; therefore, implementation would not expose people or structures to substantial risks due to unstable soil. No significant adverse impacts are identified or anticipated, and no mitigation measures are required.

#### **Less Than Significant Impact**

- d) *Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property?*

The Proposed Project does not include construction of habitable structures or permanent facilities; therefore, implementation would not expose people or structures to substantial risks due to expansive soils. No impacts are identified or anticipated, and no mitigation measures are required.

#### **No Impact**

- e) *Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?*

The Proposed Project is a revision of the existing Alvic & Alumina Quarry Reclamation Plan. The existing Quarry does not utilize septic tanks nor does it connect to an off-site sewer systems. The Project Site is serviced by portable toilets obtained from a private vendor. Therefore, no impacts are identified or anticipated, and no mitigation measures are required.

#### **No Impact**

- f) *Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?*

The Paleontological review was completed by the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County and its letter report is included as Appendix D in the Cultural Resources Investigation and Paleontological Overview by McKenna et al. (November 2020). Despite intensive surveying of the sensitive areas, no surficial evidence of paleontological resources was identified, no specimens were identified, and no specific

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<sup>3</sup> San Bernardino Countywide Policy Plan Draft EIR. Geology and Soils. Figure 5.6-3 "Liquefaction and Landslide Susceptibility."

areas of exposed Older Quaternary alluvial deposits were identified. The site is located on the northern flank of Sidewinder Mountain, an area of moderate to steep slopes and moderate relief. Sidewinder Mountain is dominated by the Sidewinder Volcanics series, which includes ignimbrite, lahar and sediments of Jurassic age. Granitic rocks of Jurassic and Cretaceous age, as well as some carbonates, are also present. Excavations in the igneous and metamorphic rocks exposed in the more elevated terrain in the proposed project area will not uncover any recognizable fossils.

The areas to the southwest and south of the White Mountain Quarry has a relatively low to moderate level of sensitivity for yielding evidence of paleontological specimens. where the terrain is gentler and more conducive to the presence of older Quaternary alluvial deposits, several miles southwest of the Proposed Project. McKenna recommended a paleontological monitoring program for any earthmoving activities in areas below 3,600 feet AMSL or any area where older Quaternary alluvium (or older deposits) are identified. The proposed quarry floor is planned to be 3,750 AMSL and the quarry area is not within any alluvium deposits. Therefore, no impacts are identified or anticipated, and no mitigation measures are required.

**No Impact**

**Therefore, no significant adverse impacts are identified or anticipated and no mitigation measures are required.**

<i>Issues</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less than Significant</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
<b>VIII. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS – Would the project:</b>				
a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with any applicable plan, policy or regulation of an agency adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**SUBSTANTIATION:**

**San Bernardino Countywide Policy Plan, 2020; Submitted Project Materials**

- a) *Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?*
- b) *Conflict with any applicable plan, policy or regulation of an agency adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?*

Gases that trap heat in the atmosphere are often called Greenhouse Gases (GHGs); analogous to a greenhouse. GHGs are emitted by natural processes and human activities. The accumulation of GHGs in the atmosphere regulates the earth's temperature. Without these natural GHGs, the Earth's surface would be approximately 61°F cooler (CA 2007). Emissions from human activities such as electricity production and vehicles have elevated the concentration of these gases in the atmosphere.

GHGs have varying global warming potential (GWP). The GWP is the potential of a gas or aerosol to trap heat in the atmosphere; it is the “cumulative radiative forcing effects of a gas over a specified time horizon resulting from the emission of a unit mass of gas relative to a reference gas” (EPA 2006a). The reference gas for GWP is carbon dioxide; carbon dioxide has a GWP of one (1). For example, methane has a GWP of 25, which means that it has a greater global warming effect than carbon dioxide on a molecule per molecule basis. The carbon dioxide equivalent is an accepted method to assess emissions because it gives weight to the GWP of the gas. It is typically defined as metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (MTCO<sub>2e</sub>). Other GHGs among others include methane, nitrous oxide, chlorofluorocarbons, and aerosols.

Water vapor is the most abundant, important, and variable GHG in the atmosphere. It is not considered a pollutant; in the atmosphere it maintains a climate necessary for life. The main source of water vapor is evaporation from the oceans (approximately 85 percent). Other sources include evaporation from other water bodies, sublimation (change from solid to gas) from ice and snow, and transpiration from plant leaves.

Carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) is an odorless, colorless natural GHG. Natural sources include the following: decomposition of dead organic matter; respiration of bacteria, plants, animals including humans, and fungus; evaporation from oceans; and volcanic outgassing. Anthropogenic (man-made) sources of carbon dioxide are from burning coal, oil, natural gas, and wood. Methane (CH<sub>4</sub>) is a flammable gas and is the main component of natural gas. There are no health effects from methane. A natural source of methane is from the anaerobic decay of organic matter. Nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O) is a colorless GHG produced by microbial processes in soil and water, including those reactions which occur in fertilizer containing nitrogen.

Many other gases make up the group of pollutants that are believed to contribute to global climate change. However, three gases are currently evaluated due to typical combustion and operational sources; carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), methane (CH<sub>4</sub>), and nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O). Nitrous oxide is not of concern due its very low emissions from this type of operation and methane is included but is also a very minor contributor.

#### San Bernardino County GHG Reduction Plan

In September 2011, San Bernardino County adopted the Emissions Reduction Plan (GHG Plan), which outlines a strategy to use energy more efficiently, harness renewable energy to power buildings, enhance access to sustainable transportation modes, and recycle waste. The 2015 update of the GHG Emissions Development Review Process updates the language the performance standard bringing it up to date with current code, and improves upon the menu of options within the screening tables proportioning point values to more accurately account for expected GHG reductions and revised the descriptions of the energy efficiency related options to better describe the physical improvements that would be made in choosing that option. The GHG Plan has the following specific goals:

- Reduce emissions from activities over which the County has jurisdictional and operational control to 15% below 2007 levels by 2020, consistent with the target reductions of the AB 32 Scoping Plan.

- Provide estimated GHG reductions associated with the County's existing sustainability efforts and integrate the County's sustainability efforts into the discrete actions of the Emissions Reduction Plan.
- Provide a list of discrete actions that would reduce GHG emissions.
- Approve a GHG reduction plan that satisfies the requirements of Section 15183.5 of the CEQA Guidelines, so that compliance with the GHG reduction plan can be used in appropriate situations to determine the significance of a project's effects related to GHG emissions, thus providing streamlined CEQA analysis of future projects that are consistent with the approved GHG reduction plan.

Per CEQA guidelines, new project emissions are treated as standard emissions, and air quality impacts are evaluated for significance on an air basin. Greenhouse gas emissions are treated differently, in that the perspective is global, not local. The effects of GHG on global climate change are cumulative and extremely long-term, not short-term or local.

The following performance standards are recommended by the GHG Reduction Plan and how the mine project complies with these goals are discussed below.

- Waste Stream Reduction: recycling at least 75% of waste normally sent to landfills. The project utilizes waste rock or overburden for fill materials during reclamation.
- Vehicle Trip Reduction: The project provides an additive for use in the adjacent cement plant substantially reducing transportation miles from more distant sources.
- Water Conservation: The project utilizing water under the jurisdiction of the MWA which regulates usage within the basin for dust control
- Providing Education Materials: Provide employees and staff educational materials about reducing waste, water conservation, and ride sharing available to employees.

*San Bernardino County Greenhouse Gas Emissions Development Review Processes (March 2015).*

GHG is inherently a cumulative issue, because no single project would be expected to result in a measurable change in global climate. The cumulative nature of GHG is considered by agencies in adopting significance thresholds and adopted significance thresholds represents levels at which a project is considered cumulatively significant.

The GHG emissions were calculated and compared to the MDAQMD's 100,000 MTCO<sub>2e</sub> screening threshold to determine if potentially significant to anticipated global warming. GHG emissions were estimated using the following models: CARB - SCAQMD's Off-road Model – Mobile Source Emission Factors (<http://www.aqmd.gov/ceqa/handbook/offroad/offroad.html>); Emission Factors for On-Road Heavy-Heavy Duty Diesel Trucks (CARB EMFAC 2017); and U.S. EPA Office of Transportation and Air Quality. These factors are state-wide factors and are appropriate for the Proposed Project.

Annual existing operational GHG emissions amount to approximately 369 MTCO<sub>2</sub>e and for the Future Operations approximately 918 MTCO<sub>2</sub>e. This results in an increase of approximately 550 MTCO<sub>2</sub>e per year.

As compared to the Existing Baseline Conditions, the Future Operations would increase the amount of GHG emitted by 550 MTCO<sub>2</sub>e per year. Table 4 shows that GHG emissions associated with operation of the Proposed Project are not anticipated to exceed the quantitative significance CEQA thresholds of either 100,000 MTCO<sub>2</sub>e (MDAQMD threshold) or 10,000 MTCO<sub>2</sub>e (SCAQMD threshold). Therefore, the Proposed Project would not generate GHG emissions that may have a cumulative considerable or significant effect on the environment. Additionally, the Proposed Project would not conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases. No significant adverse impacts are identified or are anticipated, and no mitigation measures are required.

**Table 4  
 Greenhouse Gases Annual Emissions (MTCO<sub>2</sub>e/year)  
 Existing 2019 Baseline Conditions  
 Compared to the Future 2021 Operations**

Sources	Existing 2019 Baseline Conditions		Future 2021+ Operations	
	CO <sub>2</sub>	CH <sub>4</sub>	CO <sub>2</sub>	CH <sub>4</sub>
On-site Diesel Equipment, Trucks & Portable Generators	367	0.5	917	0.7
<b>Total MTCO<sub>2</sub>e</b>	<b>367.5</b>		<b>917.7</b>	
<b>Change</b>	<b>----</b>		<b>550.2</b>	
MDAQMD GHG Screening Threshold (MTCO <sub>2</sub> e)			100,000	
Exceeds Threshold?			No	
SCAQMD Industrial GHG Screening Thresholds (MTCO <sub>2</sub> e)			10,000	
Exceeds Threshold?			No	

Source: Lilburn Corporation Air Quality Emissions Inventory, October 2020  
 CO<sub>2</sub>e factors: CH<sub>4</sub> x 25

**Less Than Significant Impact**

**Therefore, no significant adverse impacts are identified or anticipated and no mitigation measures are required.**

<i>Issues</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less than Significant</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
<b>IX. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS – Would the project:</b>				
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
g) Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

***SUBSTANTIATION:***

***San Bernardino Countywide Policy Plan 2020; Submitted Project Materials***

- a) *Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?*

No hazardous materials will be used on-site with the exception of fuels and oils for and in mobile equipment and small generators for the processing equipment. Scheduled equipment maintenance takes place at the adjacent Black Mountain facilities. Minor or emergency repairs and re-fueling with portable maintenance/fuel trucks may be conducted at the quarry with appropriate safeguards. Any used oil generated at the mine site will be collected and transported for off-site recycling or disposal by approved

methods and by properly trained and licensed personnel. There will be no diesel or gasoline storage tanks in the Quarry.

CEMEX has prepared a Hazardous Materials Business Plan (HMBP) for the cement plant that incorporates the quarries providing material to the plant. The HMBP describes methods and procedures to minimize the potential for hazardous material and waste releases including an emergency response and contingency and spill response procedures.

CEMEX has prepared a SWPPP and a Spill Prevention, Control, and Counter-measure (SPCC) Plan for the cement plant and the quarries. The SPCC is designed to minimize the potential for spills or releases of oil and fuel and outlines procedures to be followed in the event of a spill. The proposed additional areas of disturbance will be incorporated into the SWPPP and the SPCC.

Therefore, no significant impacts are identified or anticipated, and no mitigation measures are required.

### **Less Than Significant Impact**

- b) *Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?*

Mining operations will continue in the existing quarry area progressing in a northeasterly direction into the proposed expansion area. The operation will consist of drilling and blasting the quarry faces and loading the broken rock with a front-end loader. Blasting currently takes place approximately 2 to 3 times per year at the quarry and would likely increase to up to about 6 blasts/year.

Blasting operations involve drilling along the mining face, placement of charges, and detonation of the charges by a blaster contracted to CEMEX. The blaster is licensed through the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (BATF&E) for handling explosive materials. Blasting operations involve drilling along the mining face, placement of charges, and detonation of the charges by a blaster licensed through the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (BATF&E) for handling explosive materials. The transporting, handling, storage, and use of explosive materials, blasting agents, and blasting equipment shall be directed and supervised by a qualified blasting contractor. The blasting contractor and the explosive delivery company must be licensed in accordance with all Federal, State, and local agencies and regulations, U.S. Department of Transportation hazardous materials (HAZMAT) Certificate of Registration, California HAZMAT Transportation License, and general liability insurance policy for explosive transportation and permitted under the San Bernardino County Fire Department pursuant to Uniform Fire Code adopted by the Department.

All blasters contractors hired by CEMEX possess a current blasting license issued by CAL-OSHA and be experienced in quarry blasting and hold applicable insurance. The blasting contractor's employees are required to be trained in accordance with CAL-OSHA and MSHA requirements and possess certification of such training.



It is also important that basic safety requirements are practiced during blasting for on-site employees, equipment, and structures. The current blasting agents are ammonium nitrate and fuel oil (ANFO). No explosives will be stored onsite. Implementation of blasting for Quarry operations would not create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment. Therefore, no significant adverse impacts are identified or anticipated, and no mitigation measures are required.

### **Less Than Significant Impact**

- c) *Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?*

No schools are known to be proposed within one-quarter mile of the Project Site. The school located nearest to the Project Site is Yucca Loma Elementary School, which is located approximately 11 miles southwest of the Project Site in the Town of Apple Valley. Therefore, the Proposed Project would not emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within on-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school. No impacts are identified or anticipated, and no mitigation measures are required.

### **No Impact**

- d) *Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?*

The Project Site was not found on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 by the California Department of Toxic Substances Control's EnviroStor data management system as reviewed on June 17, 2020. The operator would comply with all applicable federal and State safety rules and regulations regarding hazardous materials. Therefore, no significant adverse impacts are identified or anticipated, and no mitigation measures are required.

### **No Impact**

- e) *For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area?*

The Project Site is not within an airport safety review area or Airport Runaway Protection Zone.<sup>4</sup> The nearest public airport is the Apple Valley Airport, located approximately 14.5 miles southwest of the Project Site. Therefore, implementation of the Proposed Project would not result in a safety hazard related to airport land uses for people residing or working in the area. No impacts are identified or anticipated, and no mitigation measures are required.

### **No Impact**

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<sup>4</sup> San Bernardino Countywide Plan Draft EIR. Hazards and Hazardous Materials. Figure 5.8-2 "Airport Safety Zones."

- f) *Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?*

Activities associated with the Proposed Project would not impede existing emergency response plans for the Project Site and/or other land uses in the project vicinity. Vehicles and stationary equipment would be staged off public roads and would not block emergency access routes. Therefore, implementation of the Proposed Project would not impair implementation of, or physically interfere with, an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan. No impacts are identified or anticipated, and no mitigation measures would occur.

**No Impact**

- g) *Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires?*

The Project Site is not located within a High or Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone.<sup>5</sup> Therefore, the Proposed Project would not expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires. No impacts are identified or anticipated, and no mitigation measures are required.

**No Impact**

**Therefore, no significant adverse impacts are identified or anticipated and no mitigation measures are required.**

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<sup>5</sup> San Bernardino Countywide Policy Plan Draft EIR. Hazards and Hazardous Materials. Figure 5.8-6 "Fire Severity and Growth Areas in the East Desert Regions."

<i>Issues</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less than Significant</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
<b>X. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY - Would the project:</b>				
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would:				
i. result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site;	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ii. substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on or offsite;	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iii. create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of runoff; or	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iv. impede or redirect flood flows?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

***SUBSTANTIATION:***

***San Bernardino Countywide Policy Plan 2020; Submitted Project Materials***

- a) *Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality?*

CEMEX has a SWPPP and Monitoring Implementation Plan that covers the mine site and the cement. The SWPPP 1) identifies and evaluates all sources of pollutants that may affect the quality of industrial storm water discharges and authorized non-storm water discharges; 2) identifies and describes the minimum and advanced BMPs implemented to reduce or prevent pollutants in industrial storm water discharges; and 3) describes the storm water monitoring plan. The SWPPP includes BMPs and procedures for good housekeeping, preventive maintenance, spill and leak prevention

and response, material and waste management, employee training, and monitoring implementation.

All operations on-site employ storm water BMPs during operations and temporary cessation of operations to eliminate unauthorized non-storm water discharges and to monitor storm water discharges. Any surface water monitoring would be through this requirement as needed. Mandatory compliance with the Proposed Project's SWPPP would ensure that all potential pollutants of concern are minimized or otherwise appropriately treated prior to being discharged from the Project Site. Therefore, implementation of the Proposed Project would not violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise degrade surface or ground water quality. No significant adverse impacts are identified or are anticipated, and no mitigation measures are required.

### **Less Than Significant Impact**

- b) *Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?*

Water will be used for dust control measures only. Water will be applied to the working areas, roads, and material transfer points. Water is hauled via a 4,000 gallon water truck from wells and storage tanks at the adjacent CEMEX cement plant. The estimated water usage is two truckloads or 8,000 gallons/day; currently about 1.5 acre-feet per year. Water used for dust control will evaporate and therefore, the project will not produce any run-off water. There is no surface water within the project vicinity.

The Alvic & Alumina Quarry and the Black Mountain facilities are located in the Upper Mojave River Valley groundwater basin; the Alto Subarea. The area is adjudicated and the watermaster is the MWA. CEMEX has approximately 20 active and inactive wells in the Alto Subarea. Several of these wells provide water for dust control at the Quarry. The estimated future usage will average about 3.75 acre-feet per year based on about 150 operational days per year; an increase over existing usage of 2.25 acre-feet per year. CEMEX has a verified base annual production of 1,499 acre-feet and its use is monitored annually by CEMEX and reported to the MWA. The expected increase of water usage for the revised Plan of about 2.25 acre-feet is not a substantial increase. No impacts are identified or anticipated, and no mitigation measures are required.

### **Less Than Significant Impact**

- c) *Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would:*
- i) *Result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site;*

The mining operation will consist of a continuation of the mining that has previously taken place in the Quarry. All operations on-site will comply with the SWPPP for the cement plant and the Alvic Quarry site to be updated periodically with mine site development and implementation of storm water best BMPs. The quarry will be cut into bedrock and precipitation falling within the quarry will be

allowed to flow into the quarry and percolate or evaporate. Final revegetation will be used for the long-term control of erosion. Furthermore, access and haul routes, and mined surfaces will be water sprayed as necessary to reduce wind erosion during operations. With implementation of a SWPPP and associated BMPs, no significant adverse impacts are identified or anticipated, and no mitigation measures are required.

### **Less Than Significant Impact**

- ii) *Substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on or offsite;*

The Proposed Project will not substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on or off-site. There are no drainage or run-off channels that will be affected by the quarry. The slopes are designed at 45 degrees or 1H:1V which would reduce possible slope erosion and runoff channeling down the slopes. There will be no storm water run-off from the site. All precipitation will be collected within the quarry pit and allowed to evaporate or percolate. Therefore, no significant adverse impacts are identified or anticipated, and no mitigation measures are required.

### **Less Than Significant Impact**

- iii) *Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of runoff;*

As stated above, there will no storm water runoff leaving the site. All precipitation will be collected within the quarry and allowed to evaporate or percolate. Therefore, the Proposed Project is not anticipated to create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff. No significant adverse impacts are identified or anticipated, and no mitigation measures are required.

### **Less Than Significant Impact**

- iv) *Impede or redirect flood flows?*

The Project Site is not within a 100-Year Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) flood zone, 100-year Department of Water Resources Awareness Zone, or a 500-year FEMA flood zone.<sup>6</sup> As previously stated, no drainages are intersected by the proposed expansion area. The control of drainage, erosion, and sedimentation of the mine site will primarily be conveyed into the pit area. Therefore, no significant adverse impacts are identified or anticipated, and no mitigation measures are required.

### **No Impact**

- d) *In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?*

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<sup>6</sup> San Bernardino Countywide Policy Plan Draft EIR. Hydrology and Water Quality. Figure 5.9-3 "Flood Hazard Zones."

As stated, the Project Site is not located within a FP Overlay District or within a dam inundation area. Tsunamis are large waves generated in open bodies of water by fault displacement of major ground movement. Due to the inland location of the Project Site, tsunamis are not considered to be a risk. Seiches are standing waves generated in enclosed bodies of water in response to ground shaking. The Project Site is not located in the immediate vicinity of a known large body of water or water storage facility and therefore impacts from potential seiches are not anticipated. Therefore, the Proposed Project is not anticipated to risk release of pollutants due to project inundation. No impacts are identified or anticipated, and no mitigation measures are required.

**No Impact**

- e) *Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?*

The Proposed Project will adhere to BMPs, regional and local water quality control and sustainable groundwater management plans. Existing mine operations are being expanded and no conflict with or obstruction of any plans are expected. Therefore, no significant impacts are identified or anticipated, and no mitigation measures are required.

**No Impact**

**Therefore, no significant adverse impacts are identified or anticipated and no mitigation measures are required.**

<i>Issues</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less than Significant</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
<b>XI. LAND USE AND PLANNING - Would the project:</b>				
a) Physically divide an established community?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**SUBSTANTIATION:**  
**San Bernardino Countywide Policy Plan, 2020; Submitted Project Materials**

a), b) *Physically divide an established community? or*

*Cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?*

The Alvic & Alumina Quarry has been explored and mined historically since the 1940s and is a vested mining operation with an approved Reclamation Plan in 1984 with an end date of 2034. The proposed revision will include an additional 141 acres for a total plan area of approximately 163 acres to be disturbed and reclaimed.

The Project Site is in unincorporated San Bernardino County. The Countywide Policy Plan Land Use Map shows that the project site is within Land Use Category General Industrial (GI) and within Regional Industrial (IR) zoning. Surrounding land uses include the CEMEX Black Mountain Cement Plant, the Black and White Mountain limestone mining operations to the west and southwest of the Quarry, the Victorville Aggregate Rail Loadout facility to the southwest, and vacant public lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to the east, south, and north.

The Proposed Project is within an industrial area utilized for the extraction of minerals and the production of cement. No changes or amendments to land use, land use categories, or zoning are proposed; only the continuation of activities previously approved and ongoing on-site and in the surrounding area consistent with the Countywide Policy Plan. The Proposed Project will not physically divide an established community nor cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect. Therefore, no impacts are identified or anticipated, and no mitigation measures are required.

**No Impact**

**Therefore, no impacts are identified or anticipated and no mitigation measures are required.**

<i>Issues</i>		<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less than Significant</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
<b>XII.</b>	<b>MINERAL RESOURCES - Would the project:</b>				
a)	Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that will be of value to the region and the residents of the state?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b)	Result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**SUBSTANTIATION:** (Check  if project is located within the Mineral Resource Zone Overlay):

**San Bernardino Countywide Policy Plan, 2020; Submitted Project Materials**

- a) *Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that will be of value to the region and the residents of the state?*

The Proposed Project is a Revised Reclamation Plan for the active Alvic & Alumina Quarry to expand and extend extraction operations for alumina material used as an additive in the production of cement. The site is designated by the State Mines and Geology Board (SMGB) and is listed in the Countywide Policy Plan (NR-4 Mineral Resource Zones map) to be within a Mineral Resource Zone – 2a (MRZ-2a) for industrial minerals. The site was designated in 1994 and defines an area underlain by mineral deposits that are either measured or indicated reserves as determined by drilling

records, sample analysis, surface exposure, and mine information. Land included in the MRZ-2a category is of prime importance because it contains known economic mineral deposits.

Thus, implementation of the Proposed Project would result in a beneficial effect regarding availability of mineral resource that is of value to the region and the residents of the state. No significant adverse impacts are identified or anticipated, and no mitigation measures are required.

**Less Than Significant Impact**

- b) *Result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?*

The Project Site is designated by the SMGB and is listed in the Countywide Policy Plan to be within a Mineral Resource Zone – 2a (MRZ-2a) for industrial minerals. Therefore, implementation of the Proposed Project would result in a beneficial effect regarding availability of mineral resources. As such, no significant adverse impacts are identified or anticipated, and no mitigation measures are required.

**Less Than Significant Impact**

**Therefore, no significant adverse impacts are identified or anticipated and no mitigation measures are required.**

<i>Issues</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less than Significant</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
<b>XIII. NOISE - Would the project result in:</b>				
a) Generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the Project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**SUBSTANTIATION:** *(Check if the project is located in the Noise Hazard Overlay District  or is subject to severe noise levels according to the Countywide Policy Plan Noise Element ):*



### **San Bernardino Countywide Policy Plan 2020; Submitted Project Materials**

- a) *Generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?*

The Project Site is an existing operating mine in an area with a LUC of GI and regional industrial zoning. Surrounding land uses include the CEMEX Black Mountain Cement Plant, the Black and White Mountain limestone mining operations to the west and southwest of the Quarry, the Victorville Aggregate Rail Loadout facility to the southwest, and vacant public lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to the east, south, and north. There are no other adjacent or nearby uses or residences within 5 miles. In addition, the quarry is generally surrounded by higher ridges and will be excavated within a pit over time.

Noise is produced from the on-site equipment and trucks and operations are required to conform to applicable noise control regulations as outlined in Section 83.01.080, Noise, of the San Bernardino County Development Code. Operations are conducted day-time hours only and will increase from about 60 to 150 days per year. Blasting shall only be conducted by a licensed blaster. A blast design is required if conducted within 1,000 feet of any receptor (such as a dwelling, public building, or school) and pre-blasting surveys are required for dwellings located within 1/2 mile of the permit area. No such dwellings or residents exist within these distances to blasting operations.

Therefore, with adherence to the Development Code, no significant adverse impacts are identified or anticipated, and no mitigation measures are required.

#### **Less Than Significant Impact**

- b) *Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?*

As stated, the Project Site is within a primarily undeveloped area consisting of open space with no sensitive receptors within 5 miles. Groundborne vibration from typical operations (excluding blasting) is required to conform to applicable vibration control regulations as outlined in Section 83.01.090, Vibration, of the San Bernardino County Development Code. There are no known occurrences of complaints being filed during or as a result of prior operations. Therefore, with adherence to the Development Code, no significant adverse impacts are identified or anticipated, and no mitigation measures are required.

#### **Less Than Significant Impact**

- c) *For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the Project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?*

The Project Site is not within an airport safety review area or Airport Runaway Protection Zone.<sup>7</sup> The Project Site is not within two miles of public airport or public use airport, or within the vicinity of a private airstrip as the airport nearest to the site is Apple Valley Airport, which is approximately 14.5 miles southwest of the Project Site. Therefore, no impacts are identified or anticipated, and no mitigation measures are required.

**No Impact**

**Therefore, no significant adverse impacts are identified or anticipated and no mitigation measures are required.**

<i>Issues</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less than Significant</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
<b>XIV. POPULATION AND HOUSING - Would the project:</b>				
a) Induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

***SUBSTANTIATION:***

***San Bernardino Countywide Policy Plan 2020; Submitted Project Materials.***

- a) *Induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?*

The existing quarry at the Project Site is used by CEMEX for the excavation of and stockpiling of high alumina material used in the production of cement. The Proposed Project includes an increase in operations, however, the need for additional employees is not anticipated. No new population growth would result as employment would not be increased. Therefore, implementation of the Proposed Project would not induce substantial growth in the area. No significant adverse impacts are identified or anticipated, and no mitigation measures are required.

**No Impact**

<sup>7</sup> San Bernardino Countywide Policy Plan Draft EIR. Hazards and Hazardous Materials. Figure 5.8-2 "Airport Safety Zones."

- b) *Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?*

The Project Site is an existing quarry and there is no housing on-site. The Proposed Project would not displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing units or require the construction of replacement housing. No impacts are identified or anticipated, and no mitigation measures are required.

**No Impact**

**Therefore, no significant adverse impacts are identified or anticipated and no mitigation measures are required.**

<i>Issues</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less than Significant</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
<b>XV. PUBLIC SERVICES</b>				
a) Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:				
Fire Protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Police Protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Schools?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Parks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other Public Facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

***SUBSTANTIATION:***

***San Bernardino Countywide Policy Plan 2020; Submitted Project Materials***

- a) *Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:*

*Fire Protection?*

Implementation of the Proposed Project would not require additional Fire facilities or services. The nearest Fire Station to the Project Site is the County of San Bernardino's Apple Valley Fire Station 332 approximately 11 miles southwest of the site. No significant adverse impacts are identified or anticipated, and no mitigation measures are required.

**No Impact**

*Police Protection?*

Implementation of the Proposed Project would not require additional police facilities or services. The nearest Police Station to the Project Site is the Apple Valley Police Station approximately 10 miles southwest of the site. No significant adverse impacts are identified or anticipated, and no mitigation measures are required.

**No Impact**

*Schools?*

The Proposed Project would not create a direct demand for public school services as the Proposed Project does not include any type of residential use or other land use, or an increase in employment that may induce population growth. As such, the development would not generate any new school-aged children requiring public education. Therefore, no significant adverse impacts are identified or anticipated, and no mitigation measures are required.

**No Impact**

*Parks?*

The Proposed Project does not include any type of residential use or other land use or increase in employment that may generate a population that would increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities in the vicinity. Therefore, no significant adverse impacts are identified or anticipated, and no mitigation measures are required.

**No Impact**

*Other Public Facilities?*

The Proposed Project is not expected to result in a demand for other public facilities/services, such as libraries, community recreation centers, and/or animal shelter. Implementation of the Proposed Project would not adversely affect other public facilities or require the construction of new or modified facilities. Therefore, no significant adverse impacts are identified or anticipated, and no mitigation measures are required.

**No Impact**

**Therefore, no significant adverse impacts are identified or anticipated and no mitigation measures are required.**

<i>Issues</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less than Significant</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
<b>XVI. RECREATION</b>				
a) Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility will occur or be accelerated?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**SUBSTANTIATION:**  
***San Bernardino Countywide Policy Plan 2020; Submitted Project Materials***

- a) *Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility will occur or be accelerated?*

No residential use or other land use or change in employment that may generate a population that would increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities in the vicinity is proposed. Accordingly, implementation of the Proposed Project would not result in the increased use or substantial physical deterioration of an existing neighborhood or regional park. Therefore, no impacts are identified or anticipated, and no mitigation measures are required.

**No Impact**

- b) *Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?*

The Proposed Project does not include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities, which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment. Therefore, no impacts are identified or anticipated, and no mitigation measures are required.

**No Impact**

**Therefore, no impacts are identified or anticipated and no mitigation measures are required.**

<i>Issues</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less than Significant</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
<b>XVII. TRANSPORTATION – Would the project:</b>				
a) Conflict with a program plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Would the project conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3 subdivision (b)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Result in inadequate emergency access?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**SUBSTANTIATION:**

**San Bernardino Countywide Policy Plan 2020; Submitted Project Materials**

- a) *Conflict with a program plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities?*

The Alvic & Alumina Quarry produces material used at the adjacent CEMEX Black Mountain Cement Plant. All truck movement is by off-road haul trucks within CEMEX property. No material is transported off-site from the quarry. No impacts are identified or anticipated, and no mitigation measures are required.

**No Impact**

- b) *Would the project conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3 subdivision (b)?*

The Proposed Project would not increase the current level of operations in terms of Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMTs) on public roads. All truck movement is within CEMEX property. No impacts are identified or anticipated, and no mitigation measures are required.

**No Impact**

- c) *Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?*

The Proposed Project does not involve any changes to road design features that could substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature or incompatible uses. All truck movement is by off-road haul trucks within CEMEX property using existing internal roads. Therefore, no impacts are identified or anticipated, and no mitigation measures are required.

**No Impact**

- d) *Result in inadequate emergency access?*

Activities associated with the Proposed Project would not impede existing emergency response plans for the Project Site and/or other land uses in the project vicinity. Vehicles and equipment used in excavation and transporting materials would continue to be utilized within CEMEX properties and would not block emergency access routes. Therefore, no impacts are identified or anticipated, and no mitigation measures are required.

**No Impact**

**Therefore, no significant adverse impacts are identified or anticipated and no mitigation measures are required.**

<i>Issues</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less than Significant</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
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**XVIII. TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES**

- a) Would the Project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:
- |  |                          |                                     |                                     |                          |
|--|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| i) Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1(k), or   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| ii) A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resource Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

***SUBSTANTIATION:***

***San Bernardino Countywide Policy Plan, 2020; McKenna et al. "A Cultural Resources Investigation and Paleontological Overview"; Submitted Project Materials***

California Assembly Bill (AB-52) related to Tribal Cultural Resources (TCRs), requires the Lead Agency to notify California Native American tribes to conduct consultation for all projects. On April 6, 2021, the County of San Bernardino mailed notification pursuant to Assembly Bill 52 (AB-52) to the following Tribes:

- AhaMakav Cultural Society
- Colorado River Indian Tribes

- Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians
- Morongo Band of Mission Indians

Requests for consultations were due to the County by around May 6, 2021. The County has not received any requests for consultation or comments from any of the Tribes.

McKenna et al. contacted the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) and inquired into the presence or absence of known religious or sacred Native American sites within or near the project site prior to conducting field surveys. On February 20, 2020, McKenna et al. obtained response and a listing of local Native American representatives wishing to consult with respect to projects in the area associated with the project site. Letters were sent to these individuals (also on February 20, 2020) requesting comments or issues they would want addressed in the technical study. No responses were received.

- a) *i) Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1(k);*

As concluded in Section V(a/b), above, the Cultural Resources Report concluded that no significant historical or archaeological resources will be impacted by the Proposed Project. However, there is a possibility of discovering an unanticipated resource or finding human remains during excavation activities and Mitigation Measures CR-1 and CR-2 shall be implemented to ensure that less than significant impacts to historical and/or archaeological resources and to human remains occur. No additional mitigation measures are required.

### **Less than Significant with Mitigation**

*ii) A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resource Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe?*

No Tribal Cultural Resources (TCRs) were identified within the project area during AB-52 consultation or by the cultural resources field survey. The Proposed Project would not result in significant impacts to known TCRs and Mitigation Measures CR-1 and CR-2 shall be implemented to ensure that less than significant impacts to archaeological resources and to human remains occur.

### **Less Than Significant Impact**

**No significant adverse impacts are identified or anticipated and no mitigation measures are required at this time.**



<i>Issues</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less than Significant</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
<b>XIX. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS - Would the project:</b>				
a) Require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the Project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the Project that it has adequate capacity to serve the Project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Generate solid waste in excess of state or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

***SUBSTANTIATION:***

***San Bernardino Countywide Policy Plan 2020; Submitted Project Materials***

- a) *Require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?*

There are no public or private utilities that currently serve the Project Site or that would be required for the continued operation. The Proposed Project would not require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities. Therefore, no impacts are identified or anticipated, and no mitigation measures are required.

**No Impact**

- b) *Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the Project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?*

Water will be used for dust control measures only. Water will be applied to the working areas, roads, and material transfer points. Water is hauled via a 4,000 gallon water truck from wells and storage tanks at the adjacent CEMEX cement plant. The estimated water usage is two truckloads or 8,000 gallons/day; currently about 1.5 acre-feet per year. Water used for dust control will evaporate and therefore, the project will not produce any run-off water. There is no surface water within the project vicinity.

The Alvic & Alumina Quarry and the Black Mountain facilities are located in the Upper Mojave River Valley groundwater basin; the Alto Subarea. The area is adjudicated and the watermaster is the MWA. CEMEX has approximately 20 active and inactive wells in the Alto Subarea. Several of these wells provide water for dust control at the Quarry. The estimated future usage will average about 3.75 acre-feet per year based on about 150 operational days per year; an increase over existing usage of 2.25 acre-feet per year. CEMEX has a verified base annual production of 1,499 acre-feet and its use is monitored annually by CEMEX and reported to the MWA. The expected increase of water usage for the revised Plan of about 2.25 acre-feet is not a substantial increase. No impacts are identified or anticipated, and no mitigation measures are required.

**No Impact**

- c) *Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the Project that it has adequate capacity to serve the Project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?*

There is no public wastewater treatment provider that serves or is needed at the Project Site. For existing and proposed operations, portable toilets are used on-site and serviced by a commercial vendor. No impacts are identified or anticipated, and no mitigation measures are required.

**No Impact**

- d) *Generate solid waste in excess of state or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?*

*Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?*

All refuse shall be disposed of in approved trash bins and removed by the County or a commercial vendor as necessary. No impacts are identified or anticipated, and no mitigation measures are required.

**No Impact**

**Therefore, no impacts are identified or anticipated and no mitigation measures are required.**

<b>Issues</b>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less than Significant</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
<b>XX. WILDFIRE:</b> If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the project:				
a) Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to, pollutant concentrations from wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water resources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**SUBSTANTIATION:**

***San Bernardino Countywide Policy Plan 2020; Submitted Project Materials***

- a) *Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?*

Activities associated with the Proposed Project would not impede existing emergency response plans for the Project Site and/or other land uses in the project vicinity. Vehicles and stationary equipment used for material excavation and trucking operations would continue to utilize existing access roads within CEMEX properties and would not block emergency access routes. Therefore, implementation of the Proposed Project would not substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan. No impacts are identified or anticipated, and no mitigation measures would occur.

**No Impact**

- b), d) *Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to, pollutant concentrations from wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire?*

*Expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes?*

The Project Site is not located within a High or Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone.<sup>8</sup> Therefore, risks associated with exposing project employees to pollutant concentrations from wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks is unlikely. Furthermore, the Proposed Project does not include construction of habitable structures or permanent facilities. No impacts are identified or anticipated, and no mitigation measures are required.

**No Impact**

- c) *Require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water resources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment?*

The Proposed Project will not require the construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities. Therefore, the Proposed Project is not anticipated to require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary ongoing impacts to the environment. No impacts are identified or are anticipated, and no mitigation measures are required.

**No Impact**

**Therefore, no impacts are identified or anticipated and no mitigation measures are required.**

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<sup>8</sup> San Bernardino Countywide Policy Plan Draft EIR. Hazards and Hazardous Materials. Figure 5.8-6 "Fire Severity and Growth Areas in the East Desert Regions."

<i>Issues</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less than Significant</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
<b>XXI. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE:</b>				
a) Does the project have the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Does the project have environmental effects, which would cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

- a) *Does the project have the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?*

The results of the Initial Study show that there are potentially significant impacts to Biological and Cultural Resources. These impacts will be reduced to less than significant levels after incorporation of mitigation measures and compliance with existing rules and regulations. Therefore, the Proposed Project will not substantially degrade the quality of the environment and impacts to habitat, wildlife populations, plant and animal communities, rare and endangered species or important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory; no additional mitigation is warranted. The County contacted local Native American tribal representatives and no information regarding Tribal Cultural Resources was provided. No impacts are identified or anticipated, and no additional mitigation measures are required.

**Less than Significant with Mitigation**

- b) *Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? (“Cumulatively considerable” means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?*

Cumulative impacts are defined as two or more individual affects that, when considered together, are considerable or that compound or increase other environmental impacts. The cumulative impact from several projects is the change in the environment that results from the incremental impact of the development when added to the impacts of other closely related past, present, and reasonably foreseeable or probable future developments. Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor, but collectively significant, developments taking place over a period. The CEQA Guidelines, Section 15130 (a) and (b), states:

(a) Cumulative impacts shall be discussed when the project’s incremental effect is cumulatively considerable.

(b) The discussion of cumulative impacts shall reflect the severity of the impacts and their likelihood of occurrence, but the discussion need not provide as great detail as is provided of the effects attributable to the project. The discussion should be guided by the standards of practicality and reasonableness.

As evaluated herein, impacts associated with the Proposed Project would not be considered individually adverse or unfavorable. The Proposed Project is an expansion of the existing Alvic & Alumina Quarry operations. No cumulative impacts are identified or anticipated, and no mitigation measures are required.

#### **Less Than Significant Impact**

- c) *Does the project have environmental effects, which would cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?*

All potential impacts have been thoroughly evaluated and have been deemed to be neither individually significant nor cumulatively considerable in terms of any adverse effects upon the region, the local community or its inhabitants. At a minimum, the project will be required to meet the conditions of approval for the project to be implemented. It is anticipated that all such conditions of approval will further ensure that no potential for adverse impacts will be introduced by mining activities, initial or future land uses authorized by the project approval. No significant adverse impacts are identified or anticipated, and no mitigation measures are required.

#### **Less Than Significant Impact**

**Therefore, no significant adverse impacts are identified or anticipated with implementation of mitigation measures as included.**

## **GENERAL REFERENCES**

California Department of Agricultural Resources, *Williamson Act Lands Interactive Map*. Accessed 6/12/20 from <https://www.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=fcb-9bc427d2a4c5a981f97547a0e3688>

California Department of Conservation, *California Important Farmland Finder*. Accessed 6/11/20 from <https://maps.conservation.ca.gov/DLRP/CIFF/>

California Energy Commission, *2019 Annual Retail Fuel Outlet Report (CEC-A15)*. September 2020.

County of San Bernardino. *Code of Ordinances*. Updated July 2019.

County of San Bernardino. *Countywide Policy Plan, November 2020*.

County of San Bernardino. *Development Code*. Adopted March 13, 2007 and Amended May 2, 2019.

## **PROJECT-SPECIFIC REFERENCES**

ELMT Consulting, Inc. *Habitat and Jurisdictional Assessment for CEMEX Alvic & Alumina Quarry Revised Reclamation Plan*. June 2020.

Lilburn Corporation. *Air Quality Emissions Inventory*. October 2020.

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McKenna et al. *A Cultural Resources Investigation and Paleontological Overview: The Proposed Expansion of the Cemex Operations at the Black and White Mountain Quarry & Alvic Quarry Sites near Sidewinder Mountain, San Bernardino County, California*. November 9, 2020.

Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County; Samuel A. McLeod Ph.D. *Paleontological Resources Review*. February 2020. Within Appendix D of *A Cultural Resources Investigation and Paleontological Overview (above)*. McKenna et al. November 2020.