

NOTICE OF COMPLETION & ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT TRANSMITTAL SCH# _____

Mail to: State Clearinghouse, P.O. Box 3044, Sacramento, CA 95812-3044 (Overnight/Personal Delivery) (916) 445-0613

Project Title: Buellflat Rock Company Deep Mining Reclamation Plan

Lead Agency: County of Santa Barbara

Contact Person: Jacquelynn Ybarra, Planner

Street Address: 123 E. Anapamu Street

Phone: (805) 568-2055

City: Santa Barbara Zip: 93101

County: Santa Barbara

Project Location: County: Santa Barbara City/Nearest Community: Solvang

Cross Streets: 1214 Mission Drive Total Acres: 138.07

APN # 137-250-023; 137-250-037; 137-250-046; 137-260-025 Section: NA Twp. NA Range: NA Base: NA

Within 2 Miles: State Hwy #: Hwy 1, Hwy 246 Waterways: Santa Ynez River

Airports: NA Railways: NA Schools: Solvang Elementary School

DOCUMENT TYPE

CEQA: NOP Supplement/Subsequent Early Cons EIR (Prior SCH No.) Neg Dec Other Draft EIR

NEPA: NOI EA Draft EIS FONSI

Other: Joint Document Final Document Other

LOCAL ACTION TYPE

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

DEVELOPMENT TYPE

Residential: Units Acres Water Facilities: Type MGD
Office: Sq.ft. Acres Employees Transportation: Type
Commercial: Sq.ft. Acres Employees Mining: Type Deep mining and reclamation
Industrial: Sq.ft. Acres Employees Power: Type Watts
Educational Waste Trtmnt: Type
Recreational Hazardous Wst: Type
Other: _____

PROJECT ISSUES THAT MAY HAVE A SIGNIFICANT OR POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

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

PRESENT LAND USE DESIGNATION AND ZONING

- APN 137-250-023: 23.62 acres - Mineral Processing, General Industry M-2
- APN 137-250-037: 45.32 acres – Field Crops- Irrigated, Agriculture I, AG-I-40
- APN 137-250-046: 68.98 acres – Open Land Use, Agriculture, AG-I-20
- APN 137-260-025: 0.15 acres – Office Buildings, Incorporated City

NOTE: Clearinghouse will assign identification numbers for all new projects. If a SCH number already exists for a project (e.g. from a Notice of Preparation or previous draft document) please fill it in.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project is for a revision to Reclamation Plan 88-RP-002 AM01 to: 1) conduct deep mining in Area A to a depth of 300 feet amsl; 2) backfill the deep mining area to 340 feet amsl; 3) install a drainage culvert from the mine pit to an existing sediment basin; 4) make improvements to an existing access road; 5) revise the end use of Area A from open space/habitat to agriculture; and 6) address current SMARA standards.

Area A is approximately 41 acres and is located north of the river channel (Area C) and west of the processing plant (Area B), and contains an existing mine pit and sediment basin. The request for deep mining is a result of the site's nearly exhausted shallow-depth aggregate reserves, and is limited to previously disturbed mining areas in Area A, approximately 30 to 40 feet below existing mining operations. The surrounding ground elevation outside the pit is approximately 360 feet amsl, and the existing ground elevation within the pit is approximately 330 feet amsl, creating a depression approximately 30 feet deep. Area A is buffered from the rest of the site by manmade levees and berm roads previously developed as mitigation for expanded mining operations under Reclamation Plan No. 88-RP-002 AM01. There is an approximate 130-foot buffer from the mining area to the northern property boundary, an approximate 130-foot buffer from the mining area to Area C, and an approximate 60-foot buffer from the mining area to the sediment basin.

Deep Mining

Deep mining would generally be conducted in one phase, and is anticipated to produce 10,000 to 100,000 tons of material per year, and up to 518,149 cubic yards of material over the life of the mine. Based on this production rate, market demand, and estimated reserves, the life of the mine would be extended 20 years to 2038. Deep mining would involve excavations ranging from 30 to 40 feet deep, to a maximum depth of 300 feet amsl, which is approximately 29 feet below estimated groundwater levels. Approximately 15 percent of this total production amount is estimated to be waste material (overburden, silts, etc.). Production would be reduced from the currently approved total production amount of up to 1,600,000 cubic yards of material.

The mining pit would be excavated with side slopes of 3:1 (horizontal to vertical, h:v) and would have a maximum depth of 60 feet, from top of slope to toe of slope. The planned slopes would be predominantly cut slopes; however the upper portions of the pit slopes would involve placement of compacted fill. Fill slopes are proposed at 3:1 and 5:1 (h:v) slope ratios. No slope benches are planned due to the relatively shallow depth of excavation. Based on exploratory borings completed as part of a geologic and geotechnical engineering investigation conducted for the project, mining operations are expected to encounter groundwater at an elevation of 329 feet amsl.

Equipment used for deep mining would include both a Caterpillar D-8 dozer and a Caterpillar 623H or K scraper, or a Caterpillar 349L excavator and a Caterpillar 745C haul truck. Each equipment unit would be equipped with an engine that meets U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Tier 4 emissions standards.

Reclamation

Reclamation would begin when active mining is completed, and is expected to take 10 years (2038 – 2048). Slopes in the backfilled pit would be finished at a 3:1 slope at the southern end of the pit, and a 5:1 slope at the northern end of the pit. The spoils from excavation and imported fill would be used to achieve a uniform gently sloping grade to the south. Final grading would result in a slight depression approximately 20 feet below existing grade and the established man-made levees.

To date, approximately 471,484 cubic yards of fill material to be used for reclamation has been stockpiled in the northwest corner of Area A. Approximately 191,777 cubic yards of clean fill would need to be imported over the next 20 years of mining activities for the site to begin reclamation. Stockpiled fill material plus imported fill material would equal 663,261 cubic yards, which is the amount of total backfill needed to elevate the mining pit to final grade. Some reclamation activities, such as vegetation salvage and restoration test plot planting/monitoring would be conducted concurrently during deep mining if feasible.

Truck Trips

Mining export would result in a maximum of 200 truck trips/day. Import to the surge pile would result in a maximum of 58 truck trips/day. Maximum daily import loads of fill material for reclamation would be limited to 100 truck trips/day. Therefore, the proposed project would result in a maximum of 358 truck trips/day. On-road equipment is assumed to meet fleet averages for 2019.

End Use

The proposed end use of Area A would be cattle and equine grazing ranch pasture or other agriculture use. Revegetation would occur in disturbed areas throughout Area A, including disturbed acreage within the mining excavation area, access roads, and desilting basin. Revegetation would consist of planting a set mixture of both grasses and legumes for forage production and erosion control

(three grasses and two legume species). Test plots would be established to determine if soil conditions are appropriate for the proposed seed mixes, and areas to be planted would be hydroseeded or hand-broadcast at 30-50 pounds per acre. The existing sediment basin would not be revegetated. The basin will gradually dry upon cessation of mining; however, the basin is below the river grade, and near the top of groundwater, and therefore would likely continue to receive storm runoff from the site. It is anticipated that the bottom of the basin would retain some open water and remain as a freshwater marsh post-reclamation.

The proposed end use for Areas B and C would remain the same as previously approved, consisting of commercial/industrial uses, and river channel/open space, respectively. No revegetation is proposed for these areas. Revegetation of the river channel would be left to natural processes. Required levee improvements and willow tree plantings, as required per Reclamation Plan 88-RP-002 AM01, were previously implemented.

Site Improvements

Site improvements would be conducted at the initiation of deep mining activities, consisting of improvements to an existing east-west trending access road, located to the south of the excavation area, as well as the installation of a 24-inch culvert from the mining pit to the existing sediment basin in order to convey flows southward, and prevent standing water in the filled pit area. The inlet of the culvert would be at 339.5 feet amsl, which would be above groundwater levels and half a foot lower than the final pit elevation. The culvert would remain in place permanently through mining activities, as well as post-reclamation.

Operations and Personnel

No change in hours of operation or personnel are proposed. Project personnel consists of 15 full-time employees, and 1 part-time employee. Hours of Operation would be from 7:00 am – 6:00 pm, five (5) days per week, Monday through Friday, and to no more than eight (8) Saturdays per calendar year from 8:00 am - 4:00 pm.

Other details of the proposed mining and reclamation plan are discussed and shown in the Revised Reclamation Plan prepared by the applicant.

REVIEWING AGENCIES CHECKLIST

KEY

S=Document sent by lead agency

X=Document sent by SCH

√=Suggested distribution

Resources Agency

- Boating & Waterways
- Coastal Commission
- Coastal Conservancy
- Colorado River Board
- Conservation
- Fish & Game Region # **5 – South Coast**
- Forestry & Fire Protection
- Office of Historic Preservation
- Parks & Recreation
- Reclamation
- S.F. Bay Conservation & Development Commission
- Water Resources (DWR)

Environmental Affairs

- Air Resources Board
- APCD/AQMD
- Integrated Waste Management Board
- SWRCB: Clean Water Grants
- SWRCB: Water Quality
- SWRCB: Water Rights
- Regional WQCB # **Region 3 – Central Coast**

Business, Transportation & Housing

- Aeronautics
- California Highway Patrol
- CALTRANS District#**5, Santa Barbara County**
- CALTRANS Planning (headquarters)
- CALTRANS, Dir. of Aeronautics
- Housing & Community Development
- Food & Agriculture

Health & Welfare

Health Services _____

State & Consumer Services

- General Services
- OLA (Schools)
- Office of Public School Construction (DOE)

Youth & Adult Corrections

Corrections

Independent Commissions & Offices

- Energy Commission
- Native American Heritage Commission
- Public Utilities Commission
- State Lands Commission
- Tahoe Regional Planning Agency
- Office of Emergency Services
- Dept. of Pesticide Regulation
- Dept. of Toxic Substances Control

Other _____

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

Starting Date September 24, 2021

Ending Date October 25, 2021

Signature  _____

Date September 23, 2021

Lead Agency (Complete if applicable):

For SCH Use Only:

Consulting Firm: _____

Date Received at SCH

Address: _____

Date Review Starts

City/State/Zip: _____

Date to Agencies

Contact: _____

Date to SCH

Phone: () _____

Clearance Date

Applicant:

Notes:

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