



County of Santa Barbara Planning and Development

Lisa Plowman, Director
Jeff Wilson, Assistant Director
Steve Mason, Assistant Director

Published September 24, 2021

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF THE DRAFT MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR THE PROPOSED Buellflat Rock Company Deep Mining Reclamation Plan Case No. 18RVP-00000-00006 to 88-RP-002 AM01

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Buellflat Rock Company proposes a Reclamation Plan Amendment to conduct deep mining and reclamation below the water table, extending existing mining operations 20 years to 2038.

PROJECT LOCATION: The project site is located at 1214 Mission Drive, Solvang, consisting of APNs 137-250-023, 137-250-037, 137-250-046, and 137-260-025 within the 3rd Supervisorial District.

PUBLIC COMMENT: The County of Santa Barbara Planning and Development Department (P&D) is soliciting comments on the adequacy and completeness of Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) No. 21NGD-00000-00003 for the above referenced project. You may comment by submitting written or oral comments to the project planner identified below prior to the close of public comment on October 25, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. Due to the non-complex nature of the project, a separate environmental hearing on the Draft MND will not be held.

PROJECT DETAILS: Buellflat Rock Company is requesting approval of a revision to Reclamation Plan 88-RP-002 AM01 for the existing Buellflat Rock Quarry to conduct deep mining and reclamation below the water table in a previously disturbed onsite mining area (Area A) to a depth of 300 feet above mean sea level (amsl). Other proposed changes to the Reclamation Plan include installing a drainage culvert from the deep mining pit to an existing sediment basin, making improvements to an existing access road, backfilling the proposed deep mining area to 340 feet amsl following mining activities, and revising the mining area's end use from open space/habitat to dry pasture agriculture.

The mining of mineral commodities for rock, sand, and gravel would remain the same. Total mining production would be reduced from up to 1,600,000 cubic yards of material to 518,149 cubic yards of material over the lifetime of the mine, which would be extended 20 years to 2038. No changes to the number of acres to be mined or disturbed are proposed. No changes to the processing and storage area (Area B), or Santa Ynez River (Area C) are proposed. The revised Reclamation Plan would supersede all previous reclamation plans approved for the site (Case No. 88-RP-002 and 88-RP-002 AM01), and would govern mining and reclamation activities of the entire property going forward (Areas A, B, and C).

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW FINDINGS: P&D has prepared a Draft MND No. 21NGD-00000-00003 pursuant to Section 15073 of the State Guidelines for the Implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the County of Santa Barbara Guidelines for the Implementation of CEQA.

P&D's issuance of an MND affirms our opinion that any significant adverse impacts associated with the proposed project may be reduced to a less than significant level with the adoption of mitigation measures, and that the project does not require the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR). The MND prepared for the project identifies and discusses potential impacts, mitigation measures, residual impacts and monitoring requirements for identified subject areas. Significant but mitigable effects on the environment are anticipated in the following areas: agricultural resources, air quality, biological resources, geologic processes, and water resources/flooding. If the project description changes, P&D will require a reevaluation to consider the changes. This reevaluation will be subject to all regular fees and conditions. If you challenge this environmental document in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues raised by you or others in written correspondence or in hearings on the proposed project.

DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY: The draft MND may be viewed online at:
<https://cosantabarbara.box.com/s/d2rshto3cr2fhmrwvo8a7iki2hbr1azv>

All documents incorporated by reference in the MND may be reviewed by contacting the project planner below.

HOW TO COMMENT: Please provide comments to the project planner, Jacquelynn Ybarra at jybarra@countyofsb.org and planning supervisor Errin Briggs at ebriggs@countyofsb.org, prior to the close of public comment on October 25, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. Please limit comments to environmental issues such as agricultural resources, biology, noise, etc. You will receive notice of the dates of future public hearings to consider project approval or denial by the Planning Commission.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in the hearing, please contact County Hearing Support Staff at (805) 568-2000. Notification at least 48 hours prior to the hearing will enable Hearing Support Staff to make reasonable arrangements.