

California Department of Transportation

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February 3, 2022

1-MEN-162-16.317
Stewart Gravel Bar UP & Rec Plan
SCH# 2022010056

Mr. Dirk Larson
Planning & Building Services
County of Mendocino
860 North Bush Street
Ukiah, CA 95482

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

Feb 04 2022

STATE CLEARING HOUSE

Dear Mr. Larson:

Thank you for giving Caltrans the opportunity to comment on the draft Mitigated Negative Declaration for the proposed Stewart Gravel Bar Use Permit and Reclamation Plan. The project requests to operate seasonal gravel extraction and reclamation activities on a gravel bar known as the Stewart Bar located on the Middle Fork of the Eel River in Mendocino County. The Use Permit will allow gravel extractions up to 20,000 cubic yards per year for the next 20 years (400,000 cubic yards total) and operate during the summer low-flow season (June 1 through October 30), with an anticipated total of 45 operating days per year. The project is located approximately 7 miles southwest of Covelo and approximately 1 mile southeast of the unincorporated community of Dos Rios. The project site is accessed by a dirt road that connects via an existing encroachment to State Route 162 (SR 162) located north of the Site. We have the following comments:

We request that the County condition the project upon the property owner's ability to provide proof of valid Caltrans Encroachment Permit. If no permit exists, the applicant may apply for a fee exempt permit to document ownership and responsibility for maintenance of the existing access.

During periods of operation when material is actively being removed and the access is in use, we require that the contractor apply for and obtain a traffic control permit to place appropriate temporary "rag" signs for "Trucks Entering/Exiting" and placement of Portable Changeable Message Signs (PCMS's) to notify the traveling public of trucks entering and exiting the access point. The encroachment permit package will need to include the County Permit and supporting documentation regarding the proposed work and proposed work plan. Please note that truck turning movement other than "right in/right out" will require additional traffic control.

Mr. Dirk Larson
2/3/2022
Page 2

Any damage caused to the highway as a result of the permittee's activities will require the applicant to repair at their cost.

We note that for any improvements need to the existing access, there is a high potential for natural and cultural resources to occur locally within state right-of-way. Any additional areas of disturbance would need to be evaluated for impacts to sensitive, rare, or protected natural and cultural resources.

Prior to submitting an Encroachment Permit application, a pre-submittal meeting with Caltrans is required. Please contact the Ukiah Permits Office at 707-463-4743 to arrange the meeting. For more information about encroachment permits and how to apply, please refer to the following website: <<https://dot.ca.gov/programs/traffic-operations/ep>>.

Please contact me with questions or for further assistance at: (707) 684-6879 or by email at: <jesse.robertson@dot.ca.gov>.

Sincerely,

Jesse G. Robertson

Jesse Robertson
Transportation Planning
Caltrans District 1

c: State Clearinghouse
Heidi Quintrell, Chief, Caltrans District 1 Encroachment Permits Office