

Jillian Knox

From: Henderson, Amy@Wildlife <Amy.Henderson@wildlife.ca.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 28, 2022 1:49 PM
To: Luis Topete
Cc: OPR State Clearinghouse
Subject: SCH# 2022040041 Amendment 21-0003 (Lehigh Cement West, Inc)

Categories: Purple Category

Dear Luis Topete:

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) has reviewed the Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) dated March 31, 2022, for the above-referenced project (Project). As a trustee for the State's fish and wildlife resources, the Department has jurisdiction over the conservation, protection, and management of fish, wildlife, native plants, and their habitat. As a responsible agency, the Department administers the California Endangered Species Act and other provisions of the Fish and Game Code that conserve the State's fish and wildlife public trust resources. The Department offers the following comments on this Project in our role as a trustee and responsible agency pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act, California Public Resources Code §21000 et seq.

The Project, as described in the MND, is a *"request is for an amendment to Use Permit 297-78 for the construction of a Fortera™ ReCarb™ Plant. The Fortera™ ReCarb™ process is a proprietary process that will utilize a portion of the carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions from the existing Lehigh cement kiln stack as feedstock to produce a Fortera proprietary patented product called Reactive Calcium Carbonate (RCC). The facility would produce approximately 15,000 tons of supplemental cementitious material over a time span of approximately 1.5 years, and then would be decommissioned. This facility would not increase the production of the existing cement plant but would operate as a separate, temporary facility. The facility would be constructed within the existing facility boundary on APN 307-030-002 located along the southwest border of the parcel. Approximately 0.8 acres of disturbed land currently in use by Lehigh Cement West, Inc. for equipment storage would be graded for the installation of the facility. Approximately one half-acre (0.5+/-acres) of impervious surfaces would be added to the project site."*

The Department has consulted on this Project during the Early Consultation referral period. The Project proponent moved the proposed processing plant to a disturbed area greatly reducing impacts to native vegetation. Based on this and other mitigation measures incorporated into the MND, the Department has no comments. If the Project description changes in any way or additional biological resource information becomes available, the Department should be notified and provided an opportunity to offer comments regarding the updated information.

We appreciate the opportunity to review this Project. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Thank you,

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