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through 09/07/2023

Deva Marje Proto, County Clerk  
BY: Mary Damon  
Mary Damon, Deputy Clerk



permit  
SONOMA

County of Sonoma  
Permit & Resource Management Department

Doc No.PST-202300113

## NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF A SUBSEQUENT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

**DATE:** 8/7/2023

**TO:** State Clearinghouse, Responsible and  
Trustee Agencies, and Interested  
Parties and Organizations

**PROJECT TITLE:** PLP22-0027; Canyon Rock Asphalt  
Facility Project

**COMMENT PERIOD:** August 7, 2023 - September 21, 2023

**SCOPING MEETING:** August 21, 2023, 6:00 PM

**LEAD AGENCY:** County of Sonoma

**PROJECT LOCATION:** 7839 Hwy 116 N, Forestville, CA 95436

**LEAD AGENCY CONTACT:** Robert Aguero, Senior Environmental  
Specialist  
Permit Sonoma  
2550 Ventura Avenue  
Santa Rosa, CA 95401  
[Robert.Aguero@sonoma-county.org](mailto:Robert.Aguero@sonoma-county.org)

The County of Sonoma Permit and Resource Management Department (Permit Sonoma) is preparing a Draft Subsequent Environmental Impact Report (DSEIR) for the installation and operation of an asphalt batch plant at the existing Canyon Rock Company Quarry site in Forestville, a rezone of portions of APNs 083-210-017 and 083-210-018 to the Mineral Resource (MR) Combining District to allow for the asphalt facility as an ancillary use to the existing quarry operation, and approve an amendment to the existing Reclamation Plan to encompass the asphalt facility and provide for the reclamation of the area in accordance with California's Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1975 (SMARA). Collectively, these actions comprise the "proposed project" or the "Canyon Rock Asphalt Facility Project."

The County is the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for the project. This Notice of Preparation (NOP) describes the proposed project that will be analyzed in the DSEIR and identifies areas of probable environmental effects of the project.

Agencies and interested members of the public are invited to provide input on the scope of the environmental analysis. Permit Sonoma formally solicits responsible and trustee agencies to provide their views on the scope and content of the environmental analysis as it relates to their statutory



responsibilities regarding the proposed project. Due to the time limits mandated by state law, your response will be accepted as soon as possible but no later than 45 days after the receipt of this notice.

### **Public Scoping Meeting**

The County will hold a virtual public scoping meeting to provide an opportunity for agency staff and interested members of the public to submit verbal comments on the scope of the environmental issues to be addressed in the DSEIR. The scoping meeting will be held on August 21, 2023, 6:00 PM. To join the meeting by computer or provide comment by phone, use the Zoom link or phone number below:

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://sonomacounty.zoom.us/j/99929771203?pwd=dXpYanFpQ0pYR0d1KzhTYTEyN3g5dz09>

Webinar ID: 999 2977 1203

Passcode: 478458

One tap mobile : (669) 900-9128

The scoping meeting will include a presentation on elements of the project, a summary of the NOP and broader CEQA process to come, and an opportunity to provide comments on the scope of the DSEIR.

If you have questions regarding this NOP or the scoping meeting, please contact Robert Aguero at 707-565-3718 or via email at [Robert.Aguero@sonoma-county.org](mailto:Robert.Aguero@sonoma-county.org)

### **Written Comments:**

Please submit written comments to any of the below by 5:00 p.m. on September 21, 2023:

- Email: [Robert.Aguero@sonoma-county.org](mailto:Robert.Aguero@sonoma-county.org)
- Regular Mail: Permit Sonoma, Attn: Robert Aguero, 2550 Ventura Avenue, Santa Rosa, California 95403

### **Project Background:**

Surface mining operations at the Forestville facility have been continuous since the early 1940s. Mining operations at this site predate SMARA or any applicable use permit requirement, therefore mining operations are vested under California law. Such vested rights apply to those parcels devoted to mining uses, including lands held in reserve for future operations on the date that the use became nonconforming. In addition to its vested right to engage in surface mining operations based on its status as a legal nonconforming use, Canyon Rock also has a vested right to engage in surface mining operations arising from use permits issued in 1957 (County File 2291; Resolution No. 2791) and 1961 (County File 2291; Resolution No. 547). In 1981, the County issued a "Determination of Vested Rights" to the quarry, and the vested rights have been recognized and preserved in subsequent County resolutions during the review and approval of the expansion of mining operations in 1991, 2006, and 2008, and in a 2010 settlement agreement. The determination and resolutions recognize vested rights for quarry operations on APNs 083-130-082, -083, -084, and -085.

### **Project Description:**

Canyon Rock Quarry proposes to develop an asphalt plant that would utilize the aggregate produced onsite at its quarry operation. An asphalt facility is a mixing facility where materials (about 95 percent aggregate and 5 percent asphalt cement, by weight) are brought together and blended into hot or warm mix asphalt, which is then transported to a paving site for use in building and maintaining local roads, highways, parking lots, and other development and redevelopment surfaces. The asphalt facility would

consist of an asphalt plant structure and all related equipment and operations that would occur on the project site (e.g., loading of asphalt trucks, maintenance of the asphalt plant structure). Construction activities for the project site in preparation for the installation of the asphalt plant structure would be short term, requiring approximately 3 months of activity that could be spread out in phases over a period of up to 9 months. These activities would typically be from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. One or 2 blasting events may be needed as part of construction grading. Blasting would be consistent with current authorized practices at the quarry, as specified by Use Permit PLP97-0046. The approximately 5.6-acre sloped area west of the facility floor would then be excavated and graded. Following the completion of excavation and grading, a concrete foundation would be developed to support the asphalt plant structure.

The components of the asphalt plant structure include eight compartment cold feed bins (for virgin aggregates produced by Canyon Rock) and three Recycled Asphalt Pavement (RAP) bins. The bins would be connected to conveyer belts that lead to the rotary dryer drum, that in turn would add hot asphalt binder that would then convey the hot mix asphalt to heated load-out silos. The project would be phased initially with one truck scale under one to three heated load-out silos. Based on the demand for asphalt product, full buildout may include an additional truck scale with up to an additional three heated load-out silos. A baghouse would capture hot air and particulates from the dryer, mixer, silos, and load out area.

Ancillary facilities would include a motor control center; above ground heated tanks for the storage of asphalt binder, with up to one tank used for the storage of liquid rubber; a plant operations and ticketing building; emission control system; and up to three above ground liquified natural gas storage tanks. Due to the relatively small quantities of additives required to produce warm mix asphalt, the asphalt facility would not include tanks for the storage of additives. Additives are not commonly used and would be shipped in appropriate containers to the site on an as-needed basis. The containers would be stored onsite in accordance with all applicable hazardous materials regulations and would be removed from the site when not in use.

The silos would be the tallest part of the asphalt plant structure at approximately 75 feet above the ground surface. The length and width of the asphalt plant structure could vary depending on the final design and manufacturer; however, the asphalt plant structure would be arranged to fit within the approximately 580-foot-long (north to south) by 300-foot-wide (east to west) facility floor. The asphalt plant site and structure have been designed to use the existing topography to limit the visibility of the structure and facility operations.

Use Permit PLP97-0046 allows the quarry to annually export a maximum of 562,500 cubic yards of aggregate material, of which 500,000 cubic yards can consist of material mined on-site and 62,500 cubic yards of material (including recycled material) can be imported. The maximum proposed annual production at the asphalt facility would be up to 300,000 tons per year (about 200,000 cubic yards per year by volume). The project does not propose to increase the total annual volume of materials sold from the quarry site. Instead, trucks hauling asphalt under the proposed project would replace trucks currently hauling raw aggregate.

**Project Location:**

The project is located at 7839 Hwy 116 N, Forestville, CA 95436 as shown on Figure 1.

**Requested Permits and Entitlements:**

It is expected that additional non-County approvals and permits may be required for the approval and/or implementation of the project. These include but are not limited to:

- California Department of Conservation, Office of Mine Reclamation (release of Financial Assurance Mechanism);
- Northern Sonoma County Air Pollution Control District (Authority to Construct/Permit to Operate);
- California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement; habitat and mitigation monitoring plan);
- North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Section 401 certification);
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Section 404 permit);
- California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Timber Harvesting Plan or Timberland Conversion Permit)
- California Department of Transportation (Encroachment onto Highway 116)

**Project Alternatives:**

The DSEIR will evaluate a reasonable range of project alternatives that, consistent with CEQA, meet most of the project objectives and reduce or avoid potential environmental effects, including a required No Project Alternative.

**Next Steps:**

After the DSEIR is completed, the County will issue a Notice of Availability of a Draft Subsequent EIR to inform the public and interested agencies, groups, and individuals of how to access the document and provide comments.

**Potential Environmental Effects:**

The DSEIR will describe the reasonably foreseeable and potentially significant adverse effects of the proposed project (both direct and indirect). The DSEIR also will evaluate the cumulative impacts of the project when considered in conjunction with other related past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future projects. The County anticipates that the proposed project could result in potentially significant environmental impacts in the following topic areas, which will be further evaluated in the DSEIR.

- |                                 |                                |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Aesthetics/Visual               | Land Use and Planning          |
| Agriculture and Forestry        | Mineral Resources              |
| Air Quality                     | Noise                          |
| Biological Resources            | Population and Housing         |
| Cultural Resources              | Public Services and Recreation |
| Energy                          | Transportation                 |
| Geology and Soils               | Tribal Cultural Resources      |
| Greenhouse Gas Emissions        | Utilities and Service Systems  |
| Hazards and Hazardous Materials | Wildfire                       |
| Hydrology and Water Quality     | Cumulative Effects             |
|                                 | Growth Inducing Effects        |