

POSTED

NOV 17 2023

Notice of Determination

Imperial County Clerk-Recorder
California

Appendix D

To:

Office of Planning and Research
U.S. Mail: Street Address:
P.O. Box 3044 1400 Tenth St., Rm 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044 Sacramento, CA 95814

County Clerk
County of: Imperial
Address: 940 W. Main Street, Suite 202
El Centro, CA 92243

From:

Public Agency: Imperial County Planning and
Address: 801 Main Street
El Centro, CA 92243
Contact: Diana Robinson, Planning Division M
Phone: (442) 265-1736

Lead Agency (if different from above):
Address:
Contact:
Phone:

SUBJECT: Filing of Notice of Determination in compliance with Section 21108 or 21152 of the Public Resources Code.

State Clearinghouse Number (if submitted to State Clearinghouse): 2001121133

Project Title: USG Plaster City Quarry Expansion and Well No. 3 Project

Project Applicant: US Gypsum

Project Location (include county): multiple locations - see Attachment A

Project Description:

See Attachment B

13-2023-075

FILED

IMPERIAL COUNTY

Nov 17 2023

CHUCK STOREY, County Clerk

By Victoria Gonzalez
Imperial Deputy Clerk

This is to advise that the Imperial County has approved the above
(Lead Agency or Responsible Agency)

described project on 11/16/2023 and has made the following determinations regarding the above
(date)
described project.

1. The project [will will not] have a significant effect on the environment.
2. An Environmental Impact Report was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
 A Negative Declaration was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
3. Mitigation measures [were were not] made a condition of the approval of the project.
4. A mitigation reporting or monitoring plan [was was not] adopted for this project.
5. A statement of Overriding Considerations [was was not] adopted for this project.
6. Findings [were were not] made pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.

This is to certify that the final EIR with comments and responses and record of project approval, or the negative Declaration, is available to the General Public at:

Imperial County Planning and Development Services Department 801 Main St. El Centro, CA 92243

Signature (Public Agency):  Title: Planning Assistant Director

Date: 11/17/2023 Date Received for filing at OPR:

ATTACHMENT A

Project Zoning and Location

Project Location: The United States Gypsum (USG) Plaster City Quarry (including the expansion area) is located in Imperial County on USG-owned property (2,032 acres) and on active unpatented mill site claims on BLM-administered public lands (73 acres) (Assessor Parcel Numbers [APNs] 033-060-09; 033-070-01, -04, -05, -08, -10, -11, -17, and -23; 033-080-05; 033-090-11, -12, -13, -14, and -15). It is located within portions of Sections 19, 20, 28, 29, 30, 32, and 33 of Township 13 South, Range 09 East of the San Bernardino Meridian (SBM).

The proposed USG Quarry Well No. 3 is located in Imperial County on USG-owned property (APN 033-020-009). It is located within Section 16 of Township 13 South, Range 09 East SBM.

The proposed pipeline alignment is located in Imperial County within USG-owned property (APNs 033-020-009; 033-060-010 and -008); land owned by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) (APNs 033-010-025 and -017; and 033-060-012); and within Anza-Borrego Desert State Park (APN 033-010-016). The pipeline crosses Sections 16, 17, 18, and 19 of Township 13 South, Range 09 East SBM.

The Viking Ranch restoration site is located in San Diego County and consists of approximately 150 acres of Borrego Water District-owned property (APNs 140-030-09-00 and -11-00); approximately 10 acres of privately owned property (APN 140-030-10-00); and approximately 47 acres of lands adjacent to these parcels that would be restored or enhanced. The adjacent lands consist of approximately 13 acres of land owned by the Anza-Borrego Foundation (APN 140-030-05-00), approximately 3 acres of State Park owned land to the north of the restoration site and approximately 31 acres of State Park owned lands to the east of the restoration site (APN 140-030-07-00). The restoration site is located in the southeast corner of Section 4 of Township 10 South, Range 06 East SBM.

The approximately 121-acre Old Kane Springs Road preservation site is located in San Diego County on privately-owned property (APN 253-150-34-00). The mitigation site is located in Section 18 of Township 12 South, Range 08 East SBM.

Project Zoning: The Quarry parcels (including the expansion area) are zoned either S-2 (Open Space/Preservation) or BLM.

The Well No. 3 parcel is zoned S-2 (Open Space/Preservation).

The pipeline alignment parcels are generally zoned S-2 (Open Space/Preservation) with one parcel zoned STATE (APN 033-010-016).

The Viking Ranch restoration site and Old Kane Spring Road preservation site parcels are zoned General Rural (S92) in San Diego County.

ATTACHMENT B

Project Description

Environmental Setting: The project area, Viking Ranch restoration site, and Old Kane Springs Road preservation site are located within the Colorado Desert, marked by land with relatively low elevations, some areas even below sea-level. This area is characterized by a series of low-lying mountain ranges opening to the Salton Sea and Imperial Valley. The Quarry and project alignment are located in an undeveloped area at the northwest end of the Fish Creek Mountains, east of Split Mountain (part of the Vallecito Mountains) and along the southeast segment of the Fish Creek Wash. A portion of the northwest segment of the proposed pipeline alignment would cross Anza-Borrego Desert State Park.

The Quarry facilities, narrow-gauge railroad, and adjacent unpaved dirt access road are the only structures or infrastructure in the vicinity of the proposed project. The nearest residences are rural residences located approximately 2.5 miles north of the pipeline alignment at the nearest location, and approximately 3.7 miles northwest of Well No. 3.

The Viking Ranch parcels were primarily former agricultural land located within the Coyote Creek Wash. However, parcel 140-030-10-00 and the southwestern portion of parcel 140-030-11-00 are undeveloped and were not historically in agriculture. The Viking Ranch restoration site is bordered to the west, north, and east by the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park and to the south by privately-owned orchards. It is located at the base of Coyote Mountain, which is part of the Santa Rosa Mountains range. The nearest sensitive receptor is a rural residence located approximately 900 feet west of the southwest corner of the restoration site.

The Old Kane Springs Road preservation site is bisected by Old Kane Springs Road and an associated overhead power transmission line supported by wooden poles. It contains Sonoran mixed woody scrub and desert dry wash woodland with little non-native species. It is surrounded by undeveloped desert lands, some of which are privately owned, but the predominate ownership in the area is Anza-Borrego Desert State Park.

Project Summary: The proposed project consists of approval of a Conditional Use Permit from the County for the development of a new production well, Well No. 3, and an associated pipeline to provide water to the USG Quarry. Together, these three project components are referred to as the “project area”.

The development of Well No. 3, the associated pipeline, and the long-term operation and reclamation of the Quarry were part of United States Gypsum Company Expansion/Modernization Project (USG Expansion/Modernization Project). A Draft EIR/EIS was completed for the project in April 2006. On March 18, 2008, a Final EIR/EIS was certified by the Imperial County Board of Supervisors (Board) pursuant to the requirements of CEQA (SCH 200121133). As such, the potential environmental impacts of proposed Quarry expansion and reclamation and development of Quarry Well No. 3 were previously evaluated in the 2008 EIR/EIS. Additional land use entitlements from the County are not needed for mining and reclamation activities under the Quarry expansion. However, because Well No. 3 and the associated pipeline would provide water to support Quarry operations, the Subsequent Environmental Impact Report evaluated potential environmental impacts associated with mining and reclamation activities under the Quarry expansion, for full disclosure and to provide the appropriate CEQA compliance analysis and mitigation for responsible agencies.

This Subsequent Environmental Impact Report evaluated potential environmental impacts associated with the Viking Ranch site restoration and Old Kane Springs Road preservation actions, as proposed in the Habitat Mitigation and Monitoring Plan (Dudek 2021). USG identified the approximately 207-acre Viking Ranch site for restoration and the 121-acre Old Kane Spring Road site for preservation to provide compensatory mitigation for the impacts to 139 acres of water of the United States at the Quarry. Although the Viking Ranch restoration and Old Kane Spring Road preservation will not require entitlements from Imperial County the Subsequent Environmental Impact Report evaluated the environmental impacts of these actions for full disclosure and to provide the appropriate CEQA compliance analysis and mitigation for responsible agencies.