Public Scoping Report

Crystal Creek Aggregate Expansion Project

General Plan Amendment 19-0003 Zone Amendment 19-0002 Use Permit 19-0007 Reclamation Plan 19-0001

SCH No. 2019090702



November 2019



Department of Resource Management-Planning Division

PUBLIC SCOPING REPORT

CRYSTAL CREEK AGGREGATE EXPANSION PROJECT

General Plan Amendment 19-0003 Zone Amendment 19-0002 Use Permit 19-0007 Reclamation Plan 19-0001

SCH No. 2019090702

Lead Agency:



Department of Resource Management *Planning Division* 1855 Placer Street, Suite 103 Redding, CA 96001 (530) 225-5532

Technical Assistance By:

SHN Consulting Engineers and Geologists 350 Hartnell Avenue, Suite B Redding, CA 96002

November 2019

Table of Contents

Abbreviations and Acronymsii			
Section 1.0 Introduction		duction1	
	1.1	Scoping Report Organization	
	1.2	Purpose of an Environmental Impact Report	
	1.3	Purpose of Scoping	
	1.4	Summary of Proposed Project	
Section 2.0 Project Scoping		ct Scoping5	
	2.1	Notice of Preparation	
	2.2	Public Scoping Meeting	
	2.3	Tribal Consultation Pursuant to AB 52	
Section 3.0	Scop	ing Comments7	
	3.1	Comments Received	
	3.2	Issues and Concerns Raised During the Public Comment Period	
Section 4.0 Next Steps in EIR Process		Steps in EIR Process12	
	4.1	Guidelines for Commenting on the Draft EIR	
	4.2	Summary of EIR Events and Documentation	
Section 5.0 Appendi		ndices	
	Apper	ndix 5.1 Notice of Preparation	
	Apper	ndix 5.2 Scoping Meeting Materials	

- Appendix 5.3 Comment Letters Received in Response to NOP
- Appendix 5.4 AB 52 Notification Letters

Abbreviations and Acronyms

AB	Assembly Bill
BLM	Bureau of Land Management
CA	California
Caltrans	California Department of Transportation
CCA	Crystal Creek Aggregates, Inc.
CDFW	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
County	Shasta County
CVRWQCB	Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
DOI	United States Department of Interior
EIR	Environmental Impact Report
GPA	General Plan Amendment
MND	Mitigated Negative Declaration
mph	Miles Per Hour
MR	Mineral Resource (Land Use and Zoning Classification)
NAHC	Native American Heritage Commission
N-O	Natural Resource Protection-Open Space (Land Use Classification)
NOC	Notice of Completion
NOP	Notice of Preparation
PNA	Polynuclear Aromatic Hydrocarbons
PRC	Public Resources Code
RP	Reclamation Plan
SCH	State Clearinghouse
SCSD	Shasta Community Services District
SHN	SHN Consulting Engineers and Geologists
SR	State Route
U	Unclassified (Land Use Classification)
UP	Use Permit
ZA	Zone Amendment

Section 1.0 – Introduction

The environmental review of the Crystal Creek Aggregate Expansion Project (General Plan Amendment [GPA] 19-0003, Zone Amendment [ZA] 19-0002, Use Permit [UP] 19-0007, Reclamation Plan [RP] 19-0001) (State Clearinghouse [SCH] No. 2019090702) (herein referenced as the proposed project) is being conducted by the Shasta County Resource Management Department (County) and therefore is regulated by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) under California law. The intent of the public scoping process under CEQA is to initiate the public scoping for the Environmental Impact Report (EIR), provide information about the proposed project, and solicit information that will be helpful in the environmental review process. As part of the review process, the County will prepare an EIR, which will evaluate the potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed project and will identify mitigation measures to reduce these impacts, where possible.

The public scoping report for the proposed Crystal Creek Aggregate Expansion documents the issues and concerns expressed by members of the public, government agencies, and organizations during the September 2019 – November 2019 EIR public scoping period. The release of the Notice of Preparation (NOP) to prepare an EIR on September 30, 2019 initiated the County's 30-day public scoping period under CEQA. Due to the timing of the scoping meeting the County extended the comment period by seven (7) days to Friday, November 8, 2019. The comment period allowed the public and regulatory agencies an opportunity to comment on the scope and content of the environmental document, including the alternatives to be considered, and issues that should be addressed in the EIR.

This report is intended for use by the County in preparing the EIR as formal documentation of initial input received from governmental agencies, Tribes, and members of the public regarding the range of actions, alternatives, mitigation measures, and potential significant effects to be analyzed in depth in the EIR. It also provides access for other agencies and members of the public to see the comments received during the scoping period.

1.1 Scoping Report Organization

This scoping report includes four main sections and appendices, as described below:

- Section 1.0 provides an introduction to the report and describes the purpose of scoping and a brief overview of the Crystal Creek Aggregate Expansion Project.
- **Section 2.0** provides information on the scoping meeting and notification materials, including the NOP.
- Section 3.0 summarizes the comments received and highlights the key issues raised during the scoping comment period.
- Section 4.0 describes the next steps in the EIR process.
- **Section 5.0** contains appendices of this report, including the NOP, handouts and informational materials, and a copy of all comments received.

Appendices consist of all the supporting materials utilized by the County during the scoping process. These appendices include copies of the NOP and meeting materials provided at the public scoping meeting. They also include copies of the scoping comment letters received during the NOP public comment period.

1.2 Purpose of an Environmental Impact Report

CEQA requires the preparation of an EIR prior to approving any project that may have a significant effect on the environment. For the purposes of CEQA, the term "project" refers to the whole of an action, which has the potential for resulting in a direct physical change or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment (State *CEQA Guidelines* Section 15378[a]). Pursuant to CEQA's definition, the County has determined that the proposed Crystal Creek Aggregate Expansion is a "project," which has the potential for resulting in significant environmental effects. The purpose of the EIR is to review the existing conditions, analyze potential environmental impacts, and identify feasible mitigation measures to reduce potentially significant effects related to the proposed project.

An EIR is a public information document used in the planning and decision-making process. This projectlevel EIR analyzes the environmental impacts of the project. The Shasta County Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors will consider the information in the EIR, including the public comments and staff response to those comments, during the public hearing process. As a legislative action, the final decision is made by the Board of Supervisors, who may approve, conditionally approve, or deny the project. As provided in State *CEQA Guidelines* Section 15021, public agencies are charged with the duty to avoid or minimize environmental damage where feasible. The public agency has an obligation to balance a variety of public objectives, including economic, environmental, and social issues. The purpose of an EIR is to identify:

- The significant impacts of the project on the environment and indicate the manner in which those significant impacts can be avoided or mitigated;
- Any unavoidable adverse impacts that cannot be mitigated; and
- Reasonable and feasible alternatives to the project that would eliminate any significant environmental impacts or reduce the impacts to a less than significant level.

The EIR will also discuss and evaluate a range of project alternatives, potential growth-inducing impacts, impacts found not to be significant and cumulative impacts of the project.

CEQA requires an EIR to reflect the independent judgment of the lead agency with respect to impacts, disclose the level of significance of the impacts both with and without mitigation, and describe the mitigation measures proposed to reduce the impacts. A Draft EIR is circulated to responsible agencies, trustee agencies with resources affected by the project, and interested agencies and individuals. The review process gives both agencies and individuals an opportunity to share expertise, discuss agency analyses, check for accuracy, detect omissions, discover public concerns, and solicit mitigation measures and alternatives capable of avoiding or reducing the significant effects of the project, while still attaining most of the basic objectives of the project.

Reviewers of the forthcoming Draft EIR for the proposed Crystal Creek Aggregate Expansion project are requested to focus on the sufficiency of the document (i.e., the thoroughness of its identification and analysis of possible impacts on the environment as well as ways to avoid or mitigate such impacts). Comments are most helpful when they suggest better ways to avoid or mitigate significant environmental effects (e.g., through additional alternatives or mitigation measures).

1.3 Purpose of Scoping

The process of determining the focus and content of the EIR is known as scoping. Scoping helps to identify the range of actions, alternatives, environmental effects, and mitigation measures to be analyzed in depth, and eliminates from detailed study those issues that are not pertinent to the final decision on the proposed project. The scoping process is not intended to resolve differences of opinion regarding the proposed project or evaluate its merits. Instead, the process allows all interested parties to express their concerns regarding the proposed project and thereby ensures that all opinions and comments applicable to the environmental analysis are addressed in the EIR. Scoping is an effective way to bring together and address the concerns of the public, affected agencies, and other interested parties. Members of the public, relevant federal, State, regional and local agencies, interests groups, community organizations, and other interested parties may participate in the scoping process by providing comments or recommendations regarding issues to be investigated in the EIR.

Comments received during the scoping process are part of the public record as documented in this public scoping report. The comments and questions received during the public scoping process have been reviewed and considered by the County in determining the appropriate scope of issues to be addressed in the EIR. The purpose of the scoping for the Crystal Creek Aggregate Expansion project was to:

- Inform the public and relevant public agencies about the proposed project, CEQA requirements, and the environmental impact analysis process;
- Identify potentially significant environmental impacts for consideration in the EIR;
- Identify possible mitigation measures for consideration in the EIR;
- Identify potential alternatives to the proposed project for evaluation in the EIR; and
- Compile a mailing list of public agencies and individuals interested in future public hearings and notices.

1.4 Summary of the Proposed Project

The existing Crystal Creek Aggregate, Inc. (CCA) quarry is located in the community of Keswick, on the west side of Iron Mountain Road, approximately 1.5 miles north of the Intersection of Iron Mountain Road and State Route (SR) 299 West, and directly across from the intersection of Iron Mountain Road and Laurie Ann Lane (10936 Iron Mountain Road).

CCA was originally permitted in 1990 under Shasta County Use Permit UP-24-90 and Reclamation Plan 1-90. Subsequently in 2008 the following entitlements were approved; General Plan Amendment 07-005, Zone Amendment 07-020, Use Permit Amendment, UP-07-020, and Reclamation Plan Amendment RP-07-022. A Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) with findings as specifically set forth in Planning Commission Resolution Nos. 2008-066 and 2008-067 was also adopted to approve the various entitlements.

CCA is requesting to expand their existing aggregate mining operation and add an asphalt batch plant. The project would expand an approved mining use permit area of 110.24 acres and an approved reclamation plan area of 108.87 acres to 179.97 acres. The project would require a General Plan amendment from Natural Resource Protection-Open Space (N-O) to Mineral Resource (MR), and a Zoning Plan amendment from Unclassified (U) to Mineral Resource (MR). The EIR for the proposed project will address the following actions within an overall project area of 179.97 acres:

- General Plan Amendment of 28.46 acres from Open Space (N-O) to Mineral Resource (MR) so that Zone Amendment could be processed for approval of an area that would allow for expansion of the proposed project.
- Zone Amendment of 28.46 acres from Unclassified (U) to Mineral Resource (MR) necessary to be consistent with the General Plan Amendment and to allow the processing of a use permit allowing operational expansion.
- Amend Use Permit UP 07-20 to expand the mining area by 69.73 acres from 110.24 to 179.97 acres, expand hours of operation, increase yearly blasting maximums, modify quarry bench heights and widths, and to pert the installation and operation of a hot mix asphalt batch plant.
- Amend Reclamation Plan RP 07-022 to expand the Reclamation Plan area by 71.10 acres from 108.87 to 179.97 acres and to extend the estimated life of the mining operation by 150 years to year 2169.

Section 2.0 – Project Scoping

This section describes the methods used by the County to notify the public and agencies about the scoping process conducted for the proposed project. It outlines how information was made available for public and agency review and identifies the different avenues that were and are available for providing comments on the project (i.e., meetings, fax, email, mail, and phone).

2.1 Notice of Preparation

As required by State *CEQA Guidelines* Section 15082, the County issued a Notice of Preparation (NOP) on September 30, 2019 that summarized the proposed project, stated its intention to prepare an EIR, and requested comments from interested parties (refer to Appendix 5.1, NOTICE OF PREPARATION). The NOP was filed with the State Clearinghouse on September 30, 2019 (SCH No. 2019090702), which initiated the 30-day public scoping period. The NOP response period was extended for seven (7) days and ended on Friday, November 8, 2019. Nineteen (19) copies of the NOP were distributed to federal, State, regional, and local agencies. The NOP and all future proposed project-related documents are available for review at the information repository sites listed in Table 2-1, REPOSITORY SITES. The Draft EIR and technical appendices, once released for public review, will also be available for inspection at the Shasta County Library branches noted below in Table 2-1.

Repository Site	Location	Phone Number	Hours of Operation
Shasta County Department of	1855 Placer Street, Suite 103	(520) 225 5522	Monday – Friday
Resource Management	Redding, CA 96001	(530) 225-5532	8:00 am – 5:00 pm
	1100 Parkview Avenue Redding, CA 96001		Monday – Thursday
			10:00 am – 8:00 pm
Shasta County Library		(520) 245 7250	Friday – Saturday
Shasta County Library		(550) 245-7250	10:00 am – 6:00 pm
			Sunday
			1:00 pm – 5:00 pm
			Tuesday – Friday
			9:00 am – 6:00 pm
Shasta County Library –	3200 West Center Street Anderson, CA	(520) 265 7695	Saturday
Anderson Branch		(550) 505-7085	10:00 am – 2:00 pm
			Sunday – Monday
			Closed
Shasta County Website	https://www.co.shasta.ca.us/index/drm_	index/planning_index/eirs/crystal	l-creek-aggregate
Note: Repository sites noted abo	ove will also contain the forthcoming Draft E	IR and supporting technical apper	ndices.

Table 2-1 REPOSITORY SITES

2.2 Public Scoping Meeting

The County held a public scoping meeting on Friday, November 1, 2019 in the Public Works Conference Room at the Department of Resource Management that provided an opportunity for members of the public and government agencies to obtain more information on the proposed project and to ask questions regarding the proposed project, and to provide formal scoping comments. In addition, the scoping meeting served as an opportunity for attendees to provide guidance as to the scope and content of the EIR, including potential environmental impacts of concern and mitigation measures or alternatives that should be addressed. The merits of the project were not discussed at this meeting, nor were comments regarding approval or denial of the project. The notice for the meeting was mailed agencies that received a copy of the NOP and to surrounding property owners, including parcels the front Iron Mountain Road (generally from the existing mine to SR-299). The notice of the public scoping meeting was also posted on the County's website. The scoping meeting was held between 9:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Seven (7) members of the public attended the meeting. Handouts and informational materials made available at the scoping meeting are listed below (refer to Appendix 5.2, SCOPING MEETING MATERIALS).

- Sign-In Sheet
- Notice of Preparation
- Comment Cards

2.3 Tribal Consultation Pursuant to AB 52

Pursuant to the Assembly Bill (AB) 52 Tribal consultation process, CEQA lead agencies consult with tribes that are traditionally and culturally affiliated with the project area and that have requested consultation pursuant to Public Resources Code (PRC) Section 21080.3.1. The purpose of the consultation is to determine whether a proposed project may result in a significant impact to tribal cultural resources that may be undocumented or known only to the tribe and its members. As set forth in PRC Section 21080.3.1(b), the law requires:

Prior to the release of a negative declaration, mitigated negative declaration, or environmental impact report for a project, the lead agency shall begin consultation with a California Native American tribe that is traditionally and culturally affiliated with the geographic area of the proposed project if: (1) the California Native American tribe requested to the lead agency, in writing, to be informed by the lead agency through formal notification of proposed projects in the geographic area that is traditionally and culturally affiliated with the tribe, and (2) the California Native American tribe responds, in writing, within 30 days of receipt of the formal notification, and requests the consultation.

The County's AB 52 contact list consists of Native American tribes that had submitted written requests for notification of CEQA projects within their geographic area of traditional and cultural affiliation as of October 7, 2019, when the County initiated consultation. The County sent a letter by certified mail on October 7, 2019 to the Wintu Tribe of Northern California and Toyon-Wintu Center. Return receipts for the certified letters indicate the letters were delivered on October 7, 2019. The County received no response to the letter.

Section 3.0 – Scoping Comments

This section summarizes the comments raised by the public and agencies during the scoping process for the Crystal Creek Aggregate Expansion Project EIR. This summary is based upon both written and oral comments that were received during the NOP public review period that circulated from September 30, 2019 through November 8, 2019. All written and oral comments received during the public comment period for the NOP were reviewed for this report, including comments received during the public scoping meeting, and those comments submitted via email.

3.1 Comments Received

A total of twelve (12) comment letters were received during the scoping process, and seven (7) individuals provided oral comments during the November 1, 2019 scoping meeting. Five (5) government agencies and seven (7) members of the public submitted written comments. Section 3.2, below, discusses the key issues that were raised during the scoping process. Appendix 5.3, COMMENT LETTERS RECEIVED IN RESPONSE TO THE NOP, contains all comment letters from government agencies, private organizations, and members of the public received during the scoping period in their original format as submitted by the commenter.

Government Agencies

California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) – October 29, 2019 California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) – November 1, 2019 (email) Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (CVRWQCB) – October 29, 2019 Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) – October 29, 2019 United States Department of the Interior (DOI), Bureau of Land Management (BLM) – October 29, 2019 (email)

Members of the Public

Kristy Ortega Sandi Shearer Robert Richardson John Deaton Kurt and Nydia Schuhmeier Darcy and Ted Goldsmith Marci Fernandes

3.2 Issues and Concerns Raised During the Comment Period

As discussed above, written and oral comments and suggestions were provided by members of the public, organizations, and government agencies. The discussion below presents a summary of key issues identified from the written and oral comments received on the proposed project during the scoping period.

In general, the summary comments noted below have been, in large part, paraphrased with a focus on key issues of concern, questions and general comments/suggestions. Where one or more comments address a similar issue or concern, those comments were combined together and summarized to

minimize redundancy. Appendix C presents all written comments received from the general public, government agencies, and private organizations in their original format as submitted to the Shasta County Department of Resource Management. The specific issues raised during the public scoping process are summarized below according to topic.

Aesthetics

- Concerns related to light and glare impacts associated with the proposed batch plant.
- Headlight trespass associated with nighttime truck traffic.
- Concerns related to the overall visual impacts of the proposed expansion.
- What will the increased light pollution be?
- Will there be more flood lights added to their property?

Air Quality / Odors & Health Risks

- Concerns were raised regarding the proposed location and overall operation of the batch plant. It was recommended that the batch plant utilize the latest best available technology to control odors.
- Questions were raised regarding the methodology for modeling air quality and odor emissions.
- Fugitive dust control during mining operations.
- What are the possible forms of cancer that may result from living near an asphalt plant?
- What impact would the toxic fumes have on air quality for the elementary school students that go to school three miles (south west) away in Shasta?
- What are the possible birth defects that an unborn child could develop due to living in close proximity to an asphalt plant?
- What impact will an asphalt plant have on the air quality for sensitive groups living nearby?
- What impact will any increased mining/blasting have on the air quality? For sensitive groups, will this further impact air quality for them? What are the negative impacts to health for sensitive groups living in the area? Sensitive groups include the elderly, immunocompromised, babies, those living with existing respiratory issues like asthma, and those with allergies to dust and fumes.
- How significant could the odor of an asphalt batch plant be for those living in the vicinity? Will this odor trigger allergies or asthma?
- What neurological problems can result from living near an asphalt batch plant? For a developing fetus? For a small child?
- Is there an increased risk of brain illness and dementia as a result of exposure to the chemicals in this production?
- Is there an increased risk of cancer?
- Is there an increased risk of respiratory illness?
- What will be the effect on humans from the released pollutants from the asphalt plant?
- Will the increased dust lead to an increased cost for homeowners to have to more frequently change filters in AC and heating units?
- Odors could stop the rebuilding of the Keswick Community.

Biological Resources

• What impact will this have on the returning wildlife in the Carr Fire burn area?

- What impact will the development of this plant, and the fumes have on future vegetation recovery in the Carr Fire burn scar area?
- How might this adversely affect the vegetation that did survive the Carr Fire, near the proposed operations?
- Will any living vegetation need to be removed?
- What impact could this have on the air quality for vegetation with regards to pollinators? Could this be harmful for bees in the area? To other native pollinators?
- What will the released pollutants do to the vegetation, including locally grown nearby gardens that homeowners grow for their own food?
- What will the effect of those released pollutants be on the fish, reptiles, amphibians, mammals and birds that live in the area?
- Spread of non-native invasive species.
- Also, see October 29, 2019 letter submitted by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW).

Cultural Resources

- Concerns related to impacting known and unknown cultural resources.
- The importance of coordinating with the Tribes was highlighted.

Hazards & Hazardous Materials

- Concerns regarding the safe storage of onsite hazardous materials and explosives and the need to ensure that no environmental impacts (to humans and wildlife) would occur based on the long-term storage and use of such materials onsite.
- What chemicals could be expected to end up Middle Creek, Rock Creek, and then in the Sacramento River from this operation?
- Will Pollutants such as Benzene, formaldehyde, Arsenic, bitumen, Polynuclear Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PNAs) and other toxic cancer causing carcinogens will leach into the nearby creeks and the Sacramento River? Will it leach into the water table?
- What are the long-term impacts when the mine is closed?

Hydrology & Water Quality

- Surface water impacts to Middle Creek. Concerns were raised of increased onsite erosion due to the Carr Fire as several small onsite tributaries carry surface flows to Middle Creek.
- Long-term groundwater impacts related to blasting and excavation activities.
- Concerns regarding blasting to result in long-term groundwater impacts. Do not repeat Iron Mountain Mine.
- Evaluate the anticipated water quality of the mine pit lake so appropriate water management protocols can be designed and implemented.
- What toxins can be expected to leach into the soil and into the underground water?
- Impacts to nearby groundwater wells and surface water features.
- Also, see October 29, 2019 letter submitted by the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (CVRWQCB).

Noise & Vibration

- The analysis should address the impacts of blasting vibrations on adjacent properties, including foundations.
- What will the increased noise pollution be? Will there be added noise on the weekends? Will there be added noise in the evenings?
- General concerns regarding blasting being more intense when compared to existing operations.
- The existing baseline noise should considered that fact that much of intervening trees were destroyed by the Carr Fire resulting in the removal of natural noise barriers.

Recreation

- Existing trails on adjacent BLM parcels, particularly to the west along French Fry Trail should be considered in the analysis, including aesthetics and air quality.
- Concerns regarding truck/bicyclist interface along Iron Mountain Road. Iron Mountain Road is very popular with road bikers, and many mountain bikers use the stretch of Iron Mountain Road adjacent to Crystal Creek Aggregate to connect French Fry and Trail 58/Middle Creek in a loop.
- The EIR should address potential impacts of the project on recreation in the area, including mountain biking, road biking, and hiking. Potential impacts include aesthetic impacts from clearing and mining, noise from blasting, odor from the proposed asphalt plant, increased runoff/turbidity to Middle Creek or Rock Creek, dust generation, and increased truck traffic along Iron Mountain Road.
- The project should consider potential mitigation measures, such as building and maintaining an alternate bike route to Iron Mountain Road that connects the French Fry and Trail 58 trailheads (potentially along the historic railroad grade).

Traffic & Circulation

- Will there be an increase for vehicle accidents on Iron Mountain Road, given the increase in large vehicles and trucks to haul the materials? The road is narrow and windy in many parts and the speed limit is 45 mph. Will adding more on the road cause increased traffic problems?
- Is the increased traffic going to be a problem for the school buses that have routes along Iron Mountain Road? The driveway of CCA is a designated bus stop for the Shasta Union Elementary School District. Will this be safe for children to have a bus stop at the driveway of an asphalt plant?
- Will there be increased traffic crossing Iron Mountain Road near the site?
- Existing bicycle safety issue along Iron Mountain Road should be considered in the traffic assessment and include upgrading of warning signs to better warn and educate the motoring public of on-road bicyclists.
- Increase in truck traffic along Iron Mountain Road.
- Impacts to cyclists utilizing State Route 299 in the vicinity of Iron Mountain Road.
- The cumulative truck traffic associated with the recent expansion of the Weyerhaeuser lumber yard.
- Dangerous existing condition of the State Route 299 and Iron Mountain Road intersection.
- Recommendation to provide improvements at the State Route 299 and Iron Mountain Road intersection that includes widening to accommodate turn pockets and appropriate lane tapers. See November 1, 2019 email provided by Caltrans.

Utilities & Service Systems

- Where will this plant get water to run its operation? Will they impact the Shasta Community Service District water?
- The analysis should address increased demands on water services. Can Shasta Community Services District (SCSD) provide service to current and future customers with implementation of the proposed project?

Wildfire

• What steps would be taken to make the area safe from any fires which could be caused by an asphalt batch plant given the combustible nature of the materials?

Recommended Mitigation Measures

- Recommendation 1. At the existing sign located on *northbound* Iron Mountain Road (near the turnoff from SR-299/Eureka Way) replace the SHARE THE ROAD and BICYCLE LOGO signs with California Highway Manual sign R117(CA) PASS 3-FT MIN. *The existing signpost should be suitable.*
- Recommendation 2. Install a signpost with the same signage as Recommendation 1, after the *southbound* lane passes through the industrial area (between the industrial area and SR-299). *This will likely require a new signpost.*
- Recommendation 3. Install SHARE THE ROAD sign with a BICYCLE LOGO sign near and on both sides of Rock Creek and Middle Creek bridges. The signs taken down in Recommendation 1 could be reused for one of these four installations. *Existing signposts might be suitable for all of these signs*.
- Recommendation 4. To help mitigate the cumulative effects of traffic on Iron Mountain Road, install a signpost with the same signage discussed in Recommendations 1 and 2, close to the Keswick Boat Ramp exit, between the exit and SR-299. *Existing signposts might be suitable for this sign*.

Other Questions, Concerns & Comments

- Need for the EIR to balance the analysis and not just highlight the positive aspects of the project.
- Concerns regarding loss of property values associated with the increased quarry operations.
- Impacts to mental health in an area where residents are dealing with depression from the Carr Fire.
- Residences along Keswick Dam Road to Lake Boulevard should be notified of the project.
- The Use Permit for the facility should be revisited every 20 years rather than approving it for over 100 years.

Section 4.0 – Next Steps in the EIR Process

The Draft EIR will be subject to a minimum 45-day review period by responsible and trustee agencies and interested parties. Section 15087 of the State *CEQA Guidelines* lists optional procedures for noticing, including publication in a newspaper, posting onsite, or mailing to owners of a property or properties contiguous to the site. In accordance with the provision of Section 15085(a) and Section 15087(a)(1) of the State *CEQA Guidelines*, as amended, the County, serving as the Lead Agency, will: 1) publish a notice of availability of a Draft EIR in the Record Searchlight, a newspaper of general circulation, and 2) will prepare and transmit a Notice of Completion (NOC) to the State Clearinghouse (SCH) (proof of publication will be available at the Shasta County Department of Resource Management, Planning Division).

Any public agency or members of the public desiring to comment on the Draft EIR must submit their comments in writing to the individual identified on the document's NOC prior to the end of the public review period. During the public review period, the County will hold a regularly scheduled public hearing regarding the Draft EIR. The public will be afforded the opportunity to orally comment on the Draft EIR at the public hearing. Such comments shall be recorded and shall have the same standing and response requirements as written comments provided during the public review period. Upon the close of the public review period, the County will then proceed to evaluate and prepare responses to all relevant oral and written comments received from both citizens and public agencies during the public review period.

4.1 Guidelines for Commenting on the EIR

The purpose of the public review of the Draft EIR is to evaluate the adequacy of the environmental analysis in terms of compliance with CEQA. Section 15151 of the State *CEQA Guidelines* states the following regarding standards from which adequacy is judged:

An EIR should be prepared with sufficient degree of analysis to provide decision-makers with information which enables them to make a decision which intelligently takes account of environmental consequences. An evaluation of environmental effects of a proposed project need not be exhaustive, but the sufficiency of an EIR is to be reviewed in light of what is reasonable feasible.

Section 15204(a) of the State CEQA Guidelines provides guidance to assist members of the public and public agencies in preparing comments on a Draft EIR. Section 15204.5(a) states:

In reviewing draft EIRs, persons and public agencies should focus on the sufficiency of the document in identifying and analyzing the possible impacts on the environment and ways in which the significant effects of the project might be avoided or mitigated.

Comments are most helpful when they suggest additional specific alternatives or mitigation measures that would provide better ways to avoid or mitigate the significant environmental effects. At the same time, reviews should be aware that the adequacy of an EIR is determined in terms of what is reasonably feasible, in light of factors such as the magnitude of the project at issue, the severity of its likely environmental impacts, and the geographic scope of the project. CEQA does not require a Lead Agency to conduct every test or perform all research, studies, or experimentation recommended or demanded by commenters. When responding to comments, lead agencies need only respond to significant environmental issues and do not need to provide all information requested by reviewers, as long as a good faith effort at full disclosure is made in the EIR.

Pursuant to the State *CEQA Guidelines*, and effect is not considered significant in the absence of substantial evidence; therefore, comments should be accompanied by factual support. Section 15204(c) of the State *CEQA Guidelines* states:

Reviewers should explain the basis for their comments, and, should submit data or references offering facts, reasonable assumptions based on facts, or expert opinion supported by facts in support of the comments. Pursuant to Section 15064 an effect shall not be considered significant in the absence of substantial evidence.

4.2 Summary of EIR Events and Documentation

While scoping is the initial step in the environmental review process, additional opportunities to comment on the project EIR will be provided. The County will provide for additional public input when the Draft EIR is released for public review, and during the public meetings for the Draft EIR. Table 4-1, EIR EVENTS AND DOCUMENTATION, below presents the proposed timeline for the proposed Crystal Creek Aggregate Expansion environmental review process, and identifies where in the process the public and agencies can provide additional input in the environmental review process. Please note that the dates below are preliminary in nature and subject to change.

Ev	ent	Purpose	Date	
Completed Events and Documentation				
Notice of Preparation	Release of NOP	Notified interested parties and agencies of the County's intent to prepare an EIR.	September 30, 2019	
	Public Review Period	NOP public/agency review period to provide for public comments on the scope of the EIR.	September 30 th to November 8, 2019	
Public Scoping Meeting	One Public Scoping Meeting was Held	Presented information on the project and provided opportunity for agency comments in a public forum.	November 1, 2019	
Scoping Report for CEQA NOP Process	Submittal of Scoping Meeting Report	Reported public and agency comments on the proposed project and environmental issues of concern. This report includes comments made during the scoping process.	November 2019	
		Upcoming Events, Documentation, and Approximate Date	rs	
Draft EIR	Release of Draft EIR	Draft EIR Notice of Completion is filed with the State Clearinghouse. EIR presents analysis of impacts and proposes mitigation measures for the proposed project and alternatives brought forward for analysis. Includes other required analysis per CEQA.	April 2020	
	Public Review Period	45-day minimum CEQA-required public review period.	April – May 2020	
Final EIR	Release of Final EIR	Final EIR issued by the County, including responses to public comments.	July 2020	
	Decision on the Project	Should the County certify the Final EIR, a Notice of Determination is filed with the State Clearinghouse.	September 2020	
Notes: 1. The NOP was mailed to federal, State, and local regulatory agencies.				

Table 4-1 EIR EVENTS AND DOCUMENTATION

2. Refer to the County's website for specific EIR document dates:

https://www.co.shasta.ca.us/index/drm_index/planning_index/eirs/crystal-creek-aggregate

Section 5.0 – Appendices

Appendix 5.1 Notice of Preparation

Appendix 5.2 Scoping Meeting Materials Meeting Notice Comment Card Sign-In Sheet

Appendix 5.3 Comment Letters Received in Response to NOP Government Agencies Members of the Public

> Appendix 5.4 AB 52 Notification Letters

Appendix 5.1 Notice of Preparation

NOTICE OF PREPARATION

TO:	State Clearinghouse	FROM:	County of Shasta
	State Responsible Agencies		Shasta County Dept. of Resource Management,
	State Trustee Agencies		Planning Division
	Other Public Agencies		
	Interested Organizations	CONTACT:	Lio Salazar, Senior Planner
	Members of the Public		1855 Placer Street, Suite 103
			Redding, CA 96001
			(530) 225-5532

SUBJECT: Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Crystal Creek Aggregate Expansion Project (General Plan Amendment 19-0003, Zoning Plan Amendment 19-0002, Use Permit Amendment 19-0007, and Reclamation Plan Amendment 19-0001)

Shasta County is the Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and is preparing an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the project identified as the Crystal Creek Aggregate Expansion Project.

Attached to this Notice of Preparation (NOP) are a description of the probable environmental effects of the project (Attachment 1) and a detailed project description (Attachment 2), including a map indicating the location of the project area and relevant project related maps and figures.

The EIR will consider all substantive environmental issues which are raised by responsible agencies, trustee agencies, other interested agencies, and members of the public or related groups during the NOP process, and will analyze these potential effects in detail and to the extent necessary to make a determination on the level of significance of such effects. Discussion of those environmental effects determined to result in no impact or a less-than-significant impact will be limited to a brief explanation in the EIR of why those effects are not considered potentially significant.

The following agencies may be a Trustee Agency and/or Responsible Agency for the proposed project, or have other jurisdiction/interests concerning the proposed project.

United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) United States Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) United States Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) United States Bureau of Land Management (BLM) California Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire) California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) California Department of Resources and Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) California Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) California Division of Mine Reclamation (DMR) California Division of Occupational Safety and Health (Cal OSHA) Shasta County Resource Management Agencies (Air Quality, Environmental Health, Building, Fire) Shasta County Department of Public Works (DPW) Shasta County Sheriff's Department (Sheriff) Shasta Community Services District (SCSD) Shasta Union High School District (SUHSD) Redding School District (RSD) City of Redding (COR)

Whether your agency is or is not listed above we need to know the views of your agency or organization as to the scope and content of the environmental information germane to your agency's statutory responsibilities or of interest to your organization in connection with the proposed project. Specifically, we are requesting the following:

- 1. Identify potentially significant environmental effects, alternatives, and recommended mitigation measures that you believe need to be explored in the EIR with supporting discussion of why you believe these effects may be significant.
- 2. Describe special studies and other information that you believe are necessary in order for the County to analyze the potentially significant environmental effects, alternatives, and recommended mitigation measures you have identified.
- 3. Provide the name, title, and telephone number of the contact person from your agency or organization that we can contact regarding your comments.
- 4. If you are a public agency, state if your agency will be a responsible or trustee agency for the project and list the permits or approvals from your agency that will be required for the project and its future actions.

Due to the time limits mandated by State law, your response must be received by the County of Shasta by the following deadlines:

- For responsible and trustee agencies, not later than 30 days after you receive this notice,
- For all other agencies, organizations, and individuals not later than 30 days from publication of this Notice of Preparation. The 30-day review period ends on Tuesday, October 29, 2019.

If we do not receive a response from you/your agency or organization within the applicable time frame, we will presume that you/your agency or organization has no response.

A responsible agency, trustee agency, or other public agency may request a meeting with Shasta County or its representatives in accordance with Section 15082(c) of the CEQA Guidelines. Electronic copies of the NOP are available by clicking on the Crystal Creek Aggregate Expansion Project link on the Shasta County Department of Resource Management homepage at:

http://www.co.shasta.ca.us/index/drm index/planning index/eirs.aspx.

Please provide your responses and any direct questions to the attention of Lio Salazar, Senior Planner, via mail/delivery to Shasta County Department of Resource Management, Planning Division, 1855 Placer Street, Suite 103, Redding, CA 96001 or via e-mail to lsalazar@co.shasta.ca.us. Phone (530) 225-5532.

Date: 9/30/19 Lio Salazar, Senior Planner

POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF THE CRYSTAL CREEK AGGREGATE EXPANSION PROJECT

Project Location and Setting:

The project site is an existing quarry located in the community of Keswick, on the west side of Iron Mountain Road, approximately 1.5 miles north of the Intersection of Iron Mountain Road and State Highway 299 West, and directly across from the intersection of Iron Mountain Road and Laurie Ann Lane (10936 Iron Mountain Road). Detailed location information including coordinates and a map indicating the location of the project area provided in the attached detailed project description.

The existing quarry is located in an industrial area in the community of Keswick. Surrounding land uses consist of industrial to the east, low-density residential to the north and southeast, and undeveloped land to the south and west.

The topography of the existing quarry floor has been made relatively flat by the removal of the aggregate material. The existing bowl shaped quarry face extends upslope and to the west from the quarry floor with horizontal benches having been or to be established as excavation proceeds to the extent of the existing quarry boundary. There is an approximate 200-foot change in elevation from the existing quarry floor to what would be the top of the quarry face based on the current mining plan.

The project site is located within the boundary of the 2018 Carr Fire. Prior to the area being impacted by the Carr Fire, the primary vegetation type present in unmined portions of the project site and vicinity was predominantly knob cone pine and chaparral with scattered oaks and ponderosa pine. In areas where the fire burned with lesser intensity, the composition of species remains as it existed prior to the fire. Currently, in unmined portions of the project site and vicinity where the fire burned with greater intensity, vegetation consists mostly of secondary successional vegetation.

Project Description:

Crystal Creek Aggregate (CCA) proposes to expand their existing aggregate mining operation established at the project site in 1990 and subsequently expanded in 2008, and add an asphalt batch plant. The proposal would expand an approved mining use permit area of 110.24 acres and an approved reclamation plan area of 108.87 acres to 179.97 acres, in conjunction with General Plan and Zoning Plan amendments from Natural Resource Protection – Open Space (N-O) to Mineral Resource (MR) and from Unclassified (U) to Mineral Resource (MR), respectively. The overall Project area within which general plan, zoning plan, use permit and reclamation plan amendment approvals are requested is 179.97 acres.

The attached detailed project description narrative provides background information; an overview of the proposed project entitlement application approvals being sought; detailed descriptions of the proposed entitlements (including relevant figures); and discussions regarding reclamation plan objectives, phasing, prescriptions, additional policies, and CEQA Project Objectives.

Aesthetics:

The project would increase the permitted post-mining bench height from 24 feet to 40 feet and extend said benches up to the top of the existing ridgeline exposing a series of 40-foot-high vertical walls of rock, the buff color of which would contrast with the adjacent grey-green vegetated area. The bench tops would be planted with native trees and shrubs as part of the proposed reclamation plan. Reclamation would occur in phases, but for periods of time and/or until reclamation vegetation is established some rock faces would be exposed.

The EIR will provide an assessment and determination regarding the significance of the aesthetic impacts of the project.

Agriculture and Forestry Resources

The project site may include timberland as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g). If the project site includes timberland, the project may result in the conversion of timberland if the proposed post reclamation conditions would forestall the ability of said timberlands to be managed for one or more forest resources, including timber, aesthetics, fish and wildlife, biodiversity, water quality, recreation, and other public benefits.

The EIR will provide an assessment and determination regarding the significance of Agriculture and Forestry Resources impacts of the project.

Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Emissions:

The project would generate or increase construction and operational air contaminant and greenhouse gas emissions, including dust from construction and mining operations, diesel emissions from on- and off-road vehicles and equipment, and diesel and process emissions, including odor, from the asphalt batch plant. These emissions would have the potential to impact regional and local air quality in the vicinity of the project site and to contribute to impacts on global climate.

The EIR will provide an assessment and determination regarding the significance of Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Emissions impacts of the project.

Biological Resources:

The project may impact terrestrial, avian, and wetland or other hydrologic habitat that survived the Carr Fire or is currently recovering from the Carr Fire, including potential habitat for candidate, sensitive, and special-status species.

The EIR will provide an assessment and determination regarding the significance of Biological Resources impacts of the project.

Cultural Resources:

The project would involve physical disturbance to ground surface and sub-surface components in conjunction with aggregate quarrying and mining activities. Such activities have the potential to impact cultural resources that may be located within the project site.

The EIR will provide an assessment and determination regarding the significance of Cultural Resources impacts of the project.

Energy:

The project would involve the use of diesel fuel, electricity, and other sources of energy during construction and operations.

The EIR will provide an assessment and determination regarding the significance of Energy impacts of the project.

Geology and Soils:

The project would expose soils to potential erosion, modify the topography of the site and increase blasting to the extent that the geologic stability of the site may be impacted, and would alter geographic features present at the site.

The EIR will provide an assessment and determination regarding the significance of Geology and Soils impacts of the project.

Hazards and Hazardous Materials:

The project would involve construction and operations that would involve the use and/or transport of potentially hazardous materials, including asphalt cement (a product of crude oil), diesel fuel, lubricants, and other industrial materials.

The EIR will provide an assessment and determination regarding the significance of Hazards and Hazardous Materials impacts of the project.

Hydrology and Water Quality:

The project would alter the drainage pattern upslope of the existing quarry and expand a post reclamation open water pond at the quarry floor. Soils exposed and/or disturbed by mining would be a potential source of polluted storm water run-off which if discharged from the site could impact downstream surface water quality.

The EIR will provide an assessment and determination regarding the significance of Hydrology and Water Quality impacts of the project.

Land Use and Planning:

The project proposes General Plan and Zoning Plan amendments from Natural Resource Protection – Open Space (N-O) to Mineral Resource (MR) and from Unclassified (U) to Mineral Resource (MR), respectively.

The EIR will provide an assessment and determination regarding the significance of Land Use and Planning impacts of the project.

Mineral Resources:

The project would expand the development and extraction of aggregate material, a mineral resource of value to the Region and State, and facilitate production of asphalt. These products could provide a public benefit to the Region and State through their potential use in public works projects.

The EIR will provide an assessment and determination regarding the significance of Mineral Resources impacts of the project.

Noise:

The project would introduce new temporary and long-term noise sources (asphalt plant construction and operations) and increase production of noise from existing sources (as a result of increased maximum and average yearly aggregate production and blasting).

The EIR will provide an assessment and determination regarding the significance of Noise impacts of the project.

Public Services:

The project site is served by the Shasta Community Services District (domestic and fire protection water), Shasta County Fire Department (fire protection and emergency medical services), and Shasta County Sheriff's Department (law enforcement).

The EIR will provide an assessment and determination regarding the significance of Public Services impacts of the project.

Transportation:

The project would increase maximum and annual average production of aggregate material and introduce the production of a new product (asphalt), including the import of material to be recycled for use in producing asphalt. Transport of materials to and from the site would result in increased use of public roads and intersections, including State Highway 299 West.

The EIR will provide an assessment and determination regarding the significance of Transportation impacts of the project.

Tribal Cultural Resources:

The project is located within the Wintu Tribe of Northern California's (Tribe) geographic area of traditional and cultural affiliation (GATCA). In accordance with Public Resources Code section 21080.3.1, the Tribe has requested formal notice of and information on projects proposed within the Tribe's GATCA for which Shasta County will serve as lead agency in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

The project would involve physical disturbance to ground surface and sub-surface components in conjunction with aggregate quarrying and mining activities. Such activities have the potential to impact tribal cultural resources that may be located within the project site.

In accordance with the requirements of Assembly Bill (AB) 52, and more specifically Public Resources Code section 21080.3.1, Shasta County will provide notice of, and information regarding, the project to the Tribe. If the Tribe requests consultation within 30 days of notification, consultation will be initiated by Shasta County and proceed in accordance with the requirements of AB52.

The EIR will provide an assessment and determination regarding the significance of Tribal Cultural Resources impacts of the project.

Utilities and Service Systems:

The project would alter the existing drainage pattern of the site which could require or result in the relocation, alteration, or new construction of storm water drainage facilities on- or off-site. The project

would increase maximum and average annual production. Construction activities and increased production could increase the generation of solid waste from the project site.

The EIR will provide an assessment and determination regarding the significance of Utilities and Service Systems impacts of the project.

Wildfire:

The project site is located in a very high fire hazard severity zone and would involve the use of heavy equipment on steep vegetated slopes and industrial production processes that involve high heat inputs.

The EIR will provide an assessment and determination regarding the significance of Wildfire impacts of the project.

Cumulative Impacts:

The probable impacts of the project may be individually limited, but cumulatively considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects.

The EIR will provide an assessment and determination regarding the significance of Cumulative Impacts of the project.

CRYSTAL CREEK AGGREGATE PROJECT DESCRIPTION NARRATIVE

Crystal Creek Aggregate (CCA) proposes to expand their existing aggregate mining operation established in 1990 at their current location in Shasta County on Iron Mountain Road, approximately one mile northeast of State Route 299 W (refer to **Figure 1, Project Location**). The operation would expand from an approved use permit area of 110.24 acres and a reclamation plan area of 108.87 acres to 179.97 acres. The overall Project area is 179.97 acres within which general plan, zoning, use permit and reclamation plan amendments approvals are requested. This Project Description Narrative provides background information; an overview of the proposed project entitlement application approvals being sought; detailed descriptions of the proposed entitlements; and discussions regarding reclamation plan objectives, phasing, prescriptions, additional policies, and CEQA Project Objectives.

BACKGROUND

CCA was originally permitted in 1990 under Shasta County Use Permit UP-24-90 and Reclamation Plan 1-90. Subsequently in 2008 the following entitlements were approved; General Plan Amendment 07-005, Zone Amendment 07-020, Use Permit Amendment, UP-07-020, and Reclamation Plan Amendment RP-07-022.¹ A California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Mitigated Negative Declaration with findings as specifically set forth in Planning Commission Resolution Nos. 2008-066 and 2008-067 was also adopted to approve the various entitlements. A Property Line Adjustment 06-034 was approved on May 17, 2006.

In the early 1990s, CCA recognized that the aggregate reserves remaining within their existing land ownership could potentially be depleted by 2010. CCA began to evaluate the potential of acquiring adjacent lands owned by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) due to the known geology of the area along with the proven quality of the aggregate material. CCA initiated an exchange for 225 acres owned by BLM adjacent to the CCA operation. The exchange was possible since it conformed to the *Redding Resource Management Plan* (RMP) approved in July 1993. The decision to approve the land exchange was issued on May 11, 2004. An environmental assessment under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) was prepared and a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) decision was also made on May 11, 2004.

After CCA was able to obtain the 225 acres from BLM, application was made in July 2007 to Shasta County for the following entitlements:

- Amend the General Plan land use designation of two parcels totaling approximately 115 acres from *Natural Resource Protection Open Space (N-0)* to *Mineral Resource (MR)*;
- Rezone the same 115 acres from *Unclassified* (U) to *Mineral Resource* (MR) zone district;
- Amend the Use Permit for an existing quarry mining operation to extend the termination date of the operation from February 22, 2010 to December 31, 2072, and to expand the quarry area from 53.57 acres to 110.24 acres; and,
- Amend the Reclamation Plan to include expansion of the quarry by 56.67 acres.
- While not an entitlement requiring discretionary action by either the Planning Commission or Board of Supervisors, the Property Line Adjustment was necessary to separate the Reclamation Plan and Use Permit area from other properties owned by the Comingdeer Family.

¹ All the entitlements were approved by the Planning Commission on June 12, 2008 whereas, the General Plan and Zone Amendments were also approved, as required by State law, by the Board of Supervisors on August 5, 2008.

Of the 225 acres acquired from BLM, 115 acres were amended from *Public Land (PL)* to the *Mineral Resource (MR)* General Plan land use classification and rezoned from *Unclassified (U)* district to *Mineral Resource (MR)* district. Within the 115 acres, CCA proposed to mine 56.67 acres. This additional area approved to be mined would have extended the life of the operation another 65 years beyond 2007 to December 31, 2072. Production of up to 250,000 tons per year was approved to occur in six phases encompassing approximately ten years per phase, except for the last phase which was for 15 years. Estimates for completion of each phase were calculated based on the volume which could be sold at maximum production during an average ten year period. However, the actual completion of each phase was not time dependent since the depletion of permitted reserves was based on market demand.

CCA sells about twenty aggregate products. These products include base rock, drain rock, decorative stone, riprap, structural backfill, sand, plaster sand and specialty products. The stone products are desired due to their attractive surfaces and the sand is requested for its attractive golden color. The specialty products are utilized by businesses/public agencies for projects such as golf courses, walking paths and landscaping. A local company uses the sand as a component of a product used as substitute pavement for asphalt surfaced parking lots. The market area for some of CCA's products ranges from Portland, Oregon to the San Francisco Bay Area.

CCA plant facilities include a rock crushing/screening plant, washing operation, mobile office trailer (14 feet by 70 feet), truck scales, diesel fuel storage tanks of 1,000 and 20,000 gallons, one waste oil tank of 350 gallons, two motor oil and one lubricating oil tanks (90 gallons each), and five settling and two recycle ponds. A Reclamation Plan addresses the reclamation of the existing and proposed mined and processing areas. Based on the *County Assessors Annual Production Report* submitted by CCA between the year 1990 and 2017, gravel sold ranged between a low of approximately 48,000 tons in 1990 and a high of approximately 270,000 tons in 2001. CCA employment base is currently comprised of eight full-time and one part-time employee.

PROPOSED PROJECT APPLICATIONS

Crystal Creek Aggregate's proposed project application to Shasta County is for the following actions which involves an overall Project area of 179.97 acres:

- General Plan Amendment of 28.46 acres from *Open Space (N-O)* to *Mineral Resource (MR)* so that a Zone Amendment could be processed for approval of an area that would allow for expansion of the current Project (refer to **Figure 3**).
- Zone Amendment of 28.46 acres from *Unclassified* (*U*) to *Mineral Resource* (*MR*) necessary to be consistent with the General Plan Amendment and to allow the processing of a use permit allowing operational expansion (refer to **Figure 3**).
- Use Permit UP 07-20 Amendment to expand the mining area by 69.73 acres from 110.24 to 179.97 acres, expand hours of operation, increase yearly blasting maximums, modify quarry bench heights and widths, and to permit the installation and operation of a hot mix asphalt batch plant (refer to **Use Permit Maps, 3 Pages**).
- Reclamation Plan RP 07-022 Amendment to expand the Reclamation Plan area by 71.10 acres from 108.87 to 179.97 acres and to extend the estimated life of the mining operation by 150 years to Year 2169 (refer to **Reclamation Plan Maps, 6 Pages**).

PROPOSED GENERAL PLAN AND ZONE AMENDMENTS

To be consistent with the requested General Plan land use classification of *Mineral Resource (MR)*, a zone amendment from the *Unclassified (U)* zone district to the *Mineral Resource (MR)* zone district is also requested for 28.46 acres located within current Assessor Parcel No. 065-250-025 which currently encompasses 110.18 acres. The General Plan and Zone Amendments would be compatible with the existing general plan and zoning of the CCA plant operation which is *Manufacturing – Interim Mineral Resource* overlay (*M-IMR*). These requested entitlements are supported by the *1997 Mineral Land Classification for Shasta County* by the State of California Department of Conservation that classified the existing operation and adjacent lands to the west and south as *Mineral Resource Zone Category MRZ-2* "wherein lands classified as MRZ-2 are areas that contain identified mineral resources." The classification extends beyond the limits of the proposed Reclamation Plan and Use Permit Amendment area. Approval of the *Mineral Resource (MR)* land use classification and zone district designation also provide for land use compatibility with the existing operation. Furthermore, this action preserves and protects a mineral resource of regional and local importance to meet the future needs of the North State and in particular Shasta County.

PROPOSED USE PERMIT & RECLAMATION PLAN AMENDMENTS

As previously discussed, CCA proposes the expansion of CCA operations to 179.97 acres, based on the Reclamation Plan and Use Permit Amendments. However, CCA does not propose additional structures other than the hot mix asphalt batch plant; moving the locations of the existing scales and office, crushing and screen plant, primary and secondary entrances/exits, or creating new settling or recycle wash ponds; or removal of additional aggregate beyond the projected 450,000 CYs (900,000 tons) to be extracted and processed per year.

The addition of a hot mix asphalt batch plant is proposed due to anticipated future market demand in the area and to provide "one stop" aggregate and asphalt related supply material services at a location where access to the west, east south and north is available, particularly for projects along the SR 299 corridor. Furthermore, locating aggregate and asphalt concrete materials at one location reduces vehicle miles traveled not only in the Redding, Anderson and Shasta Lake areas, but throughout Shasta County since aggregate is not hauled to an off-site asphalt plant.

Hot Mix Asphalt (HMA) is created by mixing and heating aggregate with asphalt oil. The type of asphalt plant proposed is a drum mix type that will be powered by propane gas which produces significantly less nitrogen oxide (NOX) emissions (approximately 76 percent less), sulfur dioxide (SO2) emissions, and some hazardous air pollutants (HAPs) than an oil fired plant.² This process is a continuous mixing type process whereby the dryer is used, not only to dry the material, but also to thoroughly mix the heated and dried aggregates with the liquid asphalt cement. After mixing, the mixture is discharged at the end of the drum and is conveyed to HMA silos where the asphalt is stored. Use Permit Maps, Page 3 of 3, conceptually illustrates an asphalt plant configuration.

The CCA mining, crushing, screening and washing operations will function as they currently do except the mining area will be expanded to the west and south to create a quarry area of approximately 102 acres. The pond in the quarry will increase in surface area from 23.5 acres to 66.85 acres. Likewise, the ponds depth will be lowered by 100 feet from the previously approved pond bottom elevation of 700 feet to a proposed elevation of 600 feet. The five existing five settling ponds will remain and the two water recycling ponds will be filled in once aggregate from the quarry is depleted and as part of final Project site reclamation.

² EPA. December 2000. Tables 5 and 8. Hot Mix Asphalt Plants Emission Assessment Report

The additional area to be mined will extend the life of the operation another 97 years beyond the currently approved 2072 termination year based on removal of 37,290,000 CYs. However, CCA requests that there be no fixed termination date and instead utilize the removal of up to the 37,290,000 CYs of aggregate as the basis for determining when the mining operation would cease. It is anticipated that extraction will occur in 11 phases encompassing approximately ten years per phase, except for the last phase which could be 15 years. Estimates of completion of each phase are calculated based on the volume which could be sold based on maximum production over a average ten year period. However, as previously noted, actual completion of each phase is not time dependent since the depletion of permitted reserves is based on market demand.

The overburden and topsoil stockpile areas contain material stripped from the quarry as well as reject material from the crushing and screening operation which includes fines generated by the wash plant. Since reclamation is dependent on the availability of finished benches, there could be up to five years' worth of material stored at any given time. Both topsoil and overburden stockpile areas will be subject to best management practices for erosion control to be specified in the Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) for the operation. The topsoil and overburden stockpile area will be sited to facilitate reclamation.

Table 1, Reclamation Plan & Use Permit Amendments, Current & Proposed Uses & Operational Changes provides a synopsis of the current operational requirements and those proposed by the Reclamation Plan and Use Permit amendments. Table 1 provides a comparison between the existing and proposed uses and associated areas, hours of operation, annual and total volume of aggregate extraction, and the proposed asphalt batch plant yearly output, etc.

TABLE 1			
RECLAMATION PLAN & USE PERMIT AMENDMENTS CURRENT & PROPOSED USES & OPERATIONAL CHANCES & REOUREMENTS			
Current	Proposed		
Reclamation Plan area – 108.87 acres	Reclamation Plan area – 179.97 acres		
Use Permit area $- 110.24$ acres ³	Use Permit area – 179.97 acres		
Quarry Mining area – 47.2 acres	Quarry Mining area – 102 acres		
Uses:	Uses:		
1. Aggregate mining	1. Aggregate mining		
2. Aggregate crushing, screening, and washing ⁴	2. Aggregate crushing, screening, and washing		
3. Loading & off-site sale of sand, gravel & rock	3. Loading & off-site sale of sand, gravel & rock		
4. Material stockpiling	4. Material stockpiling		
5. Importation of topsoil to the Project site	5. Importation of topsoil to the Project site		
6. Blasting	6. Blasting		
	7. Asphalt plant – Manufacture 200,000 tons of asphalt concrete (AC)		
	8. Use of reclaimed asphalt pavement (RAP) when required ⁵		
	9. Use of rubberized asphalt concrete (RAC) when required ⁶		
	10. Importation and recycling of 50,000 cubic yards (CY)		
	of used concrete or AC when required		

³ The difference in acreages is due to the June 12, 2008 Staff Report for UP 07-020 to the Planning Commission identifying an area of 110.24 acres, whereas, the Reclamation Plan Maps identify a 108.87 acre area. The difference is insignificant.

⁴ Use Permit Minor Modification UP 07-020 M1 and Reclamation Plan Minor Modification RP 07-002 M1, dated May 16, 2012 ⁵ Caltrans may require a certain percentage of RAP in the production of AC.

⁶ Caltrans and some cities and counties may require a certain percentage of RAC in the production of AC.

TABLE 1 RECLAMATION PLAN & USE PERMIT AMENDMENTS CURRENT & PROPOSED USES & OPERATIONAL CHANGES & REOUIREMENTS			
Current	Proposed		
Volume of aggregate to be mined – 7.96 MCYs or 15,92 MTs	Volume of aggregate to be mined – 37.29 million cubic yards (MCYs) or 74.58 million tons (MTs)		
Maximum permitted annual tonnage of processed aggregate is limited to 125,000 CYs (250,000 tons)	Maximum annual tonnage of processed aggregate to be limited to 450,000 CYs (900,000 tons)		
Average volume of aggregate mined – 100,000 CYs (200,000 tons) – not a permit requirement	Average volume of aggregate mined – 250,000 CYs (500,000 tons)		
Importation of material restriction 50,000 CYs (100,000 tons) of topsoil/year	Importation of material restriction50,000 CYs (100,000 tons) of topsoil/year		
Mining termination date – December 31, 2072	Mining termination date – June 15, 2169		
Maximum quarry bench size – 22 ft. high by 30 ft. wide	Maximum quarry bench size – 40 ft. high x 40 ft. wide		
Employees – 8 full-time & 1 part-time	Employees – 14 full-time & 1 part-time		
 Mining hours of operation: 6 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday – Saturday PST 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday – Friday PDT 6 a.m. to 5 p.m. – Saturday PDT 	 Mining hours of operation: 6 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday – Saturday PST 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday – Friday PDT 6 a.m. to 5 p.m. – Saturday PDT Asphalt batch plant hours of operation: Only during PST – 24 hours per day – Sunday evening/ Monday morning except for Saturday evening/Sunday morning. No restrictions for public works projects Blasting per year – 40 times only between 9:30 a.m. & 		
to 3:30 p.m., Monday – Friday	3:30 p.m., Monday – Friday with minimum two-week notice to the Planning Division		
Truck traffic on Iron Mountain Road:Average 45 round trips.Maximum 220 round trips.	Truck traffic on Iron Mountain Road:To Be Determined		
Agreement for extraordinary maintenance of Iron Mountain Road	Agreement with the Department of Public Works for extraordinary maintenance of Iron Mountain Road		
Wetland mitigation – 1.8 acres of marshes, wetland & riparian habitat (SMARA requires a minimum mitigation ratio of 1:1)	Wetland mitigation – To Be Determined		
Originally approved for propane – converted to PG&E power in 2011	PG&E power		

As previously discussed, the existing pond in the quarry will increase in surface area from approximately 23.5 acres to 66.85 acres and the depth will be lowered by 100 feet. The existing five settling ponds will remain and the two water recycling ponds will be filled in once aggregate from the quarry is depleted and as part of final Project site reclamation. For accuracy and completeness, it should be noted that the existing ponds and the expansion of the quarry pond are not regulated as "waters of the United States" pursuant to the federal Clean Water Act (CWA). Regulatory guidance from 1986 on, now adopted as part of the 2015 "Definition of 'Waters of the United States." The Rule is in force in California, and excludes the following features:

• Artificial, constructed lakes or ponds created by excavating and/or diking dry land such as farm and stock watering ponds, irrigation ponds, settling basins, log cleaning ponds, cooling ponds, or fields flooded for rice growing

• Water-filled depressions created in dry land incidental to mining or construction activity, including pits excavated for obtaining fill, sand or gravel that fill with water (80 FR 37098)

The above descriptions apply to not only the; quarry pond, the five settling ponds and two recycling ponds but also to the various water-filled depressions throughout the Project site created by the existing mining operation. CCA proposes retaining the ponds, but not the depressions, and adding and protecting riparian habitat around the ponds as part of the project's reclamation plan. Because they are not federally regulated, this can be accomplished without first securing CWA authorization.

Wildland Resources Managers prepared the July 2019 "Biological Review Crystal Creek Aggregate Mine Expansion, Shasta County, California" which identifies the ponds. The report provides detailed information about "the present conditions of soils, vegetation, wetlands, [and] wildlife habitats," including how the project area was affected by the Carr fire. This information helps fulfill CEQA's goal of disclosing relevant information about the baseline conditions. Project impacts on these features does not depend on whether they are subject to particular government jurisdiction.⁷

Reclamation Plan Topics

As previously noted, the proposed Use Permit Amendment also requires an amendment to the currently approved Reclamation Plan. The Reclamation Plan describes the final post-reclamation condition of the site and the procedures which will be employed to reclaim the site. The Reclamation Plan addresses the following topics some of which are discussed in this Project Description.

- Reclamation Objectives
- Existing Conditions
- Establishment of Test Plots
- Phasing
- Reclamation Prescriptions
- Post-vegetation Monitoring
- Additional Reclamation Policies

Reclamation Plan Objectives

There are two types of end use objectives for the Project site resulting in different reclamation prescriptions. There is the eastern plant site area of 46.29 acres and the middle and western Project area of 133.68 acres. These prescriptions are as follows:

<u>Industrial Use Area</u>: The eastern area will be reclaimed to industrial uses after mining operations terminate. This end use would be consistent with both the current and proposed general plan land use designation and zoning classification.

<u>Mineral Reserve Area</u>: The middle and western side of the Project site will be reclaimed as a mineral reserve area. This use is consistent with the California Department of Conservation's classification of the site as *Mineral Resource Zone (MRZ-2)*.

⁷ The report is on file with the Shasta County Planning Division.

The reclamation program primary objectives are to; (a) establish a new visually pleasing vegetative cover that provides future fire protection; (b) stabilize the finished mined surfaces and prevent erosion; and, (3) revegetate with plant species adapted to this locale.

<u>Phasing</u>

The purpose of phasing for this Reclamation Plan Amendment is to divide the progression of mining into clearly identifiable mining segments since the depletion of permitted reserves is based on market demand, which is difficult to forecast. This allows reclamation to be started as soon as finished mining surfaces are completed and no longer needed by the operation except under certain circumstances. An example would be a quarry bench where finished grade is reached and the bench is resoiled and vegetated, except in areas on the bench where access by employees and equipment still needs to access a future mining area phase.

Phasing allows for reclamation to be started as soon as each segment is completed. The newly established vegetation will grow even as mining continues, minimizing visible indications of the activities and resulting in a variety of vegetation patterns surrounding the larger 66.85 acre quarry pond. Phasing also assists responsible and trustee agencies to determine compliance with the Reclamation Plan since reclamation areas are specifically defined. **Reclamation Plan Maps, Page 4 of 6** provides an overview of the phasing.

Table 2, Mining Phases & Volumes identifies the proposed 11 phases and associated volume of material based on the extraction and processing of 450,000 CYs (900,000 tons) per year.

TABLE 2 MINING PHASES & VOLUMES (Million Cubic Yards)			
Phase	Reserves	Cumulative Total	
1	2.68	2.68	
2	2.77	5.45	
3	2.29	7.75	
4	2.27	10.02	
5	2.30	12.31	
6	2.72	15.03	
7	2.15	17.18	
8	2.79	19.97	
9	1.80	21.77	
10	2.94	24.71	
11	12.59	37.29	

Phases 1 through 10 contain 24,700,000 CYs of aggregate, about 66 percent of the resource, located in the quarry that is above the pond surface. Phase 11 is the mine area below the 66.85 acre pond surface that contains 12,590,000 CYs of aggregate (34%). Mining begins in Phase 1 and terminates in Phase 10. However, Phase 11 "located" under the 10 phases can be mined at any time during the Reclamation Plan period since the mining of Phase 11 is dependent on the need for the particular type of rock sought for construction activities. Mining operational issues, such as coordination of dewatering activities with mining and the blending of surface and below surface materials, also influence the timing for removing aggregate in Phase 11. Phases 1 through 10 have nearly equal amounts of reserves, which vary between 2,150,000 CYs to 2,940,000 CYs.

Reclamation Prescriptions

Reclamation prescriptions deal with various operational components which include the plant site, quarry benches and their revegetation, ponds, and reclamation within the plant area, such as removing equipment that will not be utilized for future permitted industrial uses, clean up, final grading, filing of the recycle ponds, and post vegetation monitoring. The revegetation of benches provides a fulfillment of one of the primary objectives of the reclamation program to establish a new visually pleasing vegetative cover that provides future fire protection.

A Revegetation Plan for the quarry benches was prepared to create, not only an aesthetically pleasing reclamation feature, but to also establish a fire resistant plant community on the quarry benches.⁸ The 2018 Carr Fire devastated most of the vegetation and homes in the area efforts need to be undertaken not to repeat the event that occurred. The reclamation plan presents an opportunity to lower the fire danger in the area.

One of the main methods to achieve this goal is to eliminate fuel ladders where fire proceeds from lower vegetation into the crowns of trees. By reducing the amount of flammable material present (fuel load) this reduces the spread of fires. To achieve these goals brush species are eliminated from the plant pallet. In its place, the planting of ponderosa pines, grasses and forbs is proposed. Ponderosa pines were selected since they are indigenous to the area and grow in many locations. The trees will be initially planted with 8 foot by 8 foot spacing and then thinned out at a future date. The final upland bench planting would be pines trees spaced 20 to 30 feet apart with grasses and forbs as the understory species. The spacing of the trees reduces, not only the fuel load, but also the fuel ladder which could result in fire spreading from one tree to the other. The grasses and forbs pallet include plants required for erosion control.

Also addressed as a reclamation prescription is to establish a self-sustaining population of wetland/riparian vegetative species on the waterside of the lowest final bench, within 16 feet of the water's edge around the shoreline of the new quarry pond. Clusters of native willows and cottonwoods would be planted along the pond bank. Average spacing of the clusters are to be 110 feet on-center with 6 to 10 trees per cluster. Rock jetties would be placed along the bank and woody debris would be placed along the waterline, where feasible.

Additional Reclamation Policies

Additional reclamation policies address erosion and sediment control policies, topsoil and overburden policies, and other specific final reclamation procedures dealing with interior haul roads, stockpiles, general plant areas to be reclaimed and monitoring.

CEQA PROJECT OBJECTIVES

In accordance with State CEQA Guidelines §15124(b), a clear statement of objectives and the underlying purpose of the project shall be discussed. The project applicant has identified the following objectives for the proposed project:

1. Provide a comprehensively planned project that will continue to accommodate projected growth in construction related activities and related services, and also serve to help meet the current and future demands for Portland cement concrete grade aggregate and asphalt materials in Shasta County and the north state.

⁸ Wildland Resource Managers. May 2019. Revegetation Plan for Crystal Creek Aggregate Mine Expansion, Shasta County California. On file with the Shasta County Planning Division.

- 2. Expand an existing aggregate mining operation located in a known Mineral Resource Zone Category MRZ-2 "wherein lands classified as MRZ-2 are areas that contain identified mineral resources" as identified in the 1997 Mineral Land Classification for Shasta County by the State of California Department of Conservation.
- 3. Expand the existing aggregate mining operation to permit the installation and operation of a hot mix asphalt batch plant to provide "one stop" aggregate and asphalt related supply material services at a location in close proximity to the State Highway System whereby access is available to the west, east south and north and particularly for projects along the SR 299 corridor.
- 4. Expand the existing aggregate mining operation that continues to be compatible and complimentary of the existing open space areas immediately to the south, west and northwest of the project site and the industrial uses to the northeast and east of the project site.
- 5. Contribute to the improvement of the Shasta County economy by expanding a project that will increase sales taxes.





1_1

FIGURE 1 – PROJECT LOCATION






PUB

FIGURE 3 – EXISTING & PROPOSED GENERAL PLAN & ZONING DISTRICT

e







P:\Projects\18.000 Jobs\18.068\DWG\PLAN - USE PERMIT 8/27/2019











ME_VISIONS Model Exconences For procession Exconences Model Exconences Model Exconences	THE SUPERVISION OF: Crystal Creek Aggregate, Inc. Cross Section A-A Cross Section A-A	 10. 29430 行う 11. 10. 29430 行う 12. 11. * 11. 11. 11. 11. 11. 11. 11. 11. 11. 11.
---	--	---



刧 却 却 却 却 却 却 却 却 却 别 \mathbf{U} 却 \mathbf{U} 和 \mathbf{U} 和 \mathbf{U} 和 \mathbf{U} 和 初 初 初 \mathbf{U} 和 \mathbf{U} 和 \mathbf{U}







CUMULATIVE (MCY)	2.68	5.45	7.75	10.02	12.31	15.03	17.18	19.97	21.77	24.71	37.29
VOLUME (MCY)	2.68	2.77	2.29	2.27	2.30	2.72	2.15	2.79	1.80	2.94	12.59
AREA (ACRES)	20.48	20.10	10.36	10.10	8.32	8.44	7.13	6.98	8.56	10.04	66.79
SE											





Appendix 5.2 Scoping Meeting Materials

Meeting Notice

NOTICE OF PUBLIC EIR SCOPING MEETING AND REQUEST FOR WRITTEN SCOPING COMMENTS REGARDING THE CRYSTAL CREEK AGGREGATES EXPANSION PROJECT

PROJECT TITLE: Crystal Creek Aggregate Expansion Project (General Plan Amendment 19-0003, Zoning Plan Amendment 19-0002, Use Permit Amendment 19-0007, and Reclamation Plan Amendment 19-0001) **APPLICANT**: Crystal Creek Aggregate Inc. 10936 Iron Mountain Road Redding, CA 96001. **PROJECT LOCATION**: The project site is located on an existing quarry located in the community of Keswick, on the west side of Iron Mountain Road, approximately 1.5 miles north of the intersection of Iron Mountain Road and State Highway 299 West. The project site includes Assessor's Parcel numbers 065-250-002-000, 065-250-024-000, 065-250-025-000, 065-250-026-000, 065-260-010-000.



Shasta County is the Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and is preparing an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the project identified as the Crystal Creek Aggregate Expansion Project. Crystal Creek Aggregate, Inc. proposes to expand their existing aggregate mining operation and add an asphalt batch plant. The project would expand an approved mining use permit area of 110.24 acres and an approved reclamation plan area of 108.87 acres to 179.97 acres. The project would require a General Plan amendment from Natural Resource Protection-Open Space (N-O) to Mineral Resource (MR), and a Zoning Plan amendment from Unclassified (U) to Mineral Resource (MR).

The purpose of the scoping meeting is to solicit guidance as to the scope and content of the EIR, including potential environmental impacts of concern and mitigation measures or alternatives that should be considered.

The probable environmental effects of the project include, but are not limited to, aesthetics, biological resources, greenhouse gas emissions, land use, traffic, forestry resources, cultural resources, hazards & hazardous materials, public services, tribal cultural resources, air quality, geology/soils, hydrology/water quality, noise, and utilities/services systems. A detailed project description is included in the Notice of Preparation filed with the California State Clearinghouse on September 30, 2019. The Notice of Preparation of an EIR can be reviewed at:

https://www.co.shasta.ca.us/docs/libraries/resource-management-docs/eir/crystal-creekaggregate/nopclearinghousemailer.pdf

A copy of the Notice of Preparation can also be reviewed or obtained at the Shasta County Dept. of Resource Management, Planning Division located at 1855 Placer Street, Suite 103, Redding, CA 96001.

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING NOTICE: Shasta County will hold a public scoping meeting for agencies and individuals to learn more about the CEQA process for this project, and to receive comments about the scope and content of the EIR, including what potential environmental impacts of the project should be addressed in depth in the EIR. The merits of the project will not be discussed at this meeting, nor will comments regarding approval or denial of the project. No decision to approve or deny the project will be made at this meeting. The meeting will be held Friday November 1, 2019 at 9:00 AM, in the Shasta County Department of Public Works Conference Room, located at 1855 Placer Street.

WRITTEN SCOPING COMMENTS: The written scoping comment period for this project is extended until Friday November 8, 2019. Send all direct questions and all written comments to the project contact, Tara Petti, Assistant Planner, at the Shasta County Department of Resource Management, Planning Division, 1855 Placer Street, Suite 103, Redding, CA 96001, or via e-mail at tpetti@co.shasta.ca.us. Ms. Petti may be contacted for additional information at (530) 225-5532.

Comment Card



SCOPING SUGGESTIONS/COMMENTS

CRYSTAL CREEK AGGREGATE EXPANSION PROJECT EIR (GPA 19-0003, Zone Amendment 19-0002, UP 19-0007, Reclamation Plan 19-0001)

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: September 30 – November 8, 2019 COMMENT DEADLINE: November 8, 2019 at 5:00 p.m.

NOTE: Name, address and phone number are not required in order to provide a comment. You are not limited to utilizing this comment card and comments may be submitted to the County in any written manner.

Name:

Agency (if applicable):

Mailing Address:

Email:

Comments (continue on back):

Submit this card or other written comments to:

SHASTA COUNTY

Department of Resource Management

Planning Division 1855 Placer Street, Suite 103 Redding, CA 96001 Attention: Tara Petti, Assistant Planner Email: tpetti@co.shasta.ca.us Comments (continued):

Sign-In Sheet



CRYSTAL CREEK AGGREGATE EXPANSION PROJECT EIR (GPA 19-0003, Zone Amendment 19-0002, UP 19-0007, Reclamation Plan 19-0001)

SIGN-IN SHEET

SCOPING MEETING November 1, 2019

9:00 AM

SHASTA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF RESOUCE MANAGEMENT Public Works Conference Room 1855 Placer Street Redding, CA 96001

11.	10.	9.		7.	6.	<u></u> .	4.		2.	1.	
Rob Dellamonica	Jorry Contractor	Ayla Tucker	RussWenham	Bonnie Lanupley	Herr Hall-	John Deaton	Diego P. Ortegn	Nydia Schuhmeier	Kupt Schuhmeier	Barre (creve	NAME
11028 Bud Ln.	10986 from Mt. Rl	10893 granite br.	(GH2)	3590 Iron Ct. Shester lake	10525 Rel BILERd.	825 Leisha Lanc	11052 Iron Mountain Rel.	11052 Iron Mountain Rd	1/052 IRON ME. RD CA	SHO	ADDRESS
530-949-8583	530 244-7263	530-004-0192	530 242 1700	530 -275-4800	530-524-8481	530.238.7005	530-215-54/7	58-227-1437	530 246-7740	530.221.5424	PHONE
robby dellamonica a gravite con	Jerne crystatiele vegregate.	atiatuciler & Yahoo.con	russ wentame ghd. c	blangley@lwrnc.com		longeye @ hotmail.com		Aschulympier @ Ack. Com		Lavoura Ann-engrican	E-MAIL

28.	27.	26.	25.	24.	23.	22.	21.	20.	19.	18.	17.	16.	15.	14.	13.	12.	
-		:									Han Fieselu	Java Petti	Paul Hellman	TINEADU	DUANE Miller	Sandi Shinner	NAME
										C	Shaster County	Shasta County	Shasta County	CAZ ASECU	P.0 Fox 1807 A.	3404 Crisne Dr. R.d.	ADDRESS
													96000	9785 DCT 224.081	10 94007 530 J	ding 96001 530-949-0	PHONE
				:										10	65 5610 DJ	0039 br.	E-N
		2												VAZ PLANNING. CA	ANC Q DKmcs/	adand Sandie Charter, n	1AIL
				I		1	1	1	1	1		<u>I</u>		¢ Z	1 2. Con	A	

Appendix 5.3 Comment Letters Received in Response to NOP **Government Agencies**

From: Phillips, Ashley [mailto:amphillips@blm.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2019 2:15 PM
To: Lio Salazar <<u>lsalazar@co.shasta.ca.us</u>>
Subject: Fwd: BLM Interested Agency for Clear Creek

Hello Lio Salazar,

In response to notice of the <u>NOP for the EIR</u>, please keep Charles Wright and Ashley Phillips as point of contacts for the BLM.

Charles Wright, Supervisory Realty Specialist BLM Redding Field Office 6640 Lockheed Drive Redding, CA 96002 <u>cwright@blm.gov</u> 530-224-2120

Ashley Phillips, Planning & Environmental Specialist BLM Redding Field Office 6640 Lockheed Drive Redding, CA 96002 amphillips@blm.gov 530-224-2140

While the BLM is not responsible or trustee, we are an interested agency and would like to receive updates regarding this project. Initial concerns may include an adjoining archeological site (The Kett Site), visual impacts, spread of non-native invasive species (indirect impact), and increased noise and fugitive dust.

Thank you for notice of the scoping meeting this Friday at 9:00A.M.

Regards,

Ashley M. Phillips

Planning & Environmental Specialist U.S. Department of the Interior | Region 10 Bureau of Land Management - Redding Field Office 6640 Lockheed Drive Redding, CA 96002

Phone: 530-224-2140 Email: <u>amphillips@blm.gov</u> <u>https://www.blm.gov/</u> NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION Cultural and Environmental Department 1550 Harbor Blvd., Suite 100 West Sacramento, CA 95691 Phone: (916) 373-3710 Email: <u>nahc@nahc.ca.gov</u> Website: <u>http://www.nahc.ca.gov</u> Twitter: @CA_NAHC

October 29, 2019

Tana Petti Shasta County

VIA Email to: TPetti@co.shasta.ca.us

RE: Native American Consultation, Pursuant to Senate Bill 18, Government Code §65352.3 and §65352.4, Crystal Creek Aggregate Expansion Project EIR (GPA 19-003), Shasta County

Dear Ms. Petti:

Attached is a consultation list of tribes with traditional lands or cultural places located within the boundaries of the above referenced counties.

Government Code §65352.3 and §65352.4 require local governments to consult with California Native American tribes identified by the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) for the purpose of avoiding, protecting, and/or mitigating impacts to cultural places when creating or amending General Plans, Specific Plans and Community Plans.

The law does not preclude initiating consultation with the tribes that are culturally and traditionally affiliated within your jurisdiction. The NAHC believes that this is the best practice to ensure that tribes are consulted commensurate with the intent of the law.

The NAHC also believes that agencies should also include with their notification letters, information regarding any cultural resources assessment that has been completed on the area of potential effect (APE), such as:

- 1. The results of any record search that may have been conducted at an Information Center of the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS), including, but not limited to:
 - A listing of any and all known cultural resources that have already been recorded or are adjacent to the APE, such as known archaeological sites;
 - Copies of any and all cultural resource records and study reports that may have been provided by the Information Center as part of the records search response;
 - Whether the records search indicates a low, moderate or high probability that unrecorded cultural resources are located in the APE; and
 - If a survey is recommended by the Information Center to determine whether previously unrecorded cultural resources are present.



- 2. The results of any archaeological inventory survey that was conducted, including:
 - Any report that may contain site forms, site significance, and suggested mitigation measures.

All information regarding site locations, Native American human remains, and associated funerary objects should be in a separate confidential addendum, and not be made available for public disclosure in accordance with Government Code §6254.10.

- 3. The result of the Sacred Lands File (SLF) check conducted through the Native American Heritage Commission was <u>positive</u>. Please contact the Redding Rancheria on the attached list for more information.
- 4. Any ethnographic studies conducted for any area including all or part of the APE; and
- 5. Any geotechnical reports regarding all or part of the APE.

Lead agencies should be aware that records maintained by the NAHC and CHRIS are not exhaustive. A tribe may be the only source of information regarding the existence of a tribal cultural resource.

This information will aid tribes in determining whether to request formal consultation. In the event, that they do, having the information beforehand will help to facilitate the consultation process.

If you receive notification of change of addresses and phone numbers from tribes, please notify the NAHC. With your assistance, we are able to assure that our consultation list remains current.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at my email address: Nancy.Gonzalez-Lopez@nahc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

1 muy Sompley

Nancy Gonzalez-Lopez Staff Services Anlayst

Attachment

Native American Heritage Commission Tribal Consultation List Shasta County 10/29/2019

Redding Rancheria

Jack Potter, Chairperson 2000 Redding Rancheria Road Pit River Redding, CA, 96001 Wintu Phone: (530) 225 - 8979 Yana Fax: (530) 241-1879 melodieh@redding-rancheria.com

Winnemem Wintu Tribe

Caleen Sisk, Chief 14840 Bear Mountain Road Wintu Redding, CA, 96003 Phone: (530) 229 - 4096 caleenwintu@gmail.com

Wintu Tribe of Northern

 California

 Wade McMaster, Chairperson

 P.O. Box 995
 Wintu

 Shasta Lake, CA, 96019

 Phone: (530) 605 - 1726

 Fax: (530) 605-1727

 wintu.tribe1@gmail.com

This list is current only as of the date of this document. Distribution of this list does not relieve any person of statutory responsibility as defined in Section 7050.5 of the Health and Safety Code, Section 5097.94 of the Public Resources Code and Section 6097.98 of the Public Resources Code and section 5097.98 of the Public Resources Code.

This list is only applicable for consultation with Native American tribes under Government Code Sections 65352.3 and 65352.4 et seq for the proposed Crystal Creek Aggregate Expansion Project EIR (GPA 19-003), Shasta County.



CALIFORNIA FISH & WILDLIFE <u>State of California – Natural Resources Agency</u> DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE Northern Region 601 Locust Street Redding, CA 96001 www.wildlife.ca.gov

October 29, 2019

Lio Salazar, Senior Planner Shasta County Department of Resource Management Planning Division 1855 Placer Street, Suite 103 Redding, CA 96001

Subject: Review of the Notice of Preparation for the Crystal Creek Aggregates Expansion Project, General Plan Amendment 19-0003, Zoning Plan Amendment 19-0002, Use Permit Amendment 19-0007, and Reclamation Amendment Plan 19-0001, State Clearinghouse Number 2019090702, Shasta County

Dear Mr. Salazar:

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) has reviewed the Notice of Preparation (NOP) of the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the above-referenced project (Project) dated August 28, 2019. The Department appreciates this opportunity to comment on the Project, relative to impacts to biological resources.

The Department is a Trustee Agency pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). As the 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 necessary for biologically sustainable populations of those species (Fish & G. Code §§ 1801 and 1802). As the Trustee Agency for fish and wildlife resources, the Department provides requisite biological expertise to review and comment upon CEQA documents and makes recommendations regarding those resources held in trust for the people of California.

The Department may also assume the role of Responsible Agency. A Responsible Agency is an agency other than the Lead Agency that has a legal responsibility for carrying out or approving a project. A Responsible Agency actively participates in the Lead Agency's CEQA process, reviews the Lead Agency's CEQA document and uses that document when making a decision on a project. The Responsible Agency must rely on the Lead Agency's CEQA document to prepare and issue its own findings regarding a project (CEQA Guidelines §§ 15096 and 15381). The Department most often becomes a Responsible Agency when a Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement (Fish & G. Code § 1600 et. seq.) or a California Endangered Species Act (CESA) Incidental Take Permit (ITP) (Fish & G. Code § 2081(b)) is needed for a project. The Department relies on the CEQA document prepared by the Lead Agency to make a finding and decide whether to issue the permit or agreement. It is important that the Lead Agency's Environmental

Conserving California's Wildlife Since 1870

Impact Report (EIR) considers the Department's Responsible Agency requirements. For example, CEQA requires the Department to include additional feasible alternatives or feasible mitigation measures within its powers that would substantially lessen or avoid any significant effect a project would have on the environment (CEQA Guidelines § 15096(g)(2).

The Department offers the following comments and recommendations on this Project in our role as a Trustee and Responsible Agency.

Project Description and Location

The Project "proposes to expand their existing aggregate mining operation established at the project site in 1990 and subsequently expanded in 2008, and add an asphalt batch plant. The proposal would expand an approved mining use permit area of 110.24 acres and an approved reclamation plan area of 108.87 acres to 179.97 acres, in conjunction with General Plan and Zoning Plan amendments from Natural Resource Protection – Open Space (N-O) to Mineral Resource (MR) and from Unclassified (U) to Mineral Resource (MR), respectively. The overall Project area within which general plan, zoning plan, use permit and reclamation plan amendment approvals are requested is 179.97 acres."

The Project is located at 10936 Iron Mountain Road, Redding, California on Assessor's Parcel Numbers 065-250-002, -024, -025, -026, and 065-260-010.

Comments and Recommendations

To enable Department staff to adequately review and comment on the proposed Project, we recommend the following information be included in the DEIR, as applicable.

1. A complete assessment of the flora and fauna within and adjacent to the Project area should be conducted, with particular emphasis upon identifying special-status species including rare, threatened, and endangered species as well as fire followers, which can take up to two years to bloom after a fire. This assessment should also address locally unique species, rare natural communities, and wetlands. The assessment area for the Project should be large enough to encompass areas potentially subject to both direct and indirect Project affects. Both the Project footprint and the assessment area (if different) should be clearly defined and mapped in the DEIR. If previous surveys have been conducted, they should be less than two years old and conducted during the appropriate blooming time for plants and when wildlife would be most active. If surveys are prepared outside the appropriate time period, the Department, acting in its roll as a Responsible Agency for the issuance of permits and agreements, may need to request those surveys be repeated during the appropriate time period in order to address permit specific impacts. Botanical surveys should be conducted by a

qualified botanist with experience in local flora and fauna and knowledge of postfire botanical succession.

- a. The Department's California Natural Diversity Data Base (CNDDB) should be searched to obtain current information on previously reported sensitive species and habitat, including Significant Natural Areas identified under Chapter 12, Sections 1930-1940 of the Fish and Game Code. In order to provide an adequate assessment of special-status species potentially occurring within the Project vicinity, the search area for CNDDB occurrences should include all United States Geological Survey 7.5-minute topographic quadrangles with Project activities, and all adjoining 7.5-minute topographic quadrangles. The DEIR should discuss how and when the CNDDB search was conducted, including the names of each quadrangle queried, or why any areas may have been intentionally excluded from the CNDDB query. As a reminder, the Department cannot and does not portray the CNDDB as an exhaustive and comprehensive inventory of all rare species and natural communities statewide. Field verification for the presence or absence of sensitive species will always be an important obligation of its users. Likewise, your contribution of data to the CNDDB is equally important to the maintenance of the CNDDB. Whenever possible, we request that data be submitted using our online field survey form along with a map with the rare populations or stands indicated.
- b. In addition to the CNDDB, other electronic databases such as those maintained by the California Native Plant Society and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) should be queried.
- c. A complete assessment of rare, threatened, and endangered invertebrate, fish, wildlife, reptile, and amphibian species should be presented in the DEIR. Rare, threatened, and endangered species to be addressed shall include all those that meet the CEQA definition (see CEQA Guidelines § 15380). Seasonal variations in use of the Project area should also be addressed. Focused species-specific surveys, conducted at the appropriate time of year and time of day when the species are active or otherwise identifiable, are recommended. Acceptable species-specific survey procedures should be developed in consultation with the Department and the USFWS. Links to some survey procedures are provided on the Department's website (<u>https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Survey-Protocols</u>).
- d. Species of Special Concern (SSC) status applies to animals generally not listed under the federal Endangered Species Act or CESA, but which nonetheless are declining at a rate that could result in listing, or historically

> occurred in low numbers and known threats to their persistence currently exist (see CEQA Guidelines § 15380 and CEQA Guidelines Appendix G (IV)(a)). SSC should be considered during the environmental review process. CEQA (California Public Resources Code sections 21000-21177) requires State agencies, local governments, and special districts to evaluate and disclose impacts from "projects" in the State. Section 15380 of the CEQA Guidelines clearly indicates that SSC should be included in an analysis of Project impacts if they can be shown to meet the criteria of sensitivity outlined therein.

Sections 15063 and 15065 of the CEQA Guidelines, which address how an impact is identified as significant, are particularly relevant to SSCs. Project-level impacts to listed (rare, threatened, or endangered species) species are generally considered significant thus requiring lead agencies to prepare an EIR to fully analyze and evaluate the impacts. In assigning "impact significance" to populations of non-listed species, analysts usually consider factors such as population-level effects, proportion of the taxon's range affected by a project, regional effects, and impacts to habitat features.

- e. Fully Protected animals may not be taken or possessed at any time and the Department is not authorized to issue permits or licenses for their incidental take¹. Fully Protected animals should be considered during the environmental review process and all Project-related take must be avoided.
- f. A thorough assessment of rare plants and rare natural communities should be conducted, following the Department's March 2018 *Protocols for Surveying and Evaluating Impacts to Special Status Native Plant Populations and Natural Communities*.
- g. A detailed vegetation map should be prepared, preferably overlaid on an aerial photograph. The map should be of sufficient resolution to depict the locations of the Project site's major vegetation communities and show Project impacts relative to each community type. The Department's preferred vegetation classification system should be used to name the polygons; however, the vegetation classification ultimately used should be described in detail. Additional information for vegetation mapping can be found on the Department's website (<u>https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Data/VegCAMP</u>). Special Status natural communities should be specifically noted on the map.

¹ Scientific research, take authorized under an approved NCCP, and certain recovery actions may be allowed under some circumstances; contact the Department for more information.

- h. In order for the Department to determine the adequacy and accuracy of surveys, the DEIR should include survey methods, dates, and results; and should list <u>all</u> plant and animal species (with scientific names) detected within the Project study area. If detailed survey information is not included in the DEIR, the Department will request these during our review of the document. Special emphasis should be directed toward describing the status of rare, threatened, and endangered species in all areas potentially affected by the Project. All necessary biological surveys should be conducted in advance of the DEIR circulation, and should not be deferred until after Project approval.
- A thorough discussion of direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts expected to adversely affect biological resources, with specific measures to offset such impacts, should be included.
 - a. The DEIR should present clear thresholds of significance to be used by the Lead Agency in its determination of environmental effects. A threshold of significance is an identifiable quantitative, qualitative or performance level of a particular environmental effect. (CEQA Guidelines § 15064.7)
 - b. CEQA Guidelines, section 15125 (a-e), direct that knowledge of environmental conditions at both the local and regional levels is critical to an assessment of environmental impacts and that special emphasis shall be placed on resources that are rare or unique to the region. This will be especially important because of the impact the Carr Fire had on the Project area and adjacent area.
 - c. Impacts associated with initial Project implementation as well as long-term operation and maintenance of the Project shall be addressed in the DEIR pursuant to CEQA Guidelines 15126.2 (a).
 - d. In evaluating the significance of the environmental effect of the Project, the Lead Agency should consider direct physical changes in the environment, which may be caused by the Project and reasonably foreseeable indirect physical changes in the environment, which may be caused by the Project. Expected impacts should be quantified (e.g., acres, linear feet, number of individuals taken, volume or rate of water extracted, etc.).
 - e. Project impacts should be analyzed relative to their effects on off-site habitats and species. Specifically, this may include public lands, open space, downstream aquatic habitats, areas of groundwater depletion, or any other natural habitat or species that could be affected by the Project (CEQA Guidelines Appendix G (IV and IX).

- f. Impacts to and maintenance of wildlife corridor/movement areas and other key seasonal use areas should be fully evaluated and provided (CEQA Guidelines Appendix G (IV), Fish and Game Code section 1930, and <u>https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Planning/Connectivity</u>).
- g. A discussion of impacts, including but not limited to the following, should be included in the DEIR: increased lighting, noise, human activity, impacts of free-roaming domestic animals including dogs and cats, changes in drainage patterns, changes in water volume, velocity, quantity and quality, soil erosion, and/or sedimentation in streams and watercourses.

The Department recognizes the effects of artificial lighting on birds and other nocturnal species. The effects are numerous and include impacts to singing and foraging behavior, reproductive behavior, navigation, and altered migration patterns. To minimize adverse effects of artificial light on wildlife, the Department recommends that lighting fixtures associated with the Project be downward facing, fully-shielded and designed and installed to minimize photo-pollution.

- h. A cumulative effects analysis shall be developed for species and habitats potentially affected by the Project. This analysis shall be conducted as described under CEQA Guidelines section 15130. General and specific plans, as well as past, present, and anticipated future projects, should be analyzed relative to their impacts to species and habitats.
- 3. A range of Project alternatives shall be analyzed to ensure that the full spectrum of alternatives to the proposed Project are fully considered and evaluated. Alternatives, which avoid or otherwise minimize impacts to sensitive biological resources shall be identified.
 - a. If the Project will result in any impacts described under the Mandatory Findings of Significance (CEQA Guidelines § 15065) the impacts must be analyzed in depth in the DEIR, and the Lead Agency is required to make detailed findings on the feasibility of alternatives or mitigation measures to substantially lessen or avoid the significant effects on the environment. When mitigation measures or Project changes are found to be feasible, such measures should be incorporated into the Project to lessen or avoid significant effects.
- 4. Mitigation measures for adverse Project-related impacts to sensitive plants, animals, and habitats should be developed and thoroughly discussed in the

DEIR. Mitigation measures should first emphasize avoidance and reduction of Project impacts. For unavoidable impacts, the feasibility of on-site habitat restoration or enhancement should be discussed. If on-site mitigation is not feasible, off-site mitigation through habitat creation, enhancement, acquisition and preservation in perpetuity should be addressed.

- a. The Department generally does not support the use of relocation, salvage, and/or transplantation as mitigation for most impacts to rare, threatened, or endangered species. Studies have shown that these efforts are experimental in nature and largely unsuccessful. If considered, the feasibility of these types of mitigation measures must be discussed with the Department prior to release of the DEIR.
- b. Areas reserved as mitigation for Project impacts must be legally protected from future direct and indirect development impacts. Potential issues to be considered include public access, conservation easements, species monitoring, management programs, water pollution, and fire management.
- c. Plans for restoration and revegetation should be prepared by persons with expertise in northern California ecosystems and native plant revegetation techniques. Each plan should include, at a minimum: (a) the location of the mitigation site; (b) the plant species to be used, container sizes, and/or seeding rates; (c) a schematic depicting the mitigation area; (d) planting/seeding schedule; (e) a description of the irrigation methodology; (f) measures to control exotic vegetation; (g) specific success criteria; (h) a detailed monitoring program; (i) contingency measures should the success criteria not be met; and (j) identification of the party responsible for meeting the success criteria and providing for long-term conservation of the mitigation site.
- 5. Please include fuel modification impacts on vegetation in the biological resources section of the DEIR. All impacts, including future maintenance, should be quantified and described.
- 6. Take of species of plants or animals listed as endangered or threatened under CESA is unlawful unless authorized by the Department. However, a CESA 2081(b) ITP may authorize incidental take during Project construction or over the life of the Project. The DEIR must state whether the Project could result in any amount of incidental take of any CESA-listed species. Early consultation for incidental take permitting is encouraged, as significant modification to the Project's description and/or mitigation measures may be required in order to obtain a CESA Permit. Information on how to obtain an ITP is available through

the Department's website at: <u>https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/CESA/Incidental-Take-Permits.</u>

The Department's issuance of a CESA Permit for a project that is subject to CEQA will require CEQA compliance actions by the Department as a Responsible Agency. The Department as a Responsible Agency under CEQA will consider the Lead Agency's EIR for the Project The Department may require additional mitigation measures for the issuance of a CESA Permit unless the Project CEQA document addresses all Project impacts to listed species and specifies a mitigation monitoring and reporting program that will meet the requirements of a CESA Permit.

To expedite the CESA permitting process, the Department recommends that the DEIR addresses the following CESA Permit requirements:

- a. The impacts of the authorized take are minimized and fully mitigated;
- b. The measures required to minimize and fully mitigate the impacts of the authorized take and: (1) are roughly proportional in extent to the impact of the taking on the species; (2) maintain the applicant's objectives to the greatest extent possible, and (3) are capable of successful implementation;
- c. Adequate funding is provided to implement the required minimization and mitigation measures and to monitor compliance with and the effectiveness of the measures; and
- d. Issuance of the permit will not jeopardize the continued existence of a State-listed species.
- 7. The Department has responsibility for wetland and riparian habitats. It is the policy of the Department to strongly discourage development in wetlands or conversion of wetlands to uplands. We oppose any development or conversion, which would result in a reduction of wetland acreage or wetland habitat values, unless, at a minimum, Project mitigation assures there will be "no net loss" of either wetland habitat values or acreage. The DEIR should demonstrate that the Project will not result in a net loss of wetland habitat values or acreage.
 - a. The Project location supports aquatic, riparian, or wetland habitat. A delineation of lakes, streams, and associated riparian habitats potentially affected by the Project should be provided for agency and public review. This report should include a preliminary jurisdictional delineation including

> wetlands identification pursuant to the USFWS wetland definition² as adopted by the Department³. Please note that some wetland and riparian habitats subject to the Department's authority may extend beyond the jurisdictional limits of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The jurisdictional delineation should also include mapping of ephemeral, intermittent, and perennial stream courses potentially impacted by the Project. The Department considers impacts to any wetlands (as defined by the Department) as potentially significant.

- b. The Project may require notification to the Department for a Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement (LSAA) pursuant to section 1602 et seg. of the Fish and Game Code, prior to the applicant's commencement of any activity that will substantially divert or obstruct the natural flow or substantially change the bed, channel, or bank (which may include associated riparian resources) of a river, stream or lake, or use material from a streambed. The Department's issuance of a LSAA for a project that is subject to CEQA will require CEQA compliance actions by the Department as a Responsible Agency. The Department as a Responsible Agency under CEQA may consider the local jurisdiction's (Lead Agency) Negative Declaration or EIR for the Project. To minimize additional requirements by the Department pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 1600 et seq. and/or under CEQA, the document should fully identify the potential impacts to the lake, stream or riparian resources and provide adequate avoidance, mitigation, monitoring and reporting commitments for issuance of the agreement. A LSAA notification package may be obtained through the Department's website at https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/LSA.
- 8. CEQA requires that information developed in EIRs and negative declarations be incorporated into a database, which may be used to make subsequent or supplemental environmental determinations. (Public Resources Code section 21003(e)). Please report any special status species and natural communities detected during Project surveys to the CNDDB. The CNNDB field survey form can be found at the following link:

https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Data/CNDDB/Submitting-Data. The completed form can be mailed electronically to CNDDB at the following email address:

² Cowardin, Lewis M., et al. <u>Classification of Wetlands and Deepwater Habitats of the United States</u>. U.S. Department of the Interior, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

³California Fish and Game Policies: Wetlands and Resource Policy; Wetland Definition, Mitigation Strategies, and Habitat Value Assessment Methodology; Amended 1994.
Lio Salazar Shasta County Department of Resource Management October 29, 2019 Page 10

<u>CNDDB@wildlife.ca.gov</u>. The types of information reported to CNDDB can be found at the following link: <u>https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Data/CNDDB/Plants-and-Animals</u>.

9. The Reclamation Plan associated with this Project will be updated per the NOP. The vegetation restoration portion of the Reclamation Plan needs to describe in detail how the area should function post mine closure. The planting of a ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*) plantation with no associated shrubs and/or understory as described during the site visit on October 15, 2019, is not a normal functioning ecosystem. Further, having the Reclamation Plan cover an additional 150 years of mining operation is not practical. It would be prudent to address the vegetation prescription with an adaptive management approach which would add in flexibility to the plant species used and perhaps the success criteria based on the climate at the time the mine closes.

All existing and future Reclamation Plans shall use California native species. The non-native grass and clover species used in the 2008 revised Reclamation Plan for the Upland Bench Groundcover Prescription should not be used in this new Reclamation Plan and should be removed from the 2008 plan. Those specific species include common barley (*Hordeum vulgare*), Italian rye grass (*Festuca perennis*) shown on Table 2 of the 2008 updated Reclamation Plan as annual rye grass (*Lolium multiflorum*), Crimson clover (*Trifolium incarnatum*), and rose clover (*Trifolium hirtum*) which is an invasive species.

- 10. The DEIR should describe the asphalt batch plant in detail and describe the design and safety features that will be used to keep the asphalt and the asphalt oil away from the ponds and unnamed tributary.
- 11.A bullfrog management plan will need to be prepared to stop the spread of this invasive species using the onsite ponds. These ponds are located in a watershed directly connected to waters used by anadromous salmonids and invasive species should not be allowed to propagate in these watersheds unchecked.
- 12. The final design of the expansion is to have a 66.85-acre pond with 40-foot high benches surrounding it. The water will attract wildlife and they will be able to get down to it but may not be able to climb out. The Department recommends putting in wildlife-friendly ramps in various parts of the mine to allow wildlife to escape.
- 13. The Biological Review, dated July 2019, and prepared by Wildland Resource Managers is a draft document that the Department was told was being updated. The Department looks forward to reviewing the updated report. The day of the site visit (October 15, 2019), which was not at the optimal wildlife viewing time,

Lio Salazar Shasta County Department of Resource Management October 29, 2019 Page 11

Department staff detected five bird species, one butterfly species and one reptile species. The Department hopes the updated report has a list of wildlife species observed and that these observations are gathered over multiple days during seasonally appropriate times. The area seems to be recovering well considering recent fire. In addition, Table 4 of the report suggests that none of the listed anadromous fish could be impacted by the Project. In the DEIR, please provide an analysis of what happens if the settling ponds overflow and the non-native, unpermitted fish in settling pond number 5 are accidentally released during a high flow into the unnamed tributary or if toxic pollutant water is accidentally released that would prevent such outcomes.

If you have any questions, please contact Amy Henderson, Senior Environmental Scientist, at (530) 225-2779, or by e-mail at <u>Amy.Henderson@wildlife.ca.gov</u>.

Sincerely,

Grand Curt Babcock Habitat Conservation Program Manager

ec: Lio Salazar, Senior Planner Shasta County Department of Resource Management Isalazar@co.shasta.ca.us

Tara Petti Shasta County Department of Resource Management tpetti@co.shasta.ca.us

State Clearinghouse state.clearinghouse@opr.ca.gov





Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

29 October 2019

Lio Salazar, Senior Planner Shasta County Department of Resource Management, Planning Division 1855 Placer Street, Suite 103 Redding, CA 96001

COMMENTS ON CRYSTAL CREEK AGGREGATE EXPANSION PROJECT (GENERAL PLAN AMENDMENT 19-0003, ZONING PLAN AMENDMENT 19-0002, USE PERMIT AMENDMENT 19-0007, AND RECLAMATION PLAN AMENDMENT 19-0001), STATE CLEARINGHOUSE #2019090702, REDDING, SHASTA COUNTY

The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) is a responsible agency for this project, as defined by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). On 29 September 2019, we received your request for comments on the Crystal Creek Aggregate Expansion Project (Project), State Clearinghouse (SCH) #2019090702.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Crystal Creek Aggregate (CCA) is proposing to expand their existing aggregate mining operation which was established at the project site in 1990 and subsequently expanded in 2008. The proposal would expand an approved mining use permit area of 110.24 acres and an approved reclamation plan area of 108.87 acres to 179.97 acres, in conjunction with General Plan and Zoning Plan amendments from Natural Resource Protection – Open Space (N-O) to Mineral Resource (MR) and from Unclassified (U) to Mineral Resource (MR), respectively. The overall Project area within which general plan, zoning plan, use permit and reclamation plan amendment approvals are requested is 179.97 acres.

The expansion also includes the deepening of the existing quarry by approximately 100 feet from the previously approved pond bottom elevation of 700 feet mean sea level (msl). High water surface elevation is proposed at 734 feet msl. The proposed project also identifies a spillway for the quarry pond at an elevation of 734 feet msl. The spillway discharges into Existing Pond No. 4 which receives storm water runoff from the plant site and contains an outfall that discharges to Middle Creek, which is a tributary of the Sacramento River. Middle Creek is located outside the east property boundary and flows south along Iron Mountain Road.

KARL E. LONGLEY SCD, P.E., CHAIR | PATRICK PULUPA, ESQ., EXECUTIVE OFFICER

In addition to the expansion, CCA is also proposing to construct and operate an onsite asphalt batch plant.

CENTRAL VALLEY WATER BOARD COMMENTS

Based on our review of the information submitted for the proposed project, we have the following comments:

<u>General Permit for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Construction and Land</u> <u>Disturbance Activities (CGP)</u>

Construction activity, including demolition, resulting in a land disturbance of one acre or more must obtain coverage under the CGP. The Crystal Creek Aggregate Expansion Project must be conditioned to implement storm water pollution controls during construction and post-construction as required by the CGP. To apply for coverage under the CGP, the property owner must submit Permit Registration Documents electronically prior to construction. Detailed information on the CGP can be found on the State Water Board website Water Boards Stormwater Construction Permits

(https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/stormwater/constpermits.shtml)

Industrial Storm Water (IGP)

On 16 November 1990, the USEPA promulgated storm water regulations (40 CFR Parts 122, 123 & 124) which require specific categories of industrial facilities discharging storm water to obtain NPDES permits and to implement Best Available Technology Economically Achievable (BAT) and Best Conventional Pollutant Control Technology (BCT) to reduce or eliminate industrial storm water pollution. These requirements apply to industries with Standard Industrial Classifications (SIC) specified in Attachment A of the *National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Permit for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Industrial Activities* (IGP, Order 2014-0057-DWQ, NPDES No. CAS000001). Crystal Creek Aggregate's current industrial operations are covered under the IGP. A change to the facility and/or operations would require submittal and certification of new Industrial General Permit Registration Documents via the State Water Resource Control Board's Stormwater Multiple Application and Report Tracking System. Detailed information on the IGP can be found on the State Water Boards Storm Water Multiple Application and Report Tracking System (https://smarts.waterboards.ca.gov/smarts/faces/SwSmartsLogin.xhtml).

Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 401, Water Quality Certification

The Central Valley Water Board has regulatory authority over wetlands and waterways under the Federal Clean Water Act (CWA) and the California Water Code, Division 7 (CWC). Discharge of dredged or fill material to waters of the United States requires a CWA Section 401 Water Quality Certification from the Central Valley Water Board. Typical activities include any modifications to these waters, such as stream crossings, stream bank modifications, filling of wetlands, etc. 401 Certifications are issued in combination with CWA Section 404 Permits issued by the Army Corps of Engineers. The proposed project must be evaluated for the presence of jurisdictional waters, including wetlands and other waters of the State. Steps must be taken to first avoid and minimize impacts to these waters, and then mitigate for unavoidable impacts. Both the Section 404 Permit and Section 401 Water Quality Certification must be obtained prior to site disturbance. Any person discharging dredge or fill materials to waters of the State must file a report of waste discharge pursuant to Sections 13376 and 13260 of the California Water Code. Both the requirements to submit a report of waste discharge and apply for a Water Quality Certification may be met using the same application form, found at <u>Water Boards 401 Water Quality Certification Application</u> (http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/water_quality_certification/w gc_application.pdf)

<u>Isolated wetlands and other waters not covered by the Federal Clean Water Act</u> Some wetlands and other waters are considered "geographically isolated" from navigable waters and are not within the jurisdiction of the Clean Water Act. (e.g., isolated wetlands, vernal pools, or stream banks above the ordinary high-water mark). Discharge of dredged or fill material to these waters may require either individual or general waste discharge requirements from the Central Valley Water Board. If the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers determine that isolated wetlands or other waters exist at the project site, and the project impacts or has potential to impact these non-jurisdictional waters, a Report of Waste Discharge and filing fee must be submitted to the Central Valley Water Board. The Central Valley Water Board will consider the information provided and either issue or waive Waste Discharge Requirements. Failure to obtain waste discharge requirements or a waiver may result in enforcement action.

Both the requirements to submit a report of waste discharge and apply for a Water Quality Certification may be met using the same application form, found at <u>Water</u> Boards Adopted Orders for Water Quality

(http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_decisions/adopted_orders/water_quality/2004/w qo/wqo2004-0004.pdf)

Water Management During Active Quarrying

The proposed project anticipates expanding and deepening of the existing onsite quarry. As a result of the proposed activities, a larger volume of water likely will be present within the quarry. The water within the quarry will likely originate from three main sources: direct precipitation, storm water run-on, and exfiltrating groundwater. It is unclear if the water within the quarry will limit mining activities and if dewatering of the quarry will be required to access the minable materials. If dewatering of the quarry will be necessary, the project does not include a clear description of how these activities would be conducted and where this water would be discharged. Depending on the location and nature of discharge, dewatering activities could require a surface water discharge permit under our National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program or a land discharge permit under our Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) program.

The project should identify the water management approach for the quarry and should include contingencies for extreme conditions (e.g., pit overflow, exceedance of

detention basin capacity, interruptions of quarry operations when dewatering is not occurring). The environmental assessment should be supported by hydrologic studies and a water balance that provide the design-basis for the water management approach (e.g., sizing of detention basins based on estimated water volumes to be managed).

Regulatory Classification of Mine Pit Lake

Based on the mine pit lake water quality, the mine pit lake may be classified as a mining unit (surface impoundment) under California Code of Regulations, title 27, section 22470 et seq. Some of the requirements associated with classification as a mining unit include the issuance of waste discharge requirements, precipitation and drainage controls, water quality monitoring, post-closure maintenance, and closure and post-closure financial assurance. Post-closure financial assurance would need to be maintained in perpetuity and will be in place after release of Surface Mining and Reclamation Act (SMARA) reclamation bonds.

Title 27 also provides for closure financial assurances and under certain conditions allows the financial assurances established to comply with SMARA to be used as an alternate financial assurance mechanism (See Cal. Code Regs., tit. 27 22510(f) and (g)).

Perpetual Management of Mine Pit Lake Water Level

The Central Valley Water Board regulates several mine pit lakes that require active management of the water level after completion of reclamation. Based on our experience, evaporators are a commonly deployed method to control the lake water levels. Discharges from the mine pit lakes require coverage under a NPDES permit (whether intermittent or continuous discharges); some discharges require active or passive treatment. These costs associated with mine pit lake water level management must be included in the post-closure financial assurance cost estimate.

Mine Pit Lake Water Quality

The proposed mine pit lake may contain unique geochemistry relative to natural lakes. Pit lake water quality may be affected by groundwater flow, area geology and associated geochemistry, pH, trace element concentrations, evapo-concentration, and temperature. Water quality may be affected by surrounding inputs such as erosion (e.g., turbidity, total suspended solids, salinity) and nutrients, and any mineralized zones or abandoned mine workings intersected by the pit.

The environmental assessment should by supported by a study that evaluates the anticipated water quality of the mine pit lake so appropriate water management protocols, compliant with applicable regulatory requirements, can be designed and implemented. The study should assess temporal trends in mine pit lake water quality under drought and high precipitation conditions. The study should also assess potential impacts to surface water and groundwater based on the anticipated pit water quality.

During active quarry operations and post-reclamation, a monitoring program should be established to assess the pit water quality to ensure water management in compliance with applicable regulations (such as California Code of Regulations, Title 27, section 22470 et seq.) and the Central Valley Water Board's *Water Quality Control Plan for the Sacramento and San Joaquin River Basin* (Basin Plan) water quality objectives (WQOs) for surface and/or groundwater.

Cyanobacteria Blooms

The proposed expansion of aggregate mining at the Facility, particularly the widening and deepening of the quarry will increase the volume of water contained within the quarry. The quarry and the large volume of water contained within it has the potential to create favorable conditions that could support the generation of toxic cyanobacteria blooms.

Cyanobacteria blooms within the quarry could have the potential for the release of cyanobacteria toxins from the quarry in the event water within the quarry is discharged to onsite storm water drainages. Storm water at the site is discharged to surface drainages that discharge into Middle Creek with is a tributary of the Sacramento River. This could potentially affect downstream drinking water suppliers and other beneficial uses. These conditions could persist or become exacerbated with rising temperatures expected from climate change. The potential for cyanobacterial blooms within the quarry and potential impacts to water quality should be further evaluated.

Pit Impacts on Project Area Hydrology

The proposed pit will affect the hydrology (hydrogeology and surface water hydrology) in the Project area, both during active quarry operations and post-reclamation as a mine pit lake. During active quarrying the pit may act as a sink, reducing groundwater flow to nearby groundwater wells and surface water features. Post-reclamation, the water level of the mine pit lake could create a groundwater mound; the water level should be managed to avoid uncontrolled overflow or other undesirable flow conditions.

The environmental assessment should be supported by hydrologic studies that identify anticipated impacts in the Project area, including potential impacts to nearby groundwater wells and surface water features and the anticipated water level in the mine pit lake. The studies should assess representative low and high precipitation periods and should include an annual water balance for the mine pit.

Historical Mining Activity in Project Area

Historical mining activities may have occurred in the Project area. The environmental assessment should include inventorying potential mines or adits and mine workings in the Project area as part of the environmental assessment. This information is needed to support projections of the mine pit lake water quality and potential hydrologic effects induced by the Project.

Geology of Project Area

The environmental review document will include a description of Project area geology. Please also include a discussion of the erosion potential of the pit slope during active quarry operations and post-reclamation conditions. The project should be supported by a slope stability analysis of the pit slopes during the active life of the quarry and under post-reclamation conditions.

Wastewater Treatment and Disposal

The 20 November 2012 Report of Waste Discharge (ROWD) includes the discharge of aggregate wash water from an existing aggregate extraction facility to two onsite settling, percolation/ evaporation, and water reuse ponds. The ponds are set up as a water reuse system with no surface water discharge. The ROWD was deemed complete by Central Valley Water Board staff on 12 December 2012.

After subsequent review of the ROWD, Central Valley Water Board staff found that additional information was needed to evaluate the threat that aggregate wash water discharge may pose on waters of the state. Therefore, pursuant to California Water Code Section 13267 a Monitoring and Reporting program (MRP) was issued to the Facility on 16 October 2015. Information obtained from the MRP has not been fully evaluated and a determination on whether the Facility would require the issuance of a WDRs Order to regulate discharges at the Facility has also not been made.

The proposed project anticipates that the current peak aggregate production could increase from 270,000 tons per year (peak 2001) to 900,000 tons per year. The current proposal does not include the expansion or construction of additional process water ponds. Central Valley Water Board staff has concerns that proposed increase in aggregate production may require the need for expansion of existing ponds or construction of additional process water ponds. The impacts to water quality in the existing or additional ponds will need to be evaluated to ensure that process wash water does not pose a threat to water quality. Some of the concerns related to the wash water ponds include but are not limited to potential increases in salt concentrations, increases in dissolved and total metals concentrations, and changes in water chemistry parameters such as pH, electrical conductivity, and oxidation reduction potential.

The proposed project also includes the addition of an asphalt batch plant (batch plant) onsite. It is proposed the batch plant will be powered by propane gas with reduces its emissions when compared to emissions produced by an oil-fired batch plant. There is no information provided if any water will be used during the batch plants operation and if any subsequent wastewater would be produced. Activities associated with the production of asphalt material could include but are not limited to the use of water for any processing, cooling, or emissions needs. Also, no information is provided regarding on-site fuel management.

The California Water Code requires that any person proposing to discharge waste that could affect the quality of waters of the State to file a ROWD. Currently the Facility has an ROWD on file with the Central Valley Water Board for the existing facility and operations. Due to the potential threats to water quality that activities at the proposed facility pose, a new ROWD will likely be required so Central Valley Water Board staff can determine if operations associated with the proposed expansion project would need to be regulated by one or more Water Board programs.

Crystal Creek Aggregate Expansion Project SCH# 2019090702 - 7 -

A ROWD, Form 200 and supporting information must be submitted at least 140 days prior to any discharges that differ in nature, characteristic, manner, and location than that described in the 20 November 2012 ROWD submittal. Information regarding submittal of a ROWD and additional information can be found on our website at: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/help/permit/

Closing

If you have any questions or comments regarding the Central Valley Water Board's comments on the Project, please contact me at (530) 226-3425 or by email at Bryan.Smith@waterboards.ca.gov.

Brvan J. Smith, P

Supervising Water Resource Control Engineer

SG: ch

- cc: Matthew Roberts, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Redding CD DG Redding Northwest – Cross Development LLC, Carrollton, Texas Crystal Creek Aggregate, Inc., Redding
- cc via email: Amy Henderson, Department of Fish and Wildlife, Region 1, Redding Carla Serio, Shasta County Environmental Health Division, Redding

FW: Sha-299-20.29 Crystal Creek Aggregate NOP DEIR

Tara Petti <tpetti@co.shasta.ca.us>

Fri 11/1/2019 1:49 PM

To: Eihnard Diaz <ediaz@diazplanning.com>; Keith Hamblin <jehkah@shasta.com>; Jerry Comingdeer <jerry@crystalcreekaggregate.com>; Bruce Grove <bgrove@shnengr.com> Cc: 'Duane Miller' <duane@dkmengr.com>

From: Gonzalez, Marcelino@DOT [mailto:marcelino.gonzalez@dot.ca.gov] Sent: Friday, November 1, 2019 10:25 AM To: Lio Salazar <<u>lsalazar@co.shasta.ca.us</u>> Cc: Battles, Michael@DOT <<u>Michael.Battles@dot.ca.gov</u>>

Subject: Sha-299-20.29 Crystal Creek Aggregate NOP DEIR

Lio,

Here is our main comment regarding Crystal Creek:

The Iron Mountain Rd./SR-299 intersection has left and right turn channelization, and lighting. The proposed increase in production will add to the number of westbound trucks using the right turn lane on a daily basis. The right turn lane has a long 300' taper and 165' right turn pocket. Considering the grade of SR-299 approaching the intersection from the east, the right turn lane needs to be lengthened and the taper shortened to handle the additional truck volume.

Since this segment of SR-299 is popular with local cyclists, the DEIR should include a recommendation to widen the highway to lengthen the existing right turn lane <u>and</u> provide a min. 4' bike lane adjacent to the WB thru lane. The existing 300' taper/165' rt. turn pocket should be improved to provide a 120' taper/315' rt. turn pocket (with bike lane).

Let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks!

Rob Stinger, P.E. Chief - Traffic Engineering & Operations Caltrans District 2 (530) 225-3229

From: Gonzalez, Marcelino@DOT

Sent: Thursday, October 3, 2019 2:00 PM

To: Stinger Jr, Rob F@DOT <<u>rob.stinger@dot.ca.gov</u>>; Pascal, Anthony C@DOT <<u>anthony.pascal@dot.ca.gov</u>>; Veatch, Steve C@DOT <<u>steve.veatch@dot.ca.gov</u>>; Arseneau, Troy A@DOT <<u>troy.arseneau@dot.ca.gov</u>>; Akana, Eric E@DOT <<u>eric.akana@dot.ca.gov</u>>; Elder, William H@DOT <<u>william.elder@dot.ca.gov</u>>; Arseneau, Troy A@DOT <<u>troy.arseneau@dot.ca.gov</u>>; Akana, Eric E@DOT <<u>eric.akana@dot.ca.gov</u>>; Elder, William H@DOT <<u>william.elder@dot.ca.gov</u>>; Arseneau.gov>; Akana, Eric E@DOT <<u>eric.akana@dot.ca.gov</u>>; Elder, William H@DOT <<u>william.elder@dot.ca.gov</u>>; Akana, Eric E@DOT <<u>troy.arseneau@dot.ca.gov</u>>; Akana, Eric E@DOT <<u>troy.arseneau@dot.ca.gov</u>>; Elder, William H@DOT <<u>troy.arseneau@dot.ca.gov</u>>; Akana, Eric E@DOT <<u>troy.arseneau@dot.ca.gov</u>>; Akana, Eric E@DOT

Cc: Grah, Kathy M@DOT <<u>kathy.grah@dot.ca.gov</u>>; Battles, Michael@DOT <<u>Michael.Battles@dot.ca.gov</u>> Subject: Sha-299-20.29 Crystal Creek Aggregate NOP DEIR due 10-25

Any comments concerns or suggestions due by Oct 25.

Crystal Creek Aggregate (CCA) proposes to expand their existing aggregate mining operation established at the project site in 1990 and subsequently expanded in 2008, and add an asphalt batch plant. The proposal would expand an approved mining use permit area of 110.24 acres and an approved reclamation plan area of 108.87 acres to 179.97 acres.

Transportation:

The project would increase maximum and annual average production of aggregate material and introduce the production of a new product (asphalt), including the import of material to be recycled for use in producing asphalt. Transport of materials to and from the site would result in increased use of public roads and intersections, including State Highway 299 West.

The EIR will provide an assessment and determination regarding the significance of Transportation impacts of the project.

Members of the Public

FW: Scoping comments for CCA Expansion Project

Tara Petti <tpetti@co.shasta.ca.us>

Wed 11/6/2019 8:41 AM

To: Bruce Grove <bgrove@shn-engr.com>; Eihnard Diaz <ediaz@diazplanning.com>; Comingdeer Jerry

 JERRY@crystalcreekaggregate.com>
 Cc: Adam Fieseler <afieseler@co.shasta.ca.us>

Good morning. Please find public scoping questions/comments below from Kristy Ortega.

Tara Pettí

Assistant Planner Shasta County Department of Resource Management Planning Division 1855 Placer Street Suite 103 Redding, CA. 96001 Department Main Line (530)225-5532

From: D Ortega [mailto:dkortega@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, November 6, 2019 6:53 AM
To: Tara Petti <tpetti@co.shasta.ca.us>
Subject: Scoping comments for CCA Expansion Project

Dear Ms. Petti,

In regards to the proposed CCA expansion project, here is my list of scoping questions/comments:

- 1. What are the possible forms of cancer that may result from living near an asphalt plant?
- 2. What impact would the toxic fumes have on air quality for the elementary school students that go to school three miles (south west) away in Shasta?
- 3. What chemicals could be expected to end up Middle Creek, Rock Creek, and then in the Sacramento River from this operation?
- 4. What are the possible birth defects that an unborn child could develop due to living in close proximity to an asphalt plant?
- 5. What impact will the development of this plant, and the fumes have on future vegetation recovery in the Carr Fire burn scar area?
- 6. What toxins can be expected to leach into the soil and into the underground water?

- 7. Where will this plant get water to run its operation? Will they impact the Shasta Community Service District water?
- 8. What impact will an asphalt plant have on the air quality for sensitive groups living nearby?
- 9. What impact will any increased mining/blasting have on home foundations?
- 10. What impact will any increased mining/blasting have on the air quality? For sensitive groups, will this further impact air quality for them? What are the negative impacts to health for sensitive groups living in the area? Sensitive groups include the elderly, immunocompromised, babies, those living with existing respiratory issues like asthma, and those with allergies to dust and fumes.
- 11. What will the increased noise pollution be? Will there be added noise on the weekends? Will there be added noise in the evenings?
- 12. What will the increased light pollution be? Will there be more flood lights added to their property?
- 13. Is the increased traffic going to be a problem for the school buses that have routes along Iron Mountain Road. The driveway of CCA is a designated bus stop for the Shasta Union Elementary School District. Will this be safe for children to have a bus stop at the driveway of an asphalt plant?
- 14. What steps would be taken to make the area safe from any fires which could be caused by an asphalt batch plant given the combustible nature of the materials?
- 15. What impact will this have on the returning wildlife in the Carr Fire burn area?
- 16. How significant could the odor of an asphalt batch plant be for those living in the vicinity? Will this odor trigger allergies or asthma?
- 17. What neurological problems can result from living near an asphalt batch plant? For a developing fetus? For a small child?
- 18. Is there an increased risk of brain illness and dementia as a result of exposure to the chemicals in this production?
- 19. Is there an increased risk of cancer?
- 20. Is there an increased risk of respiratory illness?Will there be increased traffic crossing Iron Mountain Road near the site?
- 21. What impact could this have on the air quality for vegetation with regards to pollinators? Could this be harmful for bees in the area? To other native pollinators?
- 22. Will Pollutants such as Benzene, formaldehyde, Arsenic, bitumen, Polynuclear Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PNAs) and other toxic cancer causing carcinogens will leach into the nearby creeks and the Sacramento River? Will it leach into the water table?

- 23. What will the released pollutants do to the vegetation, including locally grown nearby gardens that homeowners grow for their own food?
- 24. What will the effect of those released pollutants be on the fish, reptiles, amphibians, mammals and birds that live in the area?
- 25. What will be the effect on humans from the released pollutants from the asphalt plant?
- 26. Will there be an increase for vehicle accidents on Iron Mountain Road, given the increase in large vehicles and trucks to haul the materials? The road is narrow and windy in many parts and the speed limit is 45 mph. Will adding more on the road cause increased traffic problems?
- 27. Will the increased dust lead to an increased cost for homeowners to have to more frequently change filters in AC and heating units?
- 28. How might this adversely affect the vegetation that did survive the Carr Fire, near the proposed operations? Will any living vegetation need to be removed?

Sincerely, Kristy Ortega

FW: Crystal Creek aggregate

Tara Petti <tpetti@co.shasta.ca.us>

Fri 11/8/2019 10:51 AM

To: Bruce Grove <bgrove@shn-engr.com>; Comingdeer Jerry <JERRY@crystalcreekaggregate.com>; Eihnard Diaz <ediaz@diazplanning.com>

Cc: Adam Fieseler <afieseler@co.shasta.ca.us>; Paul Hellman <phellman@co.shasta.ca.us>

There were two public scoping calls received between today and yesterday. The first of which I have not received written comments yet. That call was from Marci Fernandes 15888 Rock Creek Rd. I will forward her comments if and when I receive them. The second set of comments are below. They are from Robert Richardson 11343 Tannstaafl Rd.

Tara Pettí

Assistant Planner Shasta County Department of Resource Management Planning Division 1855 Placer Street Suite 103

Redding, CA. 96001 Department Main Line (530)225-5532

From: Richard Robinson [mailto:arcson19@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, November 8, 2019 8:31 AM
To: Tara Petti <tpetti@co.shasta.ca.us>
Subject: Crystal Creek aggregate

Hi

Thanks for taking my call.

My concerns for the expansion of Crystal Creek would be

1. Smell and noise. This would stop any rebuilding in the Keswick area. Keswick was destroyed and people are starting to reinvest in building nicer homes that they had. This would end that.

2. Hiking and biking in the area. Who is going to want to ride or hike all the trails in the area with the noise and smell. River Trail,trail 58, French Fry, Middle Creek and more.

3. Traffic. The expansion of the *Weyerhaeuser* lumber yard has already bought more trucks and forklifts crossing Iron Mountain Rd. Iron Mountain would need to be widened and repaved. The intersection with 299 is dangerous already. This might require a stoplight.

4. Property values. They already took a big hit with the fire. This would just make it impossible to sell a property.

5. I need to add. This may be the most important. **Mental health**. All of us in the Keswick area are suffering some depression after the fire. This would make it unbearable for some.

Thanks Richard Robinson 530-604-4371

RE: Crystal Creek

Tara Petti <tpetti@co.shasta.ca.us>

Fri 11/8/2019 11:03 AM

To: Richard Robinson <arcson19@gmail.com> Cc: Bruce Grove <bgrove@shn-engr.com>

Thank you for all your comments Richard. Thank you for the insight into expanding the range of notification for the Draft EIR.

Tara Pettí

Assistant Planner Shasta County Department of Resource Management Planning Division 1855 Placer Street Suite 103 Redding, CA. 96001 Department Main Line (530)225-5532

From: Richard Robinson [mailto:arcson19@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, November 8, 2019 10:48 AM
To: Tara Petti <tpetti@co.shasta.ca.us>
Subject: Re: Crystal Creek

I think The residences on Keswick Dam Road to Lake Blvd should be notified. Any paving going north will bring trucks across that. Right now logging trucks from Sierra Pacific going from their Shasta lake mill going west come across that. Thanks Rich

On Fri, Nov 8, 2019 at 9:17 AM Richard Robinson arcson19@gmail.com> wrote:

5. I need to add. This may be the most important. **Mental health**. All of us in the Keswick area are suffering some depression after the fire. This would make it unbearable for some.

Public Scoping comments

Tara Petti <tpetti@co.shasta.ca.us>

Fri 11/8/2019 2:05 PM

To: Bruce Grove <bgrove@shn-engr.com>

Cc: Tara Petti <tpetti@co.shasta.ca.us>; Eihnard Diaz <ediaz@diazplanning.com>; Comingdeer Jerry <JERRY@crystalcreekaggregate.com>

Darcy and Ted Goldsmith came in to the office with scoping comments as follows.

Residence on Tanstaafl Lane. After the Carr Fire they get a lot more wind prevalent south wind up Rock Creek. Concerned that due to the loss of vegetation/trees there is no longer a buffer to mitigate odor. She has chemical sensitivity and is concerned about the effects of the asphalt plant on her health. Concern about impacts to property values, especially after the Carr Fire.

Tara Pettí

Assistant Planner Shasta County Department of Resource Management Planning Division 1855 Placer Street Suite 103 Redding, CA. 96001 Department Main Line (530)225-5532

FW: Proposed asphalt plant in Keswick

Tara Petti <tpetti@co.shasta.ca.us>

Tue 11/12/2019 8:10 AM

To: Bruce Grove <bgrove@shn-engr.com>; Eihnard Diaz <ediaz@diazplanning.com> Cc: Tara Petti <tpetti@co.shasta.ca.us>

Scoping comments from Friday afternoon.

Tara Pettí

Assistant Planner Shasta County Department of Resource Management Planning Division 1855 Placer Street Suite 103 Redding, CA. 96001 Department Main Line (530)225-5532

From: Marci Fernandes [mailto:marcifernandes55@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, November 8, 2019 4:45 PM
To: Tara Petti <tpetti@co.shasta.ca.us>
Subject: Proposed asphalt plant in Keswick

My name is Marci Fernandes and I live on Rock Creek Road in Keswick. My home and our surrounding forest was destroyed by the Carr fire. I am very concerned about an asphalt plant being built in downtown Keswick. The odor, air quality, possible groundwater contamination, noise, and fire hazard are all concerns of mine. I bought property in Keswick and now have a new home. Just the thought of living with the odor from an asphalt plant is quite devastating. I bought this property because of the wonderful smell of the forest and I'm determined to help it grow back. More people in the area need to be informed of this proposal because it will affect a larger area than just the immediate vicinity.

To: Shasta County Recource MANAGEMENT.

FROM: Kurt + NyDia Schuhmeier

Attention: Mr. TARA Petti

I AM NOT IN FAUDR FOR AN Asphal batch plant surrounded by A Residential AREA. Reason should be obvious. Since Crystal Creek is already producing Aggregate so be it, However, the permit should not be However, the permit should not be A ONE Hundred year thing, Rather permitting should be No more than 20 year thing IN other words, it should be revisited Every 20 years. I will comment on the Asphal batch after I see the extensive EIR.

Sincerely The Schuhmeice Family NO Shuho Nov. 06, 2019

SCOPING SUGGESTIONS/COMMENTS

Crystal Creek Aggregate Expansion Project EIR (GPA 19-0003, Zone Amendment 19-0002, UP 19-0007, Reclamation Plan 19-0001)

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: September 30 – November 8, 2019 COMMENT DEADLINE: November 8, 2019 at 5:00 p.m.

NAME: John Deaton Agency: None Mailing Address: 825 Leisha Lane, Redding, CA 96001 Phone Number: (530) 238-7005 cell

Iron Mountain Road is a designated bicycle route that can be hazardous for cyclists because there is little or no shoulder and because vehicle drivers sometimes have a limited view of traffic ahead. The volume of bicycle traffic (both mountain bikes and road bikes) has increased steadily the past few years. This hazard will certainly become worse because of increased commercial truck traffic with the expansion of Crystal Creek Aggregates. To help mitigate the hazards for bicyclists using Iron Mountain Road, I suggest the following signage to clearly alert drivers regarding the **California Three Feet for Safety Act** (CVC 21760), which states:

a) A driver to provide a three feet buffer between his/her vehicle and the bicycle when passing; and,

b) A driver who is unable to provide the minimum three-foot passing distance due to traffic or roadway conditions to (1) slow to a reasonable and prudent speed when passing and (2) only pass when doing so would not endanger the safety of the bicyclist."

Recommendation 1

At the existing sign located on *northbound* Iron Mountain Road (near the turnoff from Hwy 299/Eureka Way) replace the **SHARE THE ROAD** and **BICYCLE LOGO** signs with California Highway Manual sign R117(CA) **PASS 3-FT MIN**. *The existing signpost should be suitable.*

Recommendation 2

Install a signpost with the same signage as Recommendation 1, after the *southbound* lane passes through the industrial area (between the industrial area and Hwy 299). *This will likely require a new signpost.*

Recommendation 3

Install **SHARE THE ROAD** sign with a **BICYCLE LOGO** sign near and on both sides of Rock Creek and Middle Creek bridges. The signs taken down in Recommendation 1 could be reused for one of these four installations. *Existing signposts might be suitable for all of these signs.*

Recommendation 4

To help mitigate the cumulative effects of traffic on Iron Mountain Road, install a signpost with the same signage discussed in Recommendations 1 and 2, close to the Keswick Boat Ramp exit, between the exit and Hwy 299. *Existing signposts might be suitable for this sign.*

Thank you for your time and consideration.

John Deaton

FW: Crystal Creek Aggregate Expansion - Public Comments

Tara Petti <tpetti@co.shasta.ca.us>

Wed 11/6/2019 8:56 AM

To: Bruce Grove <bgrove@shn-engr.com>; Eihnard Diaz <ediaz@diazplanning.com>; Comingdeer Jerry

 JERRY@crystalcreekaggregate.com>
 Cc: Adam Fieseler <afieseler@co.shasta.ca.us>

2 attachments (4 MB)

RockCreekMiddleCreek_CrystalCreekExpansion.pdf; Redding_MayorsMtnBikeChallenge_2019_FrenchFry-Trail58.pdf;

I have responded to both emails. Please see below.

Tara Pettí

Assistant Planner Shasta County Department of Resource Management Planning Division 1855 Placer Street Suite 103 Redding, CA. 96001 Department Main Line (530)225-5532

From: bradandsandi@charter.net [mailto:bradandsandi@charter.net]
Sent: Tuesday, November 5, 2019 10:59 PM
To: Tara Petti <tpetti@co.shasta.ca.us>
Cc: 'Sandra Shearer' <sshearer@remedyengineering.com>
Subject: Crystal Creek Aggregate Expansion - Public Comments

Hello Tara,

Thank you for hosting the Crystal Creek Aggregate Expansion public meeting last week. It was very informative. I wanted to follow up with written comments regarding the EIR.

Name: Sandi Shearer Agency: None. Redding/Shasta County resident and mountain biker Mailing Address: 3404 Cessna Drive, Redding, CA 96001 Phone Number: 530-949-0039

Comments:

The area of the Crystal Creek Aggregate expansion is located in the vicinity of several of Shasta County's most popular mountain biking trails, including French Fry to the north and west of the project area, and Middle Creek and Trail 58 to the south of the project area. I drew the <u>approximate</u> outline of the proposed expansion on the attached trail map downloaded from Healthy Shasta's website for reference. In addition, Iron Mountain Road is very popular with road bikers, and many mountain bikers use the stretch of Iron Mountain Road adjacent to Crystal Creek Aggregate to connect French Fry and Trail 58/Middle Creek in a loop (as evidenced by the attached 2019 Redding Mayor's Mountain Bike trail map). The City of Redding, Redding Trail Alliance, and numerous other local and regional agencies and organizations are working diligently to make Redding and Shasta County a "world-class mountain biking destination".

I request that the Environmental Impact Report fully evaluate the potential impacts of the Crystal Creek Aggregate project on recreation in the area, including mountain biking, road biking, and hiking. Potential impacts include aesthetic impacts from clearing and mining, noise from blasting, odor from the proposed asphalt plant, increased runoff/turbidity to Middle Creek or Rock Creek, dust generation, and increased truck traffic along Iron Mountain Road. I would also recommend that the project consider potential mitigation measures, such as building and maintaining an alternate bike route to Iron Mountain Road that connects the French Fry and Trail 58 trailheads (potentially along the historic railroad grade).

Thank you for your time and efforts.

Sandi Shearer 530-949-0039





Appendix 5.4 AB 52 Notification Letters



Shasta County

DEPARTMENT OF RESOURCE MANAGEMENT 1855 Placer Street, Redding, CA 96001

Paul A. Hellman Director Dale J. Fletcher, CBO Assistant Director

Certified Mail

October 7, 2019

Attn: Kelli Hayward, Cultural Resources Director

Wintu Tribe of Northern California & Toyon-Wintu Center P.O. Box 995 Shasta Lake, CA 96019

- FROM: Tara Petti, Assistant Planner **Planning Division** Shasta County Resource Management Department
- RE: Tribal Cultural Resources under the California Environmental Quality Act, AB 52 (Gatto, 2014). Formal Notification of Determination that a Project Application is Complete, pursuant to Public Resources Code (PRC) § 21080.3.1.

Dear Ms. Hayward:

The Shasta County Department of Resource Management (Planning Division) is reviewing the application and will be preparing an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the following project: Crystal Creek Aggregate Expansion Project (General Plan Amendment 19-0003, Zoning Plan Amendment 19-0002, Use Permit Amendment 19-0007, and Reclamation Plan Amendment 19-0001).

Below please find a description of the proposed project, a description of the project location, and the name of our project point of contact, pursuant to PRC § 21080.3.1 (d). Additional exhibits and information regarding the proposed project are enclosed for your review.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Crystal Creek Aggregate (CCA) proposes to expand their existing aggregate mining operation established at the project site in 1990 and subsequently expanded in 2008, and add an asphalt batch plant. The proposal would expand an approved mining use permit area of 110.24 acres and an approved reclamation plan area of 108.87 acres to 179.97 acres, in conjunction with General Plan and Zoning Plan amendments from Natural Resource Protection – Open Space (N-O) to Mineral Resource (MR) and from Unclassified (U) to Mineral Resource (MR), respectively. The overall Project area within which general plan, zoning plan, use permit and reclamation plan amendment approvals are requested is 179.97 acres.

Q Suite 101 AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT (530) 225-5674 FAX: (530) 225-5237

Q Suite 102 BUILDING DIVISION (530) 225-5761 FAX: (530) 245-6468

Suite 103 (530) 225-5532 FAX: (530) 245-6468

Suite 201 PLANNING DIVISION ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DIVISION (530) 225-5787 FAX: (530) 225-5413

□ Suite 200 ADMINISTRATION & COMMUNITY EDUCATION (530) 225-5789 FAX: (530)-225-5807

Tribal Consultation Letter Crystal Creek Aggregate Expansion Project 10/07/2019 Page 2

LOCATION:

The project site is an existing quarry located in the community of Keswick, on the west side of Iron Mountain Road, approximately 1.5 miles north of the Intersection of Iron Mountain Road and State Highway 299 West, and directly across from the intersection of Iron Mountain Road and Laurie Ann Lane (10936 Iron Mountain Road). Detailed location information including coordinates and a map indicating the location of the project area provided in the attached detailed project description.

POINT OF CONTACT: Tara Petti, Associate Planner – phone: (530) 225-5533 email: tpetti@so.shasta.ca.us Mailing Address: 1855 Placer Street, Suite 103, Redding, CA 96001

Pursuant to PRC § 21080.3.1 (b), you have 30 days from the receipt of this letter to request consultation, in writing, with the Planning Division.

Very Respectfully,

1

Tara Petti, Assistant Planner

TP/trh Enclosures

NOTICE OF PREPARATION

TO:	State Clearinghouse	FROM:	County of Shasta
	State Responsible Agencies		Shasta County Dept. of Resource Management,
	State Trustee Agencies		Planning Division
	Other Public Agencies		
	Interested Organizations	CONTACT:	Lio Salazar, Senior Planner
	Members of the Public		1855 Placer Street, Suite 103
			Redding, CA 96001
			(530) 225-5532

SUBJECT: Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Crystal Creek Aggregate Expansion Project (General Plan Amendment 19-0003, Zoning Plan Amendment 19-0002, Use Permit Amendment 19-0007, and Reclamation Plan Amendment 19-0001)

Shasta County is the Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and is preparing an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the project identified as the Crystal Creek Aggregate Expansion Project.

Attached to this Notice of Preparation (NOP) are a description of the probable environmental effects of the project (Attachment 1) and a detailed project description (Attachment 2), including a map indicating the location of the project area and relevant project related maps and figures.

The EIR will consider all substantive environmental issues which are raised by responsible agencies, trustee agencies, other interested agencies, and members of the public or related groups during the NOP process, and will analyze these potential effects in detail and to the extent necessary to make a determination on the level of significance of such effects. Discussion of those environmental effects determined to result in no impact or a less-than-significant impact will be limited to a brief explanation in the EIR of why those effects are not considered potentially significant.

The following agencies may be a Trustee Agency and/or Responsible Agency for the proposed project, or have other jurisdiction/interests concerning the proposed project.

United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) United States Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) United States Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) United States Bureau of Land Management (BLM) California Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire) California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) California Department of Resources and Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) California Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) California Division of Mine Reclamation (DMR) California Division of Occupational Safety and Health (Cal OSHA) Shasta County Resource Management Agencies (Air Quality, Environmental Health, Building, Fire) Shasta County Department of Public Works (DPW) Shasta County Sheriff's Department (Sheriff) Shasta Community Services District (SCSD) Shasta Union High School District (SUHSD) Redding School District (RSD) City of Redding (COR)

Whether your agency is or is not listed above we need to know the views of your agency or organization as to the scope and content of the environmental information germane to your agency's statutory responsibilities or of interest to your organization in connection with the proposed project. Specifically, we are requesting the following:

- 1. Identify potentially significant environmental effects, alternatives, and recommended mitigation measures that you believe need to be explored in the EIR with supporting discussion of why you believe these effects may be significant.
- 2. Describe special studies and other information that you believe are necessary in order for the County to analyze the potentially significant environmental effects, alternatives, and recommended mitigation measures you have identified.
- 3. Provide the name, title, and telephone number of the contact person from your agency or organization that we can contact regarding your comments.
- 4. If you are a public agency, state if your agency will be a responsible or trustee agency for the project and list the permits or approvals from your agency that will be required for the project and its future actions.

Due to the time limits mandated by State law, your response must be received by the County of Shasta by the following deadlines:

- For responsible and trustee agencies, not later than 30 days after you receive this notice,
- For all other agencies, organizations, and individuals not later than 30 days from publication of this Notice of Preparation. The 30-day review period ends on Tuesday, October 29, 2019.

If we do not receive a response from you/your agency or organization within the applicable time frame, we will presume that you/your agency or organization has no response.

A responsible agency, trustee agency, or other public agency may request a meeting with Shasta County or its representatives in accordance with Section 15082(c) of the CEQA Guidelines. Electronic copies of the NOP are available by clicking on the Crystal Creek Aggregate Expansion Project link on the Shasta County Department of Resource Management homepage at:

http://www.co.shasta.ca.us/index/drm index/planning index/eirs.aspx.

Please provide your responses and any direct questions to the attention of Lio Salazar, Senior Planner, via mail/delivery to Shasta County Department of Resource Management, Planning Division, 1855 Placer Street, Suite 103, Redding, CA 96001 or via e-mail to lsalazar@co.shasta.ca.us. Phone (530) 225-5532.

Date: 9/30/19 Month Lio Salazar, Senior Planner

POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF THE CRYSTAL CREEK AGGREGATE EXPANSION PROJECT

Project Location and Setting:

The project site is an existing quarry located in the community of Keswick, on the west side of Iron Mountain Road, approximately 1.5 miles north of the Intersection of Iron Mountain Road and State Highway 299 West, and directly across from the intersection of Iron Mountain Road and Laurie Ann Lane (10936 Iron Mountain Road). Detailed location information including coordinates and a map indicating the location of the project area provided in the attached detailed project description.

The existing quarry is located in an industrial area in the community of Keswick. Surrounding land uses consist of industrial to the east, low-density residential to the north and southeast, and undeveloped land to the south and west.

The topography of the existing quarry floor has been made relatively flat by the removal of the aggregate material. The existing bowl shaped quarry face extends upslope and to the west from the quarry floor with horizontal benches having been or to be established as excavation proceeds to the extent of the existing quarry boundary. There is an approximate 200-foot change in elevation from the existing quarry floor to what would be the top of the quarry face based on the current mining plan.

The project site is located within the boundary of the 2018 Carr Fire. Prior to the area being impacted by the Carr Fire, the primary vegetation type present in unmined portions of the project site and vicinity was predominantly knob cone pine and chaparral with scattered oaks and ponderosa pine. In areas where the fire burned with lesser intensity, the composition of species remains as it existed prior to the fire. Currently, in unmined portions of the project site and vicinity where the fire burned with greater intensity, vegetation consists mostly of secondary successional vegetation.

Project Description:

Crystal Creek Aggregate (CCA) proposes to expand their existing aggregate mining operation established at the project site in 1990 and subsequently expanded in 2008, and add an asphalt batch plant. The proposal would expand an approved mining use permit area of 110.24 acres and an approved reclamation plan area of 108.87 acres to 179.97 acres, in conjunction with General Plan and Zoning Plan amendments from Natural Resource Protection – Open Space (N-O) to Mineral Resource (MR) and from Unclassified (U) to Mineral Resource (MR), respectively. The overall Project area within which general plan, zoning plan, use permit and reclamation plan amendment approvals are requested is 179.97 acres.

The attached detailed project description narrative provides background information; an overview of the proposed project entitlement application approvals being sought; detailed descriptions of the proposed entitlements (including relevant figures); and discussions regarding reclamation plan objectives, phasing, prescriptions, additional policies, and CEQA Project Objectives.

Aesthetics:

The project would increase the permitted post-mining bench height from 24 feet to 40 feet and extend said benches up to the top of the existing ridgeline exposing a series of 40-foot-high vertical walls of rock, the buff color of which would contrast with the adjacent grey-green vegetated area. The bench tops would be planted with native trees and shrubs as part of the proposed reclamation plan. Reclamation would occur in phases, but for periods of time and/or until reclamation vegetation is established some rock faces would be exposed.

The EIR will provide an assessment and determination regarding the significance of the aesthetic impacts of the project.

Agriculture and Forestry Resources

The project site may include timberland as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g). If the project site includes timberland, the project may result in the conversion of timberland if the proposed post reclamation conditions would forestall the ability of said timberlands to be managed for one or more forest resources, including timber, aesthetics, fish and wildlife, biodiversity, water quality, recreation, and other public benefits.

The EIR will provide an assessment and determination regarding the significance of Agriculture and Forestry Resources impacts of the project.

Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Emissions:

The project would generate or increase construction and operational air contaminant and greenhouse gas emissions, including dust from construction and mining operations, diesel emissions from on- and off-road vehicles and equipment, and diesel and process emissions, including odor, from the asphalt batch plant. These emissions would have the potential to impact regional and local air quality in the vicinity of the project site and to contribute to impacts on global climate.

The EIR will provide an assessment and determination regarding the significance of Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Emissions impacts of the project.

Biological Resources:

The project may impact terrestrial, avian, and wetland or other hydrologic habitat that survived the Carr Fire or is currently recovering from the Carr Fire, including potential habitat for candidate, sensitive, and special-status species.

The EIR will provide an assessment and determination regarding the significance of Biological Resources impacts of the project.

Cultural Resources:

The project would involve physical disturbance to ground surface and sub-surface components in conjunction with aggregate quarrying and mining activities. Such activities have the potential to impact cultural resources that may be located within the project site.

The EIR will provide an assessment and determination regarding the significance of Cultural Resources impacts of the project.

Energy:

The project would involve the use of diesel fuel, electricity, and other sources of energy during construction and operations.

The EIR will provide an assessment and determination regarding the significance of Energy impacts of the project.

Geology and Soils:

The project would expose soils to potential erosion, modify the topography of the site and increase blasting to the extent that the geologic stability of the site may be impacted, and would alter geographic features present at the site.

The EIR will provide an assessment and determination regarding the significance of Geology and Soils impacts of the project.

Hazards and Hazardous Materials:

The project would involve construction and operations that would involve the use and/or transport of potentially hazardous materials, including asphalt cement (a product of crude oil), diesel fuel, lubricants, and other industrial materials.

The EIR will provide an assessment and determination regarding the significance of Hazards and Hazardous Materials impacts of the project.

Hydrology and Water Quality:

The project would alter the drainage pattern upslope of the existing quarry and expand a post reclamation open water pond at the quarry floor. Soils exposed and/or disturbed by mining would be a potential source of polluted storm water run-off which if discharged from the site could impact downstream surface water quality.

The EIR will provide an assessment and determination regarding the significance of Hydrology and Water Quality impacts of the project.

Land Use and Planning:

The project proposes General Plan and Zoning Plan amendments from Natural Resource Protection – Open Space (N-O) to Mineral Resource (MR) and from Unclassified (U) to Mineral Resource (MR), respectively.

The EIR will provide an assessment and determination regarding the significance of Land Use and Planning impacts of the project.

Mineral Resources:

The project would expand the development and extraction of aggregate material, a mineral resource of value to the Region and State, and facilitate production of asphalt. These products could provide a public benefit to the Region and State through their potential use in public works projects.

The EIR will provide an assessment and determination regarding the significance of Mineral Resources impacts of the project.

Noise:

The project would introduce new temporary and long-term noise sources (asphalt plant construction and operations) and increase production of noise from existing sources (as a result of increased maximum and average yearly aggregate production and blasting).

The EIR will provide an assessment and determination regarding the significance of Noise impacts of the project.

Public Services:

The project site is served by the Shasta Community Services District (domestic and fire protection water), Shasta County Fire Department (fire protection and emergency medical services), and Shasta County Sheriff's Department (law enforcement).

The EIR will provide an assessment and determination regarding the significance of Public Services impacts of the project.

Transportation:

The project would increase maximum and annual average production of aggregate material and introduce the production of a new product (asphalt), including the import of material to be recycled for use in producing asphalt. Transport of materials to and from the site would result in increased use of public roads and intersections, including State Highway 299 West.

The EIR will provide an assessment and determination regarding the significance of Transportation impacts of the project.

Tribal Cultural Resources:

The project is located within the Wintu Tribe of Northern California's (Tribe) geographic area of traditional and cultural affiliation (GATCA). In accordance with Public Resources Code section 21080.3.1, the Tribe has requested formal notice of and information on projects proposed within the Tribe's GATCA for which Shasta County will serve as lead agency in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

The project would involve physical disturbance to ground surface and sub-surface components in conjunction with aggregate quarrying and mining activities. Such activities have the potential to impact tribal cultural resources that may be located within the project site.

In accordance with the requirements of Assembly Bill (AB) 52, and more specifically Public Resources Code section 21080.3.1, Shasta County will provide notice of, and information regarding, the project to the Tribe. If the Tribe requests consultation within 30 days of notification, consultation will be initiated by Shasta County and proceed in accordance with the requirements of AB52.

The EIR will provide an assessment and determination regarding the significance of Tribal Cultural Resources impacts of the project.

Utilities and Service Systems:

The project would alter the existing drainage pattern of the site which could require or result in the relocation, alteration, or new construction of storm water drainage facilities on- or off-site. The project

would increase maximum and average annual production. Construction activities and increased production could increase the generation of solid waste from the project site.

The EIR will provide an assessment and determination regarding the significance of Utilities and Service Systems impacts of the project.

Wildfire:

The project site is located in a very high fire hazard severity zone and would involve the use of heavy equipment on steep vegetated slopes and industrial production processes that involve high heat inputs.

The EIR will provide an assessment and determination regarding the significance of Wildfire impacts of the project.

Cumulative Impacts:

The probable impacts of the project may be individually limited, but cumulatively considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects.

The EIR will provide an assessment and determination regarding the significance of Cumulative Impacts of the project.

CRYSTAL CREEK AGGREGATE PROJECT DESCRIPTION NARRATIVE

Crystal Creek Aggregate (CCA) proposes to expand their existing aggregate mining operation established in 1990 at their current location in Shasta County on Iron Mountain Road, approximately one mile northeast of State Route 299 W (refer to **Figure 1, Project Location**). The operation would expand from an approved use permit area of 110.24 acres and a reclamation plan area of 108.87 acres to 179.97 acres. The overall Project area is 179.97 acres within which general plan, zoning, use permit and reclamation plan amendments approvals are requested. This Project Description Narrative provides background information; an overview of the proposed project entitlement application approvals being sought; detailed descriptions of the proposed entitlements; and discussions regarding reclamation plan objectives, phasing, prescriptions, additional policies, and CEQA Project Objectives.

BACKGROUND

CCA was originally permitted in 1990 under Shasta County Use Permit UP-24-90 and Reclamation Plan 1-90. Subsequently in 2008 the following entitlements were approved; General Plan Amendment 07-005, Zone Amendment 07-020, Use Permit Amendment, UP-07-020, and Reclamation Plan Amendment RP-07-022.¹ A California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Mitigated Negative Declaration with findings as specifically set forth in Planning Commission Resolution Nos. 2008-066 and 2008-067 was also adopted to approve the various entitlements. A Property Line Adjustment 06-034 was approved on May 17, 2006.

In the early 1990s, CCA recognized that the aggregate reserves remaining within their existing land ownership could potentially be depleted by 2010. CCA began to evaluate the potential of acquiring adjacent lands owned by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) due to the known geology of the area along with the proven quality of the aggregate material. CCA initiated an exchange for 225 acres owned by BLM adjacent to the CCA operation. The exchange was possible since it conformed to the *Redding Resource Management Plan* (RMP) approved in July 1993. The decision to approve the land exchange was issued on May 11, 2004. An environmental assessment under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) was prepared and a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) decision was also made on May 11, 2004.

After CCA was able to obtain the 225 acres from BLM, application was made in July 2007 to Shasta County for the following entitlements:

- Amend the General Plan land use designation of two parcels totaling approximately 115 acres from *Natural Resource Protection Open Space (N-0)* to *Mineral Resource (MR)*;
- Rezone the same 115 acres from Unclassified (U) to Mineral Resource (MR) zone district;
- Amend the Use Permit for an existing quarry mining operation to extend the termination date of the operation from February 22, 2010 to December 31, 2072, and to expand the quarry area from 53.57 acres to 110.24 acres; and,
- Amend the Reclamation Plan to include expansion of the quarry by 56.67 acres.
- While not an entitlement requiring discretionary action by either the Planning Commission or Board of Supervisors, the Property Line Adjustment was necessary to separate the Reclamation Plan and Use Permit area from other properties owned by the Comingdeer Family.

¹ All the entitlements were approved by the Planning Commission on June 12, 2008 whereas, the General Plan and Zone Amendments were also approved, as required by State law, by the Board of Supervisors on August 5, 2008.

Of the 225 acres acquired from BLM, 115 acres were amended from *Public Land* (*PL*) to the *Mineral Resource* (*MR*) General Plan land use classification and rezoned from *Unclassified* (*U*) district to *Mineral Resource* (*MR*) district. Within the 115 acres, CCA proposed to mine 56.67 acres. This additional area approved to be mined would have extended the life of the operation another 65 years beyond 2007 to December 31, 2072. Production of up to 250,000 tons per year was approved to occur in six phases encompassing approximately ten years per phase, except for the last phase which was for 15 years. Estimates for completion of each phase were calculated based on the volume which could be sold at maximum production during an average ten year period. However, the actual completion of each phase was not time dependent since the depletion of permitted reserves was based on market demand.

CCA sells about twenty aggregate products. These products include base rock, drain rock, decorative stone, riprap, structural backfill, sand, plaster sand and specialty products. The stone products are desired due to their attractive surfaces and the sand is requested for its attractive golden color. The specialty products are utilized by businesses/public agencies for projects such as golf courses, walking paths and landscaping. A local company uses the sand as a component of a product used as substitute pavement for asphalt surfaced parking lots. The market area for some of CCA's products ranges from Portland, Oregon to the San Francisco Bay Area.

CCA plant facilities include a rock crushing/screening plant, washing operation, mobile office trailer (14 feet by 70 feet), truck scales, diesel fuel storage tanks of 1,000 and 20,000 gallons, one waste oil tank of 350 gallons, two motor oil and one lubricating oil tanks (90 gallons each), and five settling and two recycle ponds. A Reclamation Plan addresses the reclamation of the existing and proposed mined and processing areas. Based on the *County Assessors Annual Production Report* submitted by CCA between the year 1990 and 2017, gravel sold ranged between a low of approximately 48,000 tons in 1990 and a high of approximately 270,000 tons in 2001. CCA employment base is currently comprised of eight full-time and one part-time employee.

PROPOSED PROJECT APPLICATIONS

Crystal Creek Aggregate's proposed project application to Shasta County is for the following actions which involves an overall Project area of 179.97 acres:

- General Plan Amendment of 28.46 acres from *Open Space (N-O)* to *Mineral Resource (MR)* so that a Zone Amendment could be processed for approval of an area that would allow for expansion of the current Project (refer to **Figure 3**).
- Zone Amendment of 28.46 acres from *Unclassified* (*U*) to *Mineral Resource* (*MR*) necessary to be consistent with the General Plan Amendment and to allow the processing of a use permit allowing operational expansion (refer to **Figure 3**).
- Use Permit UP 07-20 Amendment to expand the mining area by 69.73 acres from 110.24 to 179.97 acres, expand hours of operation, increase yearly blasting maximums, modify quarry bench heights and widths, and to permit the installation and operation of a hot mix asphalt batch plant (refer to **Use Permit Maps, 3 Pages**).
- Reclamation Plan RP 07-022 Amendment to expand the Reclamation Plan area by 71.10 acres from 108.87 to 179.97 acres and to extend the estimated life of the mining operation by 150 years to Year 2169 (refer to **Reclamation Plan Maps, 6 Pages**).
PROPOSED GENERAL PLAN AND ZONE AMENDMENTS

To be consistent with the requested General Plan land use classification of *Mineral Resource (MR)*, a zone amendment from the *Unclassified (U)* zone district to the *Mineral Resource (MR)* zone district is also requested for 28.46 acres located within current Assessor Parcel No. 065-250-025 which currently encompasses 110.18 acres. The General Plan and Zone Amendments would be compatible with the existing general plan and zoning of the CCA plant operation which is *Manufacturing – Interim Mineral Resource* overlay (*M-IMR*). These requested entitlements are supported by the 1997 Mineral Land Classification for Shasta County by the State of California Department of Conservation that classified the existing operation and adjacent lands to the west and south as Mineral Resource Zone Category MRZ-2 "wherein lands classified as MRZ-2 are areas that contain identified mineral resources." The classification extends beyond the limits of the proposed Reclamation Plan and Use Permit Amendment area. Approval of the *Mineral Resource (MR)* land use classification and zone district designation also provide for land use compatibility with the existing operation. Furthermore, this action preserves and protects a mineral resource of regional and local importance to meet the future needs of the North State and in particular Shasta County.

PROPOSED USE PERMIT & RECLAMATION PLAN AMENDMENTS

As previously discussed, CCA proposes the expansion of CCA operations to 179.97 acres, based on the Reclamation Plan and Use Permit Amendments. However, CCA does not propose additional structures other than the hot mix asphalt batch plant; moving the locations of the existing scales and office, crushing and screen plant, primary and secondary entrances/exits, or creating new settling or recycle wash ponds; or removal of additional aggregate beyond the projected 450,000 CYs (900,000 tons) to be extracted and processed per year.

The addition of a hot mix asphalt batch plant is proposed due to anticipated future market demand in the area and to provide "one stop" aggregate and asphalt related supply material services at a location where access to the west, east south and north is available, particularly for projects along the SR 299 corridor. Furthermore, locating aggregate and asphalt concrete materials at one location reduces vehicle miles traveled not only in the Redding, Anderson and Shasta Lake areas, but throughout Shasta County since aggregate is not hauled to an off-site asphalt plant.

Hot Mix Asphalt (HMA) is created by mixing and heating aggregate with asphalt oil. The type of asphalt plant proposed is a drum mix type that will be powered by propane gas which produces significantly less nitrogen oxide (NOX) emissions (approximately 76 percent less), sulfur dioxide (SO2) emissions, and some hazardous air pollutants (HAPs) than an oil fired plant.² This process is a continuous mixing type process whereby the dryer is used, not only to dry the material, but also to thoroughly mix the heated and dried aggregates with the liquid asphalt cement. After mixing, the mixture is discharged at the end of the drum and is conveyed to HMA silos where the asphalt is stored. Use Permit Maps, Page 3 of 3, conceptually illustrates an asphalt plant configuration.

The CCA mining, crushing, screening and washing operations will function as they currently do except the mining area will be expanded to the west and south to create a quarry area of approximately 102 acres. The pond in the quarry will increase in surface area from 23.5 acres to 66.85 acres. Likewise, the ponds depth will be lowered by 100 feet from the previously approved pond bottom elevation of 700 feet to a proposed elevation of 600 feet. The five existing five settling ponds will remain and the two water recycling ponds will be filled in once aggregate from the quarry is depleted and as part of final Project site reclamation.

² EPA. December 2000. Tables 5 and 8. Hot Mix Asphalt Plants Emission Assessment Report

The additional area to be mined will extend the life of the operation another 97 years beyond the currently approved 2072 termination year based on removal of 37,290,000 CYs. However, CCA requests that there be no fixed termination date and instead utilize the removal of up to the 37,290,000 CYs of aggregate as the basis for determining when the mining operation would cease. It is anticipated that extraction will occur in 11 phases encompassing approximately ten years per phase, except for the last phase which could be 15 years. Estimates of completion of each phase are calculated based on the volume which could be sold based on maximum production over a average ten year period. However, as previously noted, actual completion of each phase is not time dependent since the depletion of permitted reserves is based on market demand.

The overburden and topsoil stockpile areas contain material stripped from the quarry as well as reject material from the crushing and screening operation which includes fines generated by the wash plant. Since reclamation is dependent on the availability of finished benches, there could be up to five years' worth of material stored at any given time. Both topsoil and overburden stockpile areas will be subject to best management practices for erosion control to be specified in the Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) for the operation. The topsoil and overburden stockpile area will be sited to facilitate reclamation.

Table 1, Reclamation Plan & Use Permit Amendments, Current & Proposed Uses & Operational Changes provides a synopsis of the current operational requirements and those proposed by the Reclamation Plan and Use Permit amendments. Table 1 provides a comparison between the existing and proposed uses and associated areas, hours of operation, annual and total volume of aggregate extraction, and the proposed asphalt batch plant yearly output, etc.

TABLE 1 RECLAMATION PLAN & USE PERMIT AMENDMENTS			
CURRENT & PROPOSED USES & OPERATIONAL CHANGES & REQUIREMENTS			
Current	Proposed		
Reclamation Plan area – 108.87 acres	Reclamation Plan area – 179.97 acres		
Use Permit area – 110.24 acres ³	Use Permit area – 179.97 acres		
Quarry Mining area – 47.2 acres	Quarry Mining area – 102 acres		
Uses:	Uses:		
1. Aggregate mining	1. Aggregate mining		
2. Aggregate crushing, screening, and washing ⁴	2. Aggregate crushing, screening, and washing		
3. Loading & off-site sale of sand, gravel & rock	3. Loading & off-site sale of sand, gravel & rock		
4. Material stockpiling	4. Material stockpiling		
5. Importation of topsoil to the Project site	5. Importation of topsoil to the Project site		
6. Blasting	6. Blasting		
	7. Asphalt plant – Manufacture 200,000 tons of asphalt concrete (AC)		
	8. Use of reclaimed asphalt pavement (RAP) when required ⁵		
	9. Use of rubberized asphalt concrete (RAC) when required ⁶		
	10. Importation and recycling of 50,000 cubic yards (CY)		
	of used concrete or AC when required		

³ The difference in acreages is due to the June 12, 2008 Staff Report for UP 07-020 to the Planning Commission identifying an area of 110.24 acres, whereas, the Reclamation Plan Maps identify a 108.87 acre area. The difference is insignificant.

⁴ Use Permit Minor Modification UP 07-020 M1 and Reclamation Plan Minor Modification RP 07-002 M1, dated May 16, 2012 ⁵ Caltrans may require a certain percentage of RAP in the production of AC.

⁶ Caltrans and some cities and counties may require a certain percentage of RAC in the production of AC.

TABLE 1		
RECLAMATION PLAN & USE PERMIT AMENDMENTS		
CURRENT & PROPOSED USES & OPERATIONAL CHANGES & REQUIREMENTS		
Current	Proposed	
Volume of aggregate to be mined – 7.96 MCYs or	Volume of aggregate to be mined – 37.29 million cubic	
15,92 MTs	yards (MCYs) or 74.58 million tons (MTs)	
Maximum permitted annual tonnage of processed	Maximum annual tonnage of processed aggregate to be	
aggregate is limited to 125,000 CYs (250,000 tons)	limited to 450,000 CYs (900,000 tons)	
Average volume of aggregate mined – 100,000 CYs	Average volume of aggregate mined – 250,000 CYs	
(200,000 tons) – not a permit requirement	(500,000 tons)	
Importation of material restriction	Importation of material restriction	
50,000 CYs (100,000 tons) of topsoil/year	50,000 CYs (100,000 tons) of topsoil/year	
Mining termination date – December 31, 2072	Mining termination date – June 15, 2169	
Maximum quarry bench size – 22 ft. high by 30 ft.	Maximum quarry bench size – 40 ft. high x 40 ft. wide	
	Touland 14 Call time & 1 west time	
Employees – 8 full-time & 1 part-time	Employees – 14 full-time & 1 part-time	
Mining hours of operation:	Mining nours of operation:	
• 6 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday – Saturday PS1	• 6 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday – Saturday PS1	
• 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday – Friday PD1	• 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday – Friday PDT	
• 6 a.m. to 5 p.m. – Saturday PDT	• 6 a.m. to 5 p.m. – Saturday PD1	
	Asphalt batch plant hours of operation:	
	• Only during PS1 – 24 hours per day – Sunday	
	evening/ Wonday morning except for Saturday	
	works projects	
Distinguishing 12 times only between 0.20 cm	Plasting nor year 40 times only between 0:30 a m &	
Blasting per year – 12 times only between 9:30 a.m.	2:20 n m Monday Friday with minimum two-week	
to 5:50 p.m., Monday – Friday	s.50 p.m., Monday – Friday with minimum two-week	
Truck traffic on Iron Mountain Road:	Truck traffic on Iron Mountain Road:	
A Average 45 round tring	• To Be Determined	
• Average 43 round trips.	• To be Determined	
• Maximum 220 round trips.	A	
Agreement for extraordinary maintenance of Iron	Agreement with the Department of Public works for	
Wountain Koad	We the desident of The De Determined	
wetland mitigation -1.8 acres of marshes, wetland	wettand mitigation – 10 Be Determined	
& riparian nabitat (SMAKA requires a minimum		
mitigation ratio of 1:1)		
Originally approved for propane – converted to	PORE power	
PG&E power in 2011		

As previously discussed, the existing pond in the quarry will increase in surface area from approximately 23.5 acres to 66.85 acres and the depth will be lowered by 100 feet. The existing five settling ponds will remain and the two water recycling ponds will be filled in once aggregate from the quarry is depleted and as part of final Project site reclamation. For accuracy and completeness, it should be noted that the existing ponds and the expansion of the quarry pond are not regulated as "waters of the United States" pursuant to the federal Clean Water Act (CWA). Regulatory guidance from 1986 on, now adopted as part of the 2015 "Definition of 'Waters of the United States." The Rule," (80 FR 37054, 37098) describes features that are not "waters of the United States." The Rule is in force in California, and excludes the following features:

• Artificial, constructed lakes or ponds created by excavating and/or diking dry land such as farm and stock watering ponds, irrigation ponds, settling basins, log cleaning ponds, cooling ponds, or fields flooded for rice growing

• Water-filled depressions created in dry land incidental to mining or construction activity, including pits excavated for obtaining fill, sand or gravel that fill with water (80 FR 37098)

The above descriptions apply to not only the; quarry pond, the five settling ponds and two recycling ponds but also to the various water-filled depressions throughout the Project site created by the existing mining operation. CCA proposes retaining the ponds, but not the depressions, and adding and protecting riparian habitat around the ponds as part of the project's reclamation plan. Because they are not federally regulated, this can be accomplished without first securing CWA authorization.

Wildland Resources Managers prepared the July 2019 "Biological Review Crystal Creek Aggregate Mine Expansion, Shasta County, California" which identifies the ponds. The report provides detailed information about "the present conditions of soils, vegetation, wetlands, [and] wildlife habitats," including how the project area was affected by the Carr fire. This information helps fulfill CEQA's goal of disclosing relevant information about the baseline conditions. Project impacts on these features does not depend on whether they are subject to particular government jurisdiction.⁷

Reclamation Plan Topics

As previously noted, the proposed Use Permit Amendment also requires an amendment to the currently approved Reclamation Plan. The Reclamation Plan describes the final post-reclamation condition of the site and the procedures which will be employed to reclaim the site. The Reclamation Plan addresses the following topics some of which are discussed in this Project Description.

- Reclamation Objectives
- Existing Conditions
- Establishment of Test Plots
- Phasing
- Reclamation Prescriptions
- Post-vegetation Monitoring
- Additional Reclamation Policies

Reclamation Plan Objectives

There are two types of end use objectives for the Project site resulting in different reclamation prescriptions. There is the eastern plant site area of 46.29 acres and the middle and western Project area of 133.68 acres. These prescriptions are as follows:

<u>Industrial Use Area</u>: The eastern area will be reclaimed to industrial uses after mining operations terminate. This end use would be consistent with both the current and proposed general plan land use designation and zoning classification.

<u>Mineral Reserve Area</u>: The middle and western side of the Project site will be reclaimed as a mineral reserve area. This use is consistent with the California Department of Conservation's classification of the site as *Mineral Resource Zone (MRZ-2)*.

⁷ The report is on file with the Shasta County Planning Division.

The reclamation program primary objectives are to; (a) establish a new visually pleasing vegetative cover that provides future fire protection; (b) stabilize the finished mined surfaces and prevent erosion; and, (3) revegetate with plant species adapted to this locale.

Phasing

The purpose of phasing for this Reclamation Plan Amendment is to divide the progression of mining into clearly identifiable mining segments since the depletion of permitted reserves is based on market demand, which is difficult to forecast. This allows reclamation to be started as soon as finished mining surfaces are completed and no longer needed by the operation except under certain circumstances. An example would be a quarry bench where finished grade is reached and the bench is resoiled and vegetated, except in areas on the bench where access by employees and equipment still needs to access a future mining area phase.

Phasing allows for reclamation to be started as soon as each segment is completed. The newly established vegetation will grow even as mining continues, minimizing visible indications of the activities and resulting in a variety of vegetation patterns surrounding the larger 66.85 acre quarry pond. Phasing also assists responsible and trustee agencies to determine compliance with the Reclamation Plan since reclamation areas are specifically defined. Reclamation Plan Maps, Page 4 of 6 provides an overview of the phasing.

Table 2, Mining Phases & Volumes identifies the proposed 11 phases and associated volume of material based on the extraction and processing of 450,000 CYs (900,000 tons) per year.

TABLE 2 MINING PHASES & VOLUMES (Million Cubic Yards)		
Phase	Reserves	Cumulative Total
1	2.68	2.68
2	2.77	5.45
3	2.29	7.75
4	2.27	10.02
5	2.30	12.31
6	2.72	15.03
7	2.15	17.18
8	2.79	19.97
9	1.80	21.77
10	2.94	24.71
11	12.59	37.29

Phases 1 through 10 contain 24,700,000 CYs of aggregate, about 66 percent of the resource, located in the quarry that is above the pond surface. Phase 11 is the mine area below the 66.85 acre pond surface that contains 12,590,000 CYs of aggregate (34%). Mining begins in Phase 1 and terminates in Phase 10. However, Phase 11 "located" under the 10 phases can be mined at any time during the Reclamation Plan period since the mining of Phase 11 is dependent on the need for the particular type of rock sought for construction activities. Mining operational issues, such as coordination of dewatering activities with mining and the blending of surface and below surface materials, also influence the timing for removing aggregate in Phase 11. Phases 1 through 10 have nearly equal amounts of reserves, which vary between 2,150,000 CYs to 2,940,000 CYs.

Reclamation Prescriptions

Reclamation prescriptions deal with various operational components which include the plant site, quarry benches and their revegetation, ponds, and reclamation within the plant area, such as removing equipment that will not be utilized for future permitted industrial uses, clean up, final grading, filing of the recycle ponds, and post vegetation monitoring. The revegetation of benches provides a fulfillment of one of the primary objectives of the reclamation program to establish a new visually pleasing vegetative cover that provides future fire protection.

A Revegetation Plan for the quarry benches was prepared to create, not only an aesthetically pleasing reclamation feature, but to also establish a fire resistant plant community on the quarry benches.⁸ The 2018 Carr Fire devastated most of the vegetation and homes in the area efforts need to be undertaken not to repeat the event that occurred. The reclamation plan presents an opportunity to lower the fire danger in the area.

One of the main methods to achieve this goal is to eliminate fuel ladders where fire proceeds from lower vegetation into the crowns of trees. By reducing the amount of flammable material present (fuel load) this reduces the spread of fires. To achieve these goals brush species are eliminated from the plant pallet. In its place, the planting of ponderosa pines, grasses and forbs is proposed. Ponderosa pines were selected since they are indigenous to the area and grow in many locations. The trees will be initially planted with 8 foot by 8 foot spacing and then thinned out at a future date. The final upland bench planting would be pines trees spaced 20 to 30 feet apart with grasses and forbs as the understory species. The spacing of the trees reduces, not only the fuel load, but also the fuel ladder which could result in fire spreading from one tree to the other. The grasses and forbs pallet include plants required for erosion control.

Also addressed as a reclamation prescription is to establish a self-sustaining population of wetland/riparian vegetative species on the waterside of the lowest final bench, within 16 feet of the water's edge around the shoreline of the new quarry pond. Clusters of native willows and cottonwoods would be planted along the pond bank. Average spacing of the clusters are to be 110 feet on-center with 6 to 10 trees per cluster. Rock jetties would be placed along the bank and woody debris would be placed along the waterline, where feasible.

Additional Reclamation Policies

Additional reclamation policies address erosion and sediment control policies, topsoil and overburden policies, and other specific final reclamation procedures dealing with interior haul roads, stockpiles, general plant areas to be reclaimed and monitoring.

CEQA PROJECT OBJECTIVES

In accordance with State CEQA Guidelines §15124(b), a clear statement of objectives and the underlying purpose of the project shall be discussed. The project applicant has identified the following objectives for the proposed project:

1. Provide a comprehensively planned project that will continue to accommodate projected growth in construction related activities and related services, and also serve to help meet the current and future demands for Portland cement concrete grade aggregate and asphalt materials in Shasta County and the north state.

⁸ Wildland Resource Managers. May 2019. Revegetation Plan for Crystal Creek Aggregate Mine Expansion, Shasta County California. On file with the Shasta County Planning Division.

- 2. Expand an existing aggregate mining operation located in a known Mineral Resource Zone Category MRZ-2 "wherein lands classified as MRZ-2 are areas that contain identified mineral resources" as identified in the 1997 Mineral Land Classification for Shasta County by the State of California Department of Conservation.
- 3. Expand the existing aggregate mining operation to permit the installation and operation of a hot mix asphalt batch plant to provide "one stop" aggregate and asphalt related supply material services at a location in close proximity to the State Highway System whereby access is available to the west, east south and north and particularly for projects along the SR 299 corridor.
- 4. Expand the existing aggregate mining operation that continues to be compatible and complimentary of the existing open space areas immediately to the south, west and northwest of the project site and the industrial uses to the northeast and east of the project site.
- 5. Contribute to the improvement of the Shasta County economy by expanding a project that will increase sales taxes.



Rà-

FIGURE 1 – PROJECT LOCATION







General Plan and Zoning Mapping by The Land Designers























Public Scoping Report