

**VENTURA COUNTY RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AGENCY**

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**FINAL  
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT**

Certified June 1, 1995

**SCHMIDT ROCK QUARRY  
VENTURA COUNTY**

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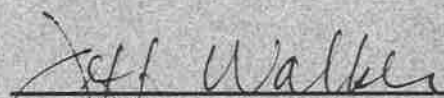
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- Landscape Architecture
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- Urban Design
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- Site Engineering
- Graphic Design

ARCHIVES

**The Environmental Report Review Committee recommends that the decision-making body for the proposed project find that this document has been completed in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act.**

  
Chair, Environmental Report  
Review Committee

9/2/93  
Date

County of Ventura  
Planning Commission  
Hearing  
Case No. PL18-0136  
Exhibit 7 - Final 1995 EIR  
With 2012 Addendum

## **FORWARD**

This Final EIR for the Schmidt Rock Quarry CUP - 3489 (MOD2) project consists of the following documents:

- **Draft Environmental Impact Report (Draft EIR) document**
- **Response to Comments/Errata to Draft EIR document**

The **first document** contained within this Final Environmental Impact Report includes the Draft EIR dated March 19, 1993. The public review period for the Draft EIR established by the State Clearinghouse commenced on April 9, 1993 and expired on May 26, 1993. The County of Ventura accepted comment letters through June 2, 1993.

An asterick ( \* ) has been placed in the right-hand margins of this Draft EIR to indicate where modifications to the document have been made as a result of comments submitted during the public review period. The actual changes to the document are included in the Errata to the Draft Environmental Impact Report.

The **second document** contained within this Final Environmental Impact Report includes the Response to Comments document dated September 1, 1993. This document responds to comments that were received on the Draft EIR. This document also includes an errata section, which notes the modifications made to the Draft EIR as a result of comments received.

To facilitate the reader's review of this Final document, both the Draft EIR and Response to Comments documents contain their own original Tables of Contents.

**DRAFT  
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT  
SCHMIDT ROCK QUARRY  
CUP - 3489 (MOD 2)**

**STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NUMBER: 89032904**

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**MARCH 19, 1993**

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## **I. INTRODUCTION**

### **GENERAL PURPOSE**

This focused Environmental Impact Report (EIR) addresses potential environmental impacts of rock quarry activities in the Wheeler Springs area of Ventura County. The project has been proposed by Schmidt Construction, Inc. under Conditional Use Permit No. 3489 (Modification No. 2). The project is to be located adjacent and east of Highway 33 near Matilija Road in the County of Ventura. The applicant has requested the approval of a Conditional Use Permit (CUP No. 3489-Mod. 2) to allow for the continuation of existing quarry operations. The County of Ventura has required certification of a focused Environmental Impact Report.

The County of Ventura has principal responsibility for the project's approval and supervision. Consequently, the County is the Lead Agency for the preparation of this EIR. The materials contained in this EIR are intended to serve as an informational document for decisions to be made by the County of Ventura and other responsible agencies regarding the proposed project.

The EIR provides an overall analysis of potential impacts associated with implementation of the proposed project. The issues discussed within the EIR are those which have been identified in the course of extensive review of all potentially significant environmental impacts associated with the proposed project. This review included issuance of a Notice of Preparation (included in Appendix A of this document).

### **ENVIRONMENTAL PROCEDURES**

This EIR has been prepared in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970 (CEQA), as amended (Public Resources Code, Section 21000, et seq.) and the State Guidelines for Implementation of the California Quality Act of 1970, as amended (California Administrative Code, Section 15000, et seq.). This report complies with the rules, regulations, and procedures for implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act adopted by the County of Ventura.

The purpose of this analysis is to determine whether or not the proposed project may have a significant effect on the environment, either on an individual basis or cumulatively, and to identify feasible mitigation measures.



The State CEQA Guidelines require that each EIR contain certain areas of description and analysis. The following list identifies areas of particular interest and the corresponding sections in this EIR:

<b>REQUIRED DESCRIPTION AND ANALYSIS</b>	<b>SECTION OF EIR</b>
1. <u>Summary</u> (Section 15123 of Guidelines)	Section II
2. <u>Description of Project</u> (Section 15124 of Guidelines)	Section III
3. <u>Description of Environmental Setting</u> (Section 15125 of Guidelines)	Section IV, V
4. <u>Environmental Impact</u> (Sections 15126 and 15143 of Guidelines)  a. Significant Environmental Effects b. Effects Which Cannot Be Avoided c. Mitigation Measures	Section V
5. <u>Growth-Inducing Impacts</u> (Section 15126 of Guidelines)	Section VI
6. <u>Alternatives to the Proposed Action</u> (Section 15126 of Guidelines)	Section VII

This EIR analyzes and assesses the significant environmental impacts of the revised project, and the cumulative impacts of such development coupled with other approved and reasonably foreseeable development in surrounding areas. It also identifies alternatives to the proposed project and discusses possible ways to reduce or avoid the potentially significant environmental impacts.


This EIR, as a final document pursuant to Sections 15089 and 15132 of the State CEQA Guidelines, will serve as the environmental informational document for all public and private activities and undertakings pursuant to or in furtherance of completion of the project. The County of Ventura Environmental Report Review Committee, as advisory body, and the Planning Commission as a decision making body, will consider the information in this document in the course of their deliberations.

The EIR has been focused as provided for in Section 15063(c)(3) of the CEQA Guidelines. The purpose of this action is to focus the environmental impact report on the effects determined to be significant, identify the effect determined not to be significant and explain the reasons for determining what effects would not be significant. This EIR will discuss potential traffic, biology/sedimentation, aesthetic/visual and geology/soils impacts of the proposed project.

The EIR assesses the environmental effects of the project as described in the Project Description. An Initial Study was prepared by the County of Ventura in December 1988. It is presented in Appendix A of this report. The Initial Study for CUP No. 3489 served to focus the scope of this Environmental Impact Report.

## PROJECT HISTORY

The original CUP-3489 for the rock quarry was issued for the project in 1976. Subsequent to issuance of the CUP, the County discovered that the applicant never completed a reclamation plan for the project as required by the Surface Mining Reclamation Act (SMRA). In August of 1979, the applicant was notified that the mining permit was in jeopardy, for failure to comply with the regulations of SMRA.

The applicant responded on February 15, 1980 and indicated that he would comply with the conditions of the SMRA. In November of 1980 the applicant submitted a reclamation plan and filing fee. At this time, a modification to renew the permit was also submitted. This application was determined by the County to be complete on December 17, 1980. In response to the CUP modification request the Resource Management Agency on January 1981 decided to use a previous EIR that was prepared for the original mining permit in 1976 to satisfy environmental review requirements. In April 1981, it was discovered that the excavations at the quarry had gone outside the boundaries of the approved Reclamation Plan. The applicant was notified that a revised plan depicting the new project boundaries would have to be submitted by June 22, 1981. A revised reclamation plan was submitted to the County on May 11, 1981. The plan was subsequently refused by the Public Works Administration. A revised plan was then submitted on May 27, 1981. 

A Planning Commission hearing was held to address the CUP modification on July 9, 1981. The modification to CUP 3489 was approved on July 19, 1981. This approval was granted for 5 years (through July 9, 1986) with the provision that the applicant could file a Minor Modification before July 9, 1986 and ask for an additional 5 years which would end July 9, 1991. This approval was based on the provision that the conditions of project approval had been accomplished and the proposed mining area would remain the same. Additionally, if the applicant wanted to expand the quarry operational area, he must apply by July 9, 1990 for a Major Modification.

An application for a Major Modification was submitted on March 17, 1986 requesting expansion of quarry operational area. This application remained incomplete for several months while the applicant was responding to Public Works Administration (PWA) requirements.



In January 1988, a revised quarry plan was submitted to the County. The plan was deemed incomplete on January 19, 1988 by the Public Work Administration. A revised plan was again submitted on May 5, 1988. On May 19, 1988 project applicant was notified that an acceptable geology report must be submitted to the Public Works Administration by August 1, 1988 or the County would close the case due to an incomplete application package. The applicant was notified again on July 25, 1988 reiterating that the case would absolutely be closed on August 1, 1988 unless a complete application was submitted. The case had been incomplete for a total of 2 years and 4 months.

On December 2, 1988 an acceptable geology report was received and the application was deemed complete. The staff of the County of Ventura determined that the proposed action constituted a project as defined by CEQA, the State CEQA Guidelines, and County policies. It was found that the project was not exempt from CEQA and the Guidelines. An Initial Study was completed on December 19, 1988 and a Notice of Preparation was circulated for public review on March 15, 1989.

The Initial Study (located in Appendix A) determined that the proposed project will have potential significant traffic, biology/sedimentation, aesthetic/visual and geology/soils effects on the environment and a focused EIR was required.

On March 20, 1989 the applicant submitted a revised Project Description questionnaire detailing the hours of truck operation. A modified site plan was submitted to the County on May 6, 1989. The site plan depicted that the boundaries of the proposed quarry would spill over onto U.S. Forest Service Land and adjacent property not owned by the applicant. The County notified the applicant on May 10, 1989 that the U.S. Forest Service and the adjacent property owner must co-sign the application.

In January 1990, the County re-initiated the EIR preparation process. Subsequently, all work efforts were stopped in August 1990 pending the completion of a modified site plan and a revised geology report. A modified site plan was required because the U.S. Forestry Service would not enter into an agreement necessary for quarry operations to occur within their boundaries. The applicant decided to modify the boundaries of the project to avoid Forest Service owned land for quarrying purposes.

In June 1992, a modified Quarry Operations Plan was submitted to the County of Ventura. Supplemental Geologic Reports were submitted in April, 1991 and February, 1993.

## CONTACT PERSONS

The Lead Agency in preparing the Environmental Impact Report is the County of Ventura. The environmental consultant to the County is STA Planning, Inc. of Newport Beach, California. The project co-applicants are Schmidt Construction, Inc. of Canoga Park, California and South Coast Mining and Milling, Inc. of Palmdale, California. Preparers and contributors to the report are listed in Section VIII of this document. Key persons are as follows:

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## MAJOR ISSUES

The County of Ventura has identified several areas of possible environmental impact resulting from completion of the project in the December 19, 1988 Initial Study. This EIR identifies and evaluates these impacts on both a project-specific and cumulative basis. This EIR addresses in detail the following issues:

- Traffic
- Aesthetic/Visual
- Biology/Sedimentation
- Geology/Soils



## II. SUMMARY

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

#### Project Location and Description

The proposed Schmidt Rock Quarry project is located on the east side of State Highway 33 (Maricopa Highway) approximately 900 feet northwest of Matilija Road, and about 3 1/4 miles northwest of the City of Ojai, in Ventura County, California.

The Schmidt Rock Quarry Environmental Impact Report analyzes the traffic, biology/sedimentation, aesthetic/visual and geology/soils impacts of the proposed project. The project consists of continuing the existing 4 acres of rock quarry and expanding by an additional approximate 9 acres.

#### Previous Environmental Documentation

An EIR has previously been performed on the proposed project site for a previous expansion of the quarry. The EIR is incorporated by reference into this report and is summarized below. Additionally, there have been two technical reports performed on the site analyzing geotechnical and soils conditions, and archaeological conditions.

Ventura County Environmental Resource Agency, 1975. Draft Environmental Impact Report for Conditional Use Permit 3489. Prepared for Schmidt Construction, Inc., Canyon Country, CA.

Pacific Materials Laboratory, 1988. Geotechnical Exploration for Schmidt Ojai Quarry. Prepared for Schmidt Construction Co., Canoga Park, CA.

MacFarlane Archaeological Consultants, 1989. Phase I Archaeological Reconnaissance 34.6 acre, Schmidt Quarry. Prepared for Schmidt Quarry, Ojai, California.

**Summary of Draft EIR for Conditional Use Permit 3489.** The Draft Environmental Impact Report for CUP 3489 provides an analysis of the environmental impacts associated with quarry operations on a 34.61 acre site located adjacent and east of Highway 33, approximately 3.25 miles northwest of the City of Ojai, California. The analysis was based on an expected extraction of 80,000 tons of rock yearly from an estimated 2,400,000 tons. Environmental issues analyzed in the DEIR include: air quality; noise; traffic; flooding; water quality; geology; archaeology; plants and wildlife; sanitation; aesthetics; safety; police protection; fire protection; and energy. Additionally, treatment alternatives were suggested as requirements for conditions of approval. Mitigation measures proposed by the applicant were evaluated by County staff but were unclear in regard to timing, method of verification,

implementing mechanism and responsible division. The EIR discusses the relationship between local short-term uses and enhancement of long-term productivity. It was concluded that the implementation of mitigation measures would reduce quasi-seismic effects, noise, dust, and flying debris from quarry operations, but it is doubtful that this type of operation would ever be able to blend in with its surroundings. The project's long term productivity would result in a local source of rock material which can be used for construction activities within the county.

### **Areas of Controversy**

The County of Ventura has attempted to provide for public input into the preparation of the Draft EIR to identify issues and concerns. Their efforts have included distribution of a Notice of Preparation and Initial Study. There are four areas of controversy related to the Schmidt Rock Quarry EIR. The controversial issues identified were established through the preparation of an Initial Study for the project.

The following discussion summarizes the major areas of controversy:

1. The impact of project and non-project related traffic on the Maricopa Highway (State Route 33).
2. The impact of the proposed project on biological resources and the project's potential flooding and erosion impacts on existing flora and fauna of the North Fork of the Matilija Creek. Additionally, the impact on the Flood Control District's channels due to the transportation of waste material downstream by flood flow and the redeposition of this waste material in the lower reaches of the Ventura River.
3. The impact of the proposed project on the existing and future aesthetic and visual resources of the Maricopa Highway. This would include the following:
  - a. Visibility of the proposed rock quarry expansion to urban areas, travel route users, and surrounding residences.
  - b. Visibility of the project to residents in close proximity (one-half mile) to the site.
4. The impact to geology/soils conditions in the project area.

### **Required Actions**

The following actions related to the project have yet to be taken:

- Certification of an Environmental Impact Report
- Approval of Conditional Use Permit



## **Environmental Impacts**

The EIR evaluates the project's potential project specific and cumulative impacts related to traffic, biology/sedimentation, aesthetics/visual, and geology/soils impacts. The General Summary section of this EIR provides a summary of potential impacts, mitigation measures, and level of significance after mitigation for the above mentioned environmental topics. (See page 11).

## **Alternatives**

Alternatives to the proposed project are listed below and are fully evaluated in a subsequent section of this EIR. The Alternative section provides a descriptive analysis and evaluation of each alternative. In addition, the Alternatives Summary Matrix on page 22 displays a comparison of each alternative's potential environmental impacts in comparison to the proposed project.

- No Project
- Alternative Project Location

## **Growth Inducing Impacts**

Within Ventura County, the rock quarry project involves the continuation and expansion of an existing rock quarry. Given the extent of development which has already occurred and that which has been approved, it is unlikely that this project will have a significant growth-inducing effect. The rock quarry expansion is a reflection of growth presently occurring in the region. The project is a response to various types of development occurring throughout the region, market conditions, and evolving consumer demands.

## **SUMMARY OF UNAVOIDABLE SIGNIFICANT ADVERSE IMPACTS**

This project, in conjunction with other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future projects, will incrementally contribute to a degradation of the visual quality of the surrounding area to those viewers in the foreground and middleground view zones on both a project-specific and cumulative basis.

## **SUMMARY OF IMPACTS MITIGATED TO A LEVEL LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT**

The proposed project, in conjunction with other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable projects will incrementally contribute to the degradation of the visual quality in the surrounding area for viewers in the background view zone. With implementation of mitigation measures, these impacts will be reduced to a level less than significant. The proposed project will result in impacts to biological resources including vegetation/plant

communities, and alteration of the North Fork of Matilija Creek. With implementation of mitigation measures, these impacts will be reduced to a level of insignificance. Impacts due to slope instability and earthquake activity have the potential to exist on the proposed project site. With implementation of mitigation measures, these impacts will be reduced to a level of insignificance.

## **SUMMARY OF IMPACTS FOUND NOT TO BE SIGNIFICANT**

The County of Ventura prepared an Initial Study (located in Appendix A) to identify the effects of the proposed project which are potentially significant. Those topics which were determined not to be significant are stated below:

- Land Use
- Housing
- Mineral and Oil Resources
- Air Quality
- Growth Inducement
- General Plan Consistency
- Human Health
- Light and Glare
- Water Supply

Subsequent to preparation of the Initial Study, a comprehensive archaeological reconnaissance was performed by MacFarlane Archaeological Consultants on March 31, 1991. The study identified a rock shelter of possible cultural significance within the subject property. No evidence was observed which would positively identify the shelter as a prehistoric site; based on the nature of the shelter and its location, the study recommended that quarrying activities avoid this site location. A comparison between the proposed quarry plan and the location of the possible rock shelter indicate that the shelter is not located within the proposed quarry operational area. No impacts are anticipated.

The Initial Study and subsequent cultural resources survey served to focus the scope of this EIR to a discussion of traffic, biology/ sedimentation, aesthetic/visual, and geology/soils issues. This EIR has identified no significant traffic impacts associated with the project.



**GENERAL SUMMARY OF IMPACTS  
AND MITIGATION MEASURES**

Resource	Description of Impact	Scope	Mitigation Measure	Level of Significance
<u>Aesthetics/Visual</u>	Implementation of the proposed project will result in impacts to viewers in the foreground and middleground view zones.	Project-Specific and Cumulative	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Upon completion of each phase as identified in the Operations Plan (Exhibit 5) and the Reclamation plans (Exhibits 6, 7, and 8), landscaping shall be provided along Maricopa Highway at the entrance to the project site, above the Matilija Creek adjacent to the project site and along the access road to quarry operations.</li> <li>2. Upon completion of each phase as identified in the Operations Plan (Exhibit 5) and the Reclamation plans (Exhibits 6, 7, and 8), the applicant shall landscape the site in a manner consistent with the natural character of the area.</li> <li>3. Upon completion of quarry operations, the applicant shall provide landscaping to return the site to as natural a state as possible.</li> <li>4. Prior to excavation, landscaping and irrigation plans shall be prepared in accordance with the Ventura County Guide to Landscape Plans.</li> <li>5. During excavation, the process of benching as identified in the Operations Plan (Exhibit 5) and the Reclamation plans (Exhibits 6, 7, and 8), will continue to reduce the amount of exposed rock visible.</li> </ol>	According to the Natural Forest Service criteria, impacts will remain significant and unavoidable.

**GENERAL SUMMARY OF IMPACTS  
AND MITIGATION MEASURES (CONT'D)**

Resource	Description of Impact	Scope	Mitigation Measure	Level of Significance
	Implementation of the proposed project will result in impacts to viewers in the background view zone.	Project-Specific and Cumulative	Mitigation Measures 1 through 5 in the Aesthetics/ Visual section shall apply (same as above).	According to the Natural Forest Service Criteria, with implementation of Mitigation Measures 1 through 5, impacts will be reduced to a level less than significant.
<b><u>Biology/Sedimentation</u></b>	Implementation of the proposed project will result in the loss of all existing vegetation which consists of mixed chaparral.	Project-Specific and Cumulative	1. Upon completion of each phase as identified in the Operations Plan (Exhibit 5) and the Reclamation Plans (Exhibits 6, 7, and 8) all revegetation and landscaping shall utilize native species of trees, shrubs and groundcover only.	With implementation of Mitigation Measure 1, project-specific and cumulative will be reduced to a level less than significant.
	Although implementation of the project as proposed would greatly reduce the likelihood of a major slope failure, the potential for minor slope failure and runoff associated with the proposed project may alter the North Fork of the Matilija Creek (considered a blue line stream by the U.S. Department of Fish and Game) and result in erosion and downstream sedimentation impacts.	Project-Specific	2. Pursuant to Section 1601-1603 of the California State Fishing and Game Code, the California Department of Fish and Game shall be notified prior to any alteration of the blue line drainage traversing the property. The purpose of this notification is to allow the state to regulate alterations to streambed habitats, including, but not necessarily limited to, those drainages which are shown by a "blue line" in U.S.G.S. 7.5 minute quad sheets.	With implementation of Mitigation Measures 2 through 5, project-specific impacts will be reduced to a level less than significant.

**GENERAL SUMMARY OF IMPACTS  
AND MITIGATION MEASURES (CONT'D)**

Resource	Description of Impact	Scope	Mitigation Measure	Level of Significance
			<p>3. Prior to issuance of grading permits, the project engineer shall develop and implement erosion and siltation control plans, during all phases of quarry operations, to prevent erosion and siltation resulting in the transport of sediment into the drainages onsite and downstream to Matilija Creek where it may adversely impact riparian and aquatic habitat areas.</p> <p>4. Prior to the issuance of grading permits, the existing interface between the quarry operations and Matilija Creek shall be recontoured so as to provide a protective berm along, but outside, of the riparian habitat. The purpose of this berm would be to stop any minor failures or slumping from reaching the creek and creating a sedimentation problem.</p> <p>5. Prior to the issuance of grading permits, a silt fence shall be placed at the bottom of the berm recommended in Mitigation Measure 3 on the creek side, to prevent the run-off of water borne sediments from the berm into the creek.</p>	<p>★</p> <p>★</p> <p>★</p>
<u>Geology/Soils</u>	As with the existing quarry operation, future impacts associated with implementation of the proposed project may result from seismic events.	Project-Specific	<p>1. During quarry operations, bench backcut slopes shall be limited to a maximum of 20 feet in vertical height and laid back at a temporary repose not to exceed 60 degrees. Quarry tailings shall be placed in a systematic method downslope of the previous slope backcut to insure that buttressing of the previous bench backcut slopes exists prior to significant further upslope quarry activity.</p>	With implementation of Mitigation Measures 1 through 12, project-specific impacts will be reduced to a level less than significant.



**GENERAL SUMMARY OF IMPACTS  
AND MITIGATION MEASURES (CONT'D)**

Resource	Description of Impact	Scope	Mitigation Measure	Level of Significance
			<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>2. During quarry operations, buttress fills shall be created in a near structural manner. This includes preparation of the area to receive fill by creating a level bench, placement of the material in such a manner as to obtain a degree of compaction in excess of 85 percent relative compaction with a final fill slope repose not to exceed 1.5:1.</li><li>3. As the previously-used quarry benches will be modified into switchback access roads, during quarry operations, care shall be taken to define the access roadway and to provide positive drainage and drainage devices as necessary to avoid downslope artificial fill erosion. This may include but is not limited to consideration of tightline conduits for direct drainage into Matilija Creek, limiting switchback road gradients, sloping switch-back roads back into the hillside and collection of free water drainage on previously cut bedrock formations in lieu of artificial fill and providing planting and irrigation systems on artificial fill slopes to protect their surfaces.</li><li>4. Two significant shallow-depth landslides are identified upslope of the present quarry area but within the proposed future quarry development. The removed materials may be stockpiled or used for artificial fill and/or buttressing. The limits of landslide removal shall be established by geologic inspection during grading removal.</li></ol>	



**GENERAL SUMMARY OF IMPACTS  
AND MITIGATION MEASURES (CONT'D)**

Resource	Description of Impact	Scope	Mitigation Measure	Level of Significance
			<p>5. During quarry operations, the integrity of the existing natural drainage surface located along the west side of the quarry shall be maintained by either closed conduit or open channel flow.</p> <p>6. During quarry operations along the northwest boundary line where significant extension joint-crack openings exist, material shall either be removed or an engineered buttress shall be provided to prevent potential translation. The materials observed may be of significant use in quarry activity and may be better served by full removal down to a more competent, less steeply jointed bedrock zone as indicated on the geologic map. Limits of removal shall be established by geologic inspection during grading removal.</p> <p>7. Final quarry slope repose shall be designed to match existing natural fracture orientations. Since orientations vary per given area, design shall include joint orientations indicated within the geotechnical report prepared by Pacific Materials Laboratory. Actual conditions encountered during quarry activities may require modifications to final slope repose. As a rule of thumb, the final quarry slopes shall be laid back to match existing joint attitudes so as to remove all unsupported fractured sandstone blocks. This condition appears to vary from 35 to 44 degrees and will result in quarry limits well beyond those indicated for the first phase of quarry development.</p>	

**GENERAL SUMMARY OF IMPACTS  
AND MITIGATION MEASURES (CONT'D)**

Resource	Description of Impact	Scope	Mitigation Measure	Level of Significance
			8. Prior to continuation of quarry operations, all areas where the natural quarry fracture planes are in excess of 44 degrees, shall be fully identified and these rock slabs be rock-bolted to stabilize units below with sufficient bolts to prevent downslope translation or stabilized in another acceptable manner to prevent translation.	
			9. Prior to removal of rock bolted slabs during quarry operations, new rock bolts will be required upslope to insure stability of increasingly steep slope conditions. Additionally, as a safeguard for quarry workers, well-anchored structural tension netting shall be installed upslope of all quarry areas prior to commencement of quarrying activities.	
			10. Prior to continuation of quarry operations, onsite perched boulders identified upslope of the current quarry activity shall be identified and removed.	

**GENERAL SUMMARY OF IMPACTS  
AND MITIGATION MEASURES (CONT'D)**

Resource	Description of Impact	Scope	Mitigation Measure	Level of Significance
			<p>11. Ongoing quarry activity shall be placed under the supervision of a certified engineering geologist and licensed land surveyor providing periodic inspection of measures to ensure quarry safety and to aid in identification of changes of lithology and/or geologic context which may occur during quarry excavation. Of particular significance is quarry work outside the currently proposed limits of Phase I quarry activity, as many upslope areas of concern are extremely steep and not presently readily accessible for confirmation of geologic conditions. An engineering geologist, on at least an annual basis shall be retained to provide progress geologic logging, reports, and recommendations pertaining to the structural geology of the subject site.</p> <p>12. Prior to continuation quarry operations, the precariously steep backcut slopes within the current mining benches of the site shall be modified and backfilled to provide buttressing to maintain a near vertical bench backcut slope height of not to exceed 30 feet.</p>	

**GENERAL SUMMARY OF IMPACTS  
AND MITIGATION MEASURES (CONT'D)**

Resource	Description of Impact	Scope	Mitigation Measure	Level of Significance
<u>Traffic</u>	No impacts are anticipated.	Not applicable	Mitigation Measures 1 through 12 in the Geology/ Soils section shall apply (same as above).  None necessary.	With implementation of Mitigation Measures 1 through 12, project-specific impacts will be reduced to a level less than significant.  No impacts have been identified.

## ALTERNATIVES - SUMMARY OF IMPACTS

Topic	Proposed Project Impacts *	No Project	Alternative Project Location
<b>AESTHETICS/VISUAL</b>			
<b><u>Project Impacts</u></b>	<p>Implementation of the proposed project will result in impacts to viewers in the foreground and middleground view zones.</p> <p>Implementation of the proposed project will result in impacts to viewers in the background view zone.</p>	<p>No additional excavation or removal of vegetation beyond the permitted existing quarry operation would occur with this alternative. Alternative will avoid this impact.</p> <p>No additional excavation or removal of vegetation beyond the permitted existing quarry operation would occur with this alternative. Alternative will avoid this impact.</p>	<p>The Mary Smith Quarry is visible from visitors to the adjacent cemetery and scattered residences in the area. Alternative will have a similar impact as the proposed project.</p> <p>The Mary Smith Quarry is visible from visitors to the adjacent cemetery and scattered residences in the area. Alternative will have a similar impact as the proposed project.</p>
<b><u>Alternative Impacts</u></b>			
Anticipated aesthetic/visual impacts of Alternatives that are not impacts of the proposed project.	----	None	None
<b>BIOLOGY/SEDIMENTATION</b>			
<b><u>Project Impacts</u></b>	<p>Implementation of the proposed project will result in the loss of all existing vegetation which consists of mixed chaparral.</p>	<p>No additional excavation or removal of vegetation beyond the permitted existing quarry operation would occur with this alternative. Alternative will avoid this impact.</p>	<p>Expansion of this site would require the removal of similar existing vegetation. Alternative will have a similar impact as the proposed project.</p>

## ALTERNATIVES - SUMMARY OF IMPACTS (CONT'D)

Topic	Proposed Project Impacts *	No Project	Alternative Project Location
	<p>Although implementation of the project as proposed would greatly reduce the likelihood of a major slope failure, the potential for minor slope failure and runoff associated with the proposed project may alter the North Fork of the Matilija Creek (considered a blue line stream by the U.S. Department of Fish and Game) and result in erosion and downstream sedimentation impacts.</p>	<p>No additional excavation or removal of vegetation beyond the permitted existing quarry operation would occur with this alternative, although the potential for sedimentation impacts to Matilija Creek will remain. Alternative will have greater impact than the project.</p>	<p>This alternative is not located on or near a blue line stream. Alternative will avoid this impact.</p>
<b><u>Alternative Impacts</u></b>			
<p>Anticipated biology/sedimentation impacts of Alternatives that are not impacts of the proposed project.</p>	----	<p>Alternative would allow the continued existence of unstable and unsafe slopes at the existing Schmidt rock quarry which would result in a major slope failure and cause adverse impacts on Matilija Creek including erosion and downstream sedimentation.</p>	<p>None</p>
<b>GEOLOGY/SOILS</b>			
<b><u>Project Impacts</u></b>	<p>As with the existing quarry operation, future impacts could result from seismic events.</p>	<p>This alternative would allow the existing unstable and unsafe slopes at the existing Schmidt Rock Quarry to remain. Alternative will have similar impact as the project.</p>	<p>Excavation at this site occurs on vertical hillsides similar to the proposed project. Depending on geological conditions, this alternative may experience impacts resulting from seismic events. Alternative will have similar impact as the project.</p>

## ALTERNATIVES - SUMMARY OF IMPACTS (CONT'D)

Topic	Proposed Project Impacts *	No Project	Alternative Project Location
	The potential for slope failure exists during quarry activity.	This alternative would allow the existing unstable and unsafe slopes at the existing Schmidt Rock Quarry to remain. Alternative will have similar impact as the project.	Depending on geological conditions, this alternative has the potential for slope failure during quarry activity. Excavation at this site occurs on vertical hillsides similar to the proposed project. Alternative will have similar impact as the project.
<b><u>Alternative Impacts</u></b>			
Anticipated geology/soils impacts of Alternatives that are not impacts of the proposed project.	----	Alternative would allow the continued existence of unstable and unsafe slopes at the existing Schmidt rock quarry which could result in more severe impacts from seismic events and slope failure.	Alternative would allow the continued existence of unstable and unsafe slopes at the existing Schmidt rock quarry.
<b>TRAFFIC</b>			
<b><u>Project-Impacts</u></b>	No impacts have been identified.	This alternative will not result in an increase in truck trips or traffic. No impacts are anticipated.	This alternative would result in a similar amount of truck trips due to expansion of the site. Alternative will have similar impact as the project.
<b><u>Alternative Impacts</u></b>			
Anticipated traffic impacts of Alternatives that are not impacts of the proposed project.	----	None	None

## ALTERNATIVES - SUMMARY OF IMPACTS (CONT'D)

Topic	Proposed Project Impacts *	No Project	Alternative Project Location
ENVIRONMENTALLY SUPERIOR TO THE PROPOSED PROJECT	—	Similar	No
UNDER CONSIDERATION	—	Yes	No



### **III. PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

#### **PROJECT LOCATION**

The existing Schmidt Rock Quarry is located in the County of Ventura, California, approximately 3 1/4 miles northwest of the City limits of Ojai. The existing quarry operations occur adjacent and east of Highway 33, and begin about 900 feet northwest of Matilija Road. The project site is shown in its regional context on Exhibit 1. This exhibit depicts the subject property in relation to the major arterials and surrounding cities.

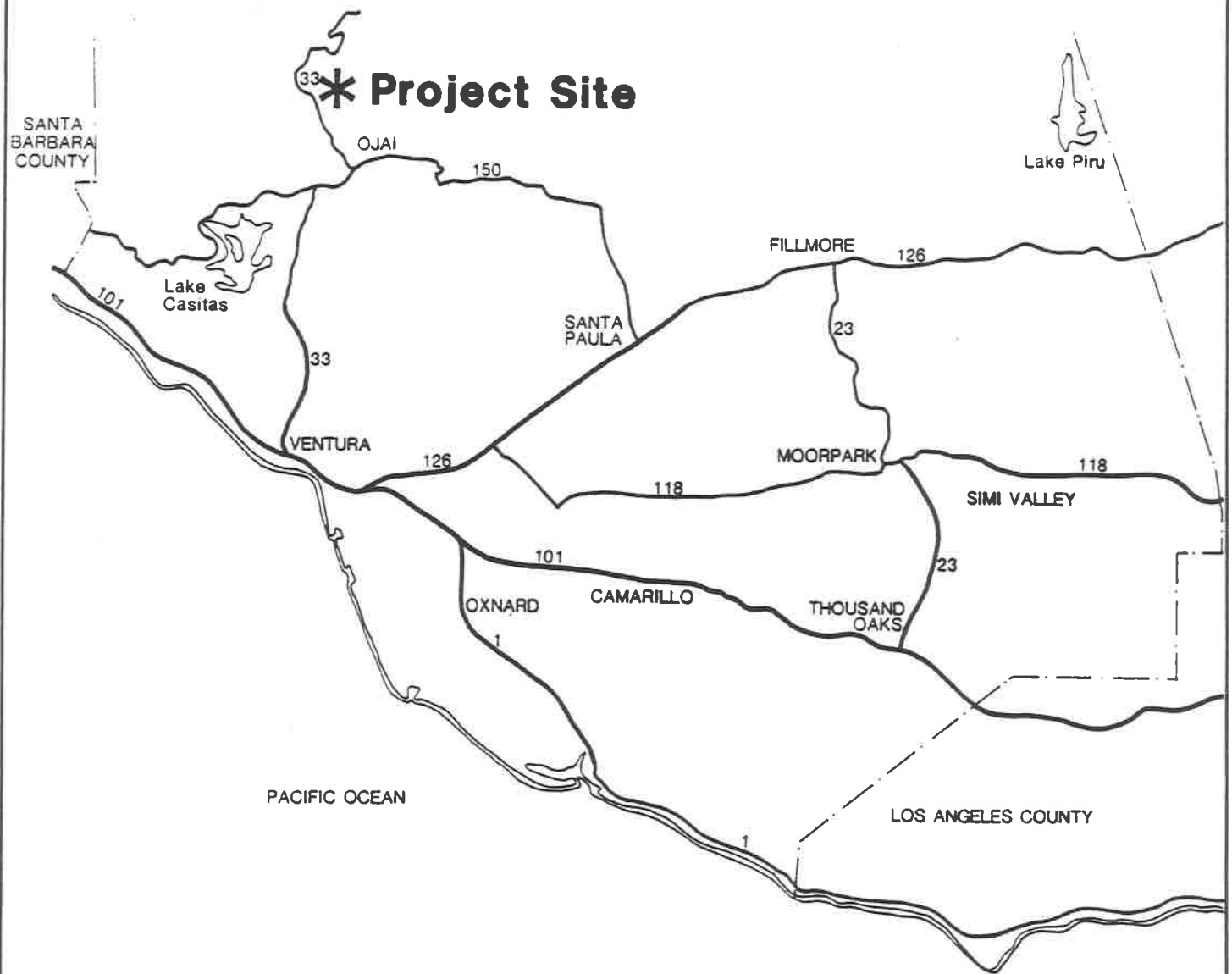
Access to the existing quarry off of the Maricopa Highway is via an existing dirt road. Exhibit 2 depicts the local vicinity of the existing quarry in relation to the proposed project expansion area. The project location is depicted on a U.S.G.S topographical map in Exhibit 3. The existing quarry permit area consists of approximately 4 acres. The applicant is proposing an expansion of the existing quarry permit area to encompass an additional 9 acres of quarry operational area.

The parcel which includes both the existing quarry and proposed expansion area is 34.6 acres and is designated assessor parcel number 010-0-180-275. In addition to the 34.61 acre parcel, the applicant owns an additional 141.9 acres in the surrounding area. This other property consists of assessor parcel numbers 09-0-090-010 (1.76 acres), 09-0-090-050 (31.17 acres), 09-0-090-060 (0.73 acres), 09-0-100-010 (10.60 acres), 09-0-100-030 (24.55 acres), 09-0-100-040 (12.17 acres), 10-0-180-310 (10.04 acres), and 10-0-180-410 (50.88 acres). Exhibit 4 illustrates the location of the aforementioned parcels in relationship to the parcel containing the existing and proposed quarry operations.

The areas surrounding the subject site include the Los Padres National Forest to the north and east. This land is owned by the U.S. Forest Service. The proposed quarry operations lie entirely within the boundaries of the subject property and do not infringe on adjacent forest service property. State Highway 33 is a main paved highway and the north fork of Matilija Creek is used for public recreational use. Both of these border the downslope (southwest) sides of the subject site. The Ventura County owned Matilija Park is located approximately 1,000 feet south of the site. ★

#### **PROJECT CHARACTERISTICS**

The following describes the existing quarry operation area and the proposed expansion area (proposed project). Both of these areas are contained within the assessors parcel 010-0-180-275 (refer to Exhibits 2 and 4).



Source: EDAW, Inc.

## REGIONAL LOCATION

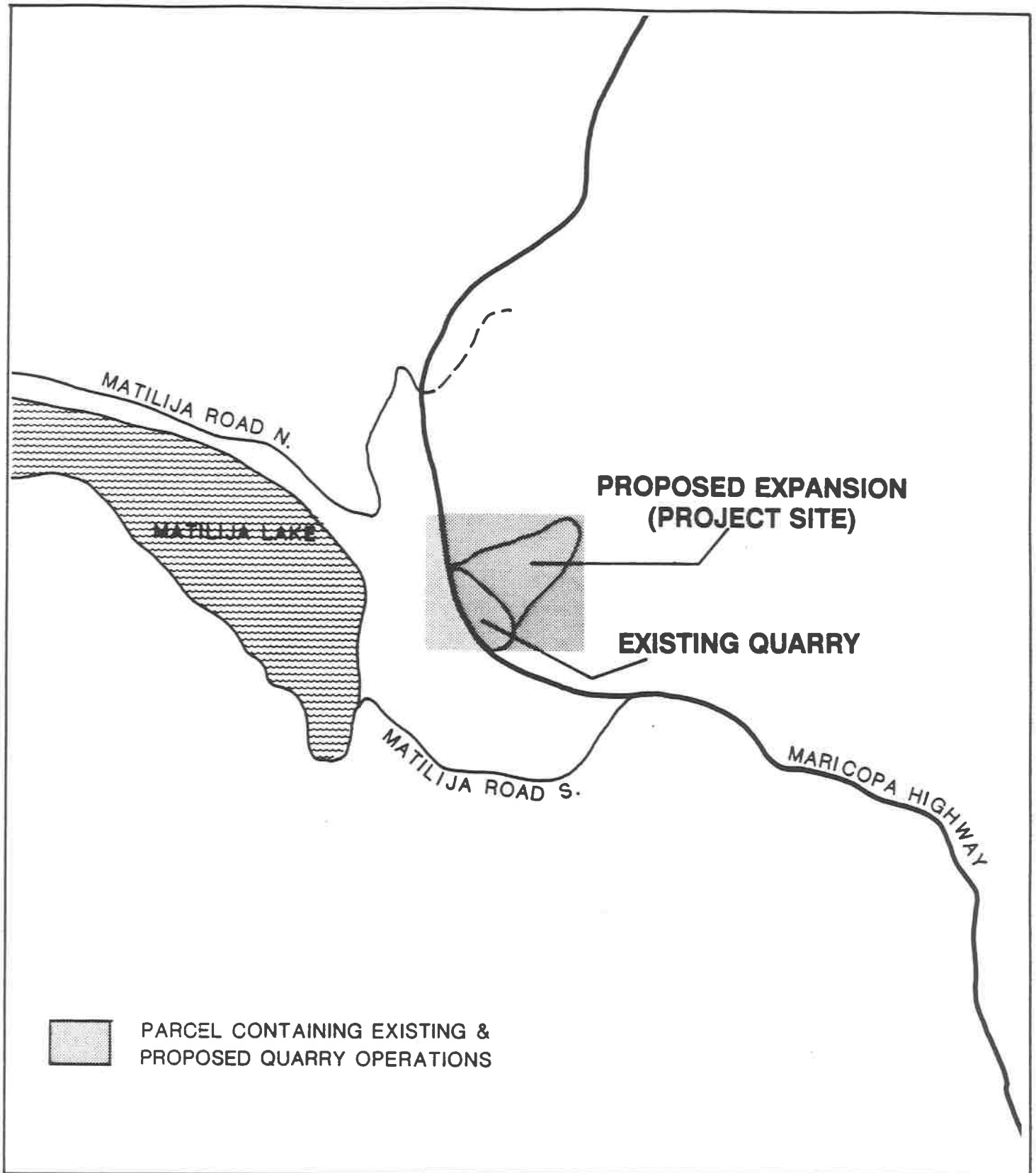
SCHMIDT ROCK QUARRY  
County of Ventura

**EDAW**



No Scale

Exhibit 1



Source: EDAW, Inc.

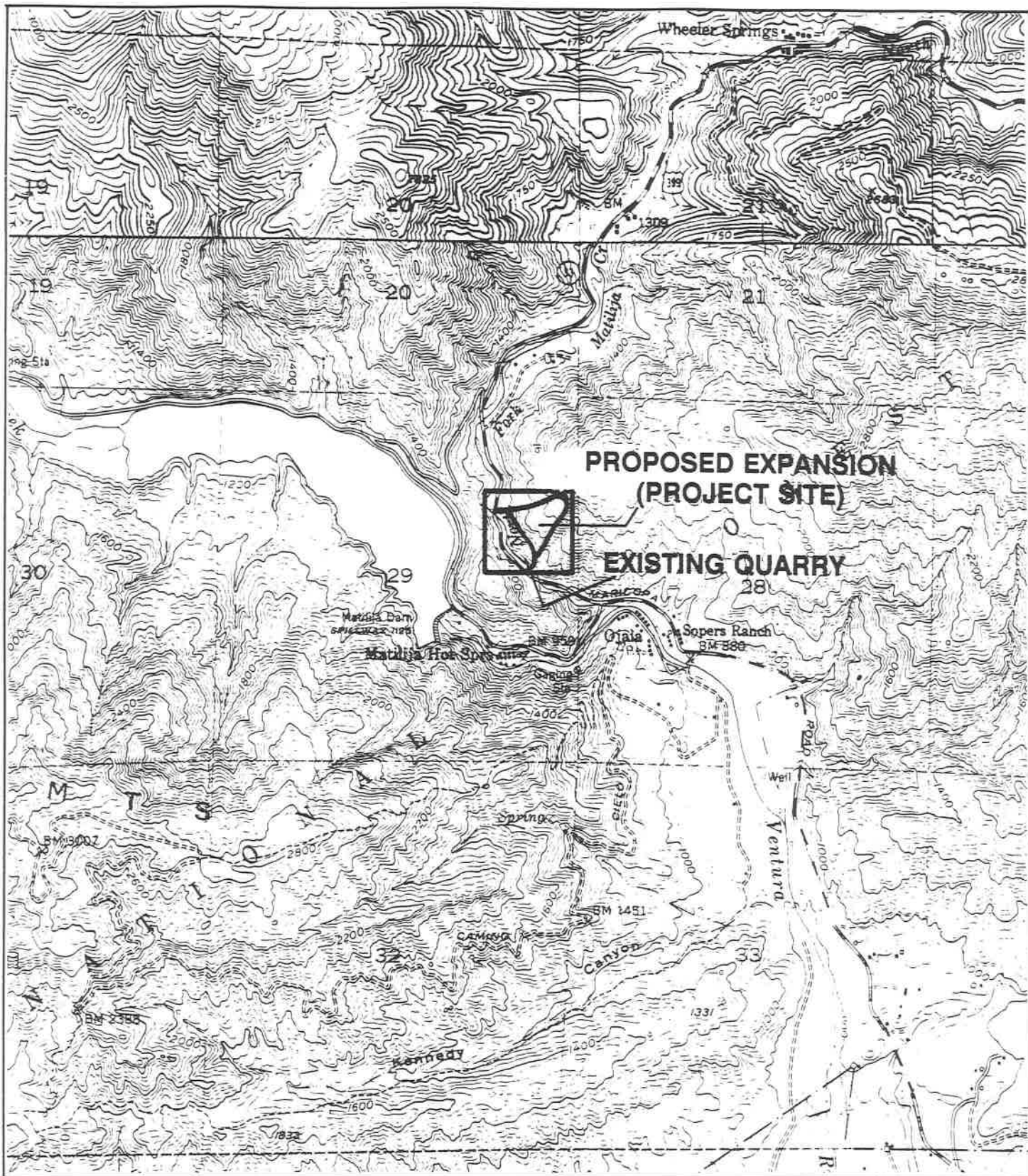
**LOCAL VICINITY**  
**SCHMIDT ROCK QUARRY**  
County of Ventura

**EDAW**

No Scale



Exhibit 2



Source: USGS Quad Map-Wheeler Springs & Matilija

**USGS MAP**

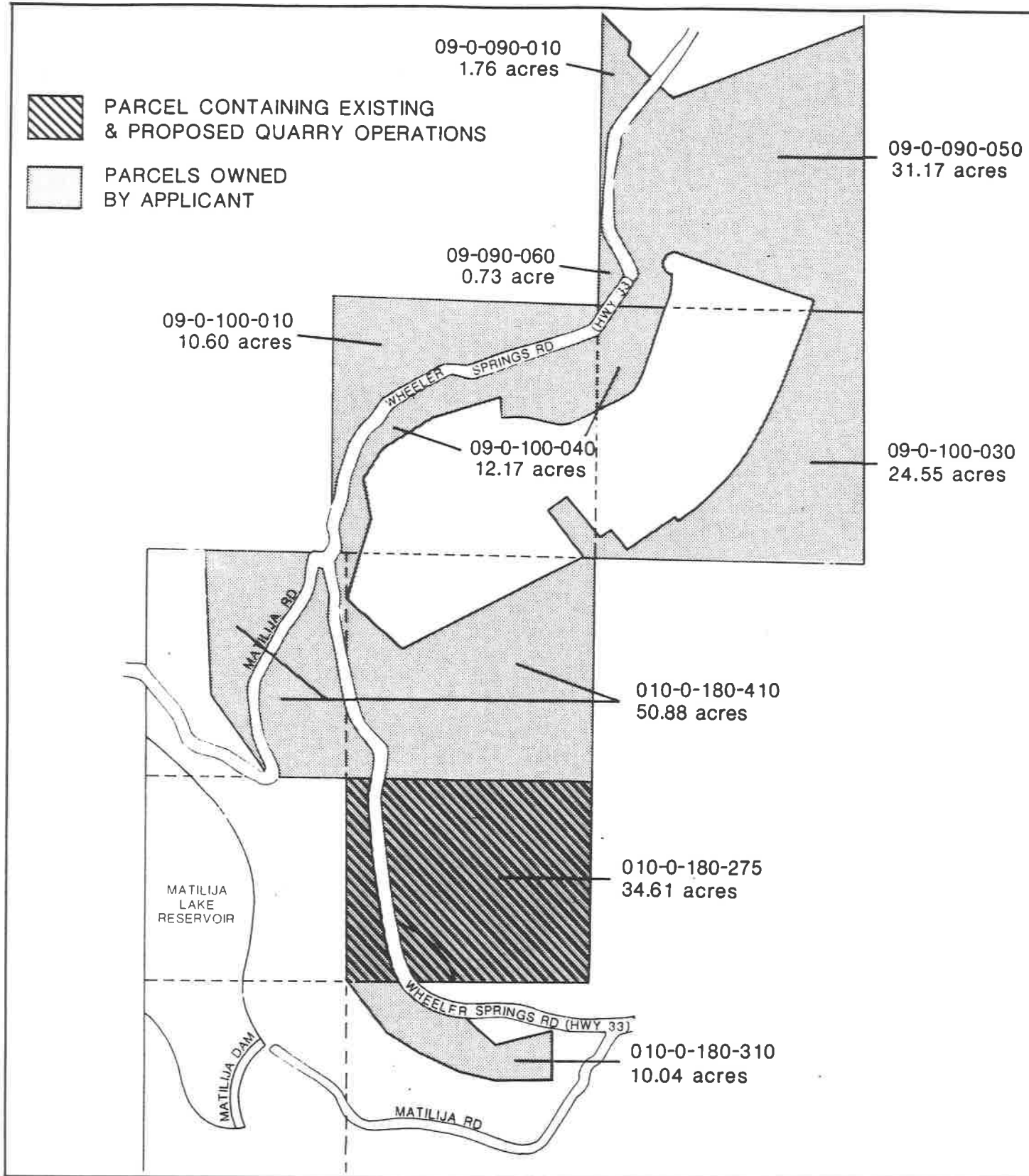
**SCHMIDT ROCK QUARRY**  
County of Ventura

**EDAW**



0 2000'

Exhibit 3



Source: EDAW, Inc.

## LAND OWNED BY APPLICANT

SCHMIDT ROCK QUARRY  
County of Ventura

**EDAW**



No Scale

Exhibit 4

## Existing Quarry Operations

Currently, 4 acres of the 34.61 acre parcel are permitted for mining activities and are being utilized for quarry operations. The remaining 30 acres of the site consist of vacant and mountainous land covered by a moderate growth of field grasses, chaparral and other vegetation, and are not within the existing mining permit area.

The existing quarry is located in the western area of the parcel. Significant cuts into the natural hillside within the quarry area have been made as a result of the mining activity. Previous mining activities at the existing quarry have resulted in unstable and unsafe hillside slopes on the parcel. One objective of the proposed project will be to assist in stabilizing this condition, thus mitigating potential existing hazards. \*

The existing quarry areas below the working face/rock loading area consist of a system of dirt switchback roads leading down to the quarry entrance. The area currently being worked consists of a 0.8:1 or steeper rock slope precipice which undercuts the hillside. The quarry slopes contain rock overhangs and large boulders. The materials extracted from the quarry consist of large rocks and sandstone for production of rip-rap, crushed rock aggregate, and related stone products. Rip-rap is used for protection of storm facilities, channel lining and building seawalls. Rip rap produced by the quarry meets both the State and County standards and is sold primarily to the Ventura County Flood Control District. Other customers include the U.S. Army, U.S. Navy, Caltrans, local municipalities and some private individuals.

The existing quarry operates 5 days a week. The hours of operation are permitted between 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m., with the exception that trucks are prohibited from driving through the City of Ojai between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. on weekdays. This exception does not apply on days when Nordoff High School is not in session. The quarry employs a total of eight people, alternating with three workers per day. Currently, no more than twenty loaded trucks are permitted to travel through the City of Ojai on each day of permitted quarry operation. The nature and rate of production at the facility is dictated by market demand and the economy. Therefore, quarry operations are intermittent as opposed to continuous. Stockpile of materials occur at the site.

The typical production rate at the existing quarry ranges from 5,000 to 50,000 tons/year. The actual daily and annual rate of material production depends on weather, the season of the year, and market demand. Thus, there is a great variation in the rate of production from year to year. According to records kept by the applicant, annual production between 1980 and 1990 ranges from 1,996 tons of rock material in 1982 to 115,050 tons in 1983. The average annual production between 1980 and 1990 was approximately 41,347 tons of rock material and for the past four years (1987-1990) the annual average was 28,865 tons.

The type of mining utilized at the quarry is considered open pit including drill and blast techniques. Quarry operations require the placement of blasting charges in the rock face.



Once detonation occurs, the resulting explosion fractures the rock which is then loaded into waiting trucks. No waste is disposed of outside the permitted quarry area. Blasting occurs infrequently, on an as-needed basis, about once every two weeks. Quarry methods include sidehill and multi-bench extractions. This refers to the bench-like excavation cuts which occur in each phase of the reclamation plan on the side of the existing hill. The trucks are weighed and the rock is transported to construction sites throughout Ventura County.

### **Proposed Expansion**

The operations plan for the proposed additional 9 acres which represent the next stage for quarry excavation is depicted in Exhibit 5. The 9 acres are contiguous to the existing 4 acre quarry area and continue operations upward into the hillside in a northeasterly direction. Phasing of the operation plan is discussed below.

The production rate of the proposed mining area would remain basically the same as that currently occurring at the existing quarry area (5,000 - 50,000 tons/year). The method of excavation would be the same as that practiced at the existing quarry (discussed earlier in this section). The operation plan as proposed, is the minimum amount of quarry work necessary to stabilize the existing slope.

The applicant plans to extract approximately 50,000 tons of rock yearly from an estimated 2,400,000 tons of reserves on the 9 acre site. The projected additional 9 acre quarry lifetime is currently estimated to be 50 years. Exhibit 5 illustrates the proposed staged grading plan for the proposed quarry area. The planned quarry slopes meet the safety requirements adopted by the County of Ventura. The plan was reviewed by the County and found to be geotechnically acceptable.

Excavation of the 9 acres will occur in three overall phases. Phasing is depicted in Exhibit 5. Each subsequent phase partially underlies the previous phase and continues operations upward and into the hillside. Phase IA is partially located within the existing quarry operations. This phase consists of approximately one acre, with one half of the area lying within the existing 4 acre quarry operation. Phase IB consists of approximately two additional acres. Phases II and III consist of approximately two and four new acres, respectively. With completion of Phase III, the quarry boundary will lie about 1,000 horizontal feet and 2,000 vertical feet distant from the crest of the nearby ridgeline.

The anticipated cubic yards of cut per phase has been estimated. The computer generated calculations for estimated cubic yards of cut are included in Appendix C. The cubic yards of cut have been converted to tons of cut utilizing a Rock Transport Weight conversion factor of 150 pounds per cubic foot. Phase I estimates approximately 290,000 tons of cut; Phase II estimates approximately 185,000 tons of cut; and Phase III estimates approximately 954,000 tons of cut. The total anticipated tons of cut are approximately 1,430,000.

## **Reclamation Plans**

Plans are to reclaim a portion of the existing 4 acre quarry site by the end of 1995 and another portion by the end of 2000. The reclamation plan for the existing quarry is detailed in Exhibit 6. Exhibits 7 and 8 illustrate the reclamation plan for the proposed continuation area. These plans address disposal of mining tailings and waste, slope stability, re-vegetation and erosion control of Matilija Creek and Highway 33. The reclamation plans call for planting trees or native shrubs where possible to aid in slope stability and erosion control. Large boulders will be placed along existing switchback berms to control drainage. These reclamation plans will include protection devices such as sloping the westerly edge of the quarry site to prevent any materials from rolling into Matilija Creek or onto Highway 33, and the placement of warning signs indicating quarry hazard and possible rockfall danger. Exhibit 8A depicts reclamation and quarry notes. The ultimate physical condition of the entire quarry operational area will appear as graduated benches with a connecting road from bottom to top.



## **PROJECT OBJECTIVES**

A statement of project objectives is required by Section 15124 of the California Environmental Quality Act. The project objectives of the applicant are:

- To continue to be the sole source provider of rock materials, including rip-rap and crushed rock aggregate, which meet both State and County standards for Ventura County and surrounding areas.
- To continue existing quarry operations and to expand the permit area by an additional 9 acres.
- To eliminate potential erosion hazards which may create runoff into the North Fork of the Matilija Creek.
- To continue excavation operations which meet the standards of the State Mining and Geology Board.
- To ensure proper phased reclamation after completion of quarry operations.

## **PROPOSED ACTIONS**

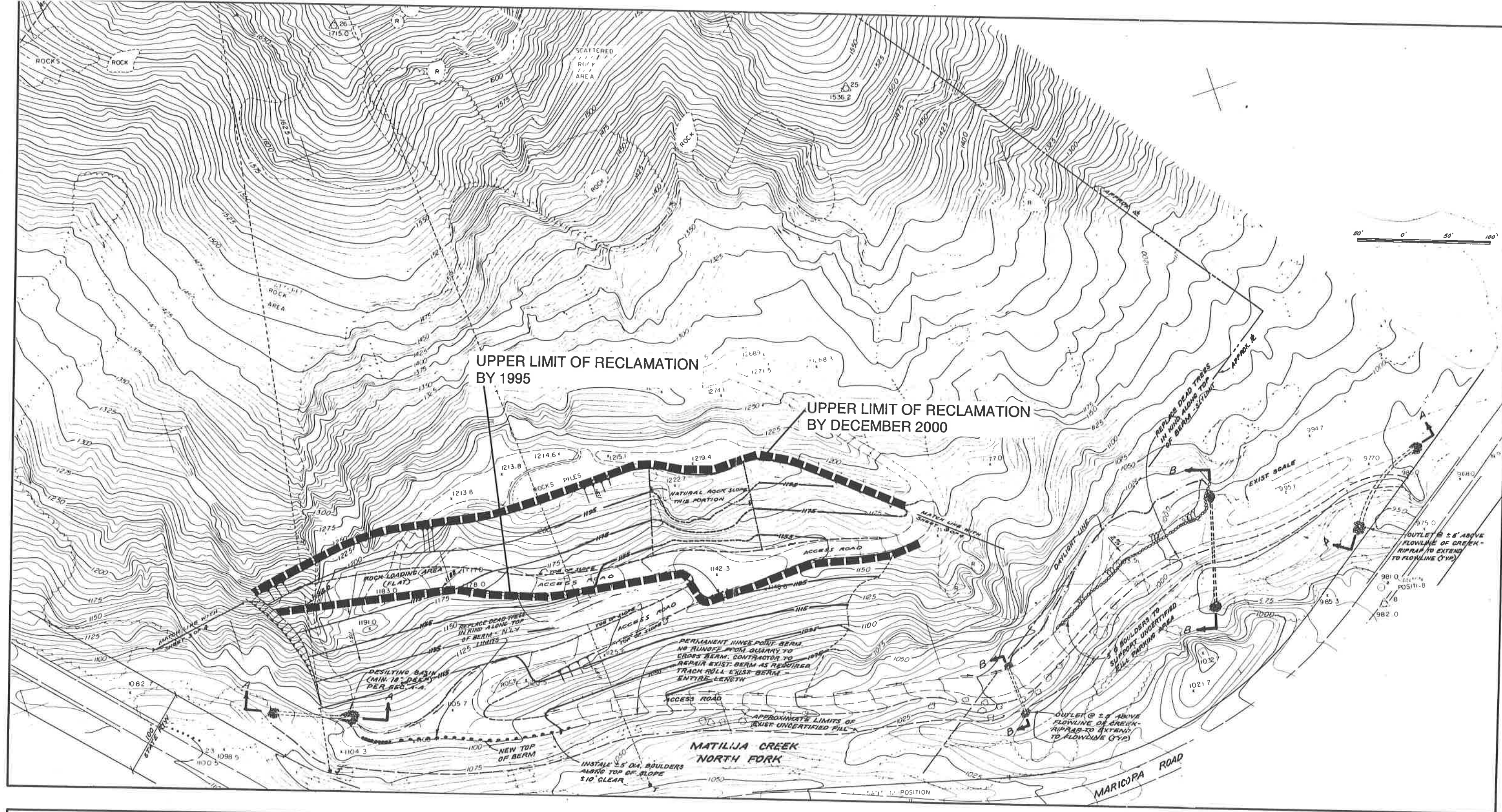
**Conditional Use Permit.** The proposed project will require the modification of a conditional use permit, CUP No. 3489(Mod 2) in accordance with the County of Ventura Zoning Ordinance to continue quarry operations.

**Certification of an Environmental Impact Report.** Acceptance of an environmental document as having been prepared in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the State CEQA Guidelines, and certification that the data was considered in the final decision on the project.









## RECLAMATION PLAN FOR EXISTING OPERATIONS

SCHMIDT ROCK QUARRY  
County of Ventura

Source: LBH Engineering



Exhibit 6





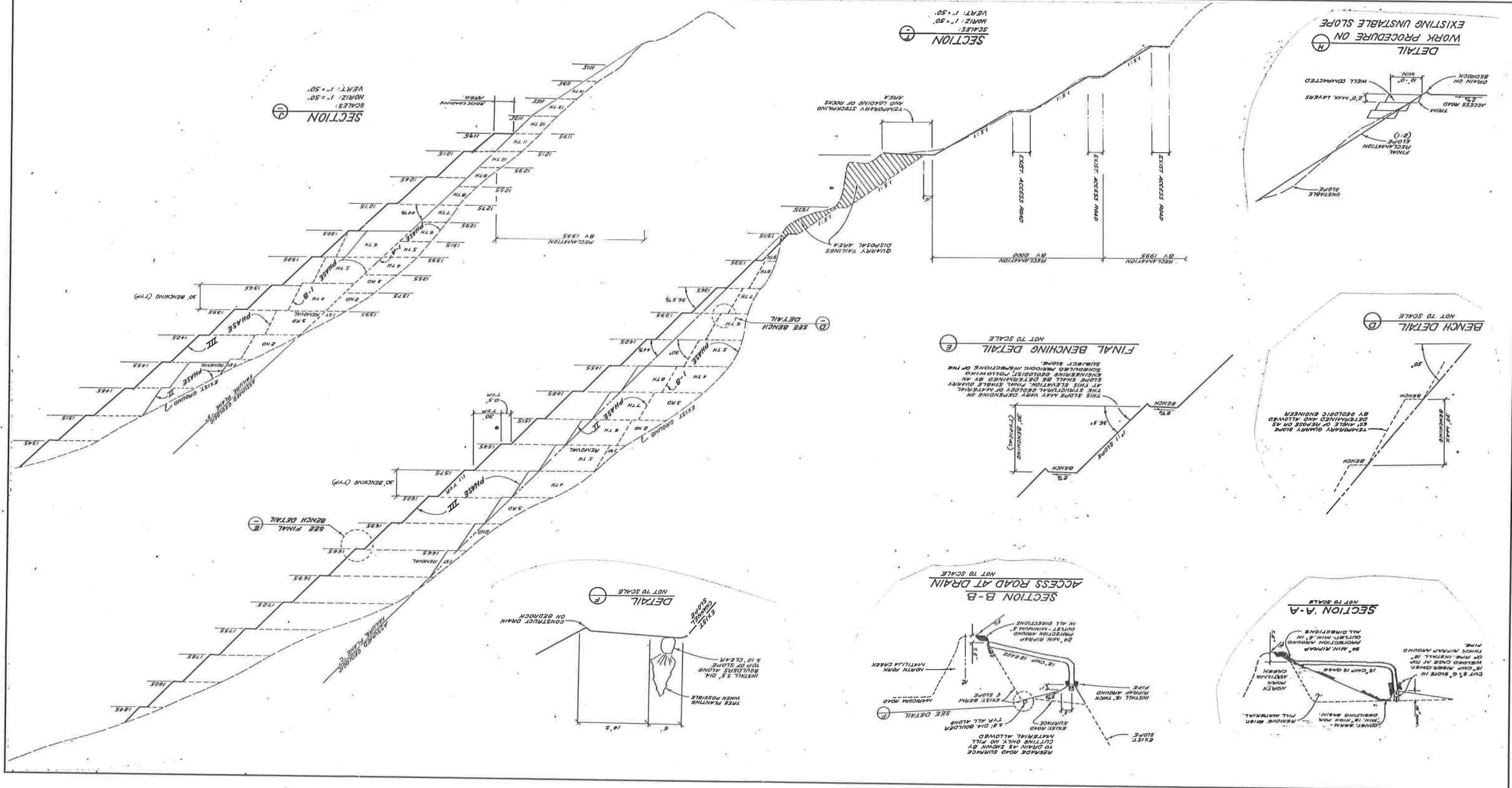


No Scale

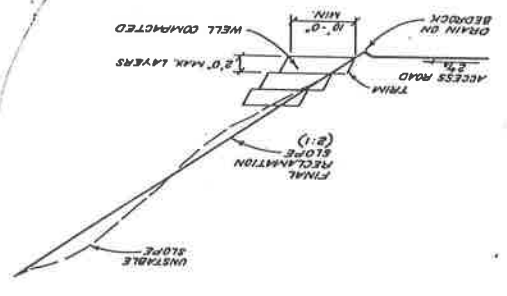
# RECLAMATION PLAN - CROSS SECTIONS AND DETAIL VIEWS

SCHMIDT ROCK QUARRY  
County of Ventura

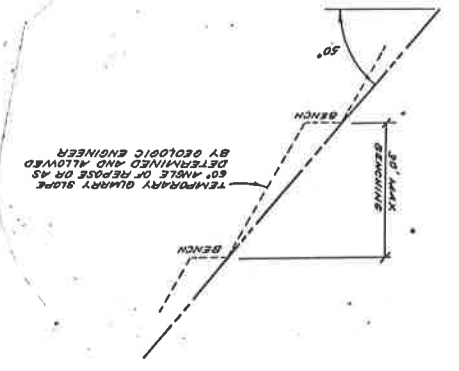
Source: LBI Engineering



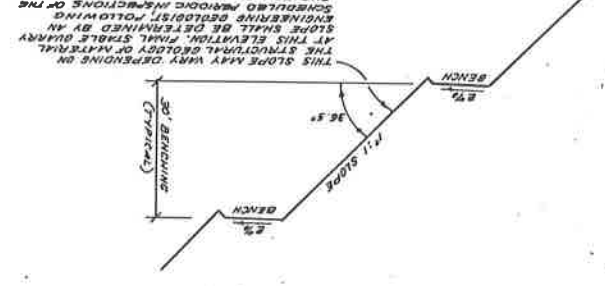
DETAIL  
WORK PROCEDURE ON  
EXISTING UNSTABLE SLOPE



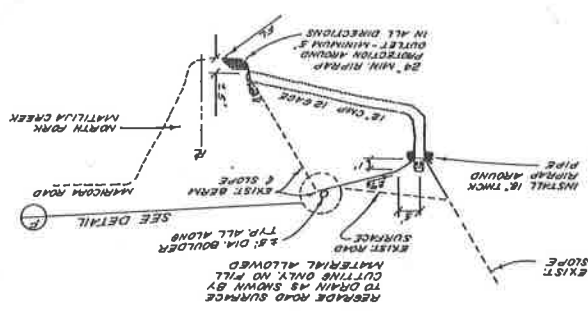
BENCH DETAIL  
NOT TO SCALE



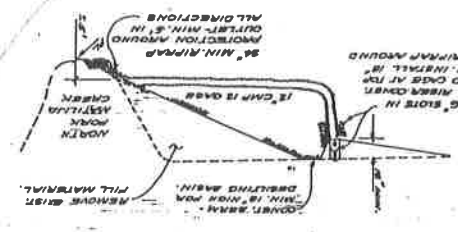
FINAL BENCHING DETAIL  
NOT TO SCALE



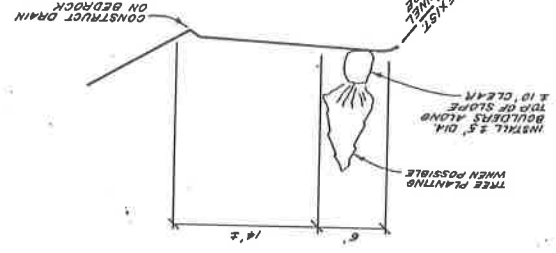
SECTION B-B  
ACCESS ROAD AT DRAIN  
NOT TO SCALE



SECTION A-A  
NOT TO SCALE



DETAIL  
NOT TO SCALE



### **RECLAMATION NOTES:**


- 1.0 ALL ACCESS ROADS SHALL BE GRADED TO DRAIN INTO HILLSIDE WITH BOULDERS PLACED ALONG OUTSIDE OF ROADWAY AS SHOWN IN DETAIL (F).
- 2.0 ALL EXISTING SLOPES WHERE QUARRY TAILINGS (UNCERTIFIED FILL) WERE USED SHALL BE INSPECTED BY THE ENGINEERING GEOLOGIST TO VERIFY ITS SLOPE STABILITY. IF FOUND UNSTABLE, SAID SLOPE SHALL BE REWORKED USING CERTIFIED FILL TO A STABLE 1:1 SLOPE. SEE DETAIL (H). PLANT TREES OR NATIVE SHRUBS WHERE SHOWN ON RECLAMATION PLAN, SHEET 2 OF 4.
- 3.0 ALL ACCESS ROAD DRAINAGE CANAL/DITCHES SHALL BE CONSTRUCTED ON EXISTING BEDROCK.
- 4.0 THIS RECLAMATION PLAN WAS PREPARED BASED ON THE QUARRY EXCAVATION SCHEME AS SHOWN IN THE QUARRY PLAN, BUT DUE TO POSSIBLE CHANGES IN QUARRY OPERATIONS DUE TO CHANGE IN STRUCTURAL GEOLOGY OF UNDERLYING STRATA, THIS RECLAMATION PLAN MAY BE REVISED ACCORDINGLY, SUBJECT TO THE REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE LEAD AGENCY.
- 5.0 QUARRY EXCAVATION SHALL BE UNDER THE OBSERVATION OF AN ENGINEERING GEOLOGIST WHO SHALL PROVIDE PERIODIC INSPECTION ON AT LEAST AN ANNUAL BASIS OF MEASURES TO MITIGATE QUARRY SAFETY AND TO AID IN IDENTIFICATION OF ANY CHANGES IN TERRAIN DISTURBANCE WITHIN OR ADJACENT TO THE QUARRY SITE. ANY CHANGE IN SLOPE PERFORMANCE OR EROSION/SEDIMENTATION CONDITIONS MAY REQUIRE REVISION TO THIS RECLAMATION PLAN. RESULTS OF THE ANNUAL INSPECTION SHALL BE SUMMARIZED IN A REPORT PREPARED BY THE ENGINEERING GEOLOGIST.
- 6.0 QUARRY EXCAVATION SHALL BE LIMITED TO 30 FOOT MAX. BENCHES WITH TEMPORARY QUARRY EXCAVATION SLOPE NOT TO EXCEED 60 DEGREE ANGLE OF REPOSE. TEMPORARY SLOPES ARE DEFINED AS SLOPES GRADED WITHIN THE PREVIOUS 12 MONTHS. FINAL SLOPES SHALL NOT EXCEED A 45 DEGREE ANGLE OF REPOSE AND SHALL HAVE 10 FOOT WIDE BENCHES EVERY 30 VERTICAL FEET. NO PERCHED BOULDERS SHALL EXIST AT ANY TIME ON THE SITE.
- 7.0 WARNING SIGN INDICATING QUARRY HAZARD AND POSSIBLE ROCKFALL DANGER SHALL BE POSTED ALONG HIGHWAY 33 BELOW QUARRY SITE. WARNING SIGN SHALL ALSO BE POSTED INDICATING NO RECREATIONAL USE OF CREEK BELOW QUARRY SITE.
- 8.0 THE WESTERLY EDGE OF THE QUARRY SITE SHALL BE SLOPED AND BERMED TO PREVENT ANY MATERIALS FROM ROLLING DOWN THE NATURAL SLOPE INTO HIGHWAY 33 OR MATILJA CREEK. IN THE EVENT THAT QUARRY MATERIALS FALL INTO MATILJA CREEK, SAID MATERIALS SHALL BE REMOVED IMMEDIATELY BY CONTRACTOR.

### **QUARRY NOTES:**

- 1.0 THIS PLAN WAS PREPARED TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF PACIFIC MATERIALS LABORATORY, INC. REPORT DATED JULY 25, 1988.
- 2.0 PRIOR TO ANY QUARRY EXCAVATION, ANY ON-SITE PERCHED BOULDERS OR LAND/ROCKSLIDES UPSLOPE THAT POSE DANGER TO ANY DOWNSLOPE QUARRY EXCAVATION SHALL BE REMOVED FIRST.
- 3.0 QUARRY EXCAVATION SHALL BE DONE IN STAGES. INITIAL STATE SHALL BE LIMITED TO PHASE I EXCAVATION AS FOLLOWS:

#### **STAGE**

#### **PURPOSE**

- 3.01 Phase 1-A TO PREVENT ANY POSSIBLE FAILURE ALONG ASSUMED FAILURE PLANE "D" AND "A" AS SHOWN IN GEOLOGIC SECTION "D-E-F-G" AND "A-B-C" RESPECTIVELY. (ENCLOSURE "B-2" AND "B-1" OF PMLI REPORT DATED JULY 24, 1988).
- 3.02 Phase 1-B TO PREVENT ANY POSSIBLE FAILURE ON THE NORTHERLY SIDE OF THE QUARRY ALONG ASSUMED FAILURE PLANE "F". THIS ASSUMED FAILURE PLANE "F" IS SHOWN IN GEOLOGIC SECTION "H-I-J-K" OF SAME REPORT (ENCLOSURE "B-3"). NO ROCKSLIDE IS ANTICIPATED DURING QUARRY EXCAVATION. HOWEVER, IN THE EVENT ANY ROCKSLIDE OCCURS, SUCH ROCKSLIDE WILL BE TOWARDS THE QUARRY SITE AND SHALL NOT POSE ANY DANGER TO THE NEARBY MARICOPA ROAD.
- 4.0 QUARRY WORK ON PHASE 1-A AND PHASE 1-B CAN BE DONE TOGETHER. ALL QUARRY EXCAVATION SHALL COMMENCE FROM THE TOP OF SLOPE PROCEEDING DOWNWARD AND SHALL BE PERFORMED ACCORDING TO TYPICAL BENCH DETAIL .

Source: LBH Engineering

## **RECLAMATION AND QUARRY NOTES**

**SCHMIDT ROCK QUARRY**  
County of Ventura

**EDAW**

No Scale

**Exhibit 8A**

## **LEAD, TRUSTEE, AND INTERESTED AGENCIES**

### **Lead Agency**

In conformance with sections 15050 and 15367 of the State CEQA Guidelines, the County of Ventura is the Lead Agency for the project. The Lead Agency is defined as the "public agency which has the principal responsibility for carrying out or approving the project."

The Lead Agency contact is:

**Ms. Beth Painter**  
Planner II  
County of Ventura  
800 South Victoria Avenue  
Ventura, California 93009  
(805) 654-5192

### **Trustee/Interested Agencies**

Trustee Agencies are state agencies having discretionary approval or jurisdiction by law over material resources affected by a project. This EIR is also intended to provide environmental information to government agencies which may be involved in serving the project, or may otherwise have an interest in the development's environmental effects. These agencies include, but are not limited to the following:

**Department of Fish and Game**  
330 Golden Shore, Suite 50  
Long Beach, CA 90802  
Contact: Kris Lal  
(213) 590-5115

**State Mining and Geology Board**  
1416 9th Street, Room 1326-A  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
Contact: Nancy Steiner  
(916) 322-1082

**U.S. Forest Service**  
6144 Calle Real  
Goleta, CA 93117  
Contact: Lawrence Bembry  
(805) 683-6711

This EIR is intended to provide environmental information to a number of agencies which may be involved in serving the project, or may otherwise have an interest in the development's environmental effects. These interested agencies are listed below:

**City of Ojai**  
401 South Ventura Street  
Ojai, CA 93023  
Contact: Bill Prince

## **RELATED PROJECTS**

When analyzing the cumulative impacts of a project under Section 15130(b)(1)(A) of CEQA, the Lead Agency is required to discuss not only approved projects under construction, but also unapproved projects currently under environmental review with related impacts or which result in significant cumulative impacts.

In the County of Ventura there are only two hard rock quarries: the Schmidt Rock Quarry (proposed project) and the Mary Smith Rock Quarry. The Mary Smith Rock Quarry is located approximately 40 miles to the southeast of the Schmidt Rock Quarry near the City of Camarillo. The quarry operates under CUP 3817 and has asked for an extension of current operations and approval to mine up to 86,000 tons/year. The quarry consists of 102 acres of which 62 are currently mined. The Mary Smith Rock Quarry is the only other quarry in the County besides the Schmidt Rock Quarry which is capable of producing rip-rap and crushed rock aggregate. The Mary Smith Quarry is not able to meet State specifications for rip-rap and crushed rock aggregate standards.

The remaining twenty-eight mining operations in the area which are listed in Table A and depicted in Exhibit 9, consist only of sand, gravel, and dirt mining operations. These mining operations are all located within the County of Ventura and primarily along the Santa Clara River. Exhibit 9 also depicts each operation in relationship to the Schmidt Rock Quarry and Table A lists them by CUP number. The legend indicates whether the project is existing or proposed (shaded area). Exhibit 9 also depicts the relationship of the proposed project (CUP-3489) to the Mary Smith Rock Quarry (CUP-3817).



TABLE A  
RELATED PROJECTS

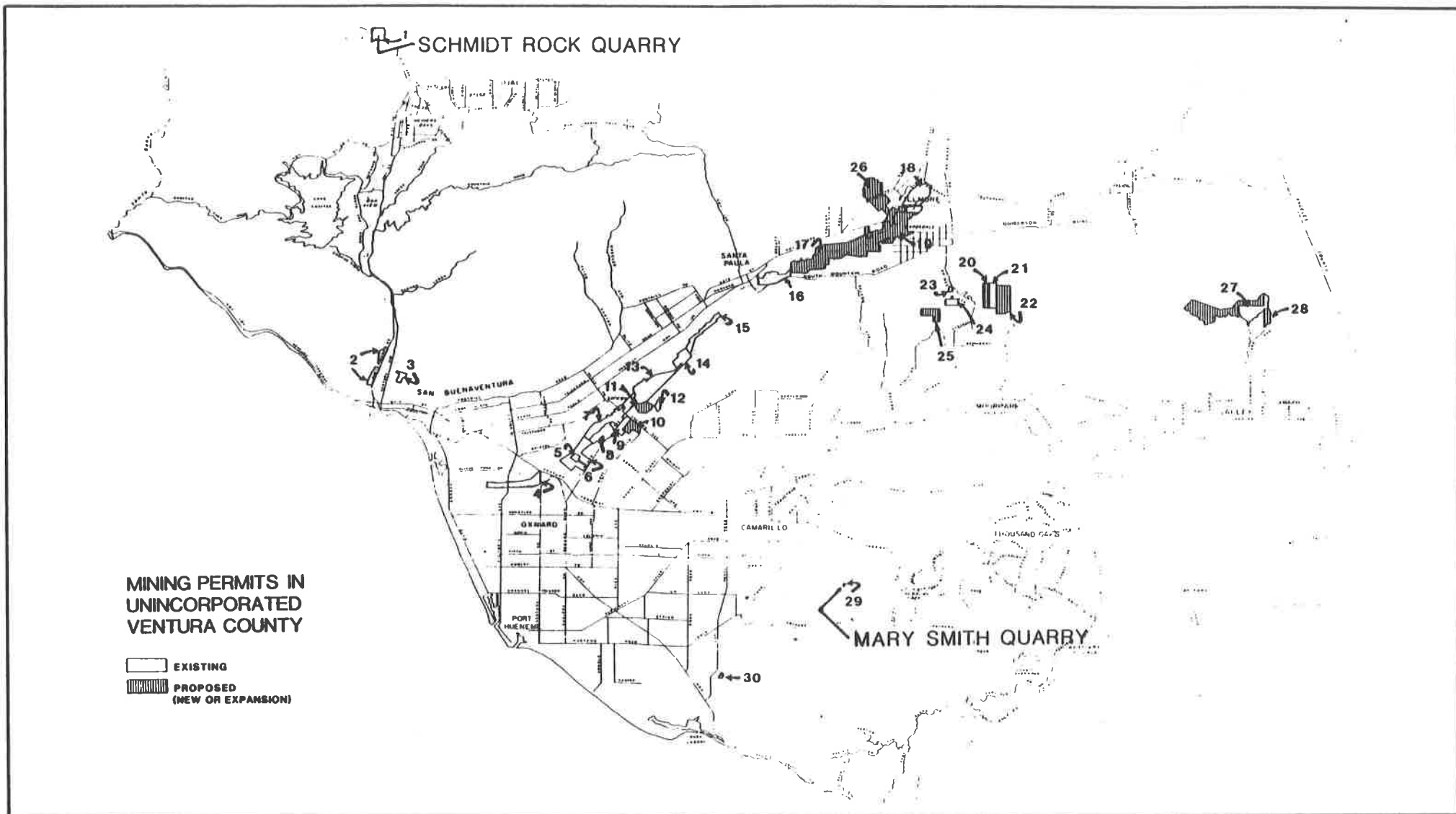
Location Map Number	Permit No.	Operator	Principal Products
1	CUP-3489-2	Schmidt Construction	stone (base, rip rap)
2	CUP-1088-4	S.P. Milling	sand & gravel (P.C.C., base)
3	V-2	Ventura Aggregates	clay/shale
4	CUP-4096	Agricultural Land Services, Inc.	landfill cover material
5	CUP-2425	S.P. Milling	process site for CUP-1942
6	CUP-1942	S.P. Milling	sand & gravel (P.C.C., base)
7	CUP-2006	Calmat	sand & gravel (P.C.C., base)
8	CUP-4294	Calmat	sand & gravel (P.C.C., base)
9	CUP-3785	Calmat	sand & gravel (P.C.C., base)
10	CUP-4623	Calmat	sand & gravel (P.C.C., base)
11	CUP-4596	S.P. Milling	low permeability soil for landfill uses
12	CUP-4391	S.P. Milling	soil & rock
13	CUP-1524	S.P. Milling	sand & gravel (P.C.C., subbase)
14	CUP-245-3	S.P. Milling	sand & gravel (P.C.C., base)
15	CUP-1812-2	S.P. Milling	sand & gravel (P.C.C., base)
16	CUP-3390-4	Granite Construction	sand & gravel (P.C.C.)
17	CUP-4539	Granite Construction	sand & gravel (P.C.C., base)
18	CUP-4185	Sespe Rock	sand & gravel (P.C.C.)
18	CUP-4185-1	Sespe Rock	expansion will be processing site for CUP-4580
19	CUP-4580	Sespe Rock	sand & gravel (P.C.C.)
20	CUP-4571	Quality Rock	sand & gravel (P.C.C., base)
21	CUP-4518	Quality Rock	sand & gravel
22	CUP-4633	Blue Star Ready Mix (formerly CUP-1328)	sand & gravel (P.C.C., base)
23	CUP-3451-3	Best Rock Products	decorative rock
24	CUP-4171	Best Rock Products	sand & gravel (P.C.C., base)
25	CUP-4517	Ortega Quarry	sand & gravel (P.C.C., base)
26	CUP-4668	S.P. Milling	sand & gravel
27	CUP-1367-2	C.Z.S. Corp.	sand & gravel (P.C.C., subbase)
27	CUP-1367-3	C.Z.S. Corp.	sand & gravel (P.C.C., subbase)
28	CUP-4609	Tapo Rock & Sand (formerly CUP-3348)	sand & gravel (base)
29	CUP-3817	A.J. Sanders	stone (base, rip rap)
30	CUP-4681	Rancho Guadaluasca	rock (roadbase & fill)
*	CUP-43	Calaveras Cement	gypsum & anhydrite
*	CUP-212	Pacific Lightweight Products	clay (bentonite), shale

Source: Plan. Div. Permit Files

\* Not included on map - located in the north half of Ventura County

<sup>1</sup> To be determined during review





Source: County of Ventura

## RELATED PROJECTS

**SCHMIDT ROCK QUARRY**  
County of Ventura



No Scale

Exhibit 9

## **IV. ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING**

### **REGIONAL SETTING**

The 34.61 acre parcel, which includes the existing 4 acre quarry and the 9 acre expansion area, and its surrounding environment, is characterized by ridgelines and valleys. For purposes of this EIR, the expansion area will be referred to as the proposed project site. The project site is located in the eastern Santa Ynez Mountains northwest of Ojai Valley. It is situated on the lower east face of the steep-sided canyon eroded by the north fork of Matilija Creek which intersects the Ventura River approximately 1,500 feet southeast of the subject site. Topographic relief measured from the crest of the ridge located upslope (northeast) of the site to Matilija Creek is roughly 1,030 feet.

The subject property is located in a mountainous area adjacent to the north fork of the Matilija Creek and Highway 33. The area is subject to flood hazards. In the past, flooding has resulted in damage to the adjacent roadway and bridge on Highway 33. Past storms have been responsible for transportation of rock material from the project area to downstream properties.

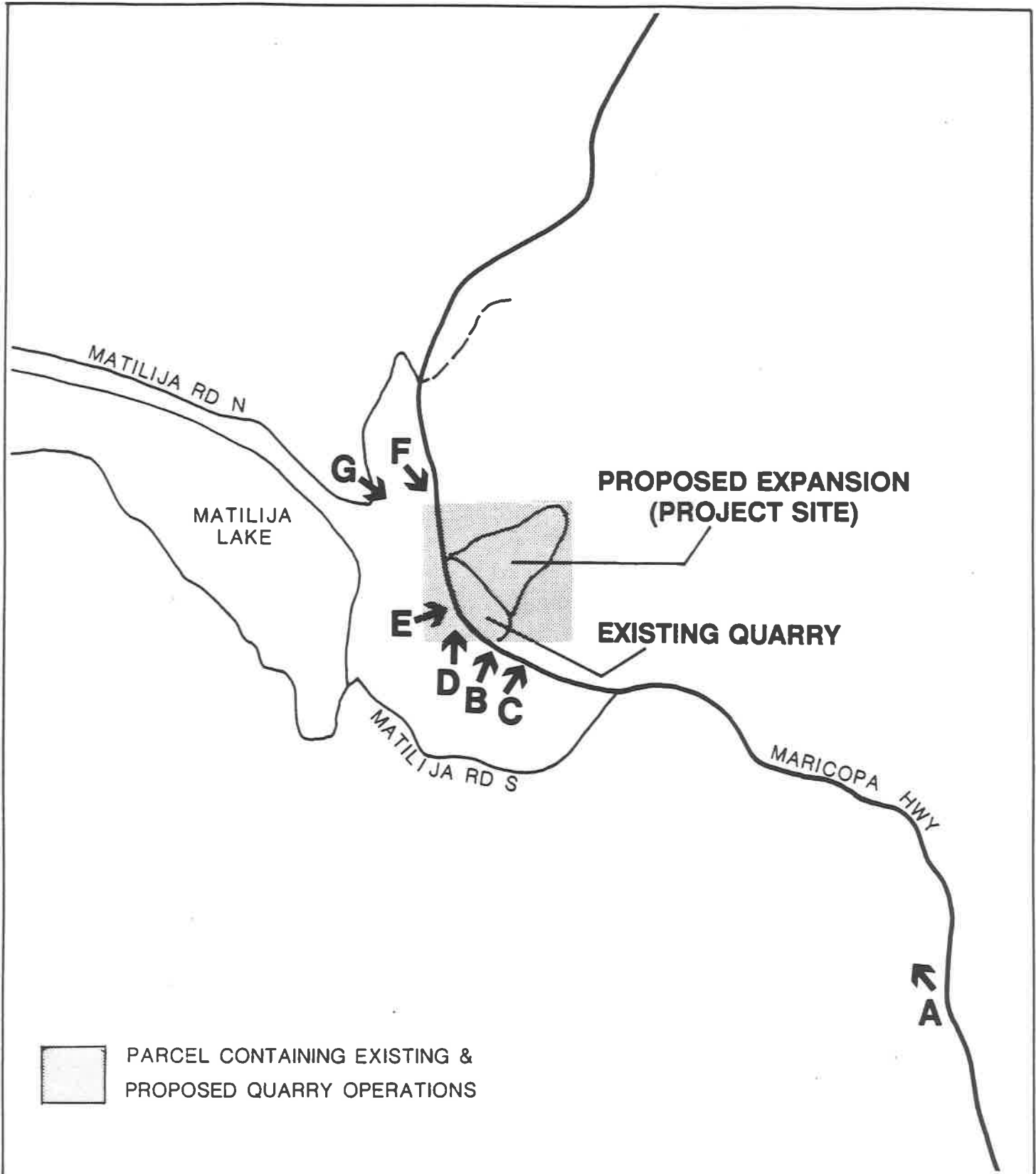
### **EXISTING AND SURROUNDING LAND USE**

Slow vegetative growth occurs on the hard sandstone slopes which cover the quarry area. Artificial (tailing) fills support few shrubs, and the area is also largely barren. Natural slopes are covered by spotty patches of moderately dense shrub-like chaparral and field grasses.

The north fork of Matilija Creek forms the major through-flowing stream for drainage of a large watershed extending for several miles northeastward of the site into the Wheeler Gorge Area. Matilija Creek flows year-round and may be subject to overflow during periods of flooding and heavy rainfall. All site drainage presently flows in a relatively controlled manner to Matilija Creek.

The north fork of the Ventura River (Matilija Creek) is a habitat for planted and native trout populations. Past quarry operations according to the County Public Works Agency have hindered fish migrations. The California Department of Fish and Game reports that spawning in this section of the river has been reduced due to stream blockages and the effects of erosion.

Exhibit 10 (the Site Photo Index), Exhibits 11-16 illustrate the existing conditions of the existing quarry and the proposed project site. Exhibit 11 Site Photo A is a view of the existing quarry looking north from the Maricopa Highway approximately 2 miles south of the existing quarry. Site Photo B is a view of the existing quarry immediately off of the Maricopa Highway. Depicted in this view is the entrance to the project site, portions of Maricopa Highway, and equipment associated with existing quarry operations.



Source: EDAW, Inc.

## SITE PHOTO INDEX

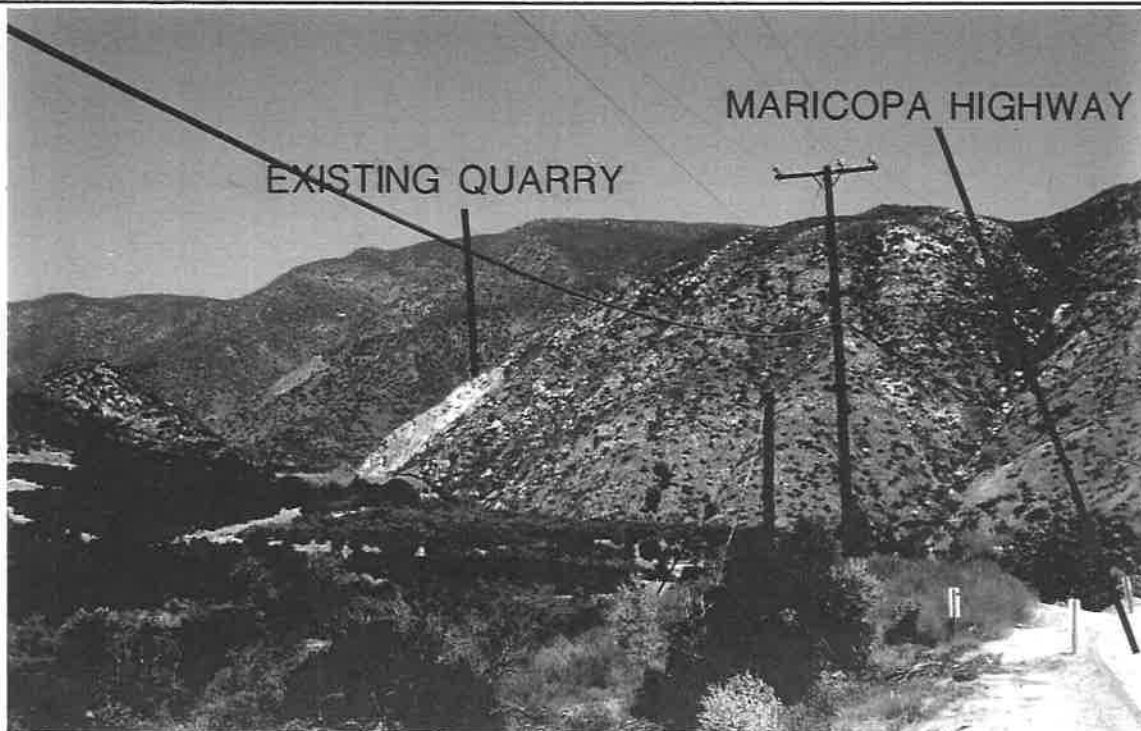
SCHMIDT ROCK QUARRY  
County of Ventura

**EDAW**

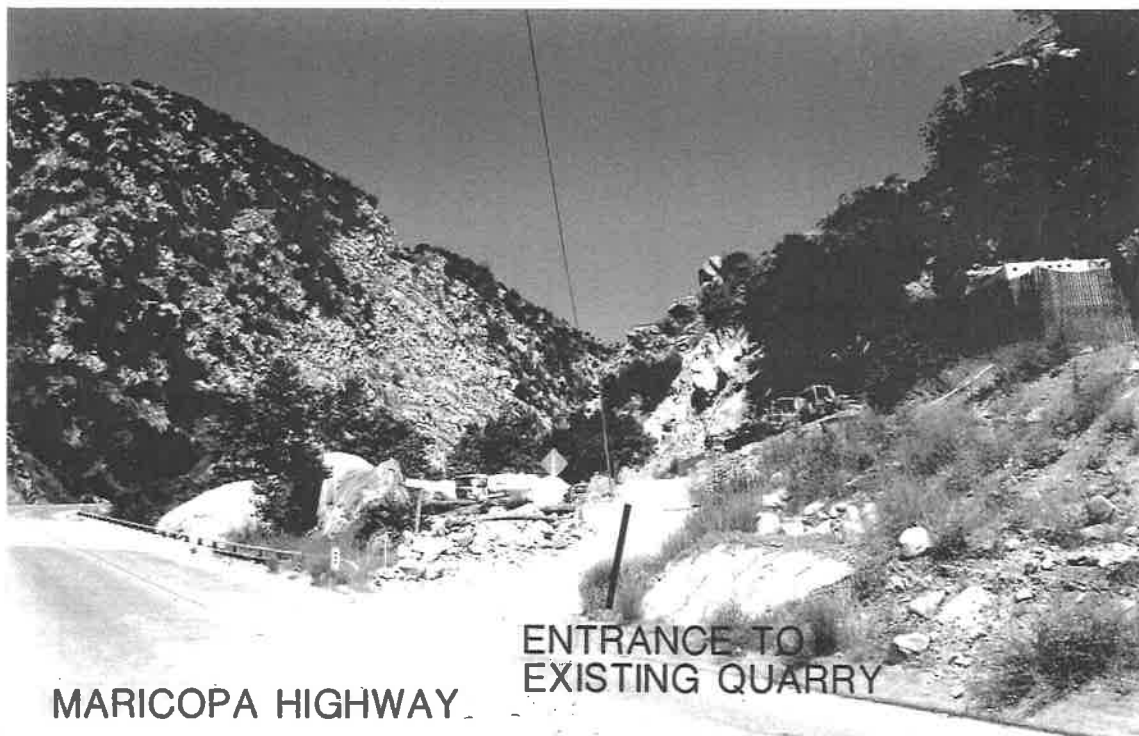


No Scale

Exhibit 10



**A** VIEW OF EXISTING QUARRY LOOKING NORTH FROM MARICOPA HIGHWAY APPROXIMATELY 2 MILES SOUTH.



**B** VIEW OF ENTRANCE TO EXISTING QUARRY. OFF MARICOPA HIGHWAY.

Source: EDAW, Inc.

**SITE PHOTOS**  
**SCHMIDT ROCK QUARRY**  
 County of Ventura



No Scale

Exhibit 11

Exhibit 12 Site Photo C is a view from the existing quarry's southern boundary line looking northeast. This view depicts the entrance to the existing quarry and equipment associated with quarry operations.

Exhibit 13 Site Photo D is a view of the existing quarry area looking northeast from northbound Maricopa Highway. Depicted in this view is the Matilija Creek, the Maricopa Highway and surrounding hillsides.

Exhibit 14 Site Photo E is a view of the existing quarry area looking east from the Maricopa Highway. Depicted in this view are Maricopa Highway, the Matilija Creek bed and equipment associated with Quarry operations.

Exhibit 15 Site Photo F is a view of the existing quarry area and the proposed project site looking southeast from southbound Maricopa Highway. Depicted in this view are the Maricopa Highway and the Matilija Creek.

Exhibit 16 Site Photo G is a view of the existing quarry area and the proposed project site looking southeast from an adjacent hillside, near north Matilija Road. This view depicts the existing quarry operation, portions of the Maricopa Highway, the surrounding hillsides and the Ojai Valley.

The surrounding area is National Forest land. These lands are heavily vegetated and serve as a wildlife habitat. The National Forest is also a recreational area that provides facilities for camping, hiking, fishing and swimming within its boundaries.

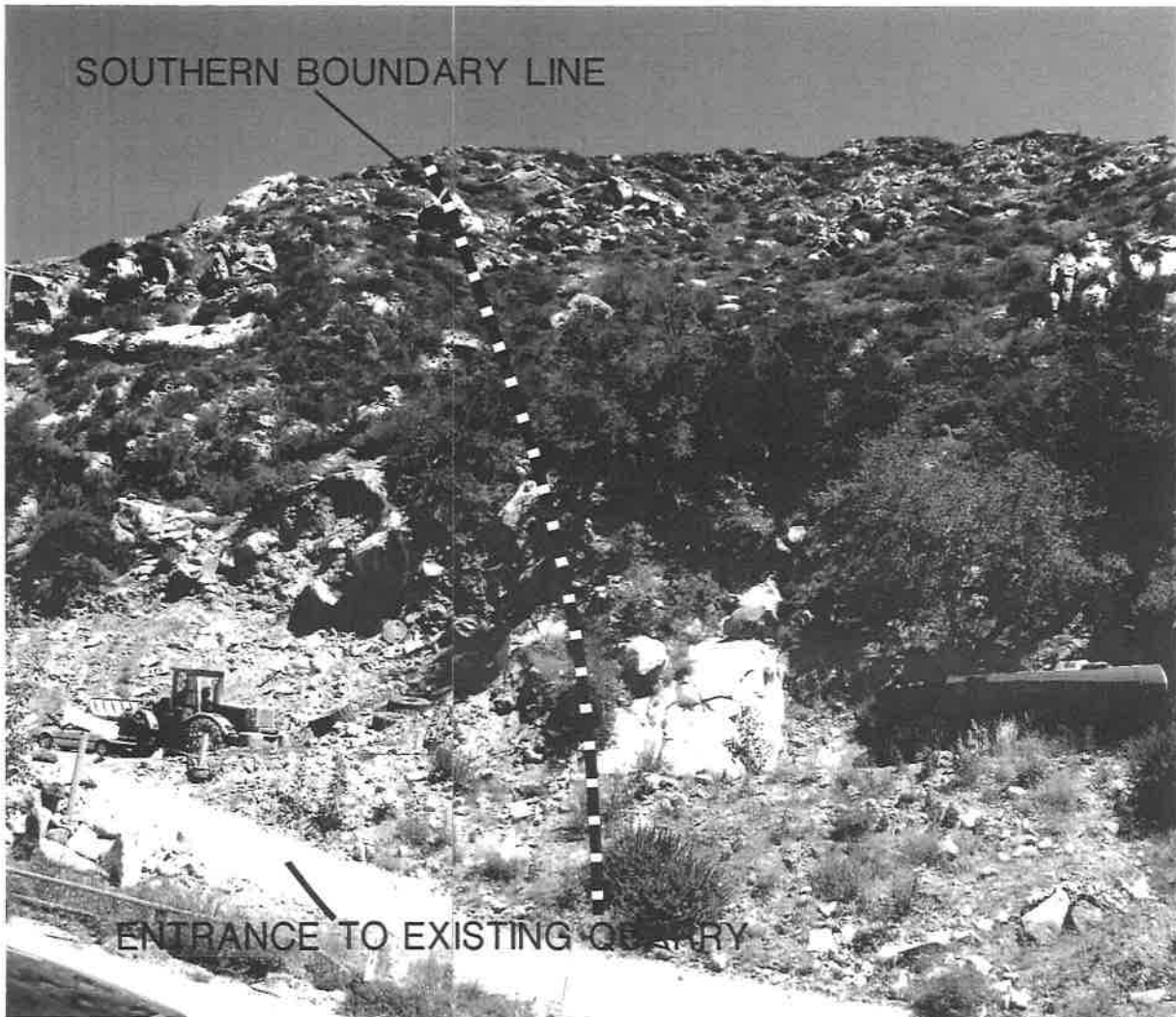
## **EXISTING CIRCULATION SYSTEM**

Access to the existing quarry and the proposed project site is via the Maricopa Highway (State Route 33), which is a public roadway. Direct access to the project site is from an existing dirt road.

## **APPLICABLE POLICIES AND REQUIREMENTS**

The following section is a summary of applicable policies and requirements that pertain to the project site. The proposed project site is located within the unincorporated area of Ventura County and outside the City of Ojai's Sphere of Influence. The plans and policies that pertain to the visual resources of this site include:

- County of Ventura General Plan
- County of Ventura Zoning Ordinance
- County of Ventura Scenic Highways
- Surface Mining and Reclamation Act (SMARA)



**C** VIEW FROM EXISTING QUARRY AREA'S SOUTHERN BOUNDARY LINE  
LOOKING NORTHEAST.

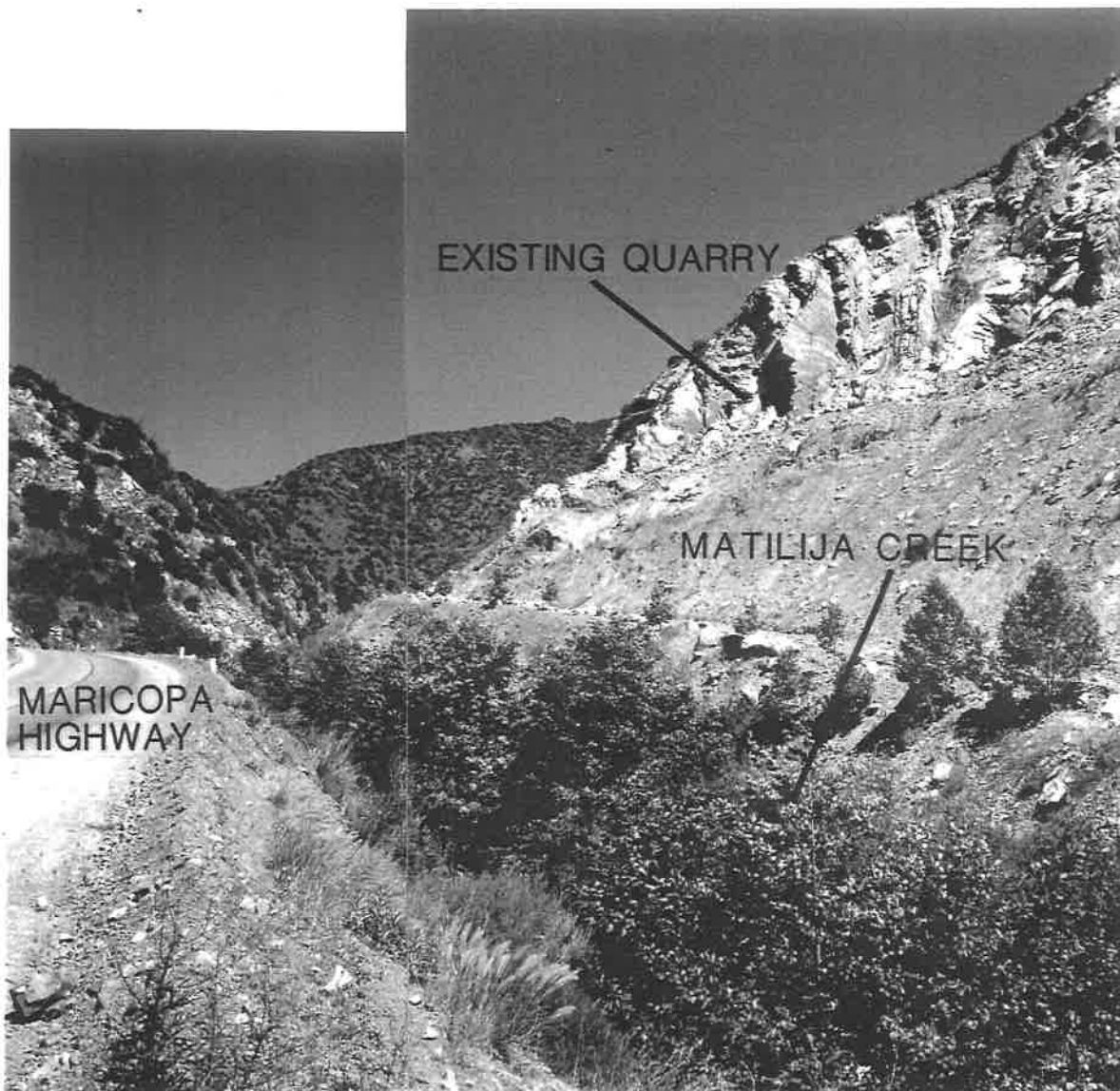
Source: EDAW, Inc.

**SITE PHOTOS**  
**SCHMIDT ROCK QUARRY**  
County of Ventura



No Scale

Exhibit 12



**D** VIEW OF THE EXISTING QUARRY AND MATILIJIA CREEK  
LOOKING NORTHEAST FROM NORTHBOUND MARICOPA HIGHWAY.

Source: EDAW, Inc.

## **SITE PHOTOS**

**SCHMIDT ROCK QUARRY**  
County of Ventura

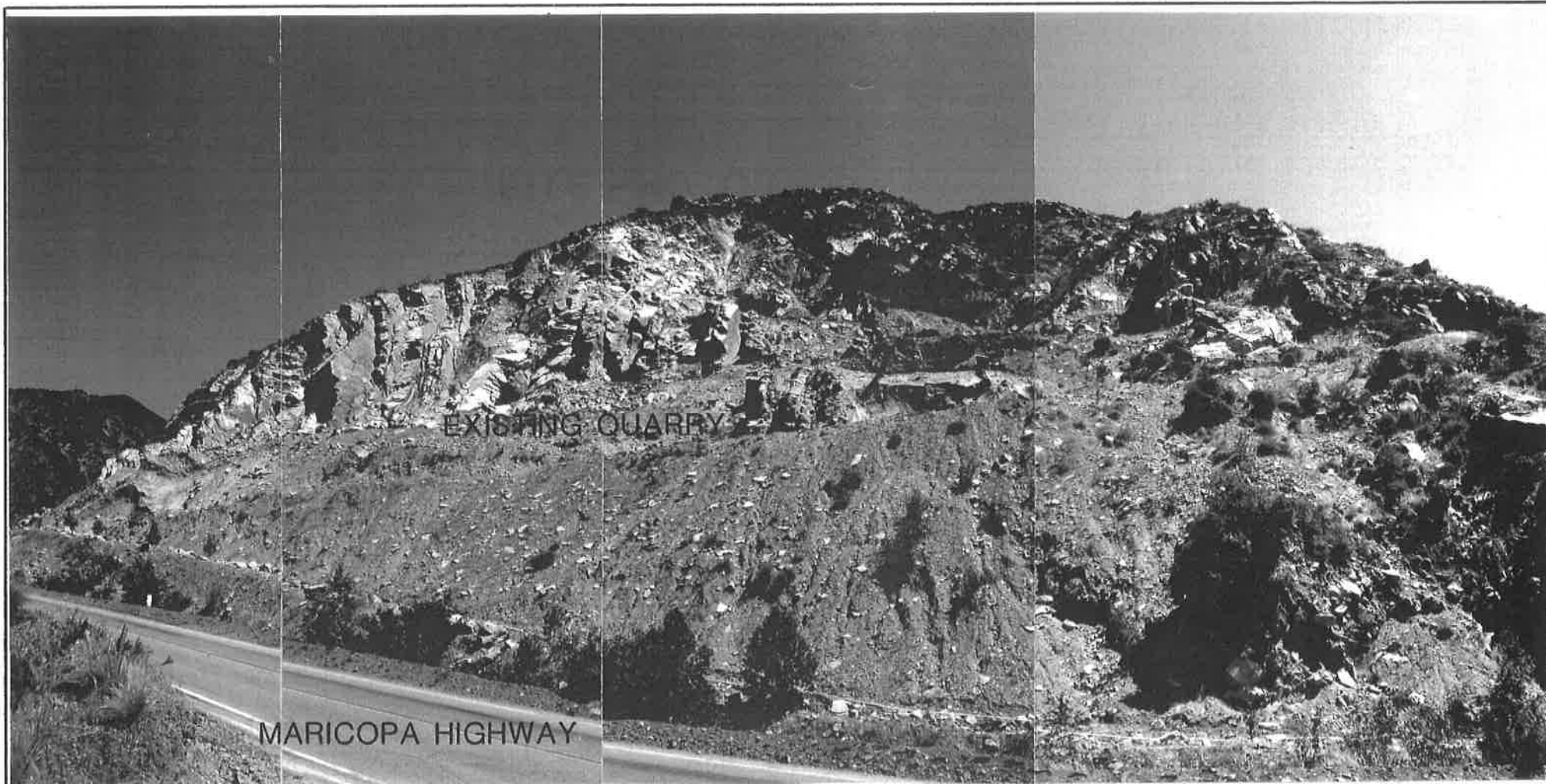
**EDAW**

No Scale



**Exhibit 13**





**E**

VIEW OF EXISTING QUARRY LOOKING EAST FROM MARICOPA HIGHWAY.

Source: EDAW, Inc.

## **SITE PHOTOS**

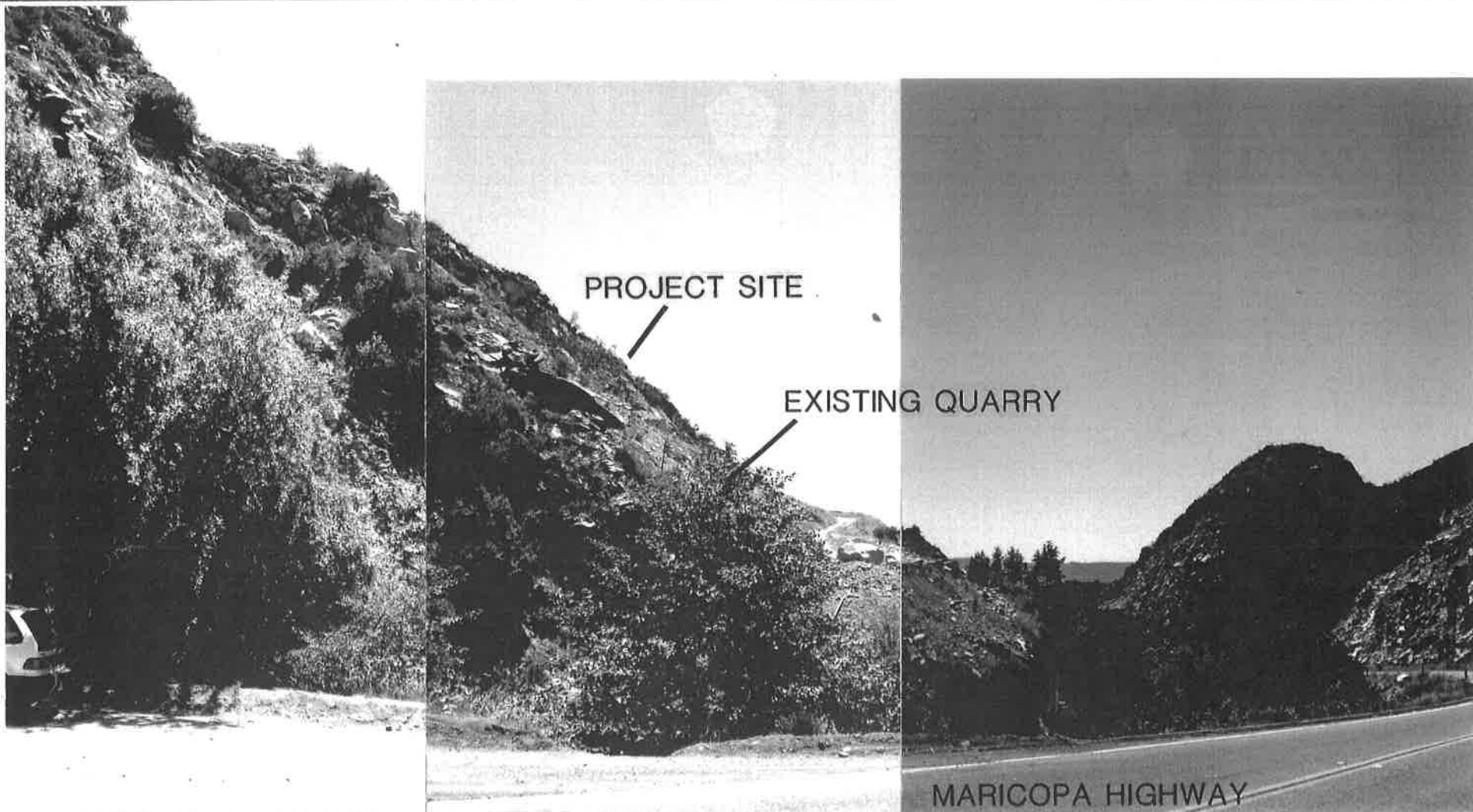
**SCHMIDT ROCK QUARRY**  
County of Ventura



No Scale

Exhibit 14





**F** VIEW OF EXISTING QUARRY AND THE PROJECT SITE LOOKING SOUTHEAST FROM SOUTHBOUND MARICOPA HIGHWAY.

Source: EDAW, Inc.

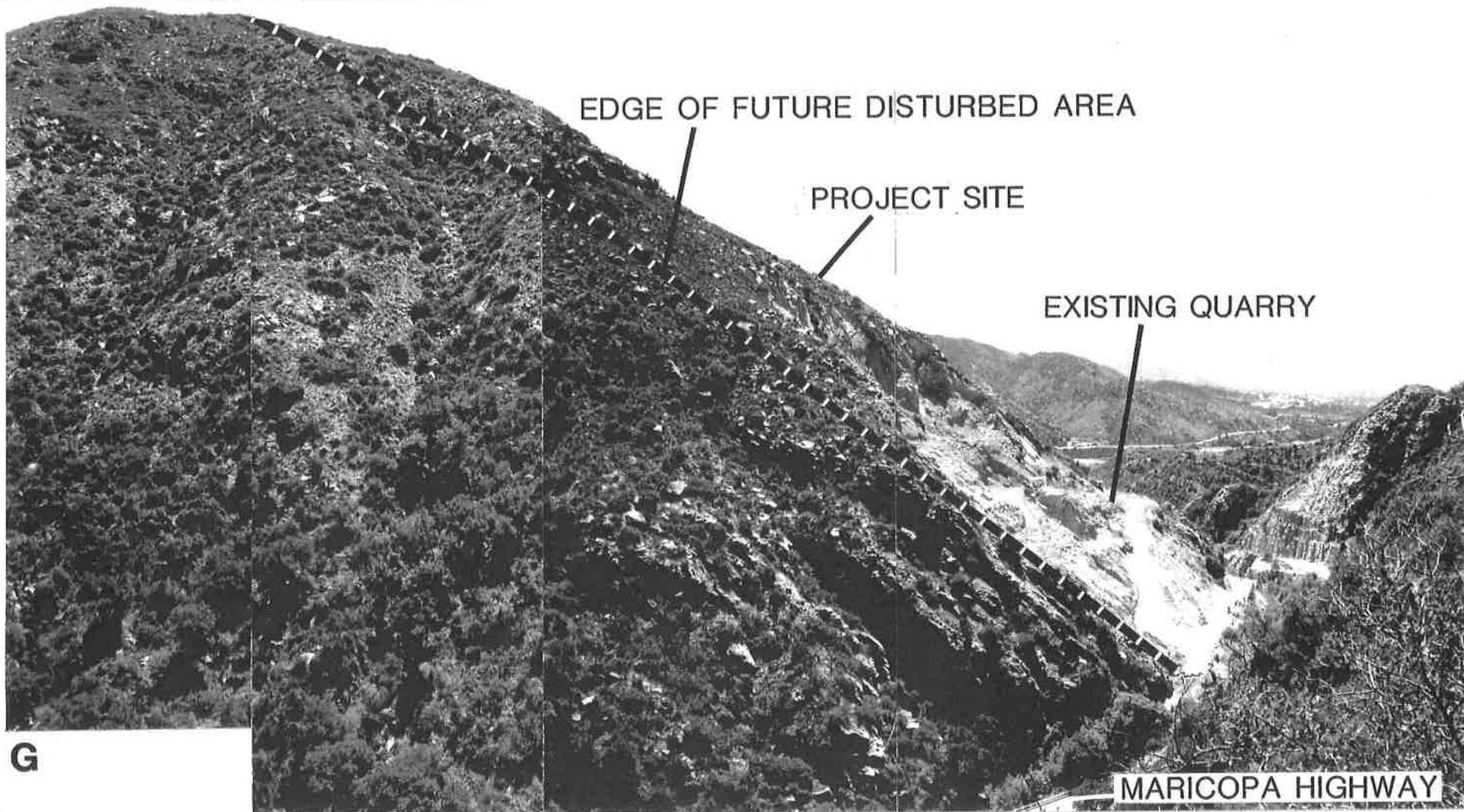
## SITE PHOTOS

SCHMIDT ROCK QUARRY  
County of Ventura



No Scale

Exhibit 15



VIEW OF EXISTING QUARRY AND PROJECT SITE LOOKING SOUTHEAST FROM ADJACENT HILLSIDE, NEAR NORTH MATILIJA ROAD.

Source: EDAW, Inc.

## SITE PHOTOS

SCHMIDT ROCK QUARRY  
County of Ventura



No Scale

Exhibit 16

## **General Plan**

The County's General Plan is composed of a Countywide Goals, Policies and Programs document containing four chapters (Resources, Hazards, Land Use, and Public Facilities and Services). Additionally, the County's General Plan contains several Area Plans which contain specific goals, policies and programs for specific geographical areas of the County. These Area Plans do not necessarily border each other nor do they collectively cover the entire County. The proposed project site is not located within an Area Plan and has been designated as Open Space. The project site does not occur in a Mineral Resource Area as identified on the Resource Protection Map of the General Plan. The project lies outside the area inventoried for mineral resources by the State.

The Resources Appendix of the Ventura County General Plan describes the provisions of the State Scenic Highway Law for the regulation of land uses within the viewshed of a state scenic highway. The entire length of Highway 33 from milepost 17.5 to the Santa Barbara County line (includes the roadway segment adjacent to the project site) has been designated as a State Scenic Highway, and is identified as a Scenic Highway Protection Area on the Resource Protection Map.

## **Zoning Ordinance**

The County of Ventura has zoned the proposed project site as Open Space (O-S). The County's Zoning Ordinance states that the Open Space (O-S) zone is to provide for the conservation of renewable and nonrenewable natural resources, to preserve and enhance environmental quality and to provide for the retention of the maximum number of future land use options while allowing reasonable and compatible uses on open lands in the County which have not been altered to any great extent by human activities. Regulations for mineral development are contained in Article 7, Section 8107-9 of the Zoning Ordinance. The purpose of this regulation is to establish a reasonable control on mining practices to ensure that these activities will be conducted in an environmentally sound manner and that mined sites will be appropriately reclaimed.

## **Surface Mining and Reclamation Act**

In 1975, the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act (SMARA) was enacted. The Act governs surface mining operations and the reclamation of mined lands. It also provides for the submission of reclamation plans to, and issuance of permits by, lead agencies to persons engaging in surface mining operations. SMARA has two basic objectives. One is to ensure the proper reclamation of surface mining operations, and the other is to safeguard access to mineral resources of regional and statewide significance in the face of competing land uses and urban expansion. The Act also applies to rock quarries which exist in many Southern California cities.

To ensure proper reclamation of mining sites, the SMARA requires all jurisdictions in which mining occurs to adopt a reclamation ordinance and have it certified by the State Mining and Geology Board (Sec. 2774.3(a) SMARA). Ventura County has adopted such an ordinance (Sec. 8107-9 of the Zoning Code) which was found to be acceptable by the State Board. SMARA also provides for the inventory and classification of significant mineral resources throughout the state. Finally, SMARA requires that local jurisdictions develop mineral resource management policies to minimize land use conflicts and conserve mineral resources.

The State Division of Mines and Geology developed guidelines for local jurisdictions developing Mineral Resource Management Policies (MRMP). These guidelines included the following goals:

- Mineral lands designated MRZ-2 should be protected from incompatible uses.
- Surface mining in designated lands should be controlled to minimize environmental impacts, to reclaim to a usable condition for alternative land uses, to encourage mineral production while giving consideration to other land uses and environmental resources, and to remove any residual hazards to the public.

In 1985, the Ventura County Board of Supervisors adopted a Mineral Resource Management Program (MRMP) that addressed the goals and guidelines established by the state. The MRMP consisted of the following elements:

- Mineral resource policies in the Conservation and Open Space Elements of the Ventura County General Plan
- Mineral Resource Background Report to the Open Space and Conservation Elements
- Mineral resource zoning ordinances
- Mineral Resource Management Goals and Policies
- Mining time limit guidelines

Components of the 1985 MRMP were eventually incorporated into: 1). the revised 1988 Ventura County General Plan, the Mineral Resources Goals and Policies (Section 1.4); 2). the Mineral Resource Background Report in the Resources Appendix; and 3). Zoning Ordinance Article 7.

Recent amendments to SMARA include Chapter 1097, Statutes of 1990 and Assembly Bill 3551 (AB 3551). These changes increase the role of the State Division of Mines and Geology (DMG), as well as require greater regulation of mining and reclamation by the local jurisdictions. The major new requirements are as follows:

1. The State Mining and Geology Board (SMGB) is now required to adopt regulations by January 1, 1992 specifying minimum verifiable statewide standards for the reclamation of mined lands (SMARA Section 2773 (b)). These standards shall address disposal of mining tailing and waste, backfilling, slope stability, re-vegetation, erosion control, agricultural land restoration, stream protection and wildlife habitat impacts.
2. A report must be filed to the State Geologist by July 1, 1991 identifying 16 items pertaining to the mining operation. Some of these include location; status of mining; size of mining operation; proof of annual inspection by lead agency; proof of financial assurances for reclamation; a copy of any approved reclamation plan and any amendments.
3. The operator must provide a financial assurance to cover the costs of reclamation to the DMG and local lead agency that can be adjusted annually to reflect the acreage of land to be reclaimed. \*
4. The financial assurances can be forfeited if reclamation requirements are not met, and the DMG and lead agency will perform reclamation.
5. Under certain circumstances, the DMG can assume lead agency responsibilities.
6. The local lead agency must inspect each mine within 6 months of receiving the annual report. The inspection may be conducted by a registered geologist. A DMG form must be used and the results must be submitted to the state. The purpose of the inspection is to ensure compliance with applicable laws, regulations, and requirements.

## **V. ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS**

## AESTHETICS/VISUAL

### EXISTING CONDITIONS

The Schmidt Rock Quarry site is located on the east side of the Maricopa Highway (State Highway 33) approximately 900 feet northwest of Matilija Road and 3-1/4 miles northwest of the City of Ojai, California.

The current quarry operation begins excavation from approximately 1,200 feet above sea level. The visual quality of the resource has been altered by the existing quarry operation. The viewshed of the existing 4 acre quarry consists of exposed rock, rock pilings and an access road. The vegetation surrounding the existing quarry and the 9 acre project site consists of field grasses, bushes and shrub-like chaparral. Small trees have been planted along the existing quarry access road and on the quarry's lower slopes.

Exposed rock is currently visible on the existing quarry site. These rock outcroppings are a noticeable contrast to the surrounding area. The existing rock quarry operation is visible from Maricopa Highway from as far away as four miles. A view of the existing quarry from the south is provided in Exhibit 11, Photo A (Refer to the Environmental Setting section). It appears lighter on the hillside relative to the surrounding vegetation. Beyond the immediate surroundings is the U.S. Forest Service property which is more heavily vegetated.

Exhibit 12, Photo C (Refer to the Environmental Setting section) presents a view from the existing quarry's southern boundary line looking northeast. A small working area is visible at the existing quarry entrance. Exhibit 13, Photo D, provides a view from Maricopa Highway just beyond the entrance and adjacent to the site. The existing quarry operation is visible from this distance. The existing quarry and the project site are not visible from Maricopa Highway when approaching from the north until the viewer is almost immediately adjacent. See Exhibits 15 and 16, Photos F and G (Refer to the Environmental Setting section). The hillside and natural vegetation serve as a visual barrier on the north side.

Exhibit 14, Photo E presents a view of the existing quarry project face from the west looking east from Maricopa Highway. A large mass of exposed rock is visible. Small trees have been planted along the access road and the adjacent hillside. The trees offer little detracting from the quarry site as they are not fully grown.

### IMPACTS

CEQA defines a significant adverse visual impact as one which has a substantial and demonstrable negative aesthetic effect. For the purposes of this EIR, the criteria that are used to define such an impact have been established by the U.S. Forest Service. These criteria are



substantial obstruction of: 1) unique environmental or man-made visual features; or, 2) views from important public gathering places.

### **Methodology - Visual Resource Management System (VRM)**

Objectively measuring the level of potential impact to an amenity resource such as aesthetic visual quality is a subjective process. Impacts to visual resources are difficult to quantify in physical or economic terms. The U.S. Forest Service has had one such system developed for visual resource management (VRM). This system has been incorporated into the impact analysis. The first step of this methodology is to identify landscape classifications based on scenic quality, the second step is to identify viewer sensitivity related to levels of concern, the third step is to identify the viewing zone related to distances, and the fourth step is to identify the visual quality in terms of retention and modifications.

#### **Step 1: Identify Landscape Classification**

The classification of characteristic landscapes is based on its scenic quality. In the visual resource management (VRM) system, areas of unique or outstanding scenic quality are classified as a distinctive variety class (variety class A). Areas which are not outstanding in visual quality are referred to as a common variety class (variety class B), and areas which have become blighted or which have poor visual quality are classified as being a minimal variety class (variety class C).

The entire length of the Maricopa Highway 33 from milepost 17.5 to the Santa Barbara County line has been designated as a State Scenic Highway, and is identified as a Scenic Highway Protection Area. Therefore, the area containing the existing quarry and the proposed project can be classified as a distinctive variety class (variety class A).

The visual features within a landscape which rank the area as a distinctive variety class are the benchmark against which common and minimal areas can be judged. The dominant or visually distinct elements within an area are the features by which judgments of the characteristic landscape are made. Dominant elements are those which are the simplest visually recognizable parts of the characteristic landscape.

#### **Step 2: Identify Viewer Sensitivity**

Once the characteristic landscape or variety class is known (in this case variety class A), it is necessary to establish the level of concern of the viewer for the scenic quality. This level of concern is termed in the VRM system as the viewer sensitivity level and is determined in a two sub-step process.

The first sub-step in determining viewer sensitivity is to establish the primary and secondary



importance of their visual relationship to the project site. Two groups of viewers are examined in this analysis, 1) residents of the surrounding community and 2) users of Highway 33 (this latter group is discussed later in this section under the heading Travel Routes).

The first group of viewers are the residents of the communities surrounding the 9 acre proposed project site. Those residents of primary importance are those which are currently living or working in the area and have a direct view of the proposed project site in most of their daily activities. Residents of secondary importance can be characterized as those that live in the area or may plan on relocating to the area in the near future that would not have a direct view of the site in most of their daily activities. These activities include living in a residence or working at a facility that can see the site from home, work, school, errands, and recreational activities. The distance from the proposed project site to those residents is a major factor in determining primary and secondary importance.

The second sub-step in determining viewer sensitivity levels involves the aesthetic concerns of the residents who are landscape viewers. A major concern for aesthetics is usually expressed by residents who can see the proposed project site directly from their residence. A minor concern for aesthetics is usually expressed by those not in direct view of the site.

The highest viewer sensitivity level (sensitivity level 1), as displayed in Table B, includes all areas viewed from primary residences where, as a minimum, at least one fourth of the residents have a major concern for the scenic quality. It also includes all areas viewed from secondary residences where at least three fourths of the residents may express major concern for the scenic quality.

An average sensitivity level (sensitivity level 2) includes all areas viewed from primary residents where fewer than one-fourth of residents have a major concern for visual quality or where at least one-fourth and not more than three-fourths of secondary residents have a major aesthetic concern.

The lowest sensitivity level (sensitivity level 3) includes all areas viewed from secondary residents where less than one-fourth of residents have a major concern for scenic qualities.

Studies conducted in Ventura County in the past have demonstrated that substantial concern with visual resources exists and preservation of visual resources is very important. By assuming that this attitude still prevails, the view area from the communities surrounding the proposed project site can be judged to have a high sensitivity level (sensitivity level 1).



**TABLE B**  
**SUMMARY OF RESIDENTIAL AND USER VIEWING SENSITIVITY LEVELS**

USE	SENSITIVITY LEVEL		
	1 (HIGH)	2 (AVERAGE)	3 (LOW)
<b>Primary Residents and Users</b>	At least 1/4 of residents have major concern for scenic qualities.	Less than 1/4 of uses have major concern for scenic qualities.	
<b>Secondary Residents and Users</b>	At least 3/4 of residents have major concern for scenic qualities.	At least 1/4 and not more than 3/4 of residents have major concern for scenic quality.	Less than 1/4 of residents have major concern for scenic qualities.

Source: National Forest Landscape Management, Volume 2

### Step 3: Identify Viewing Zone

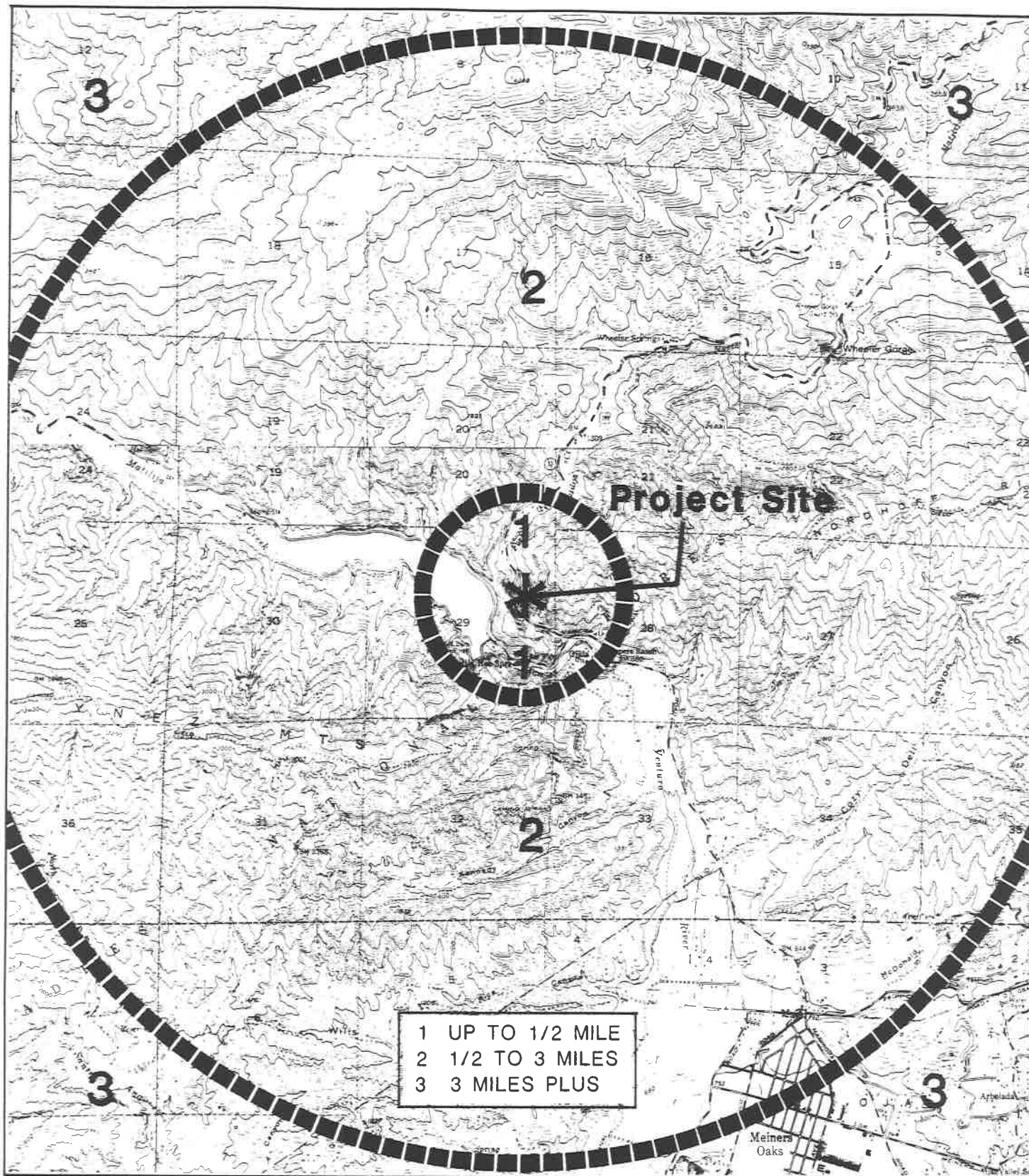
The next consideration in VRM is the viewing distance zone. There are three zones in this factor. A foreground view or distance zone is one in which details can be perceived. This is usually from one-fourth to one-half mile in distance from the site or object.

In the middleground view zone, details cannot be perceived although form and texture can be perceived. This distance zone usually extends from the end of the foreground zone to about three to five miles.

A background view zone extends from the end of the middleground zone (three to five miles) to an infinite distance. Perception of texture is very weak to non existent. Form and color are the main elements that are capable of being perceived. Exhibit 17 illustrates the spatial relationships of the proposed project site to the surrounding geographical features of the area. Foreground and middleground viewing zone distances are plotted.

### Step 4: Identify the Visual Quality

The next step is to determine the visual quality objective (VQO). The VQO is the National Forest Service's visual resource management goal for a landscape area within a National Forest, but it can be applied to any landscape. Table C depicts the relationship between the variety class, view sensitivity level, and VQO.



Source: USGS Quad Map-Wheeler Springs & Matilija

## SPATIAL RELATIONSHIPS

SCHMIDT ROCK QUARRY  
County of Ventura

**EDAW**



No Scale

Exhibit 17

Typical VQO's include the following:

Retention - Changes in the characteristic landscape should not be visually evident.

Partial Retention - Changes can be visually evident but must remain visually subordinate to the characteristic landscape.

Modification - Changes may visually dominate the characteristic landscape but must borrow from and remain at a scale with previously established visual elements.

Maximum Modification - Changes may visually dominate the characteristic landscape. When viewed as foreground or middleground, changes do not need to appear to borrow from previously established visual elements, and can be out of scale or contain incongruent detail.

## SURROUNDING COMMUNITY-RESIDENTS

Immediately surrounding the 9 acre project site are 7 residences to the north and 29 to the south within the foreground view zone which are on the opposite side of intervening ridgelines. These ridgelines visually seclude the proposed project site from surrounding areas to a great degree. Due to the topography of the area, neither the existing nor proposed quarry is completely visible beyond 2.5 miles from the site. \*

As can be seen from Table C, the view areas from the residences in the foreground and middleground view zones have a Retention VQO based on the highest viewer sensitivity and a distinctive characteristic landscape. This VQO rating states that for those residents in the foreground and middleground view zones, any change to the existing landscape characteristics will be visually evident. It should be noted that a majority of the residences within these two view zones cannot currently view the proposed project site.

## TRAVEL ROUTES

The second group of viewers examined in this report are those users of the major travel routes associated with the project. These routes include the Maricopa Highway, Matilija Road North and the Matilija Road South. The process of analyzing this group is essentially the same as the analysis used for residents.

The first step in determining user viewer sensitivity is to establish whether the travel routes are of primary or secondary importance. This is identified by the volume of use of average daily travel (ADT), the duration of use, and whether the route is a major access route or a local feeder street. The Maricopa Highway is a route of primary importance since it is a major access route, has long duration of use, and has an average daily travel (ADT) of 2,100 ADT. The ADT for peak hour travel is 420. Matilija Road North and Matilija Road South were determined to be of secondary importance based on an ADT which is only a fraction of that for the Maricopa Highway.

**TABLE C  
VISUAL QUALITY**

<b>VARIETY CLASS</b>	<b>FG1</b>	<b>MG1</b>	<b>BG1</b>	<b>FG2</b>	<b>MG2</b>	<b>BG2</b>
<b>Class A (Proposed 9 acre project site)</b>	R	R	R	PR	PR	PR
<b>Class B</b>	R	PR	PR	PR	M	M
<b>Class C</b>	PR	PR	M	M	M	MM

Source: National Forest Landscape Management, Volume 2

FG = foreground

MG = middleground

BG = background

1 = Sensitivity Level 1

2 = Sensitivity Level 2

R = Retention

PR = Partial Retention

M = Modification

MM = Maximum Modification

The second step in determining viewer sensitivity levels according to VRM involves the aesthetic concerns of the users of the travel route who are the landscape viewers. The landscape area of the project site which is seen from the Maricopa Highway on the south side contains a number of bushes, and shrubs. The project site contains exposed rock which can be seen from as far as 2 miles away (See Exhibit 11, Photo A). The entire length of the Maricopa Highway 33 from milepost 17.5 to the Santa Barbara County line has been designated as a State Scenic Highway, and is identified as a Scenic Highway Protection Area.

The area therefore can be classified as a distinctive landscape area, similar to much of what is seen along other portions of the Maricopa Highway.

No travel count information (ADT) is available which distinguishes between types of travel on the Maricopa Highway. It is therefore difficult to determine the level of viewer sensitivity. The number of viewers along the Maricopa Highway with a major concern for aesthetics could possibly be less than one-fourth, but it is safer to assume that the number is between one-fourth to three-fourths. It is doubtful that the number is greater than three-fourths. Assuming one-fourth to three-fourths of users are concerned with aesthetics and as a primary travel route, the view area from the Maricopa Highway 33 can be judged to have a high sensitivity level (sensitivity level 1).

The view area from Matilija Road North is judged to have an average sensitivity level (sensitivity level 2) based on being a secondary route and having one-fourth to three-fourths of viewers with a major aesthetic concern.

As determined from Table B, the view areas from both the Maricopa Highway and Matilija Road North in the foreground and middleground view zones, have a Retention VQO based on the highest viewer sensitivity and a distinctive characteristic landscape. This VQO rating states that for those roadway users in the foreground and middleground view zones, any changes to the existing landscape characteristics will be visually evident.

## **Summary**

As previously described in the discussion of Existing Conditions, there is an existing 4 acre rock quarry operation adjacent to the proposed project site. Currently, 4 acres of the total 34.61 acre parcel owned by the applicant are being used for rock quarry operations. The existing 4 acre quarry operation has established a predominant character of the visual landscape in that area. The proposed project expansion area will utilize an additional 9 acres for quarry operations with a similar reclamation plan and scale.

The proposed quarry plan will continue mining operations in stages. The phasing will begin from the top of a designated area and move downslope. Consecutive phases will begin at higher levels and excavate beneath the previous phase. The top of the ridgeline is over 2,000

feet and the excavation will reach an elevation of approximately 1,900 feet. A series of benches will be created to maintain the slope and ensure stability.

The proposed 9 acre expansion is substantially compatible with the existing 4 acres but it will continue to dominate the characteristic landscape. The proposed 9 acre project will be visually evident and therefore not meet the Retention VQO for the vast majority of residential viewers and travel route users in the foreground and middleground view zones.

The VRM system used in this analysis provides a guideline for decisions concerning visual quality. It is an adoption of a system developed for National Forests. The visual quality objectives prescribed by VRM provide an indication of the level of impact which would be generated by the proposed 9 acre project. It does not provide conclusive measurements of the impact level.

Since the proposed CUP request cannot meet the Retention objective for viewers in the foreground or middleground view zone, it can be concluded that a project-specific aesthetic/visual impact will occur with implementation of the proposed project. The significance of a change or impact is not governed solely by the magnitude of the change. Significance is governed by the determination of whether people regard the effect as an adverse change. This directly relates to the concept of viewer sensitivity discussed previously.

Based on the VQO conclusions of the preceding impact analysis, it is determined that the project-specific impact will be unmitigable to a less than significant level for those viewers in the foreground and middleground view zone. The project-specific impacts can be mitigated to a less than significant level for viewers in the background view zone.

### Cumulative Impacts

The proposed project, in conjunction with other past, present and reasonably foreseeable future projects, will contribute incrementally to cumulative visual impacts along the Maricopa Highway 33. The cumulative visual impact will remain due to the conditions of the existing 4 acre quarry facility. The existing quarry operation has resulted in an exposed rock face which will always remain somewhat visible. The existing conditions in conjunction with the proposed CUP request render the cumulative impact unmitigable with or without this project's mitigation measures.

A series of mitigation measures have been developed which would lessen the project-specific and cumulative impacts of the proposed CUP request. Mitigation measures which would directly reduce visual and aesthetic impacts are listed below.

## **MITIGATION MEASURES**

1. Upon completion of each phase as identified in the Operations Plan (Exhibit 5) and the Reclamation plans (Exhibits 6, 7, and 8), landscaping shall be provided along Maricopa Highway at the entrance to the project site, above the Matilija Creek adjacent to the project site and along the access road to quarry operations.
2. Upon completion of each phase as identified in the Operations Plan (Exhibit 5) and the Reclamation plans (Exhibits 6, 7, and 8), the applicant shall landscape the site in a manner consistent with the natural character of the area.
3. Upon completion of the final phase of quarry operations, the applicant shall provide landscaping to return the site to as natural a state as possible.
4. Prior to excavation, landscaping and irrigation plans shall be prepared in accordance with the Ventura County Landscape Design Criteria.
5. During excavation, the process of benching as identified in the Operations Plan (Exhibit 5) and the Reclamation plans (Exhibits 6, 7, and 8), will continue to reduce the amount of exposed rock visible.

## **LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE**

Project-specific and cumulative impacts will be mitigated to a less than significant level for viewers in the background view zone. Implementation of mitigation measures which have been incorporated into this EIR will not mitigate project-specific and cumulative impacts to a less than significant level for those viewers in the foreground and middle ground view zone. This impact remains as significant and unavoidable.





## BIOLOGY/SEDIMENTATION

### EXISTING CONDITIONS

The following information is based on a biological assessment prepared by S. Gregory Nelson and dated July 24, 1991. A copy of this report is provided as Appendix B of this EIR.

The existing 4 acre quarry site is located adjacent to the east of the Matilija Creek and consists of bare exposed rock and fill dirt. The existing quarry slope has been identified as unstable and subject to rockslide (discussed in the Geology/Soils section of this document). The proposed 9 acre expansion (project site) consists of generally undeveloped and unaltered land within the North Fork of Matilija Creek and Ventura River watersheds in Ventura County. Topography in the project area is extreme, consisting of steep walled canyons.

#### Vegetation/Plant Communities

Two distinct vegetation types, or plant communities, are found on the site. The two types are mixed chaparral and riparian woodland. A brief description of these is provided below.

Mixed chaparral on site is dominated by chamise (*Adenostoma fasciculatum*), scrub oak (*Quercus domosa*), California sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*), laurel leaved sumac (*Rhus laurina*), California buckwheat (*Erogonum fasciculatum*), toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*) and ceanothus (*Ceanothus* sp.). Generally, these plant species possess relatively small, broad, hard leaves and are evergreen. This vegetation on the project site grows four to six feet tall, but does not form a closed canopy. A dense cover of primarily native needlegrass (*stipa* sp.) exists between shrubs where soil is found. Rock faces and outcrops also make up a large portion of the areas between shrubs. Mixed chaparral is widely distributed in Southern California on dry slopes at low to medium elevations, where it occupies thin, rocky or gravelly soils.

Riparian woodland exists in community form along the North Fork of Matilija Creek. This vegetation is dominated by white alder (*Alnus rhombifolia*), western sycamore (*Platanus racemosa*), arroyo willow (*Salix lasiolepis*) and coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*). Also found are large shrubs, including California bay (*Umbellularia californica*), toyon and laurel leaved sumac. Well developed riparian vegetation is found both upstream and downstream from the existing quarry site.

In general, the riparian woodland adjacent to the existing quarry site is not as well developed as the riparian vegetation up and downstream. This is believed to be the result of the very narrow, steep walled drainage course at this location and clearing in the past. An aerial photograph taken in 1978 showed no riparian vegetation where the creek crosses the existing

quarry site. It is not known whether the clearing was by humans or was the result of natural scouring during flood conditions. Riparian woodland is very limited in its distribution within Southern California. This is due in part to the fact that it is generally restricted to deep, moist soils on north facing slopes and within drainage bottoms. Widespread loss to urbanization has occurred in the region. The riparian woodland adjacent to the existing quarry site appears to be in good condition, although not well developed.

### **Wildlife Habitat**

Mixed chaparral and riparian woodland vegetation provide habitat for many wildlife species. A variety of species were observed or detected within the riparian woodland vegetation adjacent to the existing quarry and within the 9 acre expansion area. Bird species observed included Nuttall's woodpecker, brown towhee, California thrasher, scrub jay, wren, bewick's wren, bushtit, band tailed pigeon, lesser goldfinch, common raven, mourning dove, house finch, common flicker, starling, Anna's hummingbird and black phoebe. Mammals observed or detected included California ground squirrel, botta pocket gopher, dusky footed woodrat, Audubon cottontail and coyote. The only reptile observed was the side-blotched lizard. No amphibians were observed or detected.

A more complete listing of wildlife, including those species not observed, but expected with a relatively high degree of probability to occur in either habitat, are listed in the appendix of the biological assessment found in Appendix B of this EIR. The types of species expected are possibly due to the very strong affinities most wildlife have for particular types of habitats. The majority of wildlife observed or expected will use both mixed chaparral and riparian woodland. This is due in part to the high degree of overlap in plant species which exists between these two communities and in part to their close proximity to one another. Wildlife diversity generally follows habitat diversity.

The riparian woodland, with the added dimension of trees, has the potential to support a higher diversity of wildlife than chaparral. Of the various wildlife habitats in Southern California, riparian woodland is one of the more important and limited. Amphibian species, including the slender salamander and western toad, potentially occur in the woodlands' moist leaf litter, as do the southern alligator lizard and western skunk. Hummingbirds, flycatchers, vireos, warblers and sparrows favor southern oak woodland for foraging and nesting. Hawks, kites owls and doves specifically require trees to nest in. Furbearers (such as virginia opossum, raccoon, striped skunk and gray fox) often reach their highest concentrations in and around woodland habitats.

A detailed survey of the fauna inhabiting the North Fork of Matilija Creek was not performed. A previous biological survey contained in the previous EIR prepared for the existing rock quarry in 1975, reported that small fish and larger trout occur in this location.

## Sensitive Resources

As mentioned above, the riparian woodland and associated stream are considered to be sensitive and significant resources due to their limited distribution and value to wildlife and fish.

In addition, general wildlife species which potentially use the riparian woodland are considered to be species of special concern. The Cooper's Hawk and Sharp-shinned hawk are discussed below.

Cooper's Hawk (*Accipiter cooperi*) is an uncommon resident and migrant in Riverside County. Nesting birds use riparian and oak woodlands and their foraging habitat includes woodlands and brushlands. The federal government provides no designation for the species. The state government lists the species as being of special concern. The species was not observed during survey, however, oak/riparian woodland adjacent to the existing quarry appears to be suitable for nesting and chaparral on the 9 acre expansion site appears to be suitable for foraging. The probability of occurrence in either habitat is high.

The Sharp-shinned hawk (*Accipiter straitus*) is a common winter migrant within Riverside County. It is very similar to Cooper's hawk in its habitat preference occupying woodlands and dense brush habitats alike. The federal government provides no designation for the species. The State government lists the species as being of special concern and as being on The State's Watch List, for which data is currently being compiled. The species was not observed during survey, however, oak/riparian woodland adjacent to the existing quarry appears to be suitable for foraging, as does chaparral on the 9 acre expansion site. The probability of occurrence in either habitat is high.

## Sedimentation

The North Fork of Matilija Creek contained running surface water at the time of the survey and is indicated by a "blue line" on the Wheeler Springs/Matilija 7.5 minute USGS quad sheet. The California Department of Fish and Game considers streambeds and drainages, including, but not limited to such blue line streams to be potentially significant fish and wildlife habitat. Currently, the potential exists for rockfall from the existing quarry operation to enter the Matilija Creek. This is considered an existing adverse condition. It is discussed in more detail in the Geology/Soils section of this EIR.

## **IMPACTS**

According to CEQA, and for purposes of this EIR, significant effects on rare or endangered plants or animals (or the habitat of such species), as well as substantial interference with resident or migratory fish or wildlife species, are considered to be significant adverse impacts.

Implementation of the proposed 9 acre quarry expansion will have an impact on biological resources as a result of several factors associated with the proposed quarry operation. The vegetation and wildlife resources described in the existing setting section comprise biotic communities which are assemblages of diverse groups of plant and animal species occurring in the same physical habitat. These species are tied together in an orderly predictable manner by a very close and complex set of interrelationships. Impacts directly resulting from causal factors are termed first order impacts. Impacts associated with quarry operations will result in first order impacts which will, in turn, result in second and third order impacts. Typically, the degree to which this chain-like reaction proceeds toward the complete breakdown and loss of community stability and integrity depends upon the intensity and extent of the causal factor. Causal factors, their associated impacts, and the determinants of their severity are discussed below.

### **Vegetation/Plant Communities**

The most direct impact from implementation of the project will be the direct removal of existing vegetation from 9 acres proposed for quarry operations. Within this 9 acre area, all existing vegetation will be removed and lost. Vegetation lost will be mixed chaparral. This loss will be locally significant but will not be a significant impact on a regional basis due to the abundance of chaparral in the regional area. The use of native vegetation as landscaping will reduce impacts. With implementation of Mitigation Measure 1, impacts will be reduced to a less than significant level.

### **Wildlife Habitat**

The removal of existing vegetation will result in the loss of wildlife habitat. Most wildlife species are highly dependent upon specific habitats and do not successfully adapt to habitats of a different kind.

Less mobile forms of wildlife, such as burrowers, will be destroyed, along with their habitats. Most mobile forms, such as birds and large mammals, will be displaced to suitable habitats nearby. This displacement may potentially crowd and disrupt resident wildlife populations. Successful adaptation and adjustments of displaced wildlife into nearby habitats will be low, and these too will be lost. The chaparral habitat to be lost is relatively common in the region, as are the wildlife it supports. This loss will be locally adverse, but will not be significant on a regional basis due to the abundance of chaparral habitat in the regional area. The use of native vegetation as landscaping will reduce impacts. With implementation of Mitigation Measure 1, impacts will be reduced to a less than significant level.

Wildlife populations adjacent to proposed mining and processing areas will be impacted through "harassment". This indirect, second order impact is defined as a result of those human activities which increase the physiological costs of survival or decrease the probability

of successful reproduction in wildlife populations. The most common forms of harassment that will accompany the project are excessive noise and the presence of humans and equipment. Wildlife not tolerant of such disturbances will move away from habitat adjacent to quarry areas and not use otherwise suitable habitat located there. This is particularly critical for larger wide ranging wildlife, such as birds of prey. Studies have shown that some birds of prey are not tolerant of disturbances within as much as one-half mile of their nesting sites and will abandon their nests if this area is encroached upon.

The potential effects of harassment on the riparian woodland habitat adjacent to the existing quarry is potentially the most significant. The proposed quarry expansion will operate at a greater distance from the riparian woodland habitat than the existing quarry site. No increase in harassment is anticipated due to the project. No significant impacts are anticipated.

### **Sensitive Resources**

The removal of existing vegetation will result in the loss of wildlife habitat. Specifically, chaparral will be lost. This plant community serves as foraging area and habitat for both the Cooper's Hawk and the Sharp-shinned Hawk. Although not observed during the biological assessment, the probability of occurrence is high. Both species are migrants which may explain their absence at the time of the survey. The loss of habitat to these sensitive species is considered adverse, but will not be significant on a regional basis due to abundance of chaparral habitat in the regional area. The use of native vegetation as landscaping will reduce impacts. With implementation of Mitigation Measure 1, impacts will be reduced to a less than significant level.

### **Sedimentation**

The proposed quarry will result in alterations to surface soils and underlying geology which is part of the watershed for Matilija Creek. The California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) has jurisdiction over the North Fork of the Matilija Creek as it is a blue line stream. The CDFG must be notified prior to any alteration of a blue line stream. As result of potential alteration, there is the potential for greater erosion through the exposure of sediments and soils. Downstream, there will be the potential for changes to surface and groundwater hydrology which, if unmitigated, may have adverse impacts on downstream riparian and aquatic habitats. Given the significance of stream riparian and aquatic habitats, the potential for erosion/siltation due to implementation of the project is considered a significant adverse impact. Even small amounts of silt in streams can result in the smothering of aquatic insects, which are key sources of food for fish. Siltation can also result in the reduced suitability of affected stream sections for fish spawning purposes.

The quarry slope as it currently exists within the project area has the potential for a major failure into the North Fork of Matilija Creek resulting in several significant adverse impacts.

These include loss of riparian habitat through burial, loss of aquatic habitats through burial and/or siltation onsite and downstream and interruption of movement by fish and wildlife along the creek. Although implementation of the project as proposed would greatly reduce the likelihood of a major slope failure from the existing 4 acre quarry, the continued quarry operations has a potential to result in a minor slope failure. Implementation of the project as proposed will reduce the existing adverse condition of potential major slope failure to a less than significant level. This potential impact is discussed in more detail in the Geology/Soils section of this EIR. With the implementation of mitigation measures in the Geology section as well as Mitigation Measures 2 through 5 below, impacts to Matilija Creek are reduced to a less than significant level. With implementation of the above stated mitigation measures proposed, impacts to erosion and downstream sedimentation will be reduced to a less than significant level.

## **CUMULATIVE IMPACTS**

The potential adverse impacts that may occur as a result of project implementation will contribute on an incremental basis to cumulative impacts now occurring in the region as a result of land development activities. These impacts are an incremental loss in native vegetation and habitat and an incremental contribution to the fragmentation of large blocks of contiguous native vegetation and habitat. With implementation of Mitigation Measure 1, cumulative impacts associated with the loss of native vegetation will be reduced to a less than significant level.

## **MITIGATION MEASURES**

### **Vegetation/Plant Communities, Wildlife Habitat, and Sensitive Resources**

1. Upon completion of each phase of quarry operation as identified in the Operations Plan (Exhibit 5) and the Reclamation Plans (Exhibits 6, 7, and 8) all revegetation and landscaping shall utilize native species of trees, shrubs and groundcover only.

### **Sedimentation**

2. Pursuant to Section 1601-1603 of the California State Fishing and Game Code, the California Department of Fish and Game shall be notified prior to any alteration of the blue line drainage traversing the property. The purpose of this notification is to allow the state to regulate alterations to streambed habitats, including, but not necessarily limited to, those drainages which are shown by a "blue line" in U.S.G.S. 7.5 minute quad sheets.
3. Prior to issuance of grading permits, the project engineer shall develop and implement erosion and siltation control plans, during all phases of quarry operations, to prevent erosion and siltation resulting in the transport of sediment into the drainages onsite and downstream to Matilija Creek where it may adversely impact riparian and aquatic habitat areas.

4. Prior to the issuance of grading permits, the existing interface between the quarry operations and Matilija Creek shall be recontoured so as to provide a protective berm along, but outside, of the riparian habitat. The purpose of this berm would be to stop any minor failures or slumping from reaching the creek and creating a sedimentation problem.
5. Prior to the issuance of grading permits, a silt fence shall be placed at the bottom of the berm recommended in Mitigation Measure 3 on the creek side, to prevent the run-off of water borne sediments from the berm into the creek.

## **LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE**

Implementation of Mitigation Measure 1 will reduce project-specific and cumulative impacts to vegetation/plant communities, wildlife habitat, and sensitive resources concerns to a less than significant level. Potential project-specific impacts to sedimentation are reduced to a less than significant level with implementation of Mitigation Measures 2 through 5.

## GEOLOGY/SOILS

### EXISTING CONDITIONS

The following information is based on a geotechnical report including slope stability analyses prepared by Pacific Materials Laboratory, Inc. and dated July 25, 1988. An Addendum Stability Analysis and Final Quarry Plan Review was prepared on March 25, 1991, and supplemental information was provided by Pacific Materials Laboratory, Inc. on February 10, 1993. The Findings of the addendum are incorporated in this section. Copies of the reports can be found in Appendix C of this EIR.

#### Local Geology

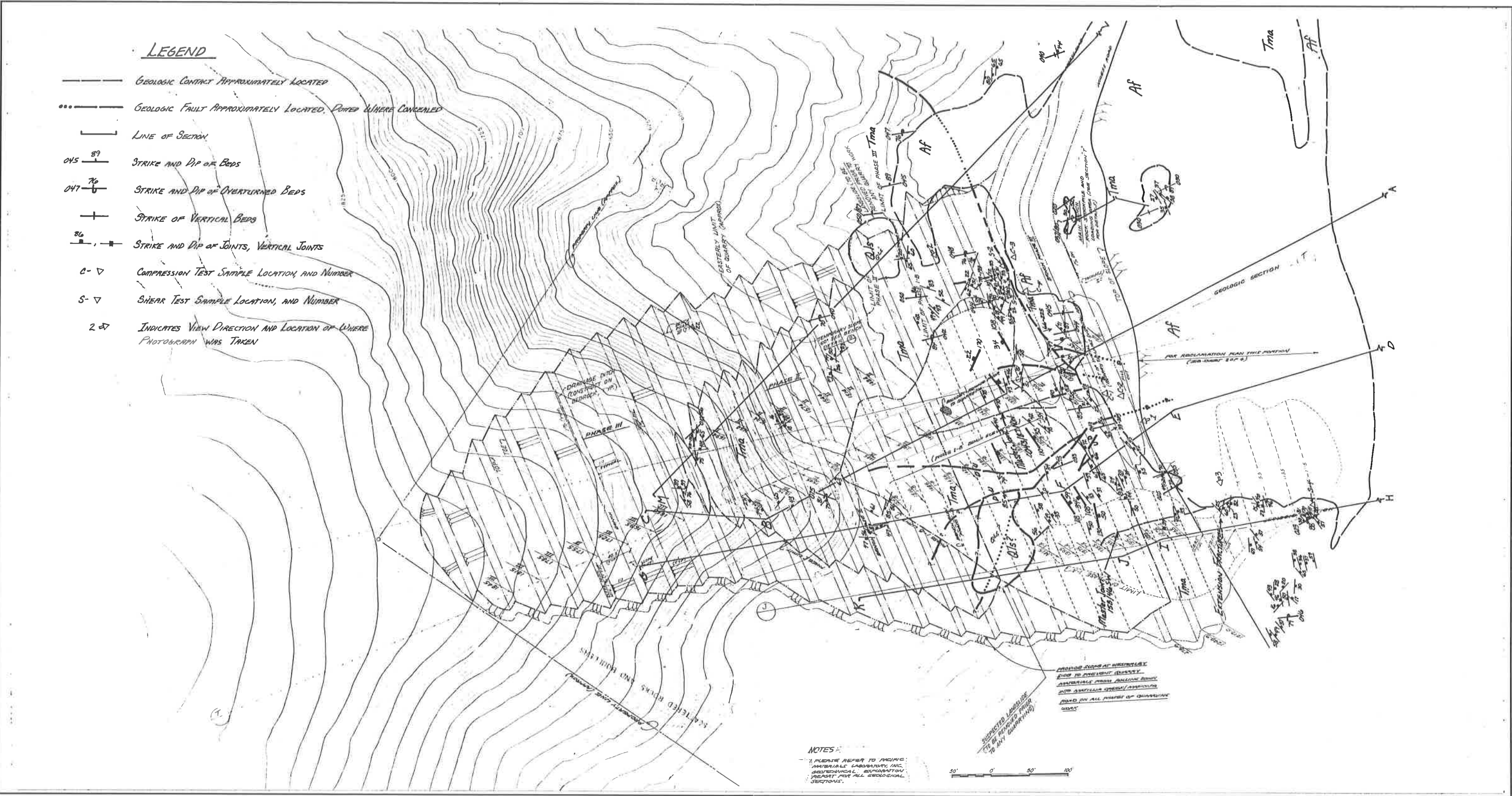
The existing and proposed quarry areas are located in the west central portion of the Transverse Ranges, in the structural block bounded by the Santa Ynez fault on the north and the Arroyo Parida-Santa Ana fault system on the south. The rocks of the area were deposited in the western Ventura Basin during Eocene time. They were subsequently strongly folded and faulted on the south limb of a major overturned anticline known as the Matilija Overturn. An anticline is a fold of earth material shaped like an arch. Uplift of this area formed the rugged Santa Ynez Mountains which are presently being vigorously dissected by streams. Prominent rock exposures occur in the area. Exhibit 18 depicts the existing geologic conditions. Geologic units existing on the proposed project site consist of the following types.

**Artificial Fill (AF):** This soil type covers the majority of the site downslope of the present quarry area. It consists of quarry non-cohesive waste by-products containing boulder, gravel, sand, and silt mixtures which are grayish brown in overall color. Gravel and boulder talus commonly covers steep slopes underlain by these deposits. This unit generally appears cohesionless, loose and poorly-consolidated. The fine-grained constituents of the artificial fill appear easily erodible.

**Landslide Deposits (Qls):** Apparent landslide soil deposits exist near the top of the present quarry slope. These deposits appear, from a distance, as jumbled masses of angular boulders in a matrix of tan gravelly silty sand. It was not possible to observe landslide deposits on the outcrop because of the steep slope.

**Matilija Formation (Tma):** These Eocene rock deposits consist of brown-weathering, light gray to tan medium-grained arkosic sandstone interbedded with brown to gray-green silty very fine-grained sandstone and silty shale. Sandstone dominates over shale by an approximate 50:1 ratio in the project site area.





Source: Pacific Materials Laboratory, Inc.

# **GEOLOGIC MAP** **SCHMIDT ROCK QUARRY** County of Ventura

## **Slope Stability**

A slope stability analysis was conducted along visible joints or fractures in the project area. The degree of straightness of daylighted fractures varies from 35 to 44 degrees on the subject site.

The slope stability analysis indicates that substantially all materials at 44 degrees or flatter are stable with a factor of safety against movement greater than 1.15. This factor of safety is below normal permanent design limits of 1.5. It is based upon the private commercial site use. Specific cross section details and stability analysis are provided in the Geotechnical Report contained in Appendix C.

There are several locations on the existing quarry site where joints dip in excess of 44 degrees out of slope. These areas have significant extension cracks which are highly suggestive of downhill movement of the rock units. They are prone to rock toppling and/or bedrock block slide.

## **Joints**

Joints in rocks also effect slope stability. They are generally defined by relatively smooth planar cracks or fractures along which, or across which only minute often undetectable displacements have occurred. There are two categories of joints on the existing quarry and proposed project site area.

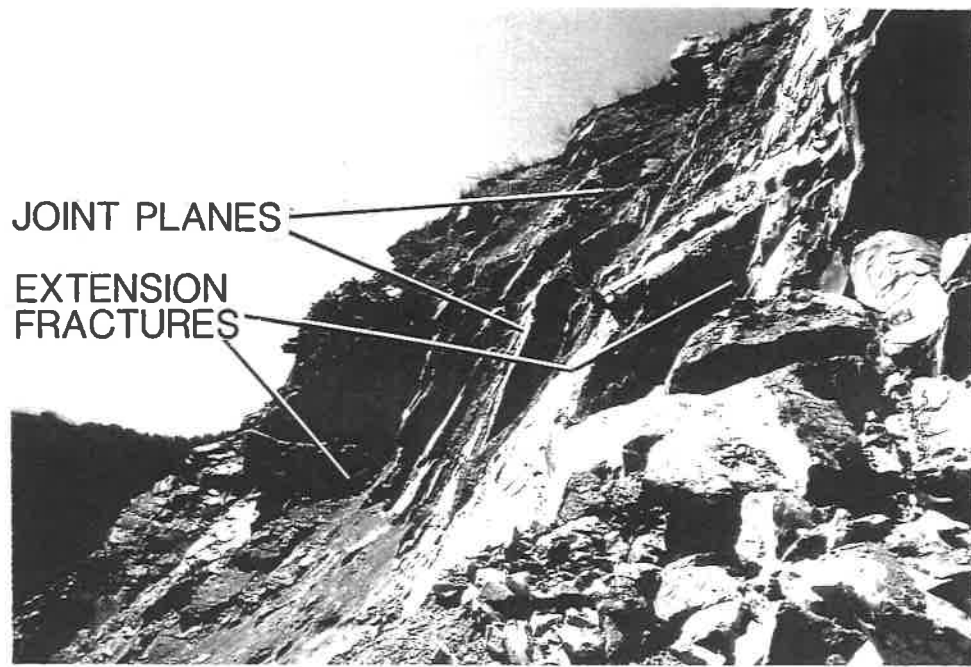
- Systematic joints which are relatively planar tight cracks.
- Extension fractures which appear as steeply-dipping, planar to jagged, open cracks.

## **SYSTEMATIC JOINTS**

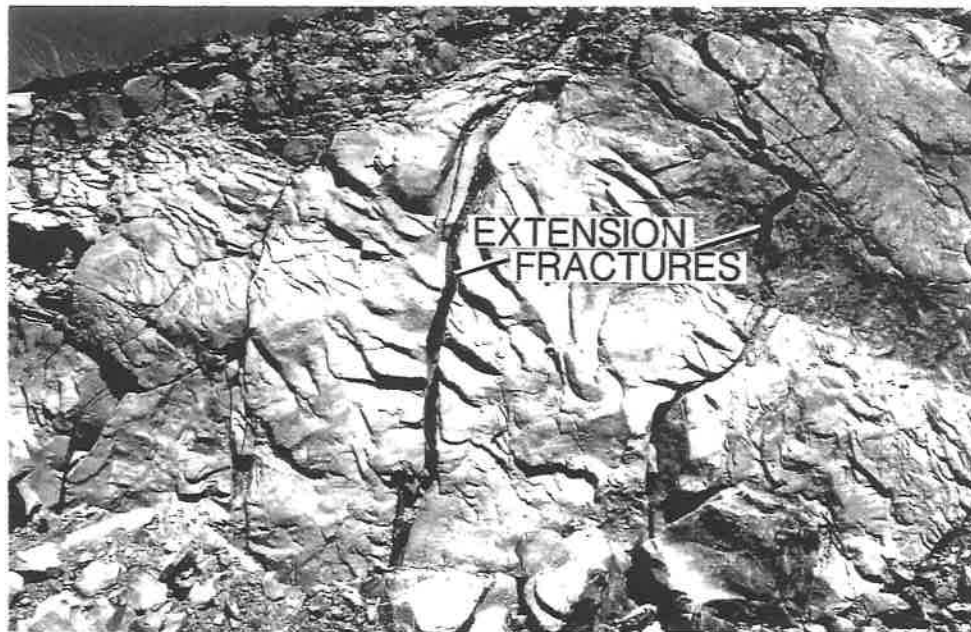
Southwest-dipping systematic joints were typically spaced from 1 to 5 feet apart and were continuously traceable for approximately 5 to 75 feet. Exhibit 19, Photo A is a photograph of southwest-dipping joints which are visible in the existing quarry slope. Northeast-dipping systematic joints were typically spaced from 1 inch to 10 feet apart and were continuously traceable for approximately 5 to 15 feet.

## **EXTENSION FRACTURES**

Extension fractures were oriented approximately perpendicular to bedding and near-vertical. These consisted of open fractures ranging from 0.5 to 3.5 inches wide. Exhibit 19, Photo B is a photograph taken July 2, 1988 of extension fractures located along the northern margin of the existing quarry slope. These extension fractures may occur precedent to rock fall and/or landsliding. The potential for rockfall onto Matilija Creek from the northwest margin of the existing quarry presently appears moderate to high. This existing quarry slope is shown on geologic section H-K contained in the Geotechnical Report in Appendix C.



**A**



**B**

Source: Pacific Materials Laboratory , Inc.

## EXTENSION FRACTURES AND JOINT PLANES

SCHMIDT ROCK QUARRY  
County of Ventura

**EDAW**

No Scale



Exhibit 19

## **Faulting/Seismicity**

### **Faults**

Several faults with northeast to northwest trends and near vertical dips were exposed at the existing quarry. These faults appear to be the result of displacements associated with intense folding of the Matilija Overturn. The Matilija Formation in the project site area crops out on the steep to overturned south limb of a major east-west trending anticline known as the Matilija Overturn. The fold axis of this anticline forms an S-shaped bend through the site area.

North to northeast trending faults located in the proposed 350± feet quarry slope truncate or interrupt sandstone and shale units. Exhibit 20 is a photograph of faulted shale beds in the existing quarry rock face.

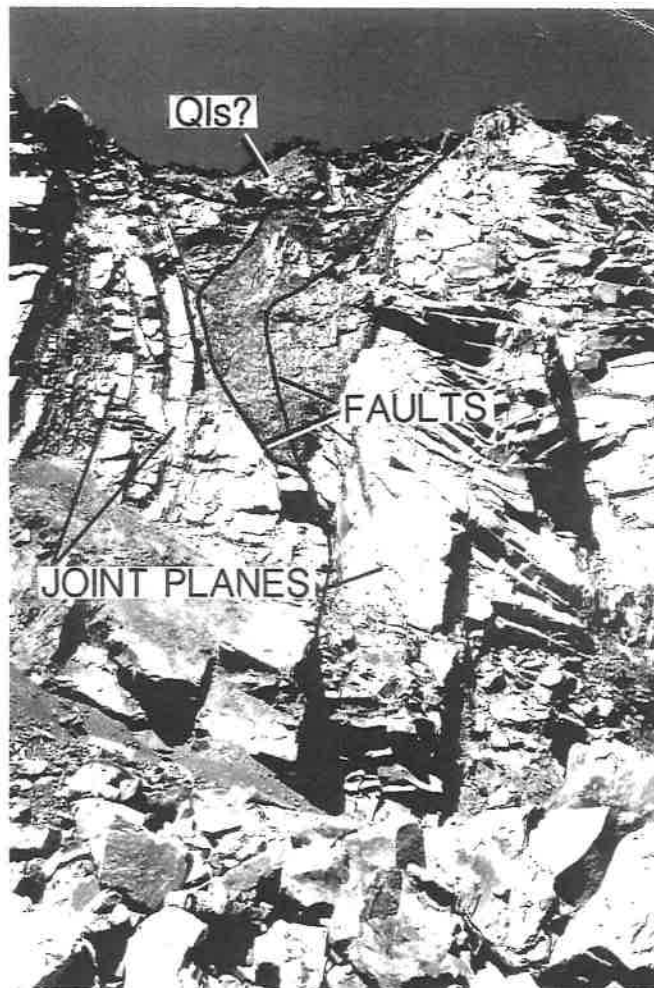
A northwest-trending near-vertical fault occurs along the base of the proposed 350± feet slope. This fault cuts across bedding at its intersection with geologic section A-C, but may pass into bedding approximately 140 feet to the southeast. A similar fault was exposed 380 feet southeast of geologic section A-B. Refer to the Geotechnical Report contained in Appendix C for geological cross-sections.

### **Seismicity**

The project site is situated in an area of high seismicity. Many active, or potentially active faults occur within 50 miles of the site. Some of these include: Santa Ynez Fault (1.0 mile), Santa Ana-Arroyo Parida Fault (6.0 miles), Pine Mountain Fault (8.7 miles), San Cayetano Thrust (6.0 miles), Oak Ridge Fault (16.0 miles), Big Pine Fault (16.0 miles), Red Mountain Thrust (13.9 miles) and the San Andreas Fault (30.0 miles). Table D lists distances and maximum credible earthquake magnitudes for some of the active and potentially active faults in Southern California.

### **Mass Wasting**

No evidence of large landslides was observed in the proposed project area. Two relatively small (0.1 acres) shallow-seated landslides were mapped bordering the top of the existing quarry slopes. These landslides are shown on Exhibit 18 and within the geologic map contained in the Geotechnical Report in Appendix C.



**C**

Source: Pacific Materials Laboratory , Inc.

## **FAULTED SHALE BEDS**

SCHMIDT ROCK QUARRY  
County of Ventura

**EDAW**

No Scale



Exhibit 20

TABLE D

**DISTANCES AND MAXIMUM CREDIBLE EARTHQUAKE MAGNITUDES FOR  
ACTIVE AND POTENTIALLY ACTIVE FAULTS**

	ACTIVITY	DISTANCE (Miles)	MAXIMUM CREDIBLE EARTHQUAKE (Richter)
1. Malibu Coast Fault	(PA)	35.0	6.8
2. Simi-Santa Rosa Fault	(PA)	20.2	6.5
3. Oak Ridge Fault	(PA)	16.0	7.5
4. San Cayetano Thrust	(A, PA)	6.0	7.5
5. San Fernando Zone	(A)	52.0	6.5
6. Santa Gabriel Fault	(A, PA)	32.0	7.5
7. Santa Susana Thrust	(PA)	32.0	6.5
8. Chatsworth Fault	(PA)	39.0	6.5
9. San Andreas Fault	(A)	30.0	8.5
10. Garlock Fault	(A, PA)	32.0	7.75
11. Big Pine Fault	(A)	12.0	7.5
12. White Wolf Fault	(A)	39.0	7.75
13. Inglewood-Newport	(PA)	60.0	7.0
14. Palos Verdes Fault	(PA)	62.0	7.0
15. Sierra Madre Fault	(PA)	66.0	7.5
16. Ventura/Pitas Point	(PA)	15.0	7.0
17. Whittier/Elsinore Zone	(A)	75.0	7.1
18. San Jacinto Fault	(A)	96.0	7.75
19. Cucamonga Fault	(A)	60.0	6.5
20. Santa Cruz Island	(A, PA)	47.0	7.3
21. Northridge Hills Fault	(PA)	40.0	6.5
22. Santa Ynez	(PA)	1.0	7.5

Source: Pacific Materials Laboratory, Inc.

A = Active Fault

PA = Potentially Active Fault

## IMPACTS

According to CEQA, exposure of people or structures to major geologic hazards is considered a significant adverse impact. For the purposes of this EIR, major (i.e. significant) geologic hazards be overcome by design using reasonable construction and/or maintenance practices.

The site has several potential geotechnical constraints. The existing quarry operation has created a currently unstable slope which has the potential for a rockfall that would impact quarry workers, Matilija Creek, and Highway 33. During quarry activities, the proposed project will expose quarry operators and Highway 33 roadway users to major geological hazards. This is considered a significant impact. The proposed project will alter the existing landform by the removal of materials. This may expose people or structures to major geologic hazards in the proposed project area upon project completion. No structures are proposed by the project and no habitation of the site is proposed. Potential impacts to the Matilija Creek are discussed in the Biology/Sedimentation section of this document. The significance of the potential geologic impacts is discussed below.

### Local Geology

Implementation of the proposed project will remove rock materials from the area. Alteration of the existing landform may result in unsafe geologic conditions. Exhibit 18 depicts existing geological constraints within the project area. Compliance with the Ventura County Reclamation Ordinance (Sec. 8107-9 of the Zoning Code) will ensure that no significant impacts to local geology will occur.

### Slope Stability

The proposed project will expose quarry operators, motorists on Highway 33, and Matilija Creek to potentially unstable slopes. The proposed project site is located in an area of high seismic activity. Factors of safety for all slopes within the quarry area will drop below acceptable limits during significant earthquakes. Rockfall, rockslides, and/or landslide occurrences may occur during earthquake events. Such events are considered significant impacts as they could fill Matilija Creek and/or overtop Highway 33.

The potential of rock toppling was also noted on the proposed 9 acre site as indicated by several upslope boulders which are currently being undermined by ongoing quarry activity. In addition, as quarry activity extends upslope, significant new areas may develop, due to the joint orientations of the proposed 9 acre site, which could result in singular or multiple rock toppling. These areas appear to represent a local danger to quarry activity and are more prone to toppling and/or bedrock block slide.

Current on-going quarry mining activity for retrieving quarry products includes horizontal benches and near-vertical cuts up to 50 feet into the rock formation. This condition has worked thus far during the life of the quarry activity. The existing quarry mining has reached



the state in which it is attempting to obtain materials from much steeper naturally sloped areas in which the identified geologic joint condition is of increasing concern. Implementation of the project will eliminate the existing unsafe geologic conditions and result in compliance with the County of Ventura static safety factor of 1.5. With the implementation of Mitigation Measures 1 through 12 designed to modify quarry activity and site configuration, and compliance with the Ventura County Reclamation Ordinance (Sec. 8107-9 of the Zoning Code), the potential for slope failure will be reduced to a level less than significant.

The rock-blasting activities currently occurring at the site and projected to continue with implementation of the project could also pose impacts on gross slope stability. As referenced in the February 10, 1993 study conducted by Pacific Materials Laboratory, Inc. (included in Appendix C), the previous, current, and future site blasting program associated with the proposed project (as identified in the letter submitted by the quarry operator - contained in Appendix C), constitute small scale blasting episodes. Based upon the mining procedures described in the owner's letter, it is the opinion of Pacific Materials Laboratory that the small scale blasting episodes conducted at the quarry have a negligible effect upon gross slope stability. Furthermore, to ensure that current and future site blasting activities continue to have a negligible effect upon gross slope stability, Mitigation Measure 11 has been provided, and any increase or intensification of rock blasting would constitute a change in the project and would require further environmental review. Thus, no significant impacts associated with rock-blasting activities are anticipated.

## **Joints**

The systematic joints and extension fractures which occur in the existing quarry area have resulted in unstable geologic conditions. As identified in the Existing Conditions discussion, the undercutting of rock that has taken place at the quarry has resulted in an existing adverse conditions due to weak areas in the rock which present an existing potential danger to quarry workers and users of Highway 33.

The unstable geologic conditions which occur in the existing quarry area and 9 acre continuation area have resulted from a combination of factors including past excavation procedures and existing joint orientations. Implementation of the project will eliminate the existing unsafe geologic conditions and result in compliance with the County of Ventura static safety factor of 1.5. With implementation of the proposed project, no significant impacts are anticipated related to unsafe systematic joints and extension fractures. During construction operations, quarry operators and Highway 33 Roadway users will be exposed to geologic hazards from systematic joints and extension fractures.

## **Faulting/Seismicity**

The proposed project site is located in a seismically active area. Implementation of the proposed project will not create increased exposure to seismic activity. Seismic hazards

constitute an existing safety condition experience by all developments in the California region. It may be anticipated that ground shaking, a secondary earthquake effect, will occur due to the historic seismic record and reasonable projections of possible future earthquake occurrence. During the lifetime of the proposed quarry, several earthquakes may occur with Richter Magnitude between 5.0 and 8.5 with various epicentral distances within an 80-miles radius. As with the existing quarry site, earthquakes have the potential to induce rockfall and slope failure on the proposed quarry site. This is considered a significant impact as persons and structures may be injured and damaged. With implementation of Mitigation Measures 1 through 12 impacts associated with seismic activity will be reduced to a level less than significant.

### **Mass Wasting**

The proposed project could expose quarry operators, motorists on Highway 33, and Matilija Creek to mass wasting. The only danger the existing landslides present is encroachment from downslope which could reactivate the slides. Due to the lack of evidence of large landslides and the dominance of very hard, resistant sandstone on the project site, no significant impacts due to mass wasting are anticipated.

### **CUMULATIVE IMPACTS**

No cumulative impacts have been identified to local geology, joints, slope stability, mass wasting or faulting/seismicity.

### **MITIGATION MEASURES**

1. During quarry operations, bench backcut slopes shall be limited to a maximum of 30 feet in vertical height and laid back at a temporary repose not to exceed 60 degrees. Quarry tailings shall be placed in a systematic method downslope of the previous slope backcut to insure that buttressing of the previous bench backcut slopes exists prior to significant further upslope quarry activity.
2. During quarry operations, buttress fills shall be created in a near structural manner. This includes preparation of the area to receive fill by creating a level bench, placement of the material in such a manner as to obtain a degree of compaction in excess of 85 percent relative compaction with a final fill slope repose not to exceed 1.5:1.
3. As the previously-used quarry benches will be modified into switchback access roads, during quarry operations, care shall be taken to define the access roadway and to provide positive drainage and drainage devices as necessary to avoid downslope artificial fill erosion. This may include but is not limited to consideration of tightline conduits for direct drainage into Matilija Creek, limiting switchback road gradients, sloping switchback roads back into the hillside and collection of free water drainage on previously cut

bedrock formations in lieu of artificial fill and providing planting and irrigation systems on artificial fill slopes to protect their surfaces.

4. Two significant shallow-depth landslides are identified upslope of the present quarry area but within the proposed future quarry development. The removed materials may be stockpiled or used for artificial fill and/or buttressing. The limits of landslide removal shall be established by geologic inspection during grading removal.
5. During quarry operations, the integrity of the existing natural drainage surface located along the west side of the quarry shall be maintained by either closed conduit or open channel flow.
6. During quarry operations along the northwest boundary line where significant extension joint-crack openings exist, material shall either be removed or an engineered buttress shall be provided to prevent potential translation. The materials observed may be of significant use in quarry activity and may be better served by full removal down to a more competent, less steeply jointed bedrock zone as indicated on the geologic map. Limits of removal shall be established by geologic inspection during grading removal.
7. Final quarry slope repose shall be designed to match existing natural fracture orientations. Since orientations vary per given area, design shall include joint orientations indicated within the geotechnical report prepared by Pacific Materials Laboratory. Actual conditions encountered during quarry activities may require modifications to final slope repose. As a rule of thumb, the final quarry slopes shall be laid back to match existing joint attitudes so as to remove all unsupported fractured sandstone blocks. This condition appears to vary from 35 to 44 degrees and will result in quarry limits well beyond those indicated for the first phase of quarry development.
8. Prior to continuation of quarry operations, all areas where the natural quarry fracture planes are in excess of 44 degrees, shall be fully identified and these rock slabs be rock-bolted to stabilize units below with sufficient bolts to prevent downslope translation or stabilized in another acceptable manner to prevent translation.
9. Prior to removal of rock bolted slabs during quarry operations, new rock bolts will be required upslope to insure stability of increasingly steep slope conditions. Additionally, as a safeguard for quarry workers, well-anchored structural tension netting shall be installed upslope of all quarry areas prior to commencement of quarrying activities.
10. Prior to continuation of quarry operations, on-site perched boulders identified upslope of the current quarry activity shall be identified and removed.
11. Ongoing quarry activity shall be placed under the supervision of a certified engineering geologist and licensed land surveyor providing periodic inspection of measures to ensure quarry safety and to aid in identification of changes of lithology and/or geologic context

which may occur during quarry excavation. Of particular significance is quarry work outside the currently proposed limits of Phase I quarry activity, as many upslope areas of concern are extremely steep and not presently readily accessible for confirmation of geologic conditions. An engineering geologist, on at least an annual basis shall be retained to provide progress geologic logging, reports, and recommendations pertaining to the structural geology of the subject site.

12. Prior to continuation of quarry operations, the precariously steep backcut slopes within the current mining benches of the site shall be modified and backfilled to provide buttressing to maintain a near vertical bench backcut slope height of not to exceed 30 feet.

## **LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE**

Implementation of the project as proposed will reduce existing adverse conditions to joints and slope stability to less than significant levels. No project-specific impacts have been identified to local geology, mass wasting, or joints. The implementation of mitigation measures will reduce project-specific impacts to faulting/seismicity, and slope stability to a level less than significant. No cumulative impacts to these resources have been identified.

## **TRAFFIC**

### **EXISTING CONDITIONS**

The existing quarry and proposed project site is located adjacent and east of Maricopa Highway 33 between Matilija Road North and Matilija Road South. According to the State Department of Transportation's (Caltrans), 1990 Traffic Volumes Report, the annual average daily trips (ADT) along Maricopa Highway in the vicinity of the project site is 2,100. Peak hour volume is 420.

The current permit, under which the existing quarry operates, allows no more than twenty loaded trucks to travel through the City of Ojai on each day of permitted quarry operation. Additionally, no trucking is permitted to occur during peak school hours. In the previous EIR prepared for the project in 1975, the County Public Works Agency stated that the Schmidt Rock Quarry operation generates approximately 40 ADT.

### **IMPACTS**

According to CEQA, increases in traffic which are substantial in relation to the load and capacity of the street system or in violation of County General Plan policy are significant impacts.

Traffic impacts were analyzed in the previous EIR prepared for the site in 1975. The project is permitted for 20 truck trips per day for a total 40 ADT. The County Public Works Agency determined that the 40 ADT resulting from the proposed project would not create a significant impact on Maricopa Highway.

The project as proposed is a continuation of an existing quarry operation. According to the CUP application request dated May 3, 1991, no increase in truck traffic has been requested by the applicant. No modification to the existing level of truck transport is anticipated with implementation of the proposed CUP. Based on the previous environmental documentation and the fact that the proposed project is a continuation of an existing operation with no increase in ADT, no significant impacts are anticipated.

### **MITIGATION MEASURES**

None necessary.

### **LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The continuation of quarry operations will not increase existing ADT's. No project-specific or cumulative impacts have been identified.

## VI. GROWTH INDUCING IMPACTS

According to CEQA Guidelines, this section should, "discuss the ways in which the proposed project could foster economic or population growth, or the construction of additional housing, either directly or indirectly, in the surrounding environment." Further it must not be assumed that growth in any area is necessarily beneficial, detrimental, or of little significance to the environment.

The proposed continuation of the rock quarry will not introduce features that will immediately draw new development to the area. The continuation will not open new roads, require new sewers or extensions of infrastructures which would normally be associated with residential or commercial developments entering into undeveloped areas. Because of the nature of rock quarries, they tend to be located, at least while they are active, in isolated areas as is the case with the proposed 9 acre continuation project.

The continuation of the rock quarry provides rock materials utilized in the construction of dam facings, flood control devices and sea walls. The continuation of the existing quarry operation will not increase the amount of materials extracted nor will it create an increased demand for the materials. If the proposed project is not implemented, increased demands would be placed on other nearby rock quarries.

## **VII. ALTERNATIVES TO THE PROPOSED PROJECT**

### **INTRODUCTION**

The following discussion evaluates alternatives to the proposed 9 acre expansion of an existing 4 acre rock quarry operation. The Alternatives Summary of Impacts, Table E located at the end of this section, provides a comparison of alternatives under consideration. The table is in tabular format permitting a review of the range of alternatives with their estimated impacts and providing a comparative analysis of each alternative.

CEQA Guidelines indicate that "The discussion of alternatives shall focus on alternatives capable of eliminating any significant adverse environmental effect or reducing them to a level of insignificance, even if these alternatives would impede to some degree the attainment of the project objectives, or would be more costly."

A brief description of each alternative is provided below. This section evaluates alternatives which may be capable of eliminating, or reducing to a level of significance, adverse impacts associated with the project. Additionally, the alternatives considered environmentally similar, superior, or inferior to the proposed project are identified.

The objective of the proposed rock quarry expansion is to continue operations at the existing quarry location and implement a reclamation plan which will stabilize existing geotechnical hazards at the 4 acre rock quarry operation. The continuation of quarry operations will continue to provide materials for the construction of dam facings, flood control devices, sea walls and various types of development throughout the region. Alternatives to the proposed project include the "no project" alternative as required by CEQA and an evaluation of an alternative project location.

### **NO PROJECT ALTERNATIVE**

The discussion of the No Project alternative is required by section 15126(d)(2) of CEQA Guidelines. Its intent and objectives are to compare the differences in environmental impacts, while considering overall project goals.

Adoption of the No Project alternative would limit the quarry operation to the existing 4 acres and not allow for implementation of the proposed reclamation plan. This reclamation plan would serve to fulfill an important project objective of stabilizing unsafe slopes at the existing quarry.

Currently, parts of the existing quarry site are geologically unstable. The undercutting that has taken place at the existing quarry operation has resulted in geologically unstable conditions. Several boulders have been unstabilized during quarry activity which have the potential for toppling. The existing quarry operation has reached a more steep slope area where an unstable geologic joint condition has been identified. Refer to the Geotechnical



Report in Appendix C. If this condition is allowed to remain as is, the dangers of slope instability will continue to exist. Continued quarry operations (proposed project) would serve to stabilize existing slopes and prevent potential landslides and rock toppling. The No Project Alternative would not allow excavation necessary to rectify existing unstable and unsafe slopes. The geological impacts associated with the No Project Alternative will be greater than with implementation of the proposed expansion. Geological impacts associated with this alternative could result from rock toppling and the unstable slope conditions create a greater potential for seismic related hazards.

The No Project Alternative does not allow the project objective of stabilizing unsafe slopes to be met. The remaining objectives as stated in the Project Description of this EIR would not be met if the No Project Alternative were approved. The project objectives include providing rock materials which meet both State and County standards for rock materials; continuing quarry operations in order to stabilize existing unsafe slopes; and eliminating potential erosion hazards which may create runoff into the North Fork of the Matilija Creek.

This No Project Alternative would not result in further excavation beyond the current permitted area. Loss of vegetation or wildlife habitat will therefore not occur. However, the potential for sedimentation impacts to the North Fork of the Matilija Creek would be greater than with the proposed project. Traffic impacts associated with the No Project Alternative and the proposed project are not considered significant. As stated in the Traffic section of this EIR, the amount of traffic will not change with the proposed quarry continuation. Approval of this alternative will eliminate significant unavoidable visual impacts as discussed in the Aesthetics/Visual section of this EIR. No vegetation would be removed and no unweathered rock would be exposed beyond the current permit area.

The No Project alternative would not incur the site-specific visual environmental effects associated with implementation of the project. It would, however, have the potential to result in significant geological and slope failure/sedimentation impacts because it would not allow for stabilization of the existing unstable and unsafe slope adjacent to the existing quarry site. The avoidance of the site-specific visual impacts must, therefore, be balanced against the other significant effects which would not occur with implementation of the proposed project. The No Project alternative would also not meet the project objectives as stated in the Project Description Section of this EIR. Thus, while the No Project alternative can be considered to be environmentally superior to the project in some ways, it has the potential to have an impact of greater significance in another environmental issue area.

## **ALTERNATIVE PROJECT LOCATION**

The California Environmental Quality Act indicates that the EIR must address alternative locations for the proposed project. The proposed project is a continuation of an existing quarry operation, therefore in selecting an alternative location, an existing quarry was sought which could supply the same quality rip-rap and crushed rock aggregate. As stated in the related projects section of this EIR, the only other location in the County of Ventura which fulfills this objective is the Mary Smith Quarry. This quarry meets County standards for rock

materials but does not meet State standards. Based on the above stated factors and discussions with County staff the Mary Smith Quarry was chosen as the alternative project location to be analyzed.

In relation to the proposed site, the alternative location lies approximately 40 miles to the Southeast near the City of Camarillo. The entrance to the quarry is located along Howard Road. The nearest cross streets are Pleasant Valley Road and Pancho Road.

Surrounding land uses include agriculture and the Conejo Mountain Memorial Park Cemetery. The topography of the site consists of vertical hillsides and plateaus. Native vegetation consists of trees, chaparral and cactus. Surface runoff is directed toward a settling/water supply pond adjacent to the site. The hours of operation are from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. with a total of 3-4 employees.

This alternative site is the only quarry which is capable of producing similar type and quality of rock material as the Schmidt Rock Quarry. The site consists of 102 acres with 62 acres currently being mined. The quarry owner has applied for an expansion of 86,000 tons/year under CUP 3817.

The Mary Smith Quarry is not readily visible from nearby U.S. Highway 101. Visitors to the adjacent cemetery are currently and would continue be visually impacted by the quarry. Existing trees and shrubs will provide some screening. As stated previously in the Mary Smith Quarry is located adjacent to an existing Cemetery. As with the Schmidt Rock Quarry, few scattered residences occur within the quarry's vicinity. Impacts associated with aesthetics/visual are anticipated to be similar to the proposed project.

According to the project description questionnaire submitted by the applicant on August 9, 1991, the Mary Smith Quarry is located in an area of similar vegetation, i.e. chaparral and wildlife. With this alternative, removal of vegetation would take place creating similar biological impacts as the proposed project. The Mary Smith Quarry is not located near a blue line stream as identified by the California Department of Fish and Game. No waterways would be impacted with approval of this alternative, therefore, sedimentation related impacts will be less than the proposed project.

The Mary Smith Quarry is a hillside excavation which inherently presents a risk to quarry workers. Impacts associated with geology will be similar to the proposed project because the excavation takes place on vertical hillsides which poses potential danger to quarry workers. Similar seismic hazards also exist in the event of an earthquake.

Both the Mary Smith Quarry and the Schmidt Rock Quarry are located in remote areas which results in hauling materials over long distances. Traffic impacts are not anticipated to be significant with the proposed project or with this alternative. Traffic impacts will be similar with approval of this alternative.

The Mary Smith Quarry produces similar rip-rap and crushed rock aggregate as the Schmidt Rock Quarry. It is not able to meet State specifications for rip-rap and concrete standards but it does meet County specifications. Approval of this alternative will not meet the project objectives as stated in the Project Description of this EIR. One of the key objectives is to continue the existing quarry operations in order to stabilize existing unsafe slopes. An additional objective is to provide rock materials which meet both State and County specifications. As stated previously, the material mined at this site does not meet State standards. This alternative will not allow the objective of eliminating potential erosion hazards which may create runoff into the North Fork of the Matilija Creek. This alternative is not considered environmentally superior to the proposed project and does not meet the project objectives, therefore, it should be rejected from further consideration.

## **VIII. PERSONS AND ORGANIZATIONS CONSULTED**

### **ORGANIZATIONS CONSULTED**

#### **County of Ventura**

Planning Department

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Beth Painter

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## REFERENCES

Los Padres National Forest, 1987. Guidelines for Preparing Visual Resource Sections of Environmental Documents for Projects Affecting the Los Padres National Forest. Prepared for Los Angeles National Forest, Goleta, California.

Ventura, County of, 1985. Ventura County General Plan. County of Ventura, California.

Ibid, 19\_\_\_\_. Ventura County Zoning Ordinance.

Ibid, 19\_\_\_\_. County Guidelines for Orderly Development Policies within Spheres of Influence.

## **APPENDICES**





RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AGENCY  
**county of ventura**

Planning Division

Keith A. Turner  
Manager

January 5, 1989

Schmidt Construction, Inc.  
26951 Ruether Avenue  
Canyon Country, CA 91351

Certified Mail No. P-573 382 879

Dear Mr. Schmidt:

Subject: Determination that an Environmental Impact Report will be Required for  
CUP-3489 (Modification No. 2)

In accordance with Section 15063 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the Resource Management Agency has conducted an Initial Study (environmental analysis) and has determined that the above project could have significant environmental impacts with respect to the following issues:

1. Traffic

The continuation and expansion of this quarry could generate additional truck trips, have an impact upon existing roads, and result in traffic hazards to motor vehicles, bicyclists or pedestrians. It is also possible that additional traffic trips may be created by this project along Highway 33 during peak traffic hours. These issues and any mitigation measures to possible adverse impacts need to be addressed.

2. Flood Control/Biology

It is possible that a potential failure of the existing quarry site into the adjacent stream may dam the stream's flow creating a possible problem with existing flora/fauna. Potential damage to the North Fork of Matilija Creek with possible mitigation should be explored.

3. Visual

The quarry site is highly visible and can be seen by motorists traveling north and south on Highway 33. This issue with any mitigation measures needs to be discussed.

4. Archaeological

No previous archaeological work has been done in the area. A reconnaissance of the entire proposed evacuation area shall be done as part of the EIR.

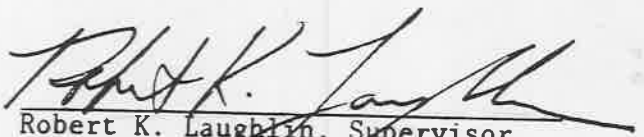
Pursuant to State law, this Agency has determined that an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) should be prepared for this project. We must inform you that an EIR may take nine months or more to prepare (depending on the project complexity). The full cost for consultant fees and staff coordination must be borne by the applicant.

In order to proceed with your project, it will be necessary for you to sign and submit the attached Reimbursement Agreement and an initial \$2,530.00 deposit fee no later than January 31, 1989, to pay for staff coordination and review of the EIR. Once the deposit is received, staff will prepare the Scope-of-Work and a consultant contract. After the consultant contract has been approved by the County, you must deposit the total consultant EIR cost in a Trust Account with the Resource Management Agency before work on the EIR can commence. If staff review costs exceed the \$2,530.00 deposit, you will be billed periodically. Failure to submit the required fee in a timely manner will stop work on the EIR and result in automatic (fast track) denial without prejudice of your application request.

If you disagree that an EIR is necessary for your project, this administrative decision can be appealed to the Environmental Report Review Committee by submitting an appeal form and \$660.00 appeal deposit fee to the Planning Division within ten (10) calendar days following the date of this letter.

If you have any questions on this process, please call Paul Porter at (805) 654-2491.

Sincerely,

  
Robert K. Laughlin, Supervisor  
Commercial/Industrial Land Use Section

RKL:lb/L322

Attachment:  
Reimbursement Agreement

cc: LBH Engineering



		Impact?			Significant?		
		Yes	Maybe	No	Yes	Maybe	No
6.	<u>Solid Waste Facilities</u>						
	Will the project, individually or cumulatively, have an effect upon solid waste disposal facilities?			X			
<u>AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT</u>							
7.	<u>Air</u>						
a.	Will the project, individually or cumulatively, result in:						
	(1) Deterioration of regional ambient air quality?	X					X
	(2) Localized air quality impacts?		X				X
	(3) Objectionable odors?			X			
b.	Will the project be impacted by:						
	(1) Air pollutants from a nearby emission source?			X			
	(2) Objectionable odors?			X			
<u>PUBLIC WORKS AGENCY</u>							
8.	<u>Earth</u>						
	Will the project, individually or cumulatively, result in or be impacted by:						
a.	Unstable earth conditions or changes in geologic substructures?	X			X		
b.	Disruptions, displacements, compaction or overcovering of the soil?	X			X		
c.	Change in topography or ground surface relief features?	X			X		
d.	The destruction, covering or modification of any unique geological or physical features?	X			X		
e.	An increase in wind or water erosion of soils, either on or off the site?	X			X		
f.	Changes to the deposition or erosion of beach sands, or changes in siltation, deposition or erosion which may modify the channel of a river or stream or the bed of the ocean or any bay, inlet or lake?	X			X		
g.	Geologic hazards such as earthquakes, landslides, mudslides, ground failure, liquefaction, or similar hazards?	X			X		
9.	<u>Transportation/Circulation</u>						
	Will the project, individually or cumulatively, result in:						
a.	The generation of additional vehicular movement?	X			X		

		Impact?			Significant?		
		Yes	Maybe	No	Yes	Maybe	No
b.	An effect on existing parking facilities, or demand for new parking?			X			
c.	An impact upon existing transportation systems?	X			X		
d.	Alterations to present patterns of circulation or movement of people and/or goods?			X			
e.	Alterations to rail traffic?			X			
f.	An increase in traffic hazards to motor vehicles, bicyclists or pedestrians?	X				X	
10.	<u>Flood Control</u>						
	Will the project, individually or cumulatively, result in or be impacted by:						
a.	Changes to absorption rates, drainage patterns, or the route and/or amount of surface water runoff?	X			X		
b.	The alteration to the course or flow of flood waters?	X			X		
c.	The exposure of people, property or unique natural resources to hazards such as flooding or tsunami?	X			X		
d.	An effect on a channel or stream regulated by the Flood Control District?			X			
e.	Changes in currents, or the course of direction of water movements, in any body of water?			X			
f.	A flood plain indicated on the Ventura County Flood Insurance Rate Maps?			X			
11.	<u>Water Resources</u>						
	Will the project, individually or cumulatively, result in or be impacted by:						
a.	A decrease of surface water quantity?			X			
b.	The degradation of surface water quality?	X				X	
c.	A decrease of groundwater quantity?			X			
d.	The degradation of groundwater quality?			X			
e.	A high groundwater table?			X			

Impact?			Significant?		
Yes	Maybe	No	Yes	Maybe	No

# ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DIVISION

## 12. Sanitation

If the project will utilize an individual sewage disposal system, can the sewage generated by the project create an adverse health impact?

—	—	X	—	—	—
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## 13. Water Supply

Will the project not be provided with a long-term water supply of adequate quantity and quality?

—	—	X	—	—	—
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## 14. Risk of Upset

Does the project, individually or cumulatively, involve a risk of releasing hazardous substances (including, but not limited to, oil, pesticides, chemicals or radiation) in the event of an accident or upset condition?

X	—	—	—	X	—
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## 15. Human Health

Will the project, individually or cumulatively, result in:

- Creation of any health hazard or potential health hazard (excluding mental health)?
- Exposure of people to potential health hazards?

—	—	X	—	—	—
—	—	X	—	—	—

# FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

## 16. Will the project, individually or cumulatively, result in impacts on fire protection due to:

- The distance/response time from nearest fire station?
- The availability of personnel or equipment?
- The location in a high fire hazard area?
- The design of roads and circulation?
- The water supply and distribution system?
- The hazardous nature of the project?

—	—	X	—	—	—
—	—	X	—	—	—
—	—	X	—	—	—
—	—	X	—	—	—
—	—	X	—	—	—
—	—	X	—	—	—

# SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

## 17. Will the project, individually or cumulatively, result in impacts on law enforcement due to:

- The design of the project?
- The design of roads and circulation?
- The location of the project?

—	—	X	—	—	—
—	—	X	—	—	—
—	—	X	—	—	—

# GENERAL SERVICES AGENCY

## 18. Recreation

Will the project, individually or cumulatively, result in impacts on recreational opportunities or facilities?

## 19. Harbors

Will the project, individually or cumulatively, result in an impact on harbors?

## AIRPORTS DEPARTMENT

20. Will the project, individually or cumulatively, result in impacts on:

- Air traffic safety?
- Existing airport facilities?

## AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT

## 21. Agricultural Resources

Will the project, individually or cumulatively, result in:

- The conversion of prime agricultural land to other uses?
- The loss of productive crop land or soils?
- An adverse effect on adjacent agricultural land?

## AREAS TO BE COMPLETED BY THE AGENCY RESPONSIBLE FOR ADMINISTERING THE PROJECT

## 22. Visual Effects

Will the project, individually or cumulatively, result in the obstruction of a scenic resource or view open to the public, or will the project result in the creation of an aesthetically offensive site open to public view?

## 23. Light and Glare

Will the project, individually or cumulatively, produce light or glare?

## 24. Noise and Vibrations

Will the project, individually or or cumulatively, result in the exposure of people to increased noise or vibrations?

## 25. Public Facilities and Utilities

Will the project, individually or cumulatively, have an effect upon, or result in a need for new or altered services in any of the following areas:

- Sewers or sewage treatment plants?



		Impact?			Significant?		
		Yes	Maybe	No	Yes	Maybe	No
	b. Water mains or storage facilities?			X			
	c. Electrical transmission facilities?			X			
	d. Natural gas facilities?			X			
	e. Communication facilities?			X			
	f. Educational facilities?			X			
26.	<u>Energy</u>						
	Will the project:						
	a. Result in an increase in demand upon existing sources of fuel or energy?			X			
	b. Use fuel or energy in a wasteful manner?			X			
27.	<u>Cultural/Ethnic Resources</u>						
	Will the project, individually or cumulatively, result in:						
	a. Disruption, alteration, destruction, or adverse effect on a prehistoric or historic archaeological site or paleontological site?		Y			Y	
	b. Disruption or removal of burials or cemetery?		X			Y	
	c. Inducement to trespass, vandalism, or desecration of cultural resources?			X			
	d. The potential to cause a physical change which would affect unique values of an ethnic or social group?		Y			Y	
	e. The potential to conflict with or restrict existing religious, scientific, or educational uses of the area?		Y			Y	
	f. Adverse physical or aesthetic effects to any historic structure or feature, or to any structure or feature eligible for designation as a county landmark?		X			Y	
28.	<u>Biological Resources</u>						
	Will the project, individually or cumulatively, result in:						
	a. Change in the diversity of species, or numbers of any locally sensitive or unique plant species.			X			
	b. Disturbance or reduction in the numbers of any State or Federally listed rare, threatened or endangered plant species or their habitats?			X			

			Impact?			Significant?		
			Yes	Maybe	No	Yes	Maybe	No
c.	Introduction of new plant species into an area, or the introduction of a barrier to the normal replenishment of existing species?				✓			
d.	Change in the diversity of species, numbers or habitat of any animal species which are locally sensitive or unique?				✓			
e.	Disturbance or reduction in the numbers of any State or Federally listed rare, threatened or endangered animal species or their habitats?				✓			
f.	Introduction of new animal species into an area?				✓			
g.	Introduction of barriers to movement of any resident or migratory fish or wildlife species?			✓			✓	
h.	Introduction of factors adverse to the existing ecological balance?			✓			✓	
i.	Introduction of substances, human activity, structures or other factors that would damage, change or hamper an existing locally sensitive or unique ecosystem?				✓			

C. DISCUSSION OF RESPONSES TO CHECKLIST

(Agency responses are attached here.)

D. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

1. Does the project have the potential to significantly degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory? — X —

2. Does the project have the potential to achieve short-term, to the disadvantage of long-term, environmental goals? (A short-term impact on the environment is one which occurs in a relatively brief, definitive period of time while long-term impacts will endure well into the future). — — X —

3. Does the project have impacts which are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? (Several projects may have relatively small individual impacts on two or more resources, but the total of those impacts on the environment is significant.) — X —

4. Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly? — — X —

E. DETERMINATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

- [ ] I find the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a **NEGATIVE DECLARATION** should be prepared.
- [ ] I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because the mitigation measure(s) described in Section C of the Initial Study will be applied to the project. A **MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION** should be prepared.
- [X] I find the proposed project, individually and/or cumulatively, **MAY** have a significant effect on the environment and an **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT** is required.\*

Paul H. Pote  
Signature of Person Responsible  
for Administering the Project

12/19/88  
Date

\*EIR Issues of Focus: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

EXPLANATION OF INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST

CUP-3489 MOD 2

SCHMIDT CONSTRUCTION, INC.

Items 1 through 4

The permit for the ongoing rock quarry operation is consistent with the General Plan designation of "Open Space," and the existing zoning of R-A (Rural Agricultural) which allows mining with approval of a Conditional Use Permit. The project is intermittent in nature and has a maximum of 30 loads per day and has not expanded its number of truck trips in a number of years. Therefore, the project will not be growth inducing, nor will it create a demand for additional housing.

5. Mineral and Oil Resources

The proposed project mines only rock for rip rap and similar uses and as such does not use sand and gravel mineral or oil resources, nor is it located in an area containing these resources.

6. Solid Waste Facilities

The rock mining operations will have no impact on solid waste facilities, as it is not a generator of significant sources of this type of waste.

7. Air

a) (1) Since this is a facility that has been in existence for many years, there will be an impact, but the impact will be insignificant.

(2) Due to the project's remote location and its intermittent operating schedule, there may be some dust impacts, but the impacts will not be significant.

(3) The project does not produce objectionable odors

b) (1 and 2)

Due to the project's remote location, the project will not be impacted by other emission sources or objectionable odors.

Items 8 through 11

See attached information from Public Works Agency and EIR previously prepared for project dated November 25, 1975.

12. Sanitation

The project does not lend itself to the installation of an individual sewage disposal system, because of adverse geological constraints. Chemical toilets with washing facilities are utilized with the handwashing facilities draining into the chemical toilet's holding tank.

13. Water Supply

Domestic water will not be supplied. Water for dust control will be supplied from stream wells.

Items 14 (Risk of Upset) and 15 (Human Health)

An accident or upset condition may cause the release of diesel fuel. Existing fire codes regulate aboveground fuel storage tanks.

The operation of the quarry would involve the use of explosives. Improper blasting can result in excessive scattering of rock fragments and soil. If such debris fly beyond the site boundaries, it would represent a serious safety problem.

The transportation and storage of explosives can also create a public safety hazard if not done properly. Carefully considered security for blasting material must be undertaken to prevent serious public safety problems.

In addition, blasting produces a shock wave in the rock and earth which is not unlike the shock of a small earthquake. Since the energy involved in most blasting is much less than that from a seismic event, the area affected is quite small. Even so, the shock can dislodge loose material on hillsides and road cuts, thus increasing this potential hazard. This problem is particularly noteworthy in this case because of the substantial road cut on State Highway 33 adjoining the quarry site.

The operation of heavily loaded trucks in residential neighborhoods represents a potentially hazardous situation.

The project site is located in a seismically active area. Groundshaking could possibly result in an obstruction to stream flow from falling rocks.

Impact: The use of explosive at the site could result in shock waves, flying materials, and transportation and storage hazards.

Treatment Alternatives: Some of the problems associated with blasting can be mitigated or eliminated by the use of blasting mats. These mats are used for blasting operations in areas where flying debris and noise of detonation are intolerable, such as the downtown areas of large cities. Improved blasting techniques could also be employed to reduce quasi seismic effects and noise.

#### 16. Fire Protection

According to the Ventura County Fire Department, the project has no significant fire hazards involved with its operation. The Department further indicates that the use of explosives at the project site are adequately regulated through the Sheriff's Department permit process.

Impact: The project would not affect the Fire Department's ability to service the area.

#### 17. Law Enforcement

The Sheriff's Department indicates that the project has no significant impact on its ability to render service to the area. The Department is also unaware of any past problems with the operation and can predict none in the future.

Impact: The project would not affect the Sheriff's Department's ability to service the area.

#### 18. Recreation

The proposed project will not have any effects on recreational opportunities or facilities.

#### Items 19 (Harbors) and 20 (Airports)

The proposed project is not near a harbor nor near an airport, nor will it affect their operation.

#### 21. Agriculture

The land is not suitable for agricultural purposes.

#### 22. Visual Effects

The project site is located approximately two miles south of a point where Highway 33 becomes designated as a part of the California Scenic Highway System. Although the section of Highway 33 adjacent to the project site has not been so designated, it is on both the County's and State's Scenic Highway eligibility lists. In preparation for future entry into the Scenic Highway System, The Board of Supervisors have requested the

Division of Highways give Highway 33 the highest priority in the preparation of this route's scenic corridor study. Currently, the corridor study has been completed and all that remains to do before the official scenic designation can be given, is the preparation and adoptions of local plans and programs for the preservation and enhancement of the scenic corridor.

The State Division of Highways has recommended that these plans and programs contain policies for the restoration of quarries to an attractive appearance.

Impacts: The quarry operation has created and could continue to expose unweathered rock on the mountainside. The unweathered rock is highly visible to those people traveling on Highway 33.

23. Light and Glare

Excavation does not take place at night, therefore, light and glare will not be a problem.

24. Noise and Vibration

Please refer to items 14 and 15 as well as the EIR proposed for the initial project dated November 25, 1975.

25. Public Utilities

Public utilities will not be affected by this project.

26. Energy

The project, as proposed, will not result in an increased demand for energy, nor will it waste energy.

27. Cultural/Ethnic Resources

According to the Ventura County Archaeological Society, there are no recorded archaeological sites in the vicinity of the project site. Although it would be normal to require a survey in cases of new development in an unsurveyed area, the society is of the opinion in this case such a survey would not be beneficial, providing that operations are confined to the present quarry sites. Therefore, if the operator intends to open new areas in the future, a survey should be performed. Since the operator intends to expand the operation, an archaeological report shall be prepared as a part of the Environmental Impact Report.

28. Biological Resources

The immediate quarry site contains almost no native plant species. The adjacent stream contains a few small immature riparian species including White Alder (*Alnus Rhombifolia*) and Sycamore (*Platanus ramosa*). The stream area also contains small amounts of Mule Fat (*Baccharis glutinosa*), Willow (*Salix* sp.), California Buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*) and Laurel Leaved Sumac (*Rhus laurina*).

The vegetation on the mountainous areas surrounding the quarry is predominantly chaparral. The rocky nature of the soil would appear to make this vegetation thinner than usual because fire has given it a sparse appearance. Nevertheless, this surrounding community should recover and grow into a varied chaparral plant community. Plant species observed on the surrounding hills include: California Live Oak (*Quercus agrifolia*), Scrub Oak (*Quercus Dumosa*), Laurel Leaved Sumac (*Rhus laurina*), Chamise (*Adenostoma fasciculatum*), California Buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*), Ceanothus (*Ceanothus* sp.), Toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*), Yucca (*Yucca whipplei*) and native grasses.

Plants in the upstream and downstream portions of the north fork of the Ventura River are predominantly Sycamore (*Platanus ramosa*) and White Alder (*Alnus Rhombifolia*). Other species include California Bay (*Umbellularia californica*), Willows (*Salix* sp.), Mule Fat (*Baccharis glutinosa*), Black Cottonwood (*Populus trichocarpa*), Cat Tail (*Typha latifolia*), Sweet Clover (*Melilotus* sp.), Night Shade (*Solanum douglasii*), Poison Oak (*Rhus diversiloba*) and Stream Algae.

There are only a few wildlife species in the immediate quarry site. Wildlife here is limited to small mammals, snakes, lizards, and insects. The only observed bird species that might reside in the quarry area are the Rock Wren and Canyon Wren.

The sparse vegetation in the stream adjacent to the quarry contributes to a relatively small number of wildlife species. A fish survey conducted on August 5, 1975, showed an absence of fish in the stream adjacent to the quarry. However, small fish were observed both upstream and downstream of the quarry site. One large trout was observed below the quarry. A fish survey conducted in July, 1974, showed the presence of fish at the quarry site.

The absence of wildlife species at the quarry site and in the adjacent stream is a stark contrast to the abundance of wildlife species surrounding it. The surrounding area contains a wide variety of wildlife species too numerous to list here. For the purposes of this report it appears sufficient to indicate that the wildlife species range from large mammals (bear, mountain lion, mule deer, etc.) to an abundance of insects. A listing of wildlife appropriate to the surrounding habitats is available in the Flood Control District Office.

Impact: According to the Public Works Agency, the existing quarry operations have apparently denuded most of the native riparian and chaparral plant community habitats. An investigation of upstream and downstream areas indicate that the native habitats must have been substantial. An apparent fire has burned the area immediately above the existing quarry giving it a sparse appearance.

The quarry operations may have caused large rocks to fall in the north fork of Ventura River. While upstream and downstream portions of the stream are also very rocky in nature, they contain greater amounts of sands and small rock. The stream in the quarry area contains very little of these finer sands and rock.

The quarry may have reduced the width of the natural stream. This however, is difficult to determine given the presence of Highway 33 and the naturally narrow stream configuration upstream of the quarry. There is at least one location where rock in the stream has created a 3 to 4 foot fall in the stream. Under summer low flow conditions this may be a barrier to fish migration. Additionally, the California State Department of Fish and Game reports that stream blockages could adversely effect the migrations of native and planted trout.

The State Department of Fish and Game has also reported that this quarry is a likely source of siltation from the effects of erosion. Current research on quarries indicates that even small amounts of silt can have substantial impacts on aquatic resources. The presence of silt in streams can result in the smothering of aquatic insects and the reduced suitability of the affected stream sections for spawning purposes.

Treatment Alternatives: The quarry operator and the State Department of Fish and Game could meet to discuss developing jointly plans and programs for the maintenance and rehabilitation of the stream channel to insure that future fish migrations and spawning are not adversely effected by quarrying activities.

PP:bb/A12

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AGENCY  
**county of ventura**

Planning Division

Keith A. Turner  
Manager

March 15, 1989

Office of Planning and Research  
1400 Tenth Street, Room 121  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Certified Mail No. P-85230578

TO ALL CONCERNED PARTIES:

Subject: Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report for Conditional  
Use Permit No. 3489 - Mod. 2 (Schmidt Quarry)

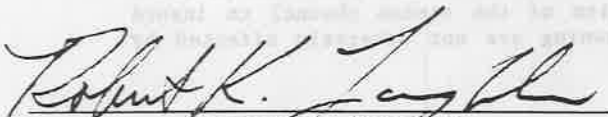
The Planning Division of Ventura County has determined that the above referenced project may have a significant effect on the environment and that an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) should be prepared. A preliminary Scope of Work, description and location map are attached along with a copy of the Initial Study.

The purpose of this notice is to call your attention to this project and to request that your organization assist the Planning Division in identifying issues that should be addressed in the EIR.

Pursuant to Government Code Section 21080.4(a), this information must be submitted to this Agency by certified mail no later than 30 days after receipt of this letter.

If you have any questions or concerns, or would like to meet with County Planning staff to discuss the contents of this notice, please contact Paul Porter at (805) 654-2491 as soon as possible.

Sincerely,



Robert K. Laughlin, Supervisor  
Commercial/Industrial Land Use Section

RKL:jl/C168

Attachments:

- Project Description
- Location Map
- Initial Study
- Preliminary Scope of Work



NOTICE OF COMPLETION AND ENVIRONMENTAL  
DOCUMENT TRANSMITTAL FORM

Appendix 12  
See NOTE below  
SCH#

1. Project Title: Victoria River  
2. Lead Agency: County of Ventura  
Contact Person: Paul Porter  
3a. Street Address: 800 S. Victoria Avenue  
3b. City: Ventura  
3d. Zip: 93009  
3c. County: Ventura  
Phone: 654-2491  
PROJECT LOCATION  
4. County: Ventura  
4a. City/Community: Matilija  
4b. Assessor's Parcel No.: 10-12-27  
4c. Section: 4  
5. Cross Streets: State Hwy. #22  
6. Within 2 Miles: a. State Hwy. #: 22 b. Airports: none  
c. Railways: none  
d. Waterways: Victoria River

7. DOCUMENT TYPE	8. LOCAL ACTION TYPE	9. DEVELOPMENT TYPE
CEQA	01. General Plan Update	01. Residential Units
01. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NOP	02. New Element	Acres
02. Early Cons.	03. General Plan Amendment	02. Office: Sq. Ft.
03. Neg. Dec.	04. Master Plan	Acres
04. Draft EIR	05. Annexation	Employees
Supplement/	06. Specific Plan	03. Shopping/Commercial:
05. Subsequent EIR	07. Community Plan	Sq. Ft. Acres
06. NOE	08. Redevelopment	Employees
07. NOC	09. Rezone	04. Industrial: Sq. Ft.
08. MOD	10. Land Division	Acres Employees
(Prior SCH No.: )	(Subdivision, Parcel	05. Water Facilities:
NEPA	Map, Tract Map, etc.)	MGD
09. NOI	11. Use Permit	06. Transportation:
10. FONSI	12. Waste Mgmt Plan	Type
11. Draft EIS	13. Cancel Ag Preserve	07. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mining: Mineral
12. EA	14. Other	08. Power: Type
OTHER		09. Waste Treatment:
13. Joint Document		Type:
14. Final Document		10. OCS Related
15. Other		11. Other:

10. TOTAL ACRES: \_\_\_\_\_  
11. TOTAL JOBS CREATED: \_\_\_\_\_  
12. PROJECT ISSUES DISCUSSED IN DOCUMENT:  
01. ☒ Aesthetic/Visual  
02. Agricultural Land  
03. Air Quality  
04. Archaeological/Historical  
05. Coastal Zone  
06. Economic  
07. Fire Hazard  
08. ☒ Flooding/Drainage  
09. ☒ Geologic/Seismic  
10. Jobs/Housing Balance  
11. Minerals  
12. Noise  
13. Public Services  
14. Schools  
15. Septic Systems  
16. Sewer Capacity  
17. Social  
18. Soil Erosion  
19. Solid Waste  
20. Toxic/Hazardous  
21. ☒ Traffic/Circulation  
22. ☒ Vegetation  
23. Water Quality  
24. Water Supply  
25. Wetland/Riparian  
26. Wildlife  
27. ☒ Growth Inducing  
28. Incompatible Land Use  
29. Cumulative Effects  
30. Other  
13. FUNDING (approx.) Federal \$ \_\_\_\_\_ State \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
14. PRESENT LAND USE AND ZONING: Existing Rural Zoning, 7025 State 16000 2

15. PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The project is a 400 sq. ft. expansion and extension of an existing rock quarry.

16. SIGNATURE OF LEAD AGENCY REPRESENTATIVE: Paul Porter DATE: 2/1/89

NOTE: Clearinghouse will assign identification numbers for all new projects. If a SCH number already exists for a project (e.g. from a Notice of Preparation or previous draft document) please fill it in.

## OFFICE OF PLANNING AND RESEARCH

1400 TENTH STREET  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814

DATE: March 27, 1989

TO: Reviewing Agencies

RE: The County of Ventura's NOP for  
Conditional Use Permit No. 3489 (Modification No. 2) Project  
SCH# 89032904

Attached for your comment is the County of Ventura's Notice of Preparation of a draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Conditional Use Permit No. 3489 (Modification No. 2) project.

Responsible agencies must transmit their concerns and comments on the scope and content of the EIR, focusing on specific information related to their own statutory responsibility, within 30 days of receipt of this notice. We encourage commenting agencies to respond to this notice and express their concerns early in the environmental review process.

Please direct your comments to:

Paul Porter  
County of Ventura  
800 S. Victoria Avenue  
Ventura, CA 93009

with a copy to the Office of Planning and Research. Please refer to the SCH number noted above in all correspondence concerning this project.

If you have any questions about the review process, call Garrett Ashley at 916/445-0613.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'David C. Nunenkamp'.

David C. Nunenkamp  
Chief  
Office of Permit Assistance

Attachments

cc: Paul Porter

'S': Sent by Lead 'X': Sent by SCH

- ☒ Bob Fletcher  
Air Resources Board  
1102 Q Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
916/322-8267
- ☐ Karen Cagle  
Dept. of Boating & Waterways  
1629 S Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
916/445-5281
- ☐ Gary L. Holloway  
California Coastal Commission  
631 Howard Street, 4th Floor  
San Francisco, CA 94103  
415/343-8555
- ☐ Eileen Allen  
California Energy Commission  
1516 Ninth Street, Rm. 200  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
916/324-3231
- ☐ Sandy Hearnard  
Caltrans - Division of Aeronautics  
P.O. Box 942874  
Sacramento, CA 94274-0001  
916/324-1833
- ☐ George Smith  
Caltrans - Planning  
P.O. Box 942874  
Sacramento, CA 94274-0001  
916/445-5570
- ☒ Dennis O' Bryant  
Dept. of Conservation  
1416 Ninth Street, Room 1326-2  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
916/322-5873
- ☐ Div. of Mines and Geology
- ☐ Div. of Oil and Gas
- ☐ Land Resources Protect. Unit
- ☐ Vashek Cervinka  
Dept. of Food and Agriculture  
1220 N Street, Room 104  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
916/322-5227
- ☐ Douglas Wickiter  
Dept. of Forestry  
1416 Ninth Street, Room 1516-2  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
916/322-0128
- ☐ Robert Sleppy  
Dept. of General Services  
400 P Street, Suite 3460  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
916/324-0214
- ☐ Arlene Chance  
Dept. of Health  
714 P Street, Room 1253  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
916/323-6111

- ☐ Sgt. J. dell  
California Highway Patrol  
Long Range Planning Section  
Planning and Analysis Division  
2555 First Avenue  
Sacramento, CA 95818  
916/445-1981
- ☒ William A. Johnson  
Native American Heritage Comm.  
915 Capitol Mall, Room 288  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
916/322-7791
- ☐ Hans Kreuzberg  
Office of Historic Preservation  
P.O. Box 942896  
Sacramento, CA 94296-0001  
916/322-9621
- ☒ Mike Doyle  
Dept. of Parks and Recreation  
P.O. Box 942896  
Sacramento, CA 94296-0001  
916/324-6421
- ☐ George Herah  
Public Utilities Commission  
505 Van Ness Avenue  
San Francisco, CA 94102  
415/557-1373 (8-597)
- ☐ Anna Leona Bronson  
Reclamation Board  
1416 Ninth Street Room 204-8  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
916/322-3740
- ☐ Norris Milliken  
S.F. Bay Conservation & Dev'l. Comm.  
30 Van Ness Avenue, Room 2011  
San Francisco, CA 94102  
415/557-3686
- ☐ Jeannie Blakeslee  
Calif. Waste Management Board  
1020 Ninth Street, Room 300  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
916/327-0454
- ☐ Ted Fukushima  
State Lands Commission  
1807 - 13th Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
916/322-7813
- ☐ Nadel Gayon  
Dept. of Water Resources  
1416 Ninth Street, Room 215-4  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
916/445-7416
- ☐ Reed Holderman  
State Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100  
Oakland, CA 94612  
415/464-1015
- ☐ DHS/TSCD:

- ☐ Brent Soulla  
Caltrans, District 1  
1656 Union Street  
Eureka, CA 95501  
707/443-6320 (8-538)
- ☐ Michelle Gallagher  
Caltrans, District 2  
1657 Riverside Drive  
Redding, CA 96001  
916/225-3259 (8-442)
- ☐ Brian J. Smith  
Caltrans, District 3  
703 B Street  
Marysville, CA 95901  
916/741-4277 (8-457)
- ☐ Gary Adams  
Caltrans, District 4  
P.O. Box 7310  
San Francisco, CA 94120  
415/557-8371 (8-597)
- ☐ Jerry Laumer  
Caltrans, District 5  
P.O. Box 8114  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93403-8114  
805/549-3161 (8-629)
- ☐ Nathan Smith  
Caltrans, District 6  
P.O. Box 12616  
Fresno, CA 93778  
209/488-4089 (8-422)
- ☒ Jeff Bingham  
Caltrans, District 7  
120 South Spring Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012  
213/620-5333 (8-640)
- ☐ Guy Viebel  
Caltrans, District 8  
247 West Third Street  
San Bernardino, CA 92403  
714/383-4357 (8-670)
- ☐ Andy Zellman  
Caltrans, District 9  
500 South Main Street  
Bishop, CA 94514  
619/872-0693 (8-627)
- ☐ Al Johnson  
Caltrans, District 10  
P.O. Box 2048  
Stockton, CA 95201  
209/948-7838 (8-423)
- ☐ Jim Cheshire  
Caltrans, District 11  
P.O. Box 83406  
2829 Juan Street  
San Diego, CA 92138-5406  
714/237-6755 (8-631)
- ☐ Al Fisher  
Caltrans, District 12  
2501 Pullman St.  
Santa Ana, CA 92705  
714/724-2061

- ☐ A. Naylor, Regional Manager  
Department of Fish and Game  
601 Locust  
Redding, CA 96001  
916/225-2300 (8-442)
- ☐ Jim Mezzersmith, Regional Manager  
Department of Fish & Game  
1701 Nimbus Road, Suite A  
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670  
916/335-0922 (8-438)
- ☐ B. Hunter, Regional Manager  
Department of Fish and Game  
P.O. Box 47  
Yountville, CA 94599  
707/944-2011 (8-577)
- ☐ G. Nokes, Regional Manager  
Department of Fish and Game  
1234 East Shaw Avenue  
Fresno, CA 93710  
209/222-3761 (8-421)
- ☒ Fred A. Worthley, Jr., Reg. Manager  
Department of Fish and Game  
330 Golden Shore, Suite 50  
Long Beach, CA 90802  
213/590-3113 (8-635)
- ☐ Rolf E. Mail  
Marine Resources Region  
330 Golden Shore, Suite 50  
Long Beach, CA 90802  
213/590-5155 (8-635)
- ☐ Joan Juranech  
State Water Resources Control Board  
Division of Loans & Grants  
P.O. Box 944212  
Sacramento, CA 94244-2120  
916/739-4416
- ☐ Ed Anton  
State Water Resources Control Board  
Division of Water Quality  
P.O. Box 100  
Sacramento, CA 95801  
916/445-9352
- ☐ Dave Berlinger  
State Water Resources Control Board  
Delta Unit  
P.O. Box 2000  
Sacramento, CA 95810  
916/322-9870
- ☐ Mike Falkenstein  
State Water Resources Control Board  
Division of Water Rights  
901 P Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
916/324-5636
- ☐ OTHER:

- ☐ NORTH COAST REGION (1)  
1440 Guerneville Rd  
Santa Rosa, CA 95401  
707/516-2220 (8-590)
- ☐ SAN FRANCISCO BAY REGION (2)  
1111 Jackson Street, Room 6000  
Oakland, CA 94607  
415/464-1255 (8-561)
- ☐ CENTRAL COAST REGION (3)  
1102-A Laurel Lane  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93101  
805/549-3147 (8-629)
- ☒ LOS ANGELES REGION (4)  
107 South Broadway, Room 4027  
Los Angeles, CA 90012  
213/620-4460 (8-640)
- ☐ CENTRAL VALLEY REGION (5)  
3443 Router Road, Suite A  
Sacramento, CA 95827-3098  
916/361-5600
- ☐ Fresno Branch Office  
3374 East Shields Avenue, Room 18  
Fresno, CA 93726  
209/445-5116 (8-421)
- ☐ Redding Branch Office  
100 East Cypress Avenue  
Redding, CA 96002  
916/225-2045 (8-442)
- ☐ LAHONTAN REGION (6)  
20921 also Tahoe Boulevard  
P.O. Box 9428  
South Lake Tahoe, CA 95731  
916/544-3481
- ☐ Victorville Branch Office  
15371 Bonanza Road  
Victorville, CA 92392-2494  
619/241-6383
- ☐ COLORADO RIVER BASIN REGION (7)  
73-271 Highway 111, Suite 21  
Palm Desert, CA 92260  
619/346-7491
- ☐ SANTA ANA REGION (8)  
6809 Indiana Avenue, Suite 200  
Riverside, CA 92506  
714/782-4130 (8-632)
- ☐ SAN DIEGO REGION (9)  
9771 Clairemont Mesa Blvd., Suite B  
San Diego, CA 92124-1331  
619/265-5114 (8-636)
- ☒ APCDAQMD: Ventura

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

DISTRICT 7, 120 SO. SPRING ST.

LOS ANGELES, CA 90012

FDD (213) 620-3550

(213) 620-2376



April 19, 1989

IGR/CEQA

The County of Ventura's NOP for  
Conditional Use Permit No. 3489  
(Modification No. 2) Project  
SCH No. 89032904

Mr. Paul Porter  
County of Ventura  
800 S. Victoria Avenue  
Ventura, CA 93009

Dear Mr. Porter:

Caltrans has reviewed the above referenced Notice of Preparation and has the following comments.

We are primarily concerned with the effects that this project may have on our facility, Route 33. Caltrans suggests that any impacts to this route be included in the draft environmental document. The draft document should also address the visual impacts of this project on the proposed scenic highway Route 33.


We also suggest that if a traffic study is prepared for this project, that the study include:

1. Existing and 20 year future average daily traffic (ADT) volumes
2. Traffic generation (including peak hour)
3. Traffic distribution and assignment
4. Current and projected capacities of affected highway and freeway routes
5. Cumulative traffic impacts

The DEIR should also include traffic mitigation measures where ever necessary.

We look forward to reviewing the Draft Environmental Impact Report. Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

  
GARY MCSWEENEY  
Senior Transportation Planner  
IGR/CEQA Coordinator  
Transportation Planning and  
Analysis Branch

**APPENDIX B**  
**BIOLOGY REPORT**

**Schmidt Rock Quarry  
Biological Assessment**

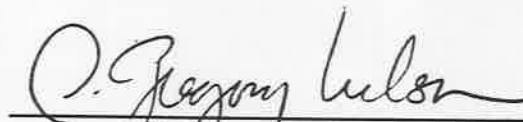
**Prepared For:**

**STA, Inc.  
550-C Newport Center Drive  
Newport Beach, California 92660**

**Prepared By:**

**S. Gregory Nelson  
24230 Delta Drive  
Diamond Bar, California 91765**

I certify that this report is a complete and accurate account of the findings and conclusions of the biological assessment for the Schmidt Rock Quarry.

  
S. Gregory Nelson  
Consulting Biologist

**July 24, 1991**

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I certify that this report is a complete and accurate account of the findings and conclusions of the biological assessment for the Schmidt Rock Quarry.

  
Gregory Nelson  
Consulting Biologist

July 24, 1991

# SCHMIDT ROCK QUARRY BIOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

S. Gregory Nelson

July 24 1991

## INTRODUCTION

This report presents the findings of a biological assessment prepared in conjunction with the review and consideration of the proposed expansion of the Schmidt Rock Quarry by the County of Ventura and other concerned regulating agencies. The property assessed and described in this report is a nine acre parcel generally located in the County of Ventura, California, approximately three and one-quarters miles northwest of the City of Ojai, along Maricopa Highway (see Maps 1, 2 and 3).

The proposed project consists of a nine-acre expansion of the existing four acre quarry operation. Biological resources of the subject property are described and evaluated with regard to their significance; potential impacts to those resources as a result of the proposed project are analyzed and discussed; and, recommendations for mitigation measures are made. The reader should note that the author is neither a proponent nor an opponent of the proposed project, and the findings contained herein are entirely objective.

## METHODS

The study began with a review of literature relating to sensitive and/or significant biological resources known to occur in the vicinity of the property. Primary sources reviewed included the California Natural Diversity Data Base, the California Department of Fish and Game's 1988 Annual Report On The Status Of California's State, Listed Threatened And Endangered Plants And Animals, the California Native Plant Society's Inventory of Rare and Endangered Vascular Plants of California and the current U.S. Department of Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service reviews of endangered and threatened wildlife and plants. Other sources reviewed are listed in the References section at the end of this report.

The purpose of the literature review was to identify any significant and/or sensitive biological resources which potentially occur on site, and therefore, should be specifically evaluated and searched during field investigations.

Following the literature review, field investigations were conducted by the author on July 24, 1991. Weather at the time of the survey was mild, with a temperature range of 70°F to 75°F, light winds and overcast. Techniques employed to survey and inventory wildlife and vegetation included walking transects of representative examples of the various habitats found on site, as well as observation when traveling from transect to transect. Due to the size and accessibility of the site, all areas of the property were visually observed. Plant and wildlife species encountered were identified through direct observation, songs, scats, tracks and burrows. In addition, the condition, degree of development and viability of habitats found on site were noted.



## RESULTS

### Physiographical Setting

The subject property consists of generally undeveloped and unaltered land within the North Fork of Matilija Creek and Ventura River watersheds in Ventura County. Topography is extreme, consisting of steep walled canyons. Elevations on site range from approximately 1,800 feet above sea level to approximately 1,000 above sea level.

### Vegetation/Plant Communities

Two distinct vegetation types, or plant communities, are found on the property: mixed chaparral and riparian woodland (see Map 2). A brief description of these is provided below.

Mixed chaparral on site is dominated by chamise (*Adenostoma fasciculatum*), scrub oak (*Quercus dumosa*), California sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*), laurel leaved sumac (*Rhus laurina*), California buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*), toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*) and ceanothus (*Ceanothus* sp.). Generally, these plant species possess relatively small, broad, hard leaves and are evergreen. This vegetation on site grows four to six feet tall, but does not form a closed canopy. A dense cover of primarily native needlegrass (*Stipa* sp.) exists between shrubs where soil is found. Rock faces and outcrops also make up a large portion of the areas between shrubs. In its distribution, mixed chaparral is widely distributed in Southern California on dry slopes at low to medium elevations, where it occupies thin, rocky or gravelly soils.

Riparian woodland exists in community form along the North Fork of Matilija Creek. This vegetation is dominated by white alder (*Alnus rhombifolia*), western sycamore (*Platanus racemosa*), arroyo willow (*Salix lasiolepis*) and coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*). Also found are large shrubs, including California bay (*Umbellularia californica*), toyon and laurel leaved sumac. Well developed riparian vegetation is found both upstream and downstream from the site.

In general, the riparian woodland on site is not as well developed as the riparian vegetation up and downstream. This is believed to be the result of the very narrow, steep walled drainage course at this location and clearing in the past. An aerial photograph taken in 1978 showed no riparian vegetation where the creek crosses the site. It is not known whether the clearing was by man or was the result of natural scouring during flood conditions. Riparian woodland is very limited in its distribution within Southern California. This is due in part to its generally being restricted to deep, moist soils on north facing slopes and within drainage bottoms. More significantly, however, widespread loss to urbanization has occurred in the region. The riparian woodland on site appears to be in good condition, although not well developed.

The North Fork of Matilija Creek contained running surface water at the time of the survey and is indicated by a "blue line" on the Wheeler Springs/Matilija 7.5 minute USGS quad sheet. The implications of this are discussed below under Mitigation Measures.

## Wildlife

Mixed chaparral and riparian woodland vegetation provide habitat for many wildlife species. During the field investigation, a number of these were observed or detected using the survey methods described in the Methods section of this report. Bird species observed included Nuttall's woodpecker, brown towhee, California thrasher, scrub jay, wren, bewick's wren, bushtit, band tailed pigeon, lesser goldfinch, common raven, mourning dove, house finch, common flicker, starling, Anna's hummingbird and black phoebe. Mammals observed or detected included California ground squirrel, botta pocket gopher, dusky footed woodrat, Audubon cottontail and coyote. The only reptile observed was the side-blotched lizard. No amphibians were observed or detected.

A more complete listing of wildlife, including those species not observed, but expected with a relatively high degree of probability to occur on site, may be found in the Appendix. The listing of expected species is possible due to the very strong affinities most wildlife have for particular types of habitats. In this regard, the majority of wildlife observed or expected on site will use both mixed chaparral and riparian woodland. This is due in part to the high degree of overlap in plant species which exists between these two communities and in part to their close proximity to one another. Since wildlife diversity generally follows habitat diversity, however, the riparian woodland, with the added dimension of trees, has the potential to support a higher diversity of wildlife than chaparral. Of the various wildlife habitats in Southern California, riparian woodland is one of the more important and limited. Amphibian species, including the slender salamander and western toad, potentially occur in the woodlands' moist leaf litter, as do the southern alligator lizard and western skink. Hummingbirds, flycatchers, vireos, warblers and sparrows favor southern oak woodland for foraging and nesting. Hawks, kites owls and doves specifically require trees to nest in. Furbearers (such as virginia opossum, raccoon, striped skunk and gray fox) often reach their highest concentrations in and around woodland habitats.

A detailed survey of the fish inhabiting the North Fork of Matilija Creek was not performed. However, a previous biological survey of the site reported that small fish and larger trout occur here.

## Sensitive Resources

As mentioned above, the riparian woodland and associated stream are considered to be sensitive and significant resources due to their limited distribution and value to wildlife and fish.

In addition, several wildlife species which potentially use the riparian woodland are considered to be species of special concern. These are discussed below.

**Cooper's hawk (*Accipiter cooperi*):** Uncommon resident and migrant in Riverside County; nesting birds use riparian and oak woodlands; foraging habitat includes woodlands and brushlands; Federal government provides no designation for the species; State government lists the species as being of special concern; not observed during survey, however, oak/riparian woodland on site appears to be suitable for nesting; on site chaparral appears to be suitable for foraging; probability of occurrence on site high.

**Sharp-shinned hawk (*Accipiter striatus*):** Common winter migrant within Riverside County; very similar to Cooper's hawk in its habitat preference occupying woodlands and dense brush habitats alike; Federal government provides no designation for the species; State government lists the species as being of special concern and as being on The State's Watch List, for which data is currently being compiled; not observed during survey; however, oak/riparian woodland on site appears to be suitable for foraging, as does on site chaparral; probability of occurrence on site high.

## DISCUSSION

### Project Impacts

Adverse impacts to biological resources can be expected to occur as a result of several "causal" factors associated with the proposed expanded quarry operation. The vegetation and wildlife resources described in the existing setting section comprise biotic communities which are assemblages of diverse groups of plant and animal species occurring in the same physical habitat. These species are tied together in an orderly, predictable manner by a very close and complex set of interrelationships. As a consequence, first order impacts directly resulting from causal factors will, in turn, result in second order impacts which will, in turn, result in third order impacts, and so on. Typically, the degree to which this chain-like reaction proceeds toward the complete breakdown and loss of community stability and integrity depends upon the intensity and extent of the causal factor. Causal factors, their associated impacts, and the determinants of their severity are discussed below.

**Removal of Vegetation.** The most direct "first order" impact from the project will be the direct removal of existing vegetation from nine acres proposed for quarry operations. Within these areas, all existing vegetation will be removed and lost. Vegetation lost will be mixed chaparral. This will not be a significant adverse impact.

**Loss of Wildlife Habitat.** The second order impact resulting from the removal of existing vegetation will be the loss of wildlife habitat. Most wildlife species are highly dependent upon specific habitats and do not successfully adapt to habitats of a different kind.

Less mobile forms of wildlife, such as burrowers, will be destroyed, along with their habitats. Most mobile forms, such as birds and large mammals, will be displaced to suitable habitats nearby where they potentially will crowd and disrupt resident wildlife populations. Successful adaptation and adjustments of displaced wildlife into nearby habitats will be low, and these too will be lost. The chaparral habitat to be lost is relatively common in the region, as are the wildlife it supports. Although adverse, this impact will not be significant.

**Harassment of Wildlife in Adjacent Habitats.** Wildlife populations adjacent to proposed mining and processing areas will be impacted through "harassment". This indirect, second order impact is defined as the result of those activities of man which increase the physiological costs of survival or decrease the probability of successful reproduction in wildlife populations. The most common forms of harassment that will accompany the project are excessive noise and the presence of man and his equipment. Wildlife not tolerant of such disturbances will move away from habitat adjacent to quarry areas and will not use otherwise suitable habitat located there. This is particularly critical for larger wide ranging wildlife, such as birds of prey. Studies have shown that some birds of prey are not tolerant of disturbances within as much as one-half mile of their nesting sites and will abandon their nests if this area is encroached upon.

The effects of harassment on the riparian woodland habitat on site is potentially the most significant. However, given the existing operations, the proposed expansion is not believed to create significantly greater harassment than now exists.

**Downstream Siltation.** The proposed quarry operation will result in alterations to surface soils and underlying geology on site, which is part of the watershed for Matilija Creek. As a consequence, there is the potential for greater erosion on site through the exposure of sediments and soils. On site, this potential impact will not result in greater impacts to habitat than would result from the initial clearing of vegetation. Downstream, however, there will be the potential for changes to surface and groundwater hydrology which, if unmitigated, may have adverse impacts on downstream riparian and aquatic habitats. Given the significance of on site and downstream riparian and aquatic habitats, the potential for erosion/siltation is a significant adverse impact. Even small amounts of silt in streams can result in the smothering of aquatic insects, which are key sources of food for fish. Siltation can also result in the reduced suitability of affected stream sections for fish spawning purposes.

At a catastrophic scale, there exists the potential for the quarry site to fail and fall or slide into the North Fork of Matilija Creek. The reader should note that the author is not an engineer or geologist, and has no reason to believe such failure has even a remote probability to occur. It is only pointed out here so that a complete assessment is made. However, if failure into the creek occurred, several significant adverse impacts would result. These are: loss of riparian habitat through burial; loss of aquatic habitats through burial and/or siltation on site and downstream; and, interruption of movement by fish and wildlife along the creek.

### **Cumulative Impacts**

The potential adverse impacts discussed above for the subject project will contribute on an incremental basis to cumulative impacts now occurring in the region as a result of land development activities. These impacts are an incremental loss in native vegetation and habitat; and an incremental contribution to the fragmentation of large blocks of contiguous native vegetation and habitat.

### **Mitigation Measures**

Based on the preceding discussion, there is one potentially significant adverse impact associated with the proposed project, which is siltation of downstream riparian and aquatic habitats. In other cases, there are impacts which are not significant, but are potentially inconsistent with sound resource planning management. The following measures are recommended to alleviate such inconsistencies and mitigate significant adverse impacts as much as possible.

1. The engineering of the proposed quarry expansion plan should be carefully reviewed by qualified geologists and engineers to assure that there is no possibility for large scale failure of slopes and rock faces.
2. The existing interface between the quarry operations and Matilija Creek should be recontoured so as to provide a protective berm along, but outside, of the riparian habitat. The purpose of this berm would be to stop any minor failures or slumping from reaching the creek and creating a sedimentation problem. (As understood, this is a component of the proposed Reclamation Plan.)
3. A silt fence should be placed at the bottom of the berm recommended above, on the creek side, to prevent the run-off of water borne sediments from the berm into the creek.
4. All relandscaping to be a part of the Reclamation Plan should be made using native species of trees, shrubs and groundcover only. (As understood, this is a component of the proposed Reclamation Plan.)
5. It should be noted that no adverse impacts to the Matilija Creek are expected; however, pursuant to Section 1601-1603 of the California State Fish and Game Code, the California Department of Fish and Game should be notified prior to any future alteration of the drainage. The purpose of this notification is to allow the state to regulate alterations to streambed habitats, including, but not necessarily limited to, those drainages which are shown by a "blue line" on U.S.G.S. 7.5 minute quad sheets. Mitigation measures beyond those recommended in this report may be required at that time.
6. In addition to those measures recommended above, a comprehensive erosion and siltation control plan should be designed and implemented during all phases of the quarry operations. (As understood, this is a component of the proposed plan.)

## CONCLUSIONS

It is the conclusion of this assessment that if the proposed Operations and Reclamation Plans are followed with the incorporation of all recommended mitigation measures, significant adverse impacts can be avoided.

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## VERGEMEENSCHAPPELIJKE VERBODEN

De vergemeenschappelijke verboden zijn bedoeld om te voorkomen dat de vergemeenschappelijke verboden worden gebruikt om de vergemeenschappelijke verboden te omzeilen. De vergemeenschappelijke verboden zijn bedoeld om te voorkomen dat de vergemeenschappelijke verboden worden gebruikt om de vergemeenschappelijke verboden te omzeilen.

### VERBODEN

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## Appendix

### VERBODEN

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## WILDLIFE SPECIES INVENTORY

Following is a listing of wildlife species observed on site during the field survey and expected according to the literature and previous experience of the author. The list is not intended to be exhaustive and species listed as expected are those which have a moderate to high degree of probability to occur on site and/or would use the site as a significant part of their habitat.

### Amphibians

Bufo boreas - western toad

Batrachoseps pacificus - pacific slender salamander

### Reptiles

Gerrhonotus multicarinatus - southern alligator lizard

Coluber constrictor - racer

Lampropeltis getulus - common kingsnake

Masticophis flagellum - common whipsnake

Pituophis melanoleucus - gopher snake

Sceloporus occidentalis - western fence lizard

Uta stansburiana - side-blotched lizard

Eumeces skiltonianus - western skink

Lichanura trivirgata - rosy boa

Crotalus ruber - red diamond rattlesnake

### Mammals

Canis latrans - coyote

Neotoma fuscipes - dusky-footed woodrat

Peromyscus californicus - California mouse

Peromyscus maniculatus - deer mouse

Didelphis virginiana - Virginia opossum

Thomomys bottae - Botta pocket gopher

Dipodomys agilis - pacific kangaroo rat

Perognathus californicus - California pocket mouse

Sylvilagus audubonii - Audubon cottontail

Mephitis mephitis - striped skunk

Spilogale gracilis - spotted skunk

Procyon lotor - raccoon

Spermophilus beecheyi - California ground squirrel

Scapanus latimanus - broad-handed mole

Mus musculus - house mouse

## Birds

Accipiter cooperii - Cooper's hawk  
Accipiter striatus - sharp-shinned hawk  
Buteo jamaicensis - red-tailed hawk  
Buteo lineatus - red-shouldered hawk  
Aeronautes saxatalis - white-throated swift  
Bombycilla cedrorum - cedar waxwing  
Cathartes aura - turkey vulture  
Chamaea fasciata - wrentit  
Columba fasciata - band-tailed pidgeon  
Streptopelia chinensis - spotted dove  
Zenaida macroura - mourning dove  
Aphelocoma coerulescens - scrub jay  
Corvus brachyrhynchos - common crow  
Corvus corax - common raven  
Geococcyx californianus - roadrunner  
Falco sparverius - American kestrel  
Aimophila ruficeps - rufous-crowned sparrow  
Carpodacus mexicanus - house finch  
Chondestes grammacus - lark sparrow  
Junco haemalis - dark-eyed junco  
Melospiza melodia - song sparrow  
Passerella iliaca - fox sparrow  
Pipilo erythrophthalmus - rufous-sided towhee  
Pipilo fuscus - brown towhee  
Spinus lawrencei - Lawrence's goldfinch  
Spinus psaltria - lesser goldfinch  
Spizella passerina - chipping sparrow  
Zonotrichia atricapilla - golden-crowned sparrow  
Zonotrichia leucophrys - white-crowned sparrow  
Icterus galbula - northern oriole  
Molothrus ater - brown-headed cowbird  
Lanius ludovicianus - loggerhead shrike  
Mimus polyglottos - mockingbird  
Toxostoma redivivum - California thrasher  
Parus inornatus - plain titmouse  
Psaltiriparus minimus - bushtit  
Dendroica cornata - yellow-rumped warbler  
Vermivora celata - oranged-crowned warbler  
Lophortyx californicus - California quail  
Colaptes auratus - common flicker  
Dendrocopos nuttallii - Nuttall's woodpecker  
Dendrocopos villosus - hairy woodpecker

**Birds (continued)**

Phainopepla nitens - phainopepla  
Sitta carolinensis - white-breasted nuthatch  
Asio otus - long-eared owl  
Bubo virginianus - great-horned owl  
Otus asio - screech owl  
Sturnus vulgaris - starling  
Regulus calendula - ruby-crowned kinglet  
Piranga ludoviciana - western tanager  
Calypte anna - Anna's hummingbird  
Thryomanes bewickii - Bewick's wren  
Troglodytes aedon - house wren  
Catharus guttat - hermit thrush  
Sialia mexicana - western bluebird  
Turdus migratorius - American robin  
Contopus sordidulus - western wood pewee  
Myiarchus cinerascens - ash-throated flycatcher  
Sayornis nigricans - black phoebe  
Tyto alba - barn owl  
Vireo flavifrons - Hutton's vireo

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## PLANT SPECIES INVENTORY

Following is a listing of plant species recorded as being observed on site. Species other than those listed below may have been overlooked or were undetectable at the time of the survey due to the seasonal nature of their occurrence.

### Ferns

*Dryopteris arguta* - Coastal woodfern

### Dicot Flowering Plants

*Rhus laurina* - Laurel sumac

*Rhus ovata* - Sugarbush

*Baccharis glutinosa* - Mulefat

*Centaurea melitensis* - Star-thistle\*

*Gnaphalium californicum* - California cudweed

*Heterotheca grandiflora* - Telegraph weed

*Brassica geniculata* - Short-pod mustard\*

*Chenopodium album* - Lamb's quarters\*

*Salsola iberica* - Russian thistle\*

*Marah macrocarpus* - Wild cucumber

*Lotus scoparius* - Deerweed

*Quercus agrifolia* - Coast live oak

*Quercus dumosa* - Scrub oak

*Erodium cicutarium* - Red-stemmed filaree\*

*Salvia mellifera* - Black sage

*Eriogonum fasciculatum* - California buckwheat

*Ceanothus crassifolius* - Thick-leaf California lilac

\* Non-native species.

## Ferns

Artemisia californica - California sagebrush

Umbellaria californica - California bay

Adenostoma fasciculatum - Chamise

Heteromeles arbutifolia - Toyon

Galium angustifolium - Narrowleaf bedstraw

Salix lasiolepis - Arroyo willo

Keckiella cordifolia - Climbing bush penstemon

Platanus racemosa - Western sycamore

Alnus rhombifolia - White alder

## Monocot Flowering Plants

Yucca whipplei - Our Lord's candle

Avena barbata - Slender wild oats\*

Bromus rubens - Red brome\*

Stipa sp. - Needlegrass

snSCHMID:ia\*P2

07/27/91

\* Non-native species.

## **APPENDIX C**

### **GEOTECHNICAL REPORT**

- 1. GEOTECHNICAL REPORT, JULY 25, 1988**
- 2. ADDENDUM REPORT, MARCH 25, 1991**
- 3. SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION, FEBRUARY 10, 1993**
- 4. CUT COMPUTER CALCULATIONS, MARCH 17, 1993**



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11	STATISTICAL ANALYSIS
12	PROMINENT JOINT ORIENTATIONS
13	FASS WASTING
14	SEISMICITY
17	SLOPE STABILITY ANALYSIS
18	RECOMMENDATIONS
19	REFERENCES

**CLIENT:**

Schmidt Construction Co.

c/o Mr. William C. Schmidt

7002 Owensmouth Avenue

Canoga Park, CA 91305

July 25, 1988

Lab No. 20475-3

File No. 88-6253-3

PACIFIC MATERIALS LABORATORY, INC.

July 25, 1988  
File No. 88-6253-3  
Lab No. 20475-3

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## APPENDIX

DISTANCES AND MAXIMUM CREDIBLE EARTHQUAKE MAGNITUDES  
FOR ACTIVE AND POTENTIALLY ACTIVE FAULTS

GEOLOGIC MAPS	ENCLOSURE A-1
GEOLOGIC MAP LEGEND	ENCLOSURE A-2
GEOLOGIC SECTIONS	ENCLOSURES B-1 thru B-4
SHEAR TEST DATA	ENCLOSURE C-1
UNCONFINED COMPRESSION	ENCLOSURE C-2
SLOPE STABILITY CALCULATIONS AND SECTIONS	ENCLOSURES D-1 thru D-6

**INTRODUCTION**

Submitted herewith at your request and authorization is a geotechnical report which includes slope stability analyses for CUP 3489 which is assigned to Assessor's Parcel No. 10-180-27, Wheeler Springs Area of Ventura County, CA. This property contains 34.61 acres, the bulk of which consists of a natural mountainous slope which is presently utilized as an active rock quarry. Approximately 3 acres of the northerly portions of the property are currently being quarried. The remaining portions consist mostly of a system of dirt switchback roads leading to the quarry areas. Access roads appear to be constructed of quarry tailing artificial fills. Schmidt Construction, Inc. has been producing rip-rap materials from the site since the quarry was initiated in 1949.

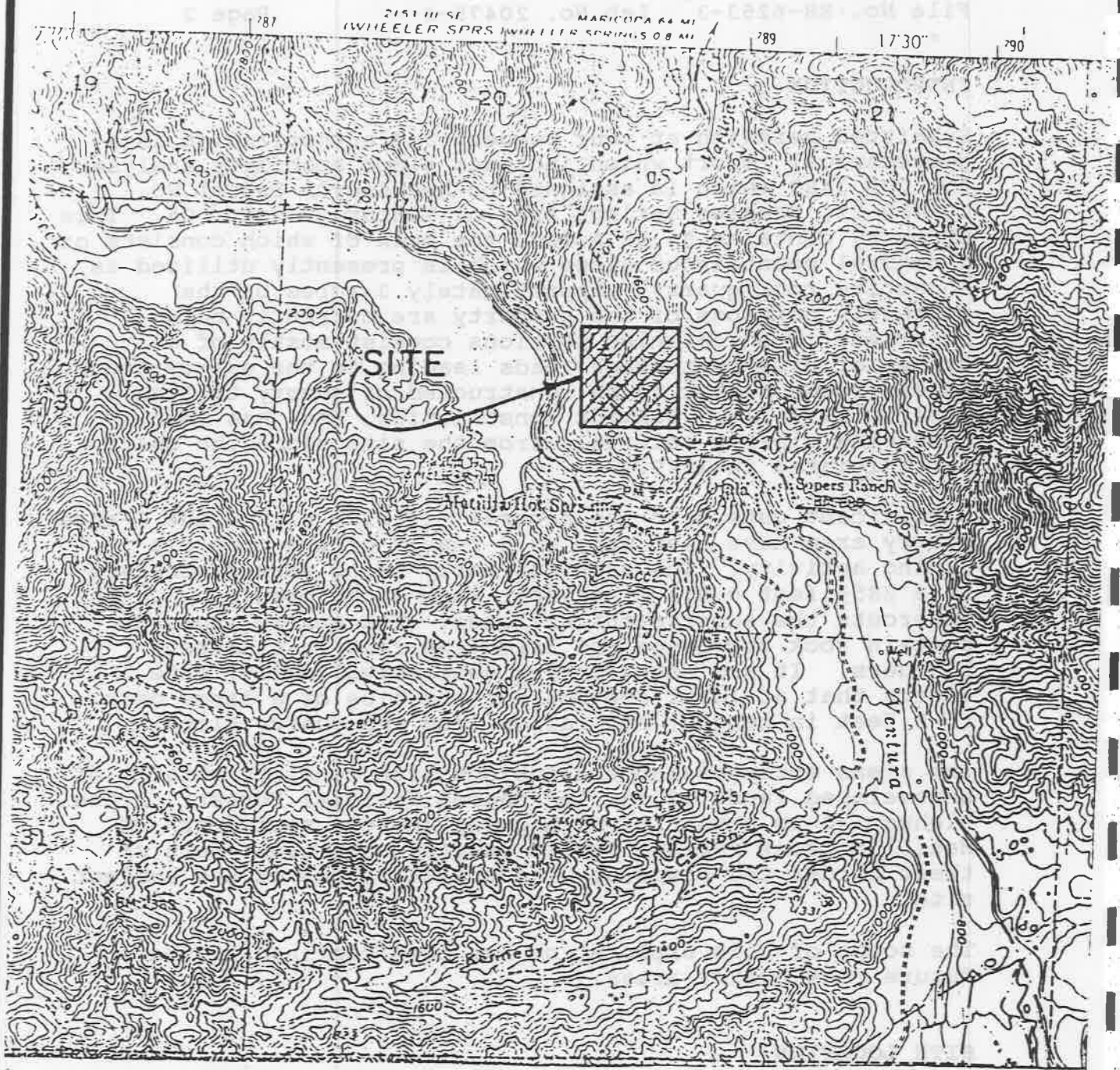
Significant cuts into the natural hillside within the 3-acre quarry area have been made as a result of the open-pit mining activity. The area currently being worked consists of a 285± feet 0.8:1 or steeper rock slope precipice which undercuts the superjacent hillside. The quarry slopes contain rock overhangs and large (>6 feet in diameter) boulders. It was noted during successive (daily) site visits that at least one boulder the size of a large desk (5-8 feet in length) had fallen from the quarry slope.

The areas encompassing the subject site consists chiefly of undeveloped lands of the Los Padres National Forest. State Highway 33 is a main paved highway and the north fork of Matilija Creek receive public recreational use. Both of these border the downslope (southwest) sides of the subject site.

The scope of this exploration has been confined to the future rock quarry areas.

**SITE LOCATION**

The site borders the east side of State Highway 33 (Maricopa Highway) approximately 900 feet northwest of Matilija Road, and about 3.25 miles northwest of the City of Ojai, CA. The site location is shown on the Locality Map on the following page.



Ventura County  
Environmental  
Resource  
Agency  
Planning Division

CUP-3489

*N*  
1" = 1 mile

Scale: 1" = 1 mile

Lab # 20475-3  
File # 88-6253-3

Pacific Materials Laboratory, Inc.

**PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT**

Schmidt Construction, Inc. plans to extract approximately 80,000 tons of rock yearly from an estimated 2,400,000 tons of onsite reserves. The projected additional quarry lifetime is currently estimated to be 30 years. Plans are to reclaim portions of the quarry site at the end of 1992 and 1997. The reclamation plan calls for planting trees and placing large boulders along existing switchback berms and will undoubtedly include erosion control protection devices.

Proposed slopes are shown on the project grading plan prepared by LBH Engineering of Simi Valley, CA and on geologic sections A-C and D-G. These slopes reach heights of up to 350 feet, and are very steeply inclined from 0.5:1 to 1:1 slope ratios. Maximum cuts of about 50 feet below the existing ground surface are planned.

**SCOPE OF PRESENT WORK**

Portions of 28 days spanning June 9, 1988 through July 28, 1988 were spent preparing this geotechnical report. Tasks conducted during this time included:

1. Research and review of available geologic literature.
2. Geologic mapping of the site at a scale of 1 inch = 50 feet.
3. Photography of prominent geologic features.
4. Statistical analysis of joint orientations.
5. Compressive strength testing of prepared bedrock samples.
6. Direct shear testing along joints of prepared bedrock samples.
7. Gross translational slope stability analysis of existing and proposed rock slopes.
8. Preparation of this geotechnical report.

The geology of the subject site was plotted on the accompanying grading plan prepared by LBH Engineering of Simi Valley, CA. This geologic map utilizes a scale of 1 inch = 50 feet, a contour interval of 5 feet, and is enclosed herein as Enclosure A-1. The map legend is enclosed herein as Enclosure A-2.

Detailed geologic sections were prepared and utilize the same scale as the geologic map (scale: 1 inch = 50 feet), and are enclosed herein as Enclosures B-1 through B-4.

Photographs of geologic features are contained herein. The location where each photo was taken along with the corresponding figure number is shown on the geologic map.

Direct shear and unconfined compression test results are included on Enclosure C.

Gross translational slope stability calculations are included herein on Enclosures D-1 thru D-6.



**PHYSIOGRAPHY**

The subject site is located in the eastern Santa Ynez Mountains northwest of Ojai Valley. It is situated on the lower east face of the steep-sided canyon eroded by the north fork of Matilija Creek which intersects the Ventura River approximately 1500 feet southeast of the subject site. Topographic relief measured from the crest of the ridge located upslope (northeast) of the site to Matilija Creek is roughly 1030 feet. Onsite, total relief is approximately 570 feet.

The north fork of Matilija Creek forms the major through-flowing stream for drainage of a large watershed extending for several miles northeastward of the site into the Wheeler Gorge Area. Matilija Creek flows year-round and may be subject to overflow during periods of flooding and heavy rainfall. All site drainage presently flows in a relatively uncontrolled manner to Matilija Creek. Accidental damming of the creek by debris flows and/or landslides emanating from the subject site presently appears possible. The potential for such an event may be lessened by means of controlled drainage and slope stabilization, as according to the recommendations of this report.

Slow vegetative growth occurs on the hard sandstone slopes which cover the quarry area. Artificial (tailing) fills support few shrubs, and are also largely barren. Natural slopes are covered by spotty patches of moderately dense shrub-like chaparral, and field grasses.

## GEOLOGY

The project site is located in the west central portion of the Transverse Ranges, in the structural block bounded by the Santa Ynez fault on the north and the Arroyo Parida-Santa Ana fault system on the south. The rocks of the site area were deposited in the western Ventura Basin during Eocene time, and were subsequently strongly folded and faulted on the south limb of a major overturned anticline known as the Matilija Overturn. Uplift of this area formed the rugged Santa Ynez Mountains which are presently being vigorously dissected by streams. Excellent rock exposures occur in the site area.

### Lithologic Units:

**Artificial Fill (AF):** This unit covers the majority of the site downslope of the present quarry area. It consists of quarry non-cohesive waste by-products containing boulder, gravel, sand, and silt mixtures which are grayish brown in overall color. Gravel and boulder talus commonly covers steep slopes underlain by these deposits. This unit generally appears cohesionless, loose and poorly-consolidated. The fine-grained constituents of the artificial fill appear easily erodible.

**Landslide Deposits (Qls):** Apparent landslide deposits exist near the top of the present quarry slope. These deposits appear, from a distance, as jumbled masses of angular boulders in a matrix of tan gravelly silty sand. It was not possible to observe landslide deposits on the outcrop because of the steep slope.

**Matilija Formation (Tma):** These Eocene deposits consist of brown- weathering, light gray to tan medium-grained arkosic sandstone interbedded with brown to gray-green silty very fine-grained sandstone and silty shale. Sandstone dominates over shale by an approximate 50:1 ratio in the site area. The sandstone is dense (approximately 158 pounds per cubic foot), very hard, and forms steep resistant near-vertical beds.

Sandstone beds were tabular-shaped and generally massive, ranging from 1 to 15 feet thick. Silty sandstone and shale beds were from 1 inch to 4 inches thick, in sequences typically from 0.5 to 5 feet thick. The Matilija Formation exposed at the site was generally well-jointed (see Geologic Structure).



## GEOLOGIC STRUCTURE

The geologic structure of the site area is complex and includes both Tertiary and Quaternary folding and faulting. The relationships of the geologic structure to the proposed slopes are shown on the geologic map and geologic cross-sections. The scale utilized for both the geologic map and geologic sections is 1 inch = 50 feet.

### Folds

The Matilija Formation in the site area crops out on the steep to overturned south limb of a major east-west trending anticline known as the Matilija Overturn (Kerr and Schenck, 1928). The fold axis of this anticline forms an S-shaped bend through the site area, resulting in a change in the strike and overturning of the beds (see Dibblee, 1987). Bedding attitudes measured at the site typically strike 011 to 047 degrees, and dip from 56 degrees upright to the southeast, to 76 degrees overturned to the northwest.

### Faults

Several faults with northeast to northwest trends and steep or near vertical dips were exposed at the quarry site. These faults appear to be the result of displacements associated with intense folding of the Matilija Overturn. The magnitudes of these displacements, however, could not be determined and the traces of these faults were not explored beyond the site area. These faults do not appear to cause significant adverse affect on slope stability because they were steeply dipping and oblique to the face of the proposed slope.

North to northeast trending faults located in the proposed 350± feet quarry slope truncate sandstone and shale units. These faults appear to displace sedimentary units chiefly along bedding, in a manner similiar to the shuffling of a deck of playing cards. Shale sequences were highly sheared in the quarry area and appear to be the main units along which displacement has occurred. Figure 1 is a photograph of faulted shale beds that are well-exposed in the quarry rock face.

A northwest-trending near-vertical fault was mapped along the base of the proposed 350± feet slope. This fault cuts across bedding at its intersection with geologic section A-C, but may pass into bedding approximately 140 feet to the southeast. A similiar fault was exposed 380 feet southeast of geologic section A-B. These faults consist of a seam of brown shale gouge about 0.5 feet thick.



**Figure 1. Sandstone and shale units truncated by north to northeast-trending faults (view looking 030 degrees). Note joint planes and landslide deposits exposed in quarry slope. Clipboard shown for scale in lower left of photo.**

## Joints

Joints in rocks are generally defined by relatively smooth planar cracks or fractures along which, or across which only minute often undetectable displacements have occurred. The joints observed during exploration of the subject site were divided into two categories:

1. Systematic joints which are relatively planar tight cracks that appear in subparallel sets.
2. Extension fractures which appear as steeply-dipping, planar to jagged, open cracks.

The orientations of systematic joints in the site area were measured by a total of 157 attitudes. Prominent joint orientations were then determined through statistical work involving preparation of a PI Diagram. The results of the statistical work indicate prominent joint sets have the following orientations:

1. 110/35° SW
2. 104/44° SW
3. 118/37° SW
4. 130/50° SW
5. 118/59° SW
6. 170/22° NE
7. 108/34° NE

These orientations are listed in the order of decreasing prominence (or density distribution). The following critical orientations were used for slope stability analyses:

1. 110/35° SW
2. 104/44° SW

Southwest-dipping systematic joints were typically spaced from 1 to 5 feet apart and were continuously traceable for approximately 5 to 75 feet. Figure 2 is a photograph of southwest-dipping joints which are daylighted in the quarry slope. Northeast-dipping systematic joints were typically spaced from 1 inch to 10 feet apart and were continuously traceable for approximately 5 to 15 feet.

Extension fractures were oriented approximately perpendicular to bedding and near-vertical. These consisted of open fractures ranging from 0.5 to 3.5 inches wide which were formed owing to downslope creep of individual sandstone blocks along daylighted southwest-dipping joints. Figure 3 is a photograph taken July 2, 1988 of extension fractures located along the northern margin of the quarry slope. These extension fractures are significant because they may occur precedent to rock fall and/or landsliding. The potential for rockfall onto Matilija Creek from the northwest margin of the quarry site presently appears moderate to high. This slope is shown on geologic section H-K. The gross stability of the site's slopes is evaluated in the slope stability section of this report.

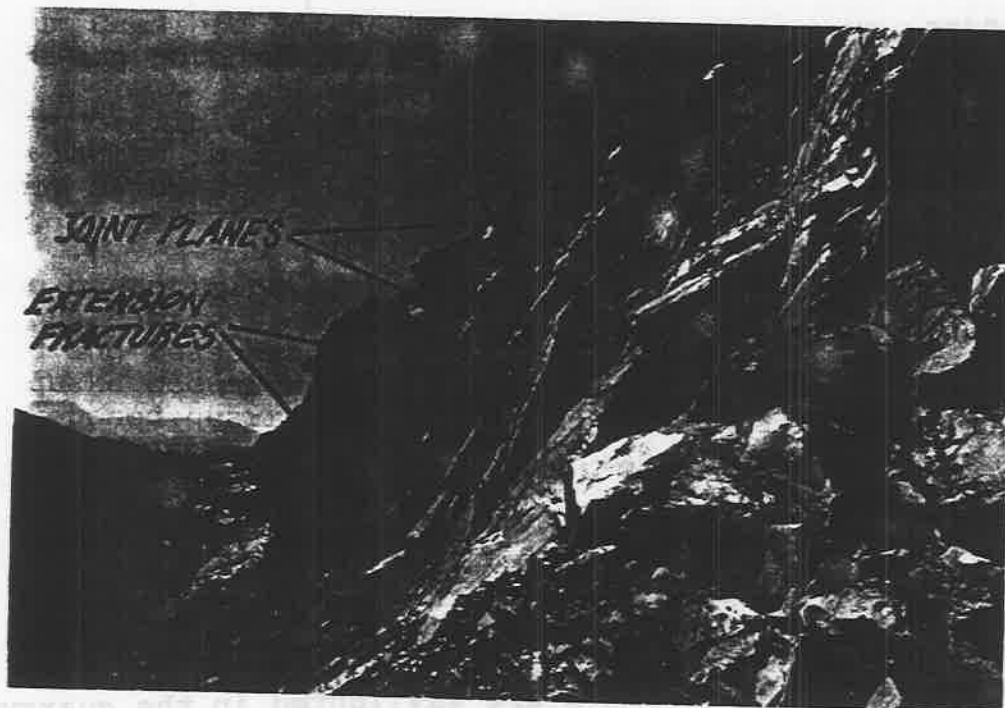


Figure 2. Southwest-dipping daylighted joints in southwest-facing quarry slope (view looking 300 degrees). Note steeply dipping extension fractures.

## STATISTICAL DETERMINATION OF PROMINENT JOINT ORIENTATIONS

A statistical approach involving the preparation of a PI Diagram was used to determine prominent joint orientations. Figure 4 is a copy of the PI Diagram which was prepared using 127 joint attitudes that were measured during field exploration of the subject site. The PI Diagram shows the distribution of joint orientations expressed as the ratio of percent of total attitudes per one percent area of the equal-area projection that was used. These ratios were then converted to whole numbers.

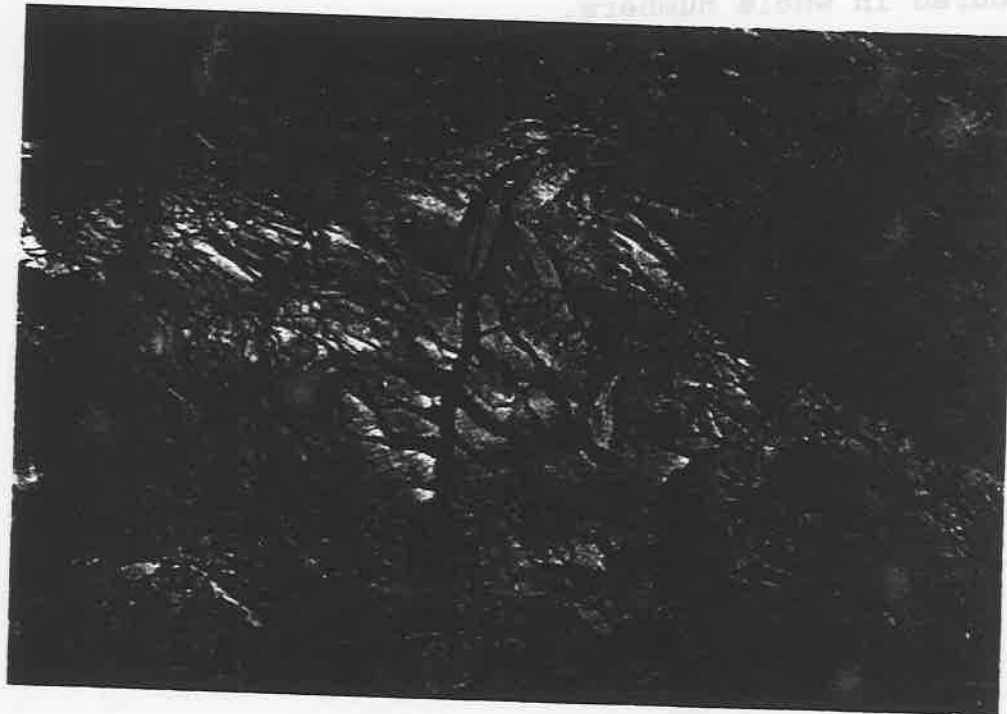


Figure 3. Extension fractures mapped along the northwestern margin of the quarry area (view looking 310 degrees). Rock hammer shown for scale in lower center of photo.

**STATISTICAL DETERMINATION OF PROMINENT JOINT ORIENTATIONS**

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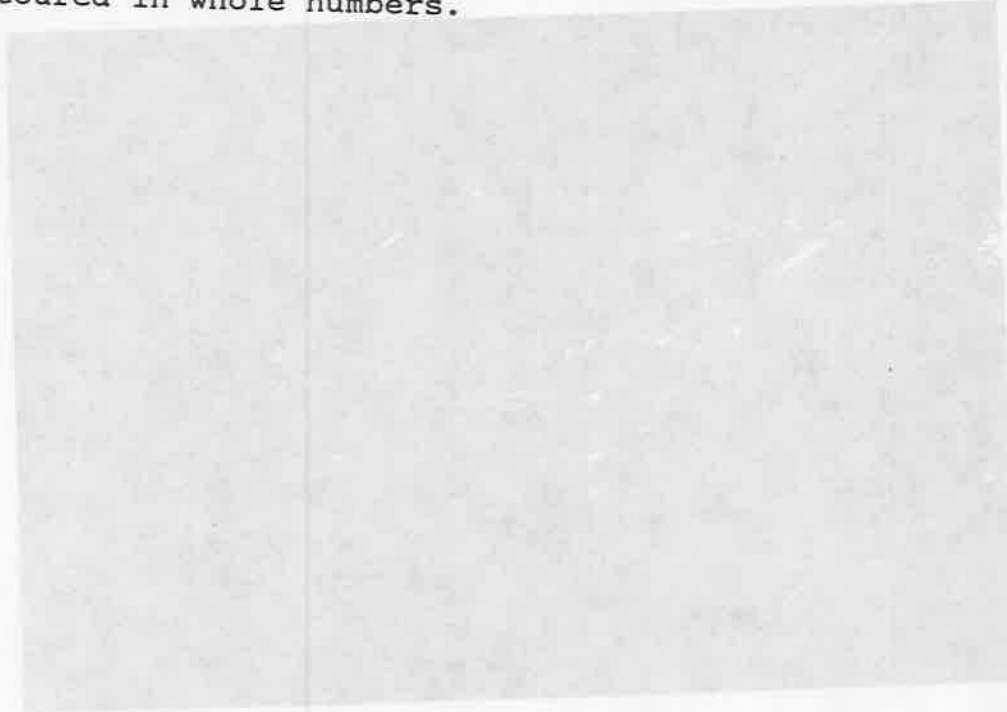


Figure 1. Extension fracture mapped along the northwestern margin of the quarry area (view looking 310 degrees). Rock hammer shown for scale in lower center of photo.

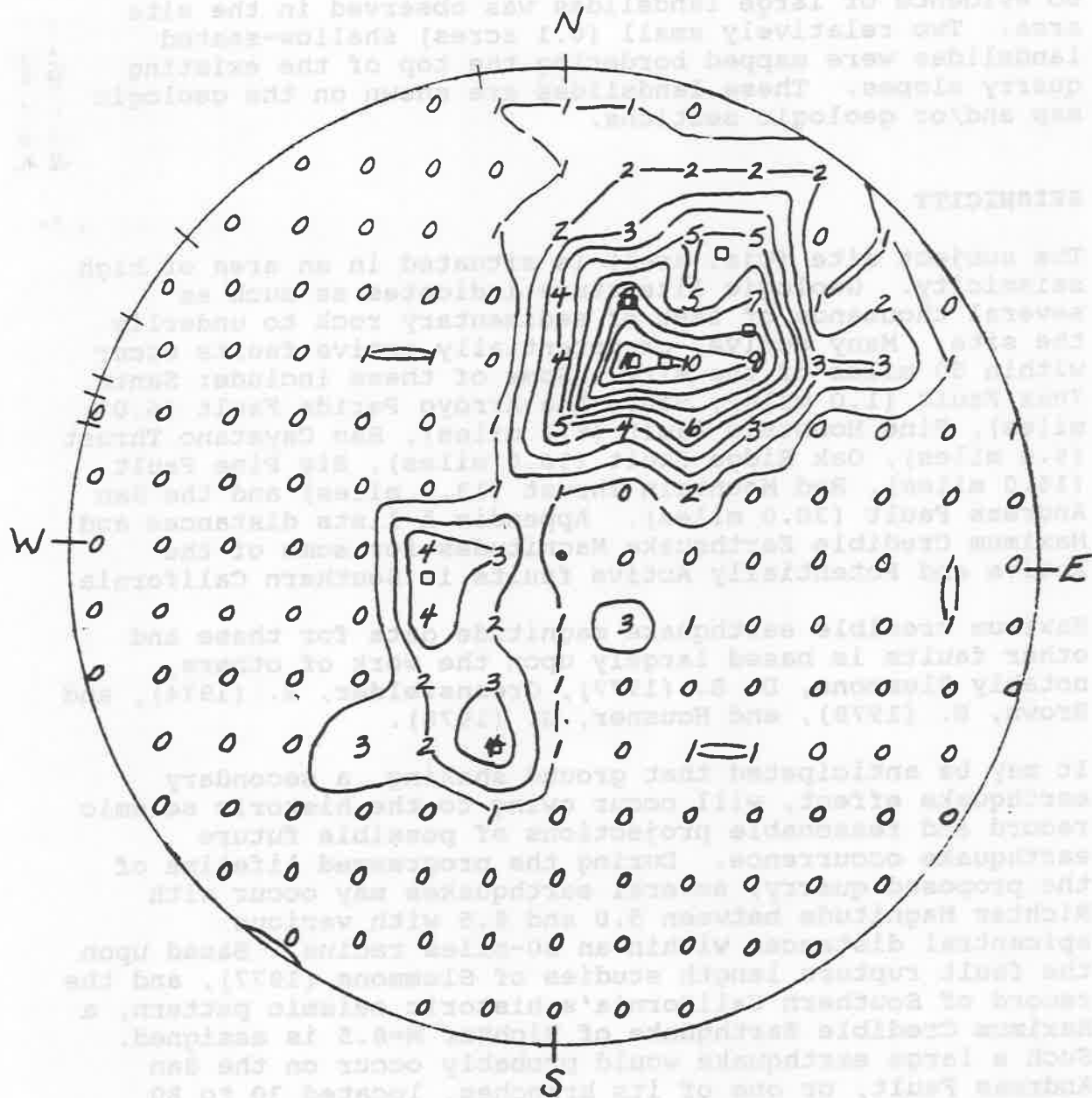


Figure 4. PI Diagram showing distribution of joint orientations. Contours represent the percentage of poles to joints per one percent area. Squares indicate selected prominent orientations.



## MASS WASTING

No evidence of large landslides was observed in the site area. Two relatively small (0.1 acres) shallow-seated landslides were mapped bordering the top of the existing quarry slopes. These landslides are shown on the geologic map and/or geologic sections.

## SEISMICITY

The subject site (Ojai area) is situated in an area of high seismicity. Geologic literature indicates as much as several thousands of feet of sedimentary rock to underlie the site. Many active, or potentially active faults occur within 50 miles of the site. Some of these include: Santa Ynez Fault (1.0 mile), Santa Ana-Arroyo Parida Fault (6.0 miles), Pine Mountain Fault (8.7 miles), San Cayetano Thrust (6.0 miles), Oak Ridge Fault (16.0 miles), Big Pine Fault (16.0 miles), Red Mountain Thrust (13.9 miles) and the San Andreas Fault (30.0 miles). Appendix A lists distances and Maximum Credible Earthquake Magnitudes for some of the Active and Potentially Active faults in Southern California.

Maximum credible earthquake magnitude data for these and other faults is based largely upon the work of others, notably Slemmons, D. B. (1977), Greensfelder, R. (1974), and Brown, B. (1978), and Housner, G. (1970).

It may be anticipated that ground shaking, a secondary earthquake effect, will occur owing to the historic seismic record and reasonable projections of possible future earthquake occurrence. During the programmed lifetime of the proposed quarry, several earthquakes may occur with Richter Magnitude between 5.0 and 8.5 with various epicentral distances within an 80-miles radius. Based upon the fault rupture length studies of Slemmons (1977), and the record of Southern California's historic seismic pattern, a Maximum Credible Earthquake of Richter  $M=8.5$  is assigned. Such a large earthquake would probably occur on the San Andreas Fault, or one of its branches, located 30 to 80 miles east of the subject site. Because of the distance of the epicenter from the site, the local effects would be much attenuated.



The Santa Ynez Fault is herein considered to be the most significant local fault, and hence is used as a primary basis for seismic planning in this report. Greensfelder (1974) assigned the fault a maximum credible earthquake (MCE) risk of Richter  $M=7.5$ . However, the Maximum Probable Earthquake (MPE) defined as the maximum Richter Scale Magnitude probable to occur in a designated time period, such as a 100-year period, is a smaller magnitude than the "maximum credible", and thus is a magnitude which would be normally expected. The Maximum Probable Earthquake (MPE) assigned herein, based upon the historical seismic record, and recurrence statistics (according to Hileman, et al, (1973), and Housner (1970), is Richter  $M=6.0$ .

Because the San Andreas Fault is 30.0 miles from the site, the local shaking effects for an earthquake on that fault would be much attenuated. Maximum Peak Horizontal Ground Acceleration of 0.20 g would be received at the site (according to Joyner and Boore, 1981) from a Richter 8.5 earthquake with a focal depth of 20 kilometers.

Of much greater significance is the nearby Santa Ynez Fault where Maximum Credible Horizontal Bedrock Acceleration values exceeding 0.85 g appear to be possible.

Maximum Probable Horizontal Bedrock Acceleration assigned herein, based upon a Richter  $M=6.0$  MPE earthquake occurring on the Santa Ynez Fault, is 0.40 g.

Vertical accelerations exceeding 1.0 g have been recorded for several California earthquakes (1979 Imperial Valley, 1983, Coalinga, 1984 Morgan Hill, and 1971 San Fernando). Peak Probable vertical acceleration, based upon a 50 percent increase over horizontal acceleration values of 0.40 g would be 0.60 g. A maximum credible peak vertical acceleration would be 1.28 g, based upon a 50 percent increase over a horizontal acceleration value of 0.85 g.

**SLOPE STABILITY ANALYSIS**

A translational rock mass slope stability analysis was conducted along daylighted joints or fractures in lieu of conventional bedding orientation given the geologic conditions of the subject property. Daylighted joints are considered the most significant and most adverse condition affecting the stability of the site's slopes. Systematic joints tend to generally be moderately to extremely dense. Extension fractures were locally exposed as noted on Figure 2.

Critical cross sections of the active quarry were prepared for study. The repose of daylighted fractures varies from 35 to 44 degrees on the subject site. Locally, zones of from 50 to 59 degrees exist.

Insitu shear strengths of fractured but competent dense joints indicates that a significant angle of internal friction exists with the minimum tested being 48 degrees and the maximum 67 degrees. No significant cohesion was noted based upon the direct shear test data. Unfractured and massive Matilija sandstone develops impressive compressive strengths as indicated by our test results.

The fracture surface of the most concern is developed somewhat by quarry blasting to dislodge rock. The extremely fractured condition was considered in slope stability analysis as shown on cross-sections contained herein. Upon completion of quarry activity a less openly fractured surface would be anticipated.

Translational slope stability analysis prepared on the basis of the enclosed cross-sections indicates that substantially all materials at a repose of 44 degrees or flatter are stable with a factor of safety against movement greater than 1.15. While this factor of safety is below normal permanent design limits of 1.5, based upon the private commercial site use, this appears to be in keeping with California Division of Mines and Geology criteria. For specific cross section details and stability analysis see Enclosure Ds herein.

Please be advised that the subject site is located in an area of high seismic activity. Accordingly, factors of safety for all slopes within the quarry area will drop well below acceptable limits during significant earthquakes. Rockfall, rockslides, and/or landslide occurrences may occur during earthquake events. Such events pose a clear and present danger in that they could fill Matilija Creek and/or overtop Highway 33. Additionally, it is recommended that artificial fill benches, berms, and any other necessary devices be constructed, or installed to prevent rockfall, rockslides, and/or landslide materials reaching Highway 33.

Locally there are several locations on the subject site where joints dip in excess of 44 degrees out of slope. These areas were observed to have significant extension cracks which are highly suggestive of downhill translation of the block units.

The potential of rock toppling was also noted on the subject site as indicated by several upslope boulders which are currently being undermined by ongoing quarry activity. In addition, as quarry activity extends upslope, significant new areas may develop, owing to the joint orientations of the subject site, which could result in singular or multiple rock toppling.

Current on-going quarry mining activity for retrieving quarry products includes horizontal benches and near-vertical cuts up to 50 feet into the rock formation. This condition has worked thus far during the life of the quarry activity. However, the quarry mining has reached the state in which it is attempting to obtain materials from much steeper naturally sloped areas in which the identified geologic joint condition is of increasing concern. Continued quarry activity in the current manner will create additional dangers of slope instability and rock toppling in the future. Accordingly, recommendations have been provided herein to modify quarry activity and site configuration to mitigate the potential of slope failure.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

1. As previously noted, the natural slopes upslope of the quarry area are steeper than previous excavation attempts have encountered. Accordingly, shallower horizontal benches and less slope backcut height will be necessary to mitigate hillside safety. Accordingly, it is recommended that bench backcut slopes be limited to a maximum of 20 feet in vertical height and laid back at a temporary repose not to exceed 60 degrees. Quarry tailings shall be placed in a systematic method downslope of the previous slope backcut to insure that buttressing of the previous bench backcut slope exists prior to significant further upslope quarry activity.
2. Buttress fills shall be created in a near structural manner including preparation of the area to receive fill by creating a level bench, placement of the material in such a manner as to obtain a degree of compaction in excess of 85 percent relative compaction with a final fill slope repose not to exceed 1.5:1.

3. As the previously-used quarry benches will be modified into switchback access roads, care shall be taken to define the roadway unit and to provide positive drainage and drainage devices as necessary to avoid downslope artificial fill erosion. This may include but is not limited to consideration of tightline conduits for direct drainage into Matilija Creek, limiting switchback road gradients, sloping switchback roads back into the hillside and collection of free water drainage on previously cut bedrock formations in lieu of artificial fill and providing planting and irrigation systems on artificial fill slopes to protect their surfaces.
4. Two significant shallow-depth landslides are identified upslope of the present quarry area but within the proposed future quarry development. These landslides shall be removed prior to continuation of quarry activity below. The removed materials may be stockpiled or used for artificial fill and/or buttressing. The only danger the existing landslides appear to present is encroachment from downslope which could reactivate the slides and pose a potential danger to quarry workers. The limits of landslide removal shall be established by geologic inspection during grading removal.
5. The integrity of the existing natural drainage surface located along the west side of the quarry shall be maintained by either closed conduit or open channel flow. It is our understanding that future quarry activity is designed for the subject area and may require some detailing to provide adequate drainage in this zone.
6. A local mantle of overly steep fractured sandstone exists along the northwest quarry boundary line. The limits are approximately indicated on our geologic map. This material reveals significant extension joint-crack openings. This material exhibits a high potential for translational downslope movement. A slope stability analysis was conducted on this unit (Enclosure D-6) with an obtained  $SF=1.07$ . This factor of safety will drop well below acceptable limits during significant seismic events. Accordingly, it is recommended that this material either be removed or an engineered buttress be provided to prevent potential translation. The materials observed may be of significant use in quarry activity and may be better served by full removal down to a more competent, less steeply jointed bedrock zone as indicated on the geologic map. Limits of removal shall be established by geologic inspection during grading removal.

7. In the quarry activity preceeding up the slope, it is recognized that the present quarry limits appear highly restrictive and are not conductive with onsite geology. It is therefore recommended, as shown on cross-sections included herein, that final quarry slope repose be designed to match existing natural fracture orientations while employing procurement recommendations included herein. Since orientations vary per given area, design shall include joint orientations indicated within this report. Actual conditions encountered during quarry activities may require modifications to final slope repose. As a rule of thumb, the final quarry slopes shall be laid back to match existing joint attitudes so as to remove all unsupported fractured sandstone blocks. This condition appears to vary from 35 to 44 degrees and will result in quarry limits well beyond those indicated for the first phase of quarry development.
8. Local areas upslope of current quarry work presently possess joints with out-of-slope dips in excess of 44 degrees. These areas appear to represent a local danger to quarry activity and are more prone to toppling and/or bedrock block slide. Accordingly, for the safety of quarry workers and prior to continuation of quarry work, it is recommended that all areas where the natural quarry fracture planes are in excess of 44 degrees, be fully identified and these rock slabs be rock-bolted to stabilize units below with sufficient bolts to prevent downslope translation or stabilized in another acceptable manner to prevent translation. Prior to removal of rock bolted slabs during quarry activity, new rock bolts will be required upslope to insure stability of increasingly steep slope conditions. Additionally, as a safeguard for quarry workers, it is recommended that well-anchored structural tension netting be installed upslope of all quarry areas prior to commencement of quarrying activity.
9. Several onsite perched boulders were identified upslope of the current quarry activity. These boulders shall be identified and removed prior to additional quarry work.

10. It is recommended that ongoing quarry activity be placed under the supervision of an engineering geologist providing periodic inspection of measures to mitigate quarry safety and to aid in identification of changes of lithology and/or geologic context which may occur during quarry excavation. Of particular significance is quarry work outside the currently proposed limits of Phase I quarry activity, as many upslope areas of concern are extremely steep and not presently readily accessible for confirmation of geologic conditions. Accordingly, it is recommended that an engineering geologist, on at least an annual basis be retained to provide progress geologic logging, reports, and recommendations pertaining to the structural geology of the subject site.
11. Existing quarry activities have resulted in precariously steep backcut slopes within the current mining benches of the site. These slopes range to 50 feet with near vertical backcuts. These areas shall be modified and backfilled as soon as possible to provide buttressing to maintain a near vertical bench backcut slope height of not to exceed 20 feet.
12. To provide additional criteria for determining slope stability, it is recommended that a study be conducted to determine the seismic acceleration factor developed by site rock-blasting activities.

The geotechnical recommendations presented herein shall be included on final development plans which shall be employed in a manner acceptable to the governing authorities and consistent with the California Division of Mines and Geology.

Respectfully submitted,

PACIFIC MATERIALS LABORATORY, INC.

K. Mason Redding,  
Staff Geologist

*Barry S. Haskell*  
Barry S. Haskell, CEG 722  
Expiration Date 6-30-90

KMR:BSH:DCP:cmp  
cc: Addressee (6)

*Douglas C. Papay*  
Douglas C. Papay, GE 664  
Expiration Date 3-31-91

PACIFIC MATERIALS LABORATORY, INC.



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MAXIMUM CRUSTAL EARTHQUAKE (Richter =)	DISTANCE (miles)		
6.5	35.0	(PA)	Malibu Coast Fault
6.5	30.5	(PA)	Simi-Santa Rosa Fault
7.5	15.0	(PA)	Oak Ridge Fault
7.5	8.0	(A, PA)	San Cayetano Thrust
6.5	33.0	(A)	San Fernando Zone
7.5	33.0	(A, PA)	Santa Rafael Fault
6.5	31.0	(PA)	Santa Susana Thrust
6.5	38.0	(PA)	Chatsworth Fault
8.5	30.0	(A)	San Andreas Fault
7.75	35.0	(A, PA)	Garlock Fault
7.5	13.0	(A)	Elip Pine Fault
7.75	39.0	(A)	White Wolf Fault
7.0	80.0	(PA)	Inglewood-Newport
7.0	83.0	(PA)	Palom Verde Fault
7.5	86.0	(PA)	Sierra Madre Fault
7.0	13.0	(PA)	Ventura/Pitas Point
7.1	75.0	(A)	Whittier/Elsinore Zone
7.75	96.0	(A)	San Jacinto Fault
6.5	60.0	(A)	Cadiz Fault
7.3	43.0	(A, PA)	Santa Cruz Island
6.5	40.0	(PA)	Norridge Hills Fault
7.5	1.0	(PA)	Santa Rosa

## APPENDIX

**DISTANCES AND MAXIMUM CREDIBLE EARTHQUAKE MAGNITUDES FOR  
ACTIVE AND POTENTIALLY ACTIVE FAULTS**

The following list indicates the specific faults considered either Active (A) or Potentially Active (PA), their closest distance to the site, and their maximum credible earthquake value, as measured on the Richter Scale of Earthquake Magnitude.

		<b>DISTANCE (miles)</b>	<b>MAXIMUM CREDIBLE EARTHQUAKE (RICHTER =)</b>
1. Malibu Coast Fault	(PA)	35.0	6.8
2. Simi-Santa Rosa Fault	(PA)	20.2	6.5
3. Oak Ridge Fault	(PA)	16.0	7.5
4. San Cayetano Thrust	(A, PA)	6.0	7.5
5. San Fernando Zone	(A)	52.0	6.5
6. Santa Gabriel Fault	(A, PA)	32.0	7.5
7. Santa Susana Thrust	(PA)	32.0	6.5
8. Chatsworth Fault	(PA)	39.0	6.5
9. San Andreas Fault	(A)	30.0	8.5
10. Garlock Fault	(A, PA)	32.0	7.75
11. Big Pine Fault	(A)	12.0	7.5
12. White Wolf Fault	(A)	39.0	7.75
13. Inglewood-Newport	(PA)	60.0	7.0
14. Palos Verdes Fault	(PA)	62.0	7.0
15. Sierra Madre Fault	(PA)	66.0	7.5
16. Ventura/Pitas Point	(PA)	15.0	7.0
17. Whittier/Elsinore Zone	(A)	75.0	7.1
18. San Jacinto Fault	(A)	96.0	7.75
19. Cucamonga Fault	(A)	60.0	6.5
20. Santa Cruz Island	(A, PA)	47.0	7.3
21. Northridge Hills Fault	(PA)	40.0	6.5
22. Santa Ynez	(PA)	1.0	7.5



**COMPRESSION TESTING**

Competent massive Matilija sandstone was sampled at three locations in the present quarry area as shown on the geologic map. These samples were cut into rectangular specimens with longest length to least width ratios of approximately 2:1 using a wet/diamond blade saw.

The cross-sectional area, weight, and volume of each specimen was measured. The specimens were capped with sulfur capping compound, and tested for unconfined compressive strength. The specimens were then tested for compressive strength using an hydraulic compression machine advancing at a rate of 0.05 cm/min. The results follow:

<u>SAMPLE NO.</u>	<u>UNCONFINED COMPRESSIVE STRENGTH (psi)</u>	<u>UNIT WEIGHT (lbs./cft)</u>
1	16,164	157.7
2	15,917	159.7
3	14,649	157.2

**DIRECT SHEAR DATA**

Block sandstone samples containing an existing joint surface were gathered at four site locations which are shown on the geologic map, Enclosure A. Direct shear testing was performed across existing joints of relatively insitu specimens prepared as follows:

The samples were cut on a tray saw into rectangular specimens which could be inserted into the 2.375 inch diameter chamber of our direct shear machine. Each specimen was loaded into the chamber such that the existing joint surface and the plane of shear were in the same plane. The specimen was held secure by sulfur capping compound which was placed into the void space between the specimen and the chamber housing. The top shear block was free to move vertically during shearing. A 1/8-to-1/4-inch air gap was centered with the existing joint surface so that the sulfur compound did not influence shearing. Each specimen was sheared under saturated conditions at confining loads of 1000, 2000, and 4000 psf. The results follow:

<u>SAMPLE NO.</u>	<u>COHESION</u>	<u>ANGLE</u>
1	0	62
2	0	54
3	0	48
4	500	66.9

## GROSS SLOPE STABILITY ANALYSIS

GEOLOGIC SECTION A - B - C  
FAILURE PLANE A

soil unit weight 0.158 (ksf)  
a = int. angle (deg) 48.0 lowest ultimate shear strength -  $T_{ua}$   
C = cohesion (psf) 0  
No. of slices 5

SEG #	WEIGHT - W (kips)	REPOSE (r-deg)	LENGTH (ft)	Ft W sin(r)	Wn W cos(r)	Fr W tan(a)+CL	FS Fr/Ft
1	9.00	44.00	11.00	6.25	6.47	7.19	1.15
2	87.00	44.00	22.00	60.44	62.58	69.50	1.15
3	82.00	44.00	20.00	56.96	58.99	65.51	1.15
4	158.00	44.00	35.00	109.76	113.66	126.23	1.15
5	443.00	44.00	170.00	307.73	318.67	353.92	1.15

FS static =  $Fr/Pt$  = 1.15

# GEOLOGIC SECTION A-B-C FAILURE PLANE A

<u>SEGMENT #</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>WEIGHT (KIPS)</u>
1.	11	$8 \left[ \frac{19\frac{1}{2}}{2} \right] 6 = 9.0$
2.	22	$8 \left[ \frac{19+35}{2} \right] 16 = 87$
3.	20	$8 \left[ \frac{34+35}{2} \right] 15 = 82$
4.	35	$8 \left[ \frac{46+34}{2} \right] 25 = 158$
5.	170	$8 \left[ \frac{46}{2} \right] 122 = 443$

$\delta$  = DENSITY OF MATILJA SANDSTONE = 0.158 Kips/ft<sup>3</sup>

Scale: \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosure D-1  
Lab # 20475-3  
File # 88-6253-3

## GROSS SLOPE STABILITY ANALYSIS

GEOLOGIC SECTION A - B - C  
FAILURE PLANE B

soil unit weight 0.158 (ksf)  
a = int. angle (deg) 48.0 lowest ultimate shear strength - Tma  
C = cohesion (psf) 0  
No. of slices 16

SEG #	WEIGHT - W (kips)	REPOSE (r-deg)	LENGTH (ft)	Ft W sin(r)	Wn W cos(r)	Fr Wtan(a)+CL	FS Pr/Pt
6	7.90	44.00	6.00	5.49	5.68	6.31	1.15
7	223.00	44.00	48.00	154.91	160.41	178.16	1.15
8	120.00	44.00	15.00	83.36	86.32	95.87	1.15
9	224.00	44.00	21.00	155.60	161.13	178.96	1.15
10	245.00	44.00	20.00	170.19	176.24	195.73	1.15
11	405.00	44.00	35.00	281.34	291.33	323.56	1.15
12	1658.00	44.00	170.00	1151.74	1192.67	1324.59	1.15
13	342.00	44.00	45.00	237.57	246.01	273.23	1.15
14	713.00	44.00	113.00	495.29	512.89	569.62	1.15
15	175.00	44.00	47.00	121.57	125.88	139.81	1.15
16	96.00	44.00	76.00	66.69	69.06	76.70	1.15

FS static = Pr/Pt = 1.15

# GEOLOGIC SECTION A-B-C - FAILURE PLANE B

<u>SEGMENT #</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>WEIGHT (KIPS)</u>
6.	6	$8 \left[ \frac{25}{2} \right] 4 = 7.9$
7.	48	$8 \left[ \frac{25+58}{2} \right] 34 = 223$
8.	15	$8 \left[ \frac{58+80}{2} \right] 11 = 120$
9.	21	$8 \left[ \frac{80+97}{2} \right] 16 = 224$
10.	20	$8 \left[ \frac{97+97}{2} \right] 15 = 245$
11.	35	$8 \left[ \frac{97+108}{2} \right] 25 = 405$
12.	170	$8 \left[ \frac{108+64}{2} \right] 122 = 1658$
13.	45	$8 \left[ \frac{64+67}{2} \right] 33 = 342$
14.	113	$8 \left[ \frac{67+43}{2} \right] 82 = 713$
15.	47	$8 \left[ \frac{43+22}{2} \right] 34 = 175$
16.	76	$8 \left[ \frac{22}{2} \right] 55 = 96$

Scale: \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosure D-2

Lab # 20475-3

File # 88-6253-3

## GROSS SLOPE STABILITY ANALYSIS

GEOLOGIC SECTION A - B - C  
FAILURE PLANE C

soil unit weight 0.158 (ksf)  
 $\alpha$  = int. angle (deg) 48.0 lowest ultimate shear strength -  $T_{ma}$   
 $C$  = cohesion (psf) 0  
 No. of slices 17

SEG #	WEIGHT - W (kips)	REPOSE (r-deg)	LENGTH (ft)	Pt W sin(r)	W <sub>a</sub> W cos(r)	Pr W tan( $\alpha$ )+CL	FS Fr/Pt
17	7.20	44.00	18.00	5.00	5.18	5.75	1.15
18	17.70	44.00	4.00	12.30	12.73	14.14	1.15
19	115.00	44.00	25.00	79.89	82.72	91.87	1.15
20	220.00	44.00	56.00	152.82	158.25	175.76	1.15
21	22.00	44.00	10.00	15.28	15.83	17.58	1.15
22	19.00	44.00	6.00	13.20	13.67	15.18	1.15
23	312.00	44.00	48.00	216.73	224.43	249.26	1.15
24	149.00	44.00	15.00	103.50	107.18	119.04	1.15
25	267.00	44.00	21.00	185.47	192.06	213.31	1.15
26	270.00	44.00	20.00	187.56	194.22	215.71	1.15
27	472.00	44.00	35.00	327.88	339.53	377.08	1.15
28	1976.00	44.00	170.00	1372.64	1421.42	1578.64	1.15
29	425.00	44.00	45.00	295.23	305.72	339.54	1.15
30	913.00	44.00	113.00	634.22	656.76	729.40	1.15
31	258.00	44.00	47.00	179.22	185.59	206.12	1.15
32	235.00	44.00	76.00	163.24	169.04	187.74	1.15
33	57.00	44.00	65.00	39.60	41.00	45.54	1.15

FS static = Fr/Pt = 1.15

# GEOLOGIC SECTION A-B-C - FAILURE PLANE C

<u>SEGMENT #</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>WEIGHT (KIPS)</u>
17.	18	$8 \left[ \frac{7}{2} \right] 13 = -7.2$
18.	4	$8 \left[ \frac{7+49}{2} \right] 4 = 17.7$
19.	25	$8 \left[ \frac{49+48}{2} \right] 15 = 115$
20.	56	$8 \left[ \frac{48+20}{2} \right] 41 = 220$
21.	10	$8 \left[ \frac{20+20}{2} \right] 7 = 22$
22.	6	$8 \left[ \frac{20+41}{2} \right] 4 = 19$
23.	48	$8 \left[ \frac{41+75}{2} \right] 34 = 312$
24.	15	$8 \left[ \frac{75+97}{2} \right] 11 = 149$
25.	21	$8 \left[ \frac{97+114}{2} \right] 16 = 267$
26.	20	$8 \left[ \frac{114+114}{2} \right] 15 = 270$
27.	35	$8 \left[ \frac{114+125}{2} \right] 25 = 472$
28.	170	$8 \left[ \frac{125+80}{2} \right] 122 = 1976$
29.	45	$8 \left[ \frac{80+83}{2} \right] 33 = 425$
30.	113	$8 \left[ \frac{83+58}{2} \right] 82 = 913$
31.	47	$8 \left[ \frac{58+38}{2} \right] 34 = 258$
32.	76	$8 \left[ \frac{38+16}{2} \right] 55 = 235$
33.	65	$8 \left[ \frac{16}{2} \right] 45 = 57$

Scale: \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosure D-3  
Lab # 20475-3  
File # 88-6253-3



## GROSS SLOPE STABILITY ANALYSIS

GEOLOGIC SECTION D - E - F - G  
FAILURE PLANE D

a = soil unit weight 0.158 (ksf)  
int. angle (deg) 48.0  
C = cohesion (psf) 0 lowest ultimate shear strength -  $T_{ma}$   
No. of slices 9

SEG #	WEIGHT - W (kips)	REPOSE (r-deg)	LENGTH (ft)	Pt W sin(r)	W <sub>a</sub> W cos(r)	Pr W tan(a)+CL	FS Pr/Pt
1	6.30	35.00	10.00	3.61	5.16	5.73	1.59
2	53.00	35.00	29.00	30.40	43.42	48.22	1.59
3	180.00	35.00	44.00	103.24	147.45	163.76	1.59
4	1141.00	35.00	208.00	654.45	934.65	1038.04	1.59
5	364.00	35.00	65.00	208.78	298.17	331.15	1.59
6	345.00	35.00	63.00	197.88	282.61	313.87	1.59
7	230.00	35.00	67.00	131.92	188.40	209.24	1.59
8	61.00	35.00	26.00	34.99	49.97	55.50	1.59
9	25.00	35.00	29.00	14.34	20.48	22.74	1.59

FS static = Pr/Pt = 1.59

# GEOLOGIC SECTION D-E-F-G FAILURE PLANE D

<u>SEGMENT #</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>WEIGHT (KIPS)</u>
1.	10	$\gamma \left[ \frac{10}{2} \right] 8 = 6.3$
2.	29	$\gamma \left[ \frac{10+18}{2} \right] 24 = 53$
3.	44	$\gamma \left[ \frac{18+47}{2} \right] 35 = 180$
4.	208	$\gamma \left[ \frac{47+37}{2} \right] 172 = 1141$
5.	65	$\gamma \left[ \frac{37+50}{2} \right] 53 = 364$
6.	63	$\gamma \left[ \frac{50+34}{2} \right] 52 = 345$
7.	67	$\gamma \left[ \frac{34+20}{2} \right] 54 = 230$
8.	26	$\gamma \left[ \frac{20+15}{2} \right] 22 = 61$
9.	29	$\gamma \left[ \frac{15}{2} \right] 21 = 25$

Scale: \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosure D-4

Lab # 20475-3

File # 88-6253-3

## GROSS SLOPE STABILITY ANALYSIS

GEOLOGIC SECTION D - E - F - G  
FAILURE PLANE E

soil unit weight 0.158 (ksf)  
a = int. angle (deg) 48.0 lowest ultimate shear strength -  $T_{ma}$   
C = cohesion (psf) 0  
No. of slices 15

SEG #	WEIGHT - W (kips)	REPOSE (r-deg)	LENGTH (ft)	Pt W sin(r)	Wn W cos(r)	Fr W tan(a)+CL	FS Pr/Pt
10	146.00	35.00	55.00	83.74	119.60	132.83	1.59
11	649.00	35.00	90.00	372.25	531.63	590.43	1.59
12	284.00	35.00	15.00	162.90	232.64	258.37	1.59
13	163.00	35.00	29.00	93.49	133.52	148.29	1.59
14	594.00	35.00	44.00	340.70	486.58	540.40	1.59
15	3080.00	35.00	208.00	1766.62	2522.99	2802.06	1.59
16	955.00	35.00	65.00	547.77	782.29	868.82	1.59
17	924.00	35.00	63.00	529.98	756.90	840.62	1.59
18	836.00	35.00	67.00	479.51	684.81	760.56	1.59
19	308.00	35.00	26.00	176.66	252.30	280.21	1.59
20	285.00	35.00	29.00	163.47	233.46	259.28	1.59
21	693.00	35.00	83.00	397.49	567.67	630.46	1.59
22	464.00	35.00	57.00	266.14	380.09	422.13	1.59
23	357.00	35.00	43.00	204.77	292.44	324.78	1.59
24	1048.00	35.00	261.00	601.11	858.47	953.43	1.59

FS static = Pr/Pt = 1.59

# GEOLOGIC SECTION D-E-F-G - FAILURE PLANE E

<u>SEGMENT #</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>WEIGHT</u>
10.	55	$\delta \left[ \frac{44}{2} \right] 42 = 146$
11.	90	$\delta \left[ \frac{44+67}{2} \right] 74 = 649$
12.	15	$\delta \left[ \frac{67+83}{2} \right] 24 = 284$
13.	29	$\delta \left[ \frac{90+82}{2} \right] 12 = 163$
14.	44	$\delta \left[ \frac{90+119}{2} \right] 36 = 594$
15.	208	$\delta \left[ \frac{119+108}{2} \right] 172 = 3080$
16.	65	$\delta \left[ \frac{108+120}{2} \right] 53 = 955$
17.	63	$\delta \left[ \frac{120+105}{2} \right] 52 = 924$
18.	67	$\delta \left[ \frac{105+91}{2} \right] 54 = 836$
19.	26	$\delta \left[ \frac{91+86}{2} \right] 22 = 308$
20.	29	$\delta \left[ \frac{86+71}{2} \right] 23 = 285$
21.	83	$\delta \left[ \frac{71+58}{2} \right] 68 = 693$
22.	57	$\delta \left[ \frac{58+67}{2} \right] 47 = 464$
23.	43	$\delta \left[ \frac{67+62}{2} \right] 35 = 357$
24.	261	$\delta \left[ \frac{62}{2} \right] 214 = 1048$

Scale: \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosure D-5

Lab # 20475-3

File # 88-6253-3

## GROSS SLOPE STABILITY ANALYSIS

GEOLOGIC SECTION H - I - J - K  
FAILURE PLANE F

soil unit weight 0.158 (ksf)  
a = int. angle (deg) 48.0 lowest ultimate shear strength -  $T_{ma}$   
C = cohesion (psf) 0  
No. of slices 15

SEG #	WEIGHT - W (kips)	REPOSE (r-deg)	LENGTH (ft)	Ft W sin(r)	W <sub>n</sub> W cos(r)	Pr W tan(a)+CL	FS Pr/Pt
1	22.00	46.00	12.00	15.83	15.28	16.97	1.07
2	113.00	46.00	43.00	81.29	78.50	87.18	1.07
3	80.00	46.00	30.00	57.55	55.57	61.72	1.07
4	36.00	46.00	15.00	25.90	25.01	27.77	1.07
5	51.00	46.00	21.00	36.69	35.43	39.35	1.07
6	83.00	46.00	39.00	59.71	57.66	64.03	1.07
7	13.00	46.00	18.00	9.35	9.03	10.03	1.07
8	12.00	46.00	12.00	8.63	8.34	9.26	1.07
9	54.00	46.00	47.00	38.84	37.51	41.66	1.07
10	28.00	46.00	29.00	20.14	19.45	21.60	1.07
11	29.00	46.00	22.00	20.86	20.15	22.37	1.07
12	19.00	46.00	16.00	13.67	13.20	14.66	1.07
13	21.00	46.00	18.00	15.11	14.59	16.20	1.07
14	73.00	46.00	76.00	52.51	50.71	56.32	1.07
15	5.00	46.00	18.00	3.60	3.47	3.86	1.07

FS static = Pr/Pt = 1.07

# GEOLOGIC SECTION H-I-J-K - FAILURE PLANE F

<u>SEGMENT #</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>WEIGHT (KIP)</u>
1.	12	$\gamma \left[ \frac{23}{2} \right]_{12} = 22$
2	43	$\gamma \left[ \frac{23+23}{2} \right]_{31} = 113$
3.	30	$\gamma \left[ \frac{23+23}{2} \right]_{22} = 80$
4	15	$\gamma \left[ \frac{23+18}{2} \right]_{11} = 36$
5.	21	$\gamma \left[ \frac{18+25}{2} \right]_{15} = 51$
6	39	$\gamma \left[ \frac{25+14}{2} \right]_{27} = 83$
7	18	$\gamma \left[ \frac{14}{2} \right]_{12} = 13$
8.	12	$\gamma \left[ \frac{13}{2} \right]_{12} = 12$
9.	47	$\gamma \left[ \frac{13+7}{2} \right]_{34} = 54$
10.	29	$\gamma \left[ \frac{7+9}{2} \right]_{22} = 28$
11.	22	$\gamma \left[ \frac{9+14}{2} \right]_{16} = 29$
12.	16	$\gamma \left[ \frac{14+8}{2} \right]_{11} = 19$
13.	18	$\gamma \left[ \frac{8+12}{2} \right]_{13} = 21$
14.	76	$\gamma \left[ \frac{12+5}{2} \right]_{54} = 73$
15.	18	$\gamma \left[ \frac{5}{2} \right]_{12} = 5$

Scale: \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosure D-6

Lab # 20475-3

File # 88-6253-3



# GEOLOGIC MAP LEGEND

EOCENE -- QUATERNARY TO RECENT

**Af**

ARTIFICIAL FILL

**Qls**

LANDSLIDE DEPOSITS

**Tma**

MATILIJIA FORMATION

.....

CONTACT, DASHED WHERE APPROXIMATE, DOTTED WHERE CONCEALED

---

FAULT, DASHED WHERE APPROXIMATE, DOTTED WHERE CONCEALED

---

TRACE OF MASTER JOINT

011 30°

STRIKE AND DIP OF BEDS

037/80

STRIKE AND DIP OF OVERTURNED BEDS

040

STRIKE OF VERTICAL BEDS

44°

STRIKE AND DIP OF JOINTS

+

STRIKE OF VERTICAL JOINTS

110 35°

STRIKE AND DIP OF PROMINENT JOINT SET WHICH WAS DETERMINED BY STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

→ 66-225

PLUNGE AND PLUNGE DIRECTION OF SLICKENSIDES

⇒ 1

PHOTO LOCATION AND CORRESPONDING FIGURE NUMBER WITH ARROW INDICATING VIEW DIRECTION

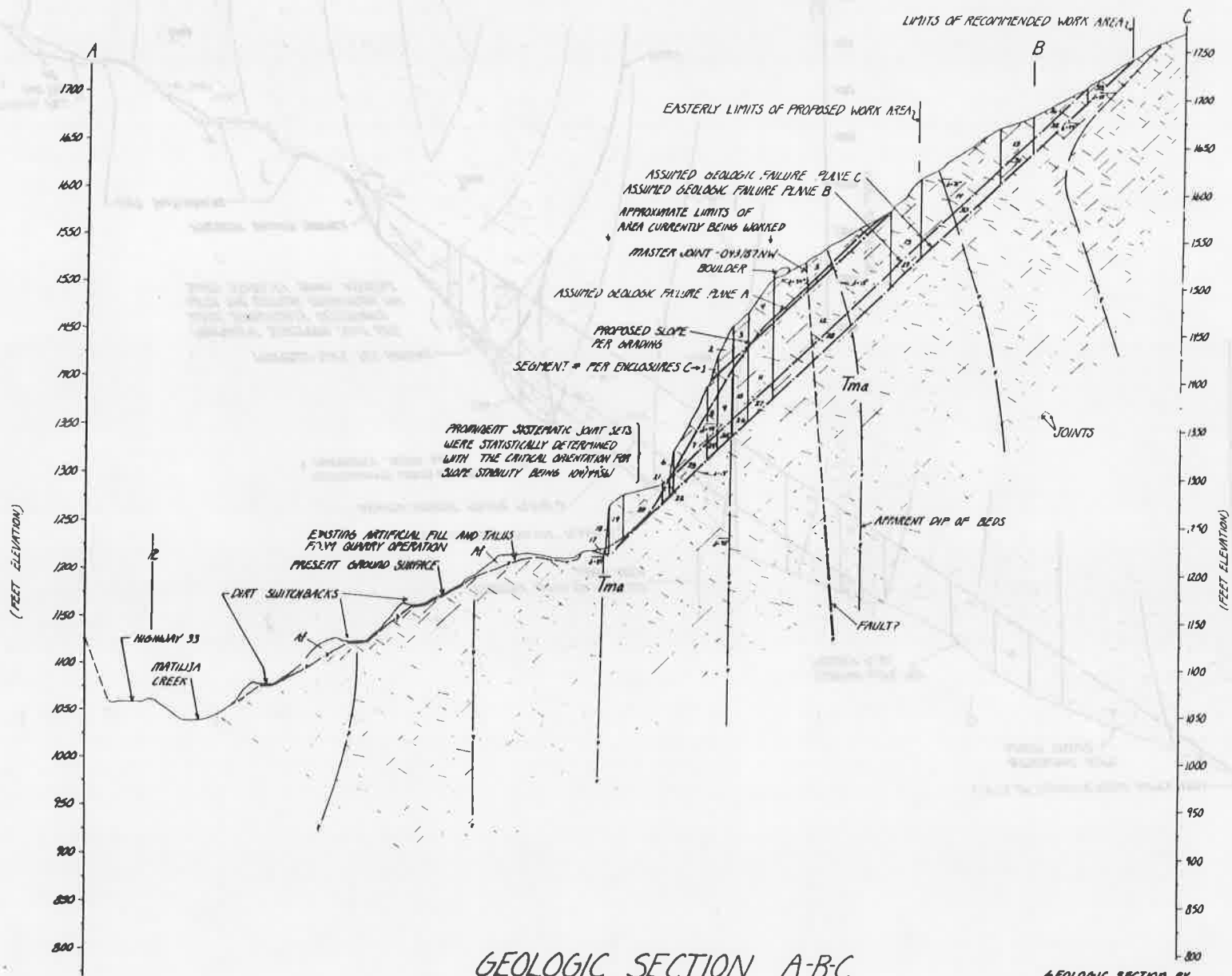
S-  
C- Δ

SAMPLE LOCATION: S- DENOTES SHEAR TEST SAMPLE  
C- DENOTES COMPRESSION TEST SAMPLE

ENCLOSURE A-2

LAB NO. 20-75-3





# GEOLOGIC SECTION A-B-C

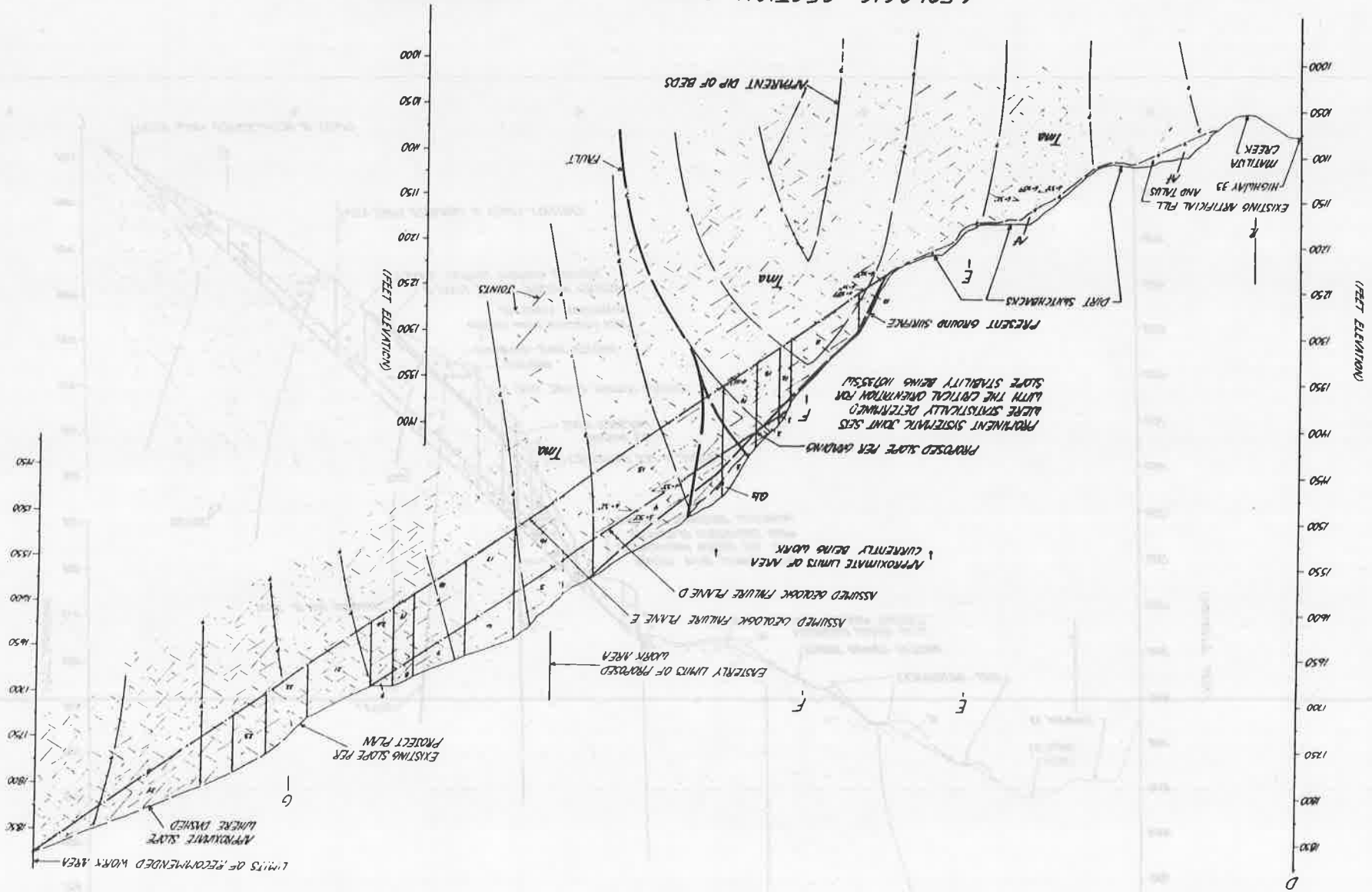
horiz. scale = vert. scale = 1" = 50'

GEOLOGIC SECTION BY  
PACIFIC MATERIALS LABORATORY, INC.  
7-7-88, LAB No. 20475-3  
ENCLOSURE B-1

# GEOLOGIC SECTION D-E-F-G

GEOLOGIC SECTION BY  
 PACIFIC MATERIALS LABORATORY, INC.  
 7-7-55, LAB NO. 20175-3  
 ENCL. B-2

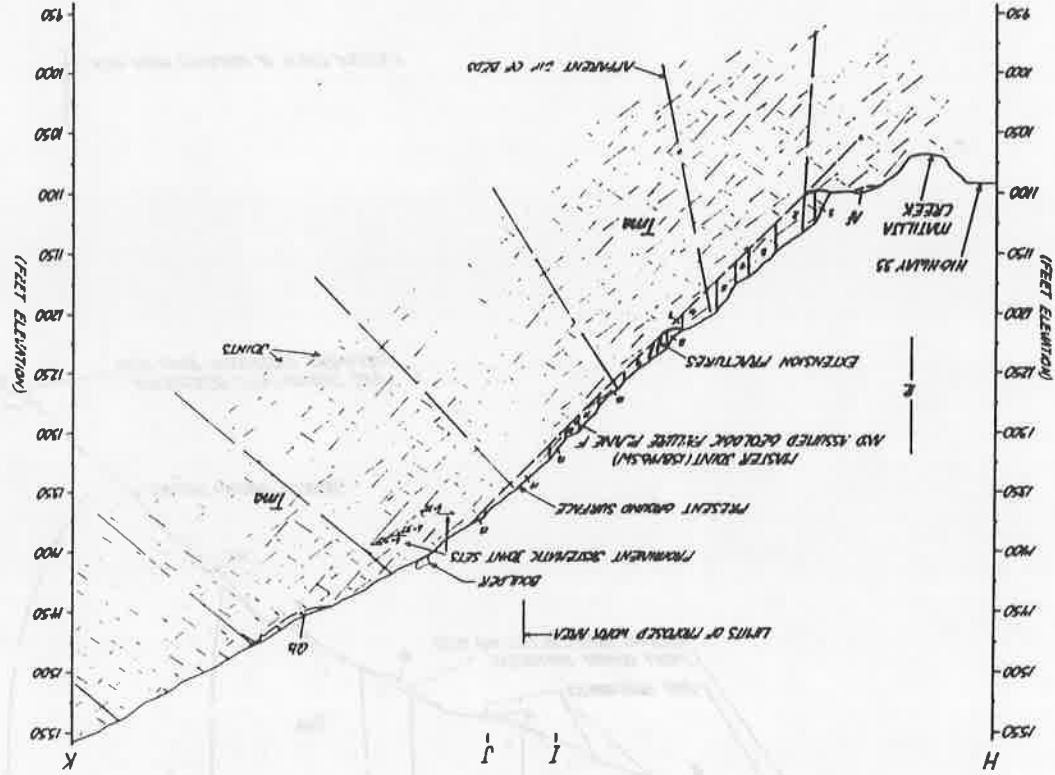
1" = 50'  
 1" = 50'



GEOLOGIC SECTION BY  
 PACIFIC MATERIALS LABORATORY, INC.  
 7-8-68, LAB NO. 30475-3  
 ENCLOSURE B-3

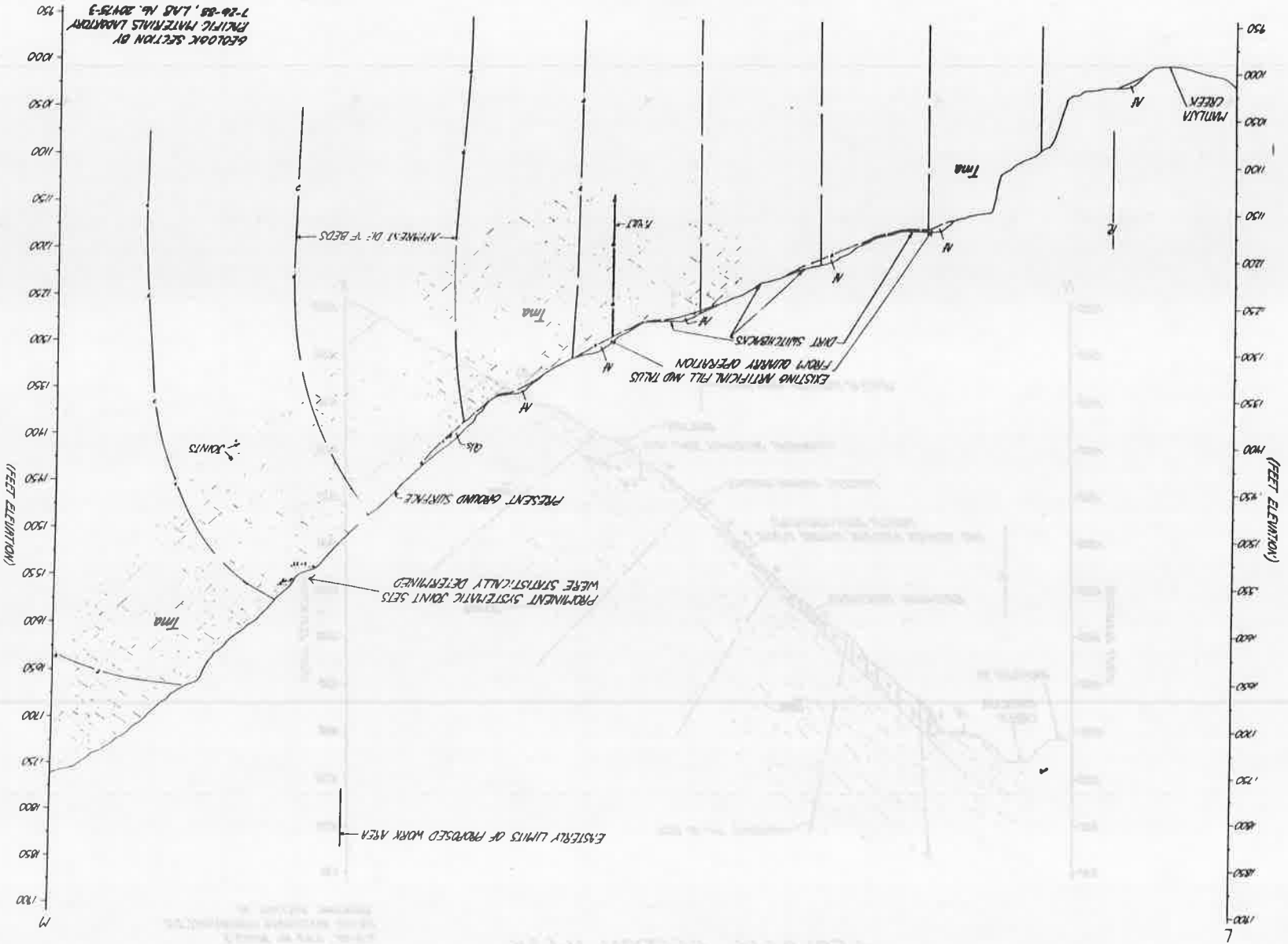
# GEOLOGIC SECTION H-I-J-K

Map, scale = vert. scale, 1" = 50'



# GEOLOGIC SECTION L-M

Horizontal scale = vertical scale, 1" = 50'



ENCLOSURE B-4  
GEOLOGIC SECTION BY  
PACIFIC MATERIALS LABORATORY  
7-26-58, LMS 14, 20175-3

**Pacific  
Materials  
Laboratory, Inc.**

150-B Wood Road  
P.O. Box 91  
Camarillo, CA 93011  
Phone: 482-9801

March 25, 1991  
Lab No. 23599-3  
File No. 91-6253-3

Schmidt Construction Company  
Attn: Mr. William C. Schmidt  
7002 Owensmouth Avenue  
Canoga Park, CA 91305

**SUBJECT:** Addendum Stability Analysis and  
Final Quarry Plan Review  
Schmidt Ojai Quarry  
CUP 3489, Ventura County, CA

**REFERENCE:** PML Geotechnical Exploration Report dated  
July 25, 1988, Lab No. 20475-3:

Dear Mr. Schmidt:

In accordance with the meeting held October 2, 1990 at LBH Engineering between Pacific Materials Laboratory, Inc., LBH Engineering, and Ted Bischella of South Coast Mining and Milling, Inc., this addendum geotechnical report was prepared for final approval of the proposed staged grading plan for Schmidt Ojai Quarry. Gross translational stability analyses for Cross Sections E and T contained on Enclosure A herein indicates the currently planned quarry slopes meet the minimum static and pseudo seismic slope factors of safety adopted by the County of Ventura. The proposed slopes lie within the boundaries of the subject property and do not impinge on adjacent forest service property. The presently proposed quarry staged grading and reclamation plans were reviewed and found to be geotechnically acceptable.

**STABILITY ANALYSIS**

Gross translational stability analysis was conducted for Cross Sections T and E shown on Enclosure A. herein. These sections were traced from the original sections of Sheet 4 of the current quarry plan dated February 1991 which was prepared by LBH Engineering of Simi Valley. The sections indicate a final overall (Phase III) slope repose of 37 degrees. In accordance with our referenced geotechnical exploration report, Page 10, joint set orientations 110/35 and 108/34 are the only joint surfaces inclined out of slope at the planned slope repose. These orientations result in a

critical apparent dip out of slope of 34 degrees which was used in the stability analysis. The results of the gross translational analysis indicate calculated static and pseudo seismic factors of safety of 1.65 and 1.30, respectively. These values exceed the minimum allowable factors of safety adopted by the County of Ventura. In addition, translational failure analyses was conducted for bench detail Section E. Similar resulting static and pseudo seismic factors of safety were obtained for Section E which exceeded County requirements.

#### PLAN REVIEW

The currently proposed quarry and reclamation plan was reviewed for consistency and conformance with our referenced geotechnical exploration. These proposed plans were found to be geotechnically suitable and they satisfy the requirements of our referenced geotechnical exploration. Item 1, Page 18 of our referenced geotechnical exploration is modified herein to include a maximum bench backcut height of 30 feet. This increased backcut height appears suitable as demonstrated by the stability analysis of Section E contained herein.

All other recommendations of our referenced geotechnical exploration are appropriate and shall be incorporated as part of the approved plans.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for allowing us to provide this service. If we may be of further service in clarification of information contained herein, please do not hesitate in calling.

Respectfully submitted,  
PACIFIC MATERIALS LABORATORY, INC.

*K. Mason Redding*

K. Mason Redding, Staff Geologist



*Barry S. Haskell*  
Barry S. Haskell, CEG 722,  
Expiration Date 6-30-92

KMR:BSH:DCP:bfm  
cc: LBH Eng. (6)  
(for appropriate distribution)

*Douglas C. Papay*  
Douglas C. Papay, GE 664  
Expiration Date 3-31-91

PACIFIC MATERIALS LABORATORY, INC.



LBH ENGINEERING COMPANY

4421 Adam Road  
Post Office Box 479  
Simi Valley, CA 93062  
(805)522-1900 \* (818)999-6400

LETTER of TRANSMITTAL

TO: STA INC.  
550-C Newport Center Drive  
Newport Beach, CA 92660  
ATTN: Jayna Moore-Miller

DATE: April 1, 1991  
W.O.: 1146-04.2  
JOB : Ojai Quarry  
RE : Rev. Geology

TRANSMITTING: XX herewith            under separate cover  
via mail                      the following:

— Prints	— Survey Notes	— Engineer's Estimates
— Sepias	— Applications	— Civil Calculations
— Tracings	— Legal Description	<u>XX</u> Copy of <u>addendum</u>

**COPIES**

1

### DESCRIPTIONS

\*  
\* Addendum Stability Analysis 3/25/91  
\*

FOR: XX Your File             Your approval and return of        copies

XX Your use \_\_\_\_\_ Your signature and return

— Distribution — Your review and comments

REMARKS: A copy has been sent to Bill Schmidt, Ted Baceglia and Ventura County - Judith Ward and Joe Hanna. Approval of this report and the LBH plans that were sent to you a month ago is in process. You may want to keep in touch with Judith Ward about it.

Copy to:

Signed: DEBBIE NAVES

If enclosures are not as listed, please notify us at once.

**Pacific  
Materials  
Laboratory, Inc.**

150-B Wood Road  
P.O. Box 91  
Camarillo, CA 9301  
Phone: 482-9801

February 10, 1993  
Lab No. 24952-3  
File No. 93-6253-3

Schmidt Construction Co.  
Attn: Mr. William C. Schmidt  
7633 Loma Verde Avenue  
Canoga Park, CA 91304

**SUBJECT: Supplemental Information  
EIR, CUP-3489-2**

**REFERENCE: PML Clarification to Complete  
Dated July 15, 1993, Lab No. 24615-3  
PML List of Reports  
Dated June 3, 1992, Lab No. 24520-3  
PML Addendum Stability Analysis  
Dated March 25, 1991, Lab No. 23599-3  
PML Plan Review, Dated June 30, 1989,  
Lab No. 21433-3  
PML Geotechnical Exploration Report  
Dated July 25, 1988, Lab No. 20475-3**

Dear Mr. Schmidt:

As requested by the Ventura County project planner, Ms. Beth Painter, this report has been prepared to complete CUP-3489-3 by addressing outstanding questions raised in the February 18, 1992 Public Works Memorandum and Planning Division Letter of July 1, 1992.

1. The February 19, 1992 memorandum requests "... (an overall geologic map showing the current project boundary, phases and all geologic symbols, etc.)".

In response to this request, Pacific Materials Laboratory, Inc. has included overall geologic information and symbols on the "Quarry Operations Plan" Sheet 1/4, dated 1/91 prepared by LBH Engineering Company. The plan includes the total phased improvement boundaries, the proposed grading phases and has been upgraded to include geologic data and symbols. Please find the overall geologic materials included herein as Enclosure A.



2. The July 1, 1992 County Planning Letter requests "..., it is recommended that a study be conducted to determine the seismic acceleration factor develop(ed) by sight rock-blasting activities."

In response to this question, the Pacific Materials Laboratory, Inc. letter of July 15, 1992 suggests "an experienced mining engineer, experienced with the process and effects of blasting, provide a cursory review of significant blasting episodes, upon the overall slope stability. If on the other hand blasting is to be limited to surficial, small scale episodes, then the effect on the gross stability would be considered negligible and accordingly, a mining engineers review would not be necessary."

In research and documentation of the previous current and future site blasting program, a statement of record of procedures, magnitude and frequency, was sought from the experienced owner. Please find attached hereto a statement of blasting practices by the long-term quarry owner and operator, Mr. Bill Schmidt, dated December 14, 1992.

Based upon review of Mr. Schmidt's letter, it is the opinion of the undersigned that the stated procedures constitute small scale blasting episodes, and as such their affect upon gross slope stability is, therefore, considered to be negligible. Accordingly, based upon construction of a blasting program utilizing the procedures outlined by Mr. Schmidt, a mining engineer, review will not be necessary.

The questions addressed herein are reportedly the only outstanding geotechnical concerns regarding resolution of CUP-3489-2. It is believed that this report resolves the outstanding concerns. If there are any further review items which must be addressed, please contact me at your earliest convenience so I may expedite their resolution.

Thank you for the opportunity of providing this service.

Respectfully submitted,

PACIFIC MATERIALS LABORATORY

*Douglas C. Papay*  
Douglas C. Papay, GE 664  
Expiration Date 3-31-95



DCP:cmp/bfm  
cc: Addressee(1)  
LBH Eng. (1)  
Ventura County Planning  
Attn: Beth Painter (3)  
Attachment: Enclosure A

PACIFIC MATERIALS LABORATORY, INC.

December 14, 1992

Doug Papay  
Pacific Materials Laboratory, Inc.  
150-B Wood Road  
P.O. Box 91  
Camarillo, California 93011

Dear Doug,

On the matter of Page 21 Item 12 of your Geotechnical Exploration Report, I offer the following information:

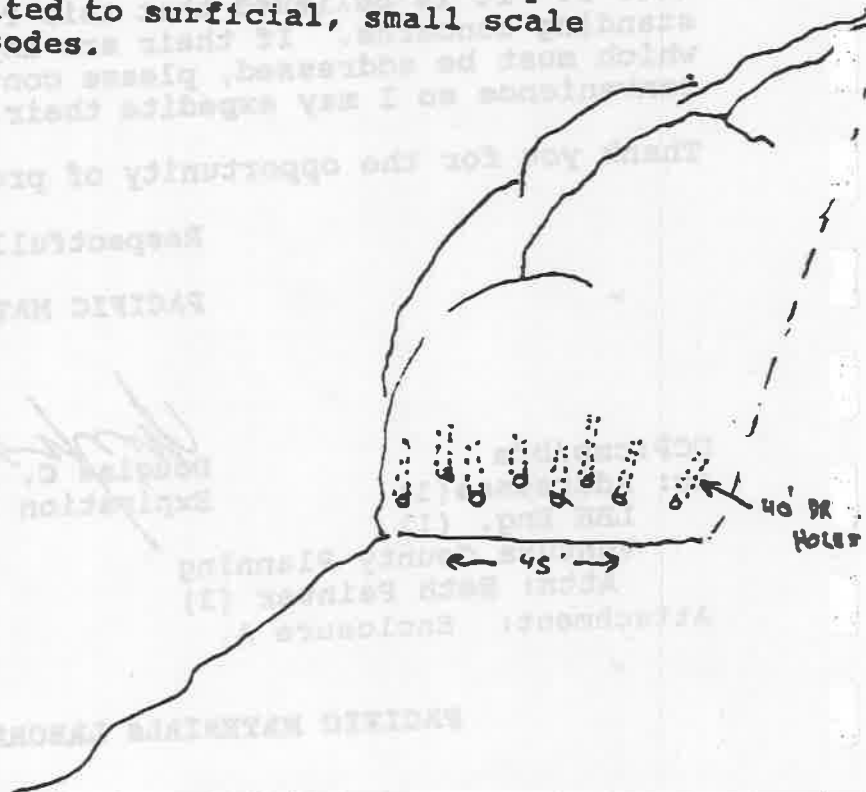
1. Due to the precipitous terrain in the Ojai Quarry, we cannot put off large blasts that could (possibly) effect the gross slope stability.
2. We are limited to blasting the end section (45') in contrast to following along the entire front face (900') and enjoying the economies of a large shot!
3. We construct our work benches from the side so a typical hole pattern would look like this....an end view, so to speak.

So....this is a typical eight hole shot (40' depth) using eight primer caps (electric) and eight boxes of dynamite - each shot definately limited to surficial, small scale episodes.

Sincerely,



Bill Schmidt  
Schmidt Construction, Inc.



## EXCAVATION (CUT) VOLUME

PROJECT: SCHMIDT QUARRY -- PHASE I

W.O. = 1146-04.2

HORIZONTAL SCALE =

50

CLIENT = BILL SCHMIDT

Yardage Factor =

46.2963

DATE = 3/17/93

CONTOUR INTERVAL =

15

BY : G. HOVELL

	CONTOUR ELEVATION	AREA Sq. In.	DOUBLE AREA	VOLUME Cu.Yds.	ACCUMULATED VOLUME (Cu.Yds)
TOP OF CUT =	1605	0.00			
=====			0.09	63	63
	1590	0.09			
			0.38	264	326
	1575	0.29			
			1.17	813	1,139
	1560	0.88			
			2.28	1,583	2,722
	1545	1.40			
			3.66	2,542	5,264
	1530	2.26			
			5.38	3,736	9,000
	1515	3.12			
			6.85	4,757	13,757
	1500	3.73			
			7.93	5,507	19,264
	1485	4.20			
			8.80	6,111	25,375
	1470	4.60			
			9.62	6,681	32,056
	1455	5.02			
			10.58	7,347	39,403
	1440	5.56			
			11.64	8,083	47,486
	1425	6.08			
			12.25	8,507	55,993
	1410	6.17			
			12.48	8,667	64,660
	1395	6.31			
			12.63	8,771	73,431
	1380	6.32			
			13.78	9,569	83,000
	1365	7.46			
			14.67	10,188	93,188
	1350	7.21			
			14.98	10,403	103,590
	1335	7.77			
			15.55	10,799	114,389
	1320	7.78			
			15.84	11,000	125,389
	1305	8.06			
			9.35	0	125,389
CONTOUR -----	1305	1.29			
INTERVAL			2.33	1,079	126,468
CHANGES	1295	1.04			
			2.06	954	127,421

Summary :

Phase I =

143,431 cy

Phase II =

91,538 cy

Phase III =

470,986

Total = 705,955

EARTH QUANTITIES BY THE CONTOUR METHOD -- SCHMIDT QUARRY

1285	1.02			
		1.90	880	128,301
1275	0.88			
		1.71	792	129,093
1265	0.83			
		1.54	713	129,806
1255	0.71			
		1.44	667	130,472
1245	0.73			
		1.24	574	131,046
1235	0.51			
		0.83	384	131,431
1225	0.32			
		0.46	213	131,644
1215	0.14			
		0.56	259	131,903
1205	0.42			
		1.12	519	132,421
1195	0.70			
		2.06	954	133,375
1185	1.36			
		3.38	1,565	134,940
1175	2.02			
		3.77	1,745	136,685
1165	1.75			
		3.22	1,491	138,176
1155	1.47			
		2.87	1,329	139,505
1145	1.40			
		2.75	1,273	140,778
1135	1.35			
		2.53	1,171	141,949
1125	1.18			
		2.19	1,014	142,963
1115	1.01			
		1.01	468	143,431
1105	0.00			

PHASE I YARDAGE = 143,431

## EXCAVATION (CUT) VOLUME

=====

PROJECT: SCHMIDT QUARRY -- PHASE II

W.O. = 1146-04.2 HORIZONTAL SCALE = 50

CLIENT = BILL SCHMIDT Yardage Factor = 46.2963

DATE = 3/17/93 CONTOUR INTERVAL = 30

BY : G. HOVELL

	CONTOUR ELEVATION	AREA Sq. In.	DOUBLE AREA	VOLUME Cu.Yds.	ACCUMULATED VOLUME (Cu.Yds)
TOP OF CUT =	1737	0.00			
=====					
	1724	0.34	0.34	205	205
	1694	1.02	1.36	1,889	2,094
	1694	0.22	1.24	0	2,094
	1664	1.66	1.88	2,611	4,705
	1664	0.79	2.45	0	4,705
	1634	2.79	3.58	4,972	9,677
	1634	1.78	4.57	0	9,677
	1604	4.17	5.95	8,264	17,941
	1604	2.85	7.02	0	17,941
	1574	5.02	7.87	10,931	28,871
	1574	3.67	8.69	0	28,871
	1544	6.00	9.67	13,431	42,302
	1544	4.57	10.57	0	42,302
	1514	6.60	11.17	15,514	57,816
	1514	5.32	11.92	0	57,816
	1484	6.87	12.19	16,931	74,746
	1484	5.10	11.97	0	74,746
	1454	6.99	12.09	16,792	91,538

PHASE II YARDAGE = 91,538

# EARTH QUANTITIES BY THE CONTOUR METHOD

Page 4

## EXCAVATION (CUT) VOLUME

PROJECT: SCHMIDT QUARRY -- PHASE III

W.O. = 1146-04.2 HORIZONTAL SCALE = 50

CLIENT = BILL SCHMIDT Yardage Factor = 46.2963

DATE = 3/17/93 CONTOUR INTERVAL = 30

BY : G. HOVELL

CONTOUR ELEVATION	AREA Sq. In.	DOUBLE AREA	VOLUME Cu.Yds.	ACCUMULATED VOLUME (Cu.Yds)
TOP OF CUT = 1905	0.00			
=====				
1875	1.72	1.72	2,389	2,389
1875	1.72	2.98	0	2,389
1875	1.26	4.96	6,889	9,278
1845	3.70	6.57	0	9,278
1845	2.87	9.66	13,417	22,694
1815	6.79	12.51	0	22,694
1815	5.72	14.66	20,361	43,056
1785	8.94	16.67	0	43,056
1785	7.73	18.38	25,528	68,583
1755	10.65	20.11	0	68,583
1755	9.46	20.83	28,931	97,514
1725	11.37	21.52	0	97,514
1725	10.15	22.16	30,778	128,292
1695	12.01	22.45	0	128,292
1695	10.44	22.28	30,944	159,236
1665	11.84	22.08	0	159,236
1665	10.24	22.00	30,556	189,792
1635	11.76	21.91	0	189,792
1635	10.15	21.23	29,486	219,278
1605	11.08	20.54	0	219,278
1605	9.46	20.45	28,403	247,681
1575	10.99	20.14	0	247,681
1575	9.15	19.41	26,958	274,639

## EARTH QUANTITIES BY THE CONTOUR METHOD

Page 5  
SCHMIDT

1545	10.26	18.40	0	274,639
1545	8.14	17.18	23,861	298,500
1515	9.04	16.11	0	298,500
1515	7.07	14.94	20,750	319,250
1485	7.87	13.79	0	319,250
1485	5.92	12.32	17,111	336,361
1455	6.40	10.72	0	336,361
1455	4.32	16.20	22,500	358,861
1425	11.88	21.03	0	358,861
1425	9.15	18.42	25,583	384,444
1395	9.27	16.43	0	384,444
1395	7.16	13.60	18,889	403,333
1365	6.44	10.55	0	403,333
1365	4.11	9.21	12,792	416,125
1335	5.10	7.60	0	416,125
1335	2.50	11.19	15,542	431,667
1305	8.69	15.16	0	431,667
1305	6.47	12.22	16,972	448,639
1275	5.75	10.22	0	448,639
1275	4.47	8.24	11,444	460,083
1245	3.77	6.65	0	460,083
1245	2.88	6.01	8,347	468,431
1215	3.13	4.97	0	468,431
1215	1.84	1.84	2,556	470,986
1185	0.00			

PHASE III YARDAGE = 470,986



**RESPONSE TO COMMENTS**

**SCHMIDT ROCK QUARRY  
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT  
STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NUMBER 89032904**

**PREPARED FOR:**

**COUNTY OF VENTURA  
800 SOUTH VICTORIA AVENUE  
VENTURA, CALIFORNIA 93009**

**PREPARED BY:**

**EDAW, INC.  
1920 MAIN STREET, SUITE 450  
IRVINE, CALIFORNIA 92714  
(714) 660-8044**

**SEPTEMBER 1, 1993**



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

I.	INTRODUCTION .....	1
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III.	COMMENTS .....	3
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V.	ERRATA TO DRAFT EIR .....	34

APPENDIX A - (Appendix D to the EIR)

## I. INTRODUCTION

This document serves as the Response to Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Schmidt Rock Quarry CUP - 3489 (MOD2). This document contains all information available in the public record related to the Draft EIR as of June 2, 1993 and responds to comments in accordance with Section 15088 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines.

This document contains five sections. In addition to this Introduction, these sections are Public Participation and Review, Comments, Responses to Comments, and Errata to the Draft EIR.

The Public Participation section outlines the various methods the County of Ventura has used to provide public review and solicit input on the Draft EIR. The Comments section contains those written comments received from agencies, groups, organizations, and individuals as of June 2, 1993. The Response to Comments section contains responses to each comment. The Errata to the Draft EIR is provided to show corrections of minor errors and inconsistencies in the Draft EIR text.

It is the intent of the County of Ventura to include this document in the official public record related to the Draft EIR. Based on the information contained in the public record, the decision makers will be provided with an accurate and complete record of all information related to the environmental consequences of the project.

## II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND REVIEW

The County of Ventura notified all responsible and trustee agencies, interest groups, organizations, and individuals that a Draft EIR had been completed for the proposed project. The County also used several methods to solicit input during the preparation, distribution, and review period of the Draft EIR. The following is a list of actions taken during the preparation, distribution, and review of the Draft EIR.

1. The Notice of Preparation (NOP) was received by the State Clearinghouse on March 27, 1989. The State Clearinghouse assigned Clearinghouse Number 89032904 to the proposed project.
2. The NOP was distributed by the State Clearinghouse to all responsible and trustee agencies on March 27, 1989 for a 30-day public review. Copies of the comments received on the NOP and responses to these comments were included in the Draft EIR as Appendix A.
3. During the preparation of the Draft EIR, all public and quasi-public institutions, agencies, and companies serving the site were contacted. Copies of their responses were included in the Draft EIR as Appendix A.
4. A Notice of Completion (NOC) and copies of the Draft EIR were filed with the State Clearinghouse on April 9, 1993. The Draft EIR and NOC were distributed to agencies, groups, organizations, and individuals. A copy of the NOC and the State Clearinghouse distribution list is available for review and inspection at the County of Ventura, 800 South Victoria Avenue, Ventura, California 93009.
5. An official forty-five (45) day public review period for the Draft EIR was established by the State Clearinghouse. It began on April 9, 1993 and ended on May 26, 1993. Public comment letters were accepted by the County of Ventura through June 2, 1993.

### III. COMMENTS

Copies of all written comments received as of June 2, 1993 are contained in this section of the document. All comments have been numbered and are listed on the following pages. All comments from letters received have been retyped verbatim in a comment - response format for clarity and provided in Section IV. Response to Comments.

Some comments do not address the completeness or adequacy of the Draft EIR, do not raise significant environmental issues, or request additional information. A substantive response to such comments is not appropriate within the context of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Such comments are responded to with a "comment acknowledged" reference. This indicates that the comment will be forwarded to all appropriate decision makers for their review and consideration. In accordance with Section 15088 of the CEQA Guidelines, this document contains responses to each comment which raised an environmental issue.

**SCHMIDT ROCK QUARRY EIR  
LIST OF COMMENTS**

**WRITTEN COMMENTS**

**COMMENT/RESPONSE SERIES**

- |   |           |
|---|-----------|
| 1. Ms. Beth Painter<br>Planning Division<br>County of Ventura<br>800 South Victoria Avenue, L #1740<br>Ventura, CA 93009  | CVPD 1-14 |
| 2. Mr. Jim Fisher<br>Public Works Agency<br>County of Ventura<br>800 South Victoria Avenue<br>Ventura, California 93009   | CVPWA 1-9 |
| 3. Mr. Stephen E. Oliva<br>Division of Mines and Geology<br>Department of Conservation<br>Office of Governmental and<br>Environmental Relations                     | DMG 1-14  |
| 4. Mr. Brent Backus<br>Air Pollution Control District<br>County of Ventura<br>800 South Victoria Avenue, L #1740<br>Ventura, California 93009                       | APCD 1-2  |
| 5. Mr. Wilford Melton<br>California State Department of<br>Transportation<br>District 7   | DOT 1-2   |
| 6. Mr. Fred Boroumand<br>Public Works Agency - Transportation<br>Department<br>County of Ventura<br>800 South Victoria Avenue, L #1740<br>Ventura, California 93009 | CVPWA2 1  |
| 7. Environmental Report Review<br>Committee<br>County of Ventura<br>800 South Victoria Avenue, L #1740<br>Ventura, California 93009                                 | ERRC 1    |

COUNTY OF VENTURA  
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AGENCY  
PLANNING DIVISION

M E M O R A N D U M

April 26, 1993

TO: ERRC MEMBERS

FROM: BETH PAINTER, PLANNING DIVISION *BP*

SUBJECT: COMMENTS TO DRAFT EIR FOR SCHMIDT QUARRY, CUP-3489-2

I have requested that the consultant for the above referenced DEIR make text changes on the following pages. Xerox copies of all pages requiring changes have been mailed directly to the consultant. Changes which involve the insertion of new information are described below:

CVPD-1

PAGE NUMBER

PROPOSED TEXT CHANGE

54, Paragraph 7

Provide references for the studies mentioned in the last paragraph or rewrite the paragraph

CVPD-2

Exhibit 17

Highlight the location of the residences in the foreground who can see the project site. This will visually demonstrate that a very small area within the foreground actually can see the site.

CVPD-3

59, SUMMARY

Include a discussion in the Summary Section which explains that the General Plan provides the ability to make overriding considerations for discretionary development which would significantly degrade visual resources; therefore this impact is not inconsistent with General Plan Policy. The Scenic Resources section of the General Plan should be inserted for reference in the Appendix.

CVPD-4

61

Expand the discussion under the heading of "Level of Significance" to explain that even though only a small percentage of those viewers in the foreground and middle ground will be impacted, this impact remains as significant and unavoidable. Otherwise it is questionable as to whether or not this impact is significant.

CVPD-5

The following pages require minor text changes which involve no new information.

<u>PAGE NUMBER</u>	<u>PROPOSED TEXT CHANGE</u>	
3, Paragraph 4	Public Works Administration should read Public Works Agency	CVPD-6
4, Paragraph 1	requesting expansion should read requesting continuation of the existing operation and expansion	CVPD-7
4, Paragraph 1	Public Works Administration should read Public Works Agency	CVPD-8
7, last line	Conditional Use Permit should read Conditional Use Permit Modification	CVPD-9
12, item 1.	Geology/Soils Mitigation Measure 1: backcut slopes shall be limited to a maximum of 20 feet should read backcut slopes shall be limited to a maximum of 30 feet.	CVPD-10
18-21	Alternatives - Summary of Impacts: Proposed Project Impacts heading should read Proposed Project	CVPD-11
22, Paragraph 4	north and east should read east and north/east	CVPD-12
27, Paragraph 2	Sentences 2 and 3 should be combined to read: Significant cuts into the natural hillside within the quarry area have been made as a result of the mining activity and has resulted in unstable and unsafe hillside slopes on the parcel.	CVPD-13
29, Paragraph 1	proposed continuation should read proposed 9 acre expansion	CVPD-14

COUNTY OF VENTURA  
PUBLIC WORKS AGENCY  
DEVELOPMENT & INSPECTION SERVICES  
800 South Victoria Avenue  
Ventura, CA 93009  
(805) 654-2030

DATE: May 5, 1993

TO: Rich Guske

FROM: Jim Fisher

SUBJECT: GEOLOGY & SOILS REVIEW:  
Draft Environmental Impact Report

REFERENCE: CUP3489 MD2/Schmidt Quarry [Hwy 33]

Ref: EDAW, Inc. (1993), Draft Environmental Impact  
Report, Schmidt Rock Quarry, CUP-3489 (MOD 2),  
dated March 19.

I have completed a review of the referenced DEIR from a geology and soils standpoint. I find the document straight-forward and complete, with minor exceptions that can be addressed fairly readily. CVPWA-1

1. Page 3: "Public Works Administration" should be Public Works Agency. Same comment, page 4. CVPWA-2
2. Page 12: General Summary of Impacts, Biology/Sedimentation. Measure no. 3 states, "Prior to issuance of grading permits..." There will be no grading permits issued for the project. CVPWA-3
3. Exhibits 8 and 8A indicate a 30-foot bench height. The consultant report, Appendix C, Page 18 and the Summary of Mitigation Measures, Page 12 indicate a 20-foot bench height. CVPWA-4
4. Page 50: The annual adjustment of the reclamation financial assurances also reflects any areas successfully reclaimed in the previous year. CVPWA-5
5. Page 69: Local Geology. The western Ventura Basin proper was not present in Eocene time, as it didn't begin to form until the Early Miocene. CVPWA-6
6. Page 76: Slope Stability, second paragraph. A "proposed 9 acre site" is referred to. A reference to an Exhibit or figure should be provided. Same comment, page 77. CVPWA-7



Page 2

7. Page 78: Mitigation Measures, no.1. Same comment as no.3, above. CVPWA-8
8. A Mitigation Measure should be provided to address the relationship of the final, mined configuration of the site and the site boundarys. The concern is with respect to slope setbacks, rock-bolted blocks, slopes mined to a stable configuration or other means to assure that no unstable or daylighted blocks are left perched at the top of slope. CVPWA-9



Jim Fisher  
Engineering Geologist

END OF TEXT

## M E M O R A N D U M

To: Mr. Douglas P. Wheeler  
Secretary for Resources

Date: May 13, 1993

Ms. Beth Painter  
County of Ventura  
800 South Victoria Avenue  
Ventura, CA 93009

From: Department of Conservation - Office of Governmental and Environmental Relations

Subject: Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the  
Schmidt Rock Quarry CUP 3489. SCH #89032904

The Mined-Land Reclamation Project staff of the Department of Conservation's Division of Mines and Geology (DMG) has reviewed DEIR and the reclamation plan for the Schmidt Rock Quarry CUP # 3489 (MOD 2) located east of Highway 33 near Matilija Road. The following comments are offered to assist in your review of this project.

The Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1975 (SMARA - Public Resources Code (PRC) §§ 2710 et seq.) and the State Mining and Geology Board regulations for surface mining and reclamation practice (California Code of Regulations (CCR), Title 14, Chapter 8, Article 1, §§ 3500 et seq.) require that specific items be addressed or included in reclamation plans. For all reclamation plans approved or substantially amended after January 15, 1993, reclamation must be in conformance with the recently adopted Article 9 Reclamation Standards (copies enclosed). The following items were either not included or not sufficiently addressed in the documents we reviewed.

DMG-1

Hydrology and Water Quality

(Refer to SMARA (PRC) Sections 2772(h)(1), (h)(2), 2773(a), CCR Sections 3503(a)(3), (b)(1), (d), 3706(c), (d), (e), (f), (g), 3710 (b), (c), 3711(e), 3712)

- o The DEIR evaluates the potential impacts from expansion of the Schmidt Rock Quarry mining operations. Included as part of the DEIR are several plan map sheets and map sheet notes which describe the proposed reclamation of the mine site. As presently written, the DEIR with the included reclamation plan map sheets constitutes the reclamation plan. Apparently, no stand-alone reclamation plan will be prepared. As presently written, the DEIR provides that mitigation measures for erosion and sediment control will be developed at a future date. We recommend that a stand-alone reclamation plan be prepared and that a site-specific erosion control and water quality monitoring plan be included in the document that is approved as the final reclamation plan. If a storm water pollution prevention

DMG-2

plan for the mine site will be prepared for the Regional Water Quality Control Board, this plan might also be used to fulfill SMARA requirements.

DMG-2  
(cont'd)

- o The DEIR requires that the quarry operator recontour the area of interface between the quarry and Matilija Creek to provide protection for the riparian habitat and to prevent future slope failures from impacting the stream. CCR Sections 3700 (c), (d), (e), and (g) require that the reclamation plan discuss methods for erosion and sediment control necessary to minimize siltation of watercourses. We recommend that the proposed future recontouring design for Matilija Creek be included in the reclamation plan and that site-specific monitoring and mitigation standards be developed to evaluate the success of the recontouring.

DMG-3

### Geotechnical Requirements

(Refer to CCR Sections 3502(b)(3), (b)(4), 3704 (a), (b), d, e)

- o CCR Section 3704(d) requires that final reclaimed fill slopes not exceed 2 horizontal to 1 vertical (2H:1V) except when site-specific engineering analysis demonstrates that the proposed final slopes will have a minimum slope stability factor of safety that is suitable for the proposed end use, and when the proposed final slope can be successfully revegetated. The DEIR indicates that the waste fill material for the mine site has been placed adjacent to Matilija Creek and has caused degradation of the stream. Item 2.0 of the Reclamation Notes, Exhibit 8A, attached to the reclamation plan maps states that all existing quarry tailing fill slopes shall be verified to be stable or reworked using certified fill to a stable 1:1 slope, as shown in Detail (H). Since Detail (H) states that final reclamation fill slopes will be at a 2H:1V gradient, Reclamation Notes Item 2.0 of Exhibit 8A should be corrected to state that final fill slopes will be at a 2H:1V gradient unless engineering slope stability analysis demonstrate that they will be stable at a steeper gradient and successfully revegetated.

DMG-4

- o The DEIR indicates that the No Project Alternative would not allow for stabilization of the existing over-steepened cut slopes and that the potential impacts to Matilija Creek would be greater than the proposed expanded mining alternative. However, the attached project geotechnical report recommends that the unstable slopes, including those in the northwestern portion of the mine site, either be removed or buttressed to prevent potential translational movement. The DEIR does not provide an evaluation of the potential feasibility and associated impacts of buttressing the existing oversteepened and unstable slopes and continuing mining within the existing approved permit area. We recommend that this alternative be included in the DEIR.

DMG-5

Environmental Setting and  
Protection of Fish and Wildlife Habitat

(Refer to CCR Sections 3502(b)(1), 3503(c), 3703 (a), (b), (c), 3704(g),  
3705(a), 3706(a), (f), (g), 3710(a), (b), (c), (d), 3713(b))

- o CCR Section 3502 (b) (1) requires that the reclamation plan include a description of the environmental setting of the mine site. The DEIR provides a Biological Assessment of the proposed project site, but does not include sufficient information to fully ascertain the impact of mining on the environment. A full description of the site is necessary for the following three reasons: 1) to document baseline conditions, 2) to aid in development and evaluation of an appropriate revegetation plan, and 3) to evaluate purported mining and reclamation impacts on wildlife habitat.

DMG-6

The description of the environmental setting should include a survey for sensitive species conducted at the appropriate time for observing each species. The survey conducted for the Biological Assessment in the DEIR was conducted on one day. A survey conducted for one day is not sufficient to observe every species, especially migratory wildlife or early blooming plants.

DMG-7

In addition, the description should include percent cover or density, and diversity measurements for each of the vegetation types that will be re-created on the reclaimed landform. The Biological Assessment listed species but not their percent cover or densities. Such quantitative data can also be used to guide the design of an appropriate revegetation plan.

DMG-8

Also prior to any site disturbance, the purported lack of impacts to sensitive, rare, threatened, and endangered plants and animals should be verified. The California Department of Fish and Game Natural Diversity Data Base reports the following sensitive species in the vicinity of the project:

DMG-9

California Condor <i>Gymnogyps californianus</i>	Federal: Endangered State: Endangered
Ojai Fritillary <i>Fritillaria ojaiensis</i>	Federal: Category 2 CNPS List: 1B
Least Bells Vireo <i>Vireo belli pusillus</i>	Federal: Endangered State: Endangered

The revegetation of the site should be designed to help lessen impacts to unique species. Without the knowledge of which species occur on the site, the revegetation design cannot target those species. We recommend that a survey be conducted at the appropriate time for these sensitive species.

DMG-10

Resoiling and Revegetation

Refer to SMARA Section 2773(a), CCR Sections 3503(a)(1), (f), (g), 3704(c), 3705(a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (f), (g), (h), (i), (j), (k), (l), (m), 3707(b), (d), 3711(a), (b), (c), (d), (e)

The DEIR does not address the reclamation of the biotic resources on the proposed project site. We recommend that the Final EIR include an approved reclamation plan as required by SMARA.

- c CCR Section 3503(f) addresses resoiling and CCR Section 3707 and 3711 address protection and distribution of topsoil. The DEIR does not address these sections. Resoiling and topsoil management are critical components of revegetation. We recommend that the DEIR adequately address the aforementioned sections.

DMG-11

- c CCR Section 3503(g) requires that appropriate species be used for revegetating a site and CCR Section 3705 establishes performance standards for revegetation. The DEIR did not address revegetation of the site. We recommend that the DEIR adequately address site revegetation as required in the aforementioned sections.

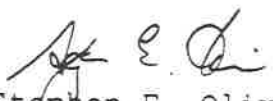
DMG-12

- o CCR Section 3705 (c) and (d) require compacted soils on all access roads, haul roads, and other traffic routes be reclaimed, stripped of any remaining roadbase materials, prepared in accordance with subsection 3705(g), covered with suitable growth media or topsoil, and revegetated. The DEIR did not address the reclamation of compacted roads. We recommend that the DEIR address these sections.

DMG-13

If you have any questions on these comments or require any assistance with other mine reclamation issues, please contact James Pompy, Mined-Land Reclamation Project Manager, at (916) 323-8565.

DMG-14

  
Stephen E. Oliva  
Acting Environmental Program Coordinator

Attachments

MAY-24-93 MON 9:50

RECEIVED

MAY 24 1993

P. 01

DATE

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FAX

TO Sally Salavea

CO. EDAW, INC.

FAX# (714) 660-1046

FROM BETH Painter

AVERY FX-10

EDAW, INC., IRVINE, CA

COUNTY OF VENTURA

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AGENCY/APCD

Memorandum

TO: Beth Painter, Planning

DATE: May 20, 1993

FROM: Brent Backus, APCD

SUBJECT: Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the Schmidt Rock Quarry (CUP 3489-2)

Air Pollution Control District staff has reviewed the subject DEIR and offers the following comments:

- 1) The DEIR should quantify reactive organic compounds (ROC) and oxides of nitrogen (NOx) emissions, as well as, particulate matter (PM10) for the project. ROC and NOx emissions would occur from excavation of rock, transportation of rock to market, and employee vehicles. Total project emissions should be based on the extraction of 50,000 tons of rock per year.

CVADCD  
-1

The project is located in the Los Padres National Forest. The Los Padres National Forest is considered an attainment area for the National Ambient Air Quality Standards. However, the project is adjacent to the non-attainment area of Ventura County. Therefore, a discussion of regional air quality should be included into the EIR.

- 2) The following are recommended permit conditions for the project:

- A) Site access roads shall be watered or otherwise treated with environmentally-safe dust palliatives to minimize fugitive dust during operation of the facility.
- B) Excavation activities shall use new technologies to control ozone precursor emissions as they become available and feasible.
- C) All diesel-powered vehicles and equipment shall be operated with fuel injection timing retarded 4 degrees from the manufacture's recommendation, and all engines shall be properly operated and maintained.
- D) All diesel fuel shall be 0.05 weight percent sulfur or less.

CVADCD  
-2

If I can be of further assistance, please feel free to contact me at 805/645-1428.

# Memorandum

To : Mr. Tom Loftus  
State Clearinghouse  
1400 Tenth Street, Room 121  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Date May 20, 1993

File No. IGR/CEQA/DEIR  
Schmidt Rock Quarry  
expansion of quarry  
Maricopa Highway  
Vic. VEN-33-15.44

Wilford Melton -District 7

From : DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Subject : Project Review Comments

SCH NO. 89032904

Caltrans has reviewed the above-referenced document proposing the expansion of the Schmidt Rock Quarry from 4 to 13 acres. Based on the information received, we find no apparent impact on the State Transportation at this time.

However any transport of heavy construction equipment which requires the use of oversize transport vehicles on State Freeways/Highways will require a Caltrans transportation permit. We recommend that truck trips be limited to off-peak commute periods. Also, transport of hazardous waste shall conform to all applicable State regulations and standards.

If you have any questions regarding this response, please call me at (213) 897-1338.

Original Signed By

WILFORD MELTON  
Senior Transportation Planner  
IGR/CEQA Coordinator  
Advance Planning Branch

cc: Beth Painter, County of Ventura  
800 S. Victoria Ave., Ventura, CA 93009

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COUNTY OF VENTURA  
**PUBLIC WORKS AGENCY**  
Transportation Department

**MEMORANDUM**

May 17, 1993

**TO:** DEVELOPMENT AND INSPECTION SERVICES

**FROM:** Fred Boroumand *FB*

**SUBJECT:** EIR CUP 3489 (MOD 2) - Highway 33  
Unincorporated Area of Ojai

We have reviewed the Draft Environmental Impact Report (D.E.I.R.) for the expansion of Schmidt Rock Quarry located in the unincorporated area of Ojai.

CVPWA2  
-1

We find that the project will have no significant impact on the roadways in the unincorporated area of the County. However, Highway 33 is under the jurisdiction of the State Department of Transportation, therefore this DEIR should also be reviewed by Caltrans.

The DEIR states on Page 81 that the project is a continuation of an existing quarry operation and there will be no increase in truck traffic, if the project is approved. Therefore, approval of the project would not worsen traffic.

CVPWA2  
-2

FB/DF.010:am

c: Steve Manz



#### **IV. RESPONSE TO COMMENTS**

The Draft EIR for the Schmidt Rock Quarry CUP - 3489 (MOD 2) was distributed to responsible agencies, interest groups, organizations, and individuals. The report was made available for public review and comment for a period of forty-five (45) days. The public review period for the Draft EIR established by the State Clearinghouse commenced on April 9, 1993 and expired on May 26, 1993. The County of Ventura accepted comment letters through June 2, 1993. Comments and responses have been correspondingly numbered. Responses are presented for each comment which raised a significant environmental issue.

Several comments do not address the completeness or adequacy of the Draft EIR, do not raise significant environmental issues, or request additional information. A substantive response to such comments is not appropriate within the context of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Such comments are responded to with a "comment acknowledged" reference. This indicates that the comment will be forwarded to all appropriate decision makers for their review and consideration.

## WRITTEN COMMENTS AND RESPONSES

### COUNTY OF VENTURA PLANNING DEPARTMENT (BETH PAINTER, PLANNER)(CVPD)

#### CVPD 1 Comment

I have requested that the consultant for the above referenced DEIR make text changes on the following pages. Xerox copies of all pages requiring changes have been mailed directly to the consultant. Changes which involve the insertion of new information are described below:

#### CVPD 1 Response

The comment is acknowledged and will be forwarded to the appropriate decision makers.

#### CVPD 2 Comment

Page Number 54, Paragraph 7 - Provide references for the studiies mentioned in the last paragraph or rewrite the paragraph

#### CVPD 2 Response

Page 54, Paragraph 7 has been revised to read:

~~Studies conducted in Ventura County in the past have demonstrated that substantial concern with visual resources exists and preservation of visual resources is very important. By assuming that this attitude still prevails, The view area from the communities surrounding the proposed project site can be judged to have~~ has a high sensitivity level (sensitivity level 1).

Refer to Section V. Errata to Draft EIR for revised text.

#### CVPD 3 Comment

Exhibit 17 - Highlight the location of the residences in the foreground who can see the project site. This will visually demonstrate that a very small area within the foreground actually can see the site.

#### CVPD 3 Response

Page 57, Paragraph 2 has been revised to read:

Immediately surrounding the 9 acre project site are 7 residences to the north and 29 to the south within the foreground view zone which are on the opposite side of intervening ridgelines. These ridgelines visually seclude the proposed project site from surrounding areas to a great degree. Due to the topography of the area, neither

the existing nor proposed quarry is completely visible beyond 2.5 miles from the site. *Exhibit 17A indicates a view analysis from local residences. The dotted pattern on Exhibit 17A depicts the areas within the foreground, south of the project site, where there is a view of the site.*

Refer to Section V. Errata to Draft EIR for the added Exhibit 17A. Exhibit 17A has been added to highlight the location of the residences in the foreground who can see the project site.

#### **CVPD 4 Comment**

Page 59, SUMMARY - Include a discussion in the Summary Section which explains that the General Plan provides the ability to make overriding considerations for discretionary development which would significantly degrade visual resources; therefore this impact is not inconsistent with General Plan Policy. The Scenic Resources section of the General Plan should be inserted for reference in the Appendix

#### **CVPD 4 Response**

Page 52 of the Draft EIR has been revised to read:

*The County General Plan contains a Scenic Resources section which discusses the visual beauty and aesthetic quality of the natural landscape in Ventura County. The Scenic Resources section contains Goals, Policies, and Programs applicable to scenic resources within the County. According to Policy 1.7.2.4, "Discretionary development which would significantly degrade visual resources or significantly alter or obscure public views of visual resources shall be prohibited unless no feasible mitigation measures are available and the decision-making body determines there are overriding considerations." Please refer to Appendix D of this EIR for the Scenic Resource Policy.*

Refer to Section V. Errata to Draft EIR for revised text.

Page 60, SUMMARY of the Draft EIR has been revised to read:

*The General Plan Scenic Resources section provides the County with the ability to make overriding considerations for discretionary development which would significantly degrade visual resources; therefore, the project-specific impact to visual resources is not inconsistent with General Plan Policy.*

Refer to Section V. Errata to Draft EIR for revised text. Appendix D Scenic Resource Policy has been added to the Final EIR Appendices.

### **CVPD 5 Comment**

Page 61 - Expand the discussion under the heading of "Level of Significance" to explain that even though only a small percentage of those viewers in the foreground and middle ground will be impacted, this impact remains as significant and unavoidable. Otherwise it is questionable as to whether or not this impact is significant.

### **CVPD 5 Response**

Page 61 Level of Significance section of the Draft EIR has been revised to read:

Project-specific and cumulative impacts will be mitigated to a less than significant level for viewers in the background view zone. Implementation of mitigation measures which have been incorporated into this EIR will not mitigate project-specific and cumulative impacts to a less than significant level for those viewers in the foreground and middle ground view zone. *Although only a small percentage of those viewers in the foreground and middle ground will be impacted*, this impact remains as significant and unavoidable.

Refer to Section V. Errata to the Draft EIR for revised text.

### **CVPD 6 Comment**

The following pages require minor text changes which involve no new information.

Page 3, Paragraph 4 - Public Works Administration should read Public Works Agency

### **CVPD 6 Response**

Page 3, Paragraph 4 has been revised to read:

The plan was subsequently refused by the Public Works ~~Administration~~ Agency.

Refer to Section V. Errata to the Draft EIR for revised text.

### **CVPD 7 Comment**

Page 4, Paragraph 1 - requesting expansion should read requesting continuation of the existing operation and expansion

### **CVPD 7 Response**

Page 4, Paragraph 1 has been revised to read:

An application for a Major Modification was submitted on March 17, 1986 requesting *continuation of the existing operation and* expansion of quarry operational area.

Refer to Section V. Errata to the Draft EIR for revised text.

**CVPD 8 Comment**

Page 4, Paragraph 1 - Public Works Administration should read Public Works Agency

**CVPD 8 Response**

Page 4, Paragraph 1 has been revised to read:

This application remained incomplete for several months while the applicant was responding to Public Works ~~Administration~~ Agency (PWA) requirements.

Refer to Section V. Errata to the Draft EIR for revised text.

**CVPD 9 Comment**

Page 7, last line - Conditional Use Permit should read Conditional Use Permit Modification

**CVPD 9 Response**

Page 7, last line has been revised to read:

- Approval of Conditional Use Permit *Modification*

Refer to Section V. Errata to the Draft EIR for revised text.

**CVPD 10 Comment**

Page 12, item 1 - Geology/Soils Mitigation Measure 1: backcut slopes shall be limited to a maximum of 20 feet should read backcut slopes shall be limited to a maximum of 30 feet.

**CVPD 10 Response**

Page 12, Mitigation Measure 1 under the Geology/Soils section has been revised to read:

During quarry operations, bench backcut slopes shall be limited to a maximum of ~~20~~ 30 feet in vertical height and laid back at a temporary repose not to exceed 60 degrees.

Refer to Section V. Errata to the Draft EIR for revised text.

#### **CVPD 11 Comment**

Pages 18-21 - Alternatives - Summary of Impacts: Proposed Project Impacts heading should read Proposed Project

#### **CVPD 11 Response**

Pages 18-21 have been revised to read Proposed Project instead of Proposed Project Impacts.

Refer to Section V. Errata to the Draft EIR for revised text.

#### **CVPD 12 Comment**

Page 22, Paragraph 4 - north and east should read east and north/east

#### **CVPD 12 Response**

Page 22, Paragraph 4 has been revised to read:

The areas surrounding the subject site include the Los Padres National Forest to the ~~north east~~ and *north/east*.

Refer to Section V. Errata to the Draft EIR for revised text.

#### **CVPD 13 Comment**

Page 27, Paragraph 2 - Sentences 2 and 3 should be combined to read: Significant cuts into the natural hillside within the quarry area have been made as a result of the mining activity and has resulted in unstable and unsafe hillside slopes on the parcel.

#### **CVPD 13 Response**

Page 27, Paragraph 2 has been revised to read:

Significant cuts into the natural hillside within the quarry area have been made as a result of the mining activity. ~~Previous mining activities at the existing quarry have~~ *and has* resulted in unstable and unsafe hillside slopes on the parcel.

Refer to Section V. Errata to the Draft EIR for revised text.

#### **CVPD 14 Comment**

Page 29, Paragraph 1 - proposed continuation should read proposed 9 acre expansion

## **CVPD 14 Response**

Page 29, Paragraph 1 has been revised to read:

Exhibits 7 and 8 illustrate the reclamation plan for the proposed ~~continuation~~ 9 acre expansion area.

## **COUNTY OF VENTURA PUBLIC WORKS AGENCY, DEVELOPMENT AND INSPECTION SERVICES (JIM FISHER)**

### **CVPWA 1 Comment**

I have completed a review of the referenced DEIR from a geology and soils standpoint. I find the document straight-forward and complete, with minor exceptions that can be addressed fairly readily.

### **CVPWA 1 Response**

The comment is acknowledged and will be forwarded to the appropriate decision makers.

### **CVPWA 2 Comment**

1. Page 3: "Public Works Administration" should be Public Works Agency. Same comment, page 4.

### **CVPWA 2 Response**

Page 3 has been revised to read:

The Plan was subsequently refused by the Public Works ~~Administration~~ Agency.

Page 4 has been revised to read:

This application remained incomplete for several months while the applicant was responding to Public Works ~~Administration~~ Agency (PWA) requirements.

Refer to Section V. Errata to the Draft EIR for revised text.

### **CVPWA 3 Comment**

2. Page 12: General Summary of Impacts, Biology/Sedimentation. Measure no. 3 states, "Prior to issuance of grading permits..." There will be no grading permits issued for the project.

### **CVPWA 3 Response**

Page 12: General Summary of Impacts, Biology/Sedimentation Mitigation Measure 3 has been revised to read:

Prior to issuance of ~~grading permits~~ a *Zoning Clearance*, the project engineer shall develop and implement erosion and siltation control plans, during all phases of quarry operations, to prevent erosion and siltation resulting in the transport of sediment into the drainages onsite and downstream to Matilija Creek where it may adversely impact riparian and aquatic habitat areas.

Refer to Section V. Errata to the Draft EIR for revised text.

#### **CVPWA 4 Comment**

3. Exhibits 8 and 8A indicate a 30-foot bench height. The consultant report, Appendix C, Page 18 and the Summary of Mitigation Measures, Page 12 indicate a 20-foot bench height.

#### **CVPWA 4 Response**

Page 12 Mitigation Measure 1 under Geology/Soils section has been revised to read:

During quarry operations, bench backcut slopes shall be limited to a maximum of 20 30 feet in vertical height and laid back at a temporary repose not to exceed 60 degrees.

Refer to Section V. Errata to the Draft EIR for revised text.

#### **CVPWA 5 Comment**

4. Page 50: The annual adjustment of the reclamation financial assurances also reflects any areas successfully reclaimed in the previous year.

#### **CVPWA 5 Response**

Page 50 of the Draft EIR has been revised to read:

3. The operator must provide a financial assurance to cover the costs of reclamation to the DMG and local lead agency that can be adjusted annually to reflect the acreage of land to be reclaimed *and any areas successfully reclaimed in the previous year.*

Refer to Section V. Errata to Draft EIR for revised text.

#### **CVPWA 6 Comment**

5. Page 69: Local Geology. The western Ventura Basin proper was not present in Eocene time, as it didn't begin to form until the Early Miocene.

#### **CVPWA 6 Response**

Page 69: Local Geology has been revised to read:



The rocks of the area were deposited in the western Ventura Basin during ~~Eocene~~ early Miocene time.

#### **CVPWA 7 Comment**

6. Page 76: Slope Stability, second paragraph. A "proposed 9 acre site" is referred to. A reference to an Exhibit or figure should be provided. Same comment, page 77.

#### **CVPWA 7 Response**

Page 76: Slope Stability, second paragraph has been revised to read:

The potential of rock toppling was also noted on the proposed 9 acre site as indicated by several upslope boulders which are currently being undermined by ongoing quarry activity. *Please refer to Exhibit 2 in the Project Description section of the EIR for the location of the proposed 9 acre site and to Exhibit 5 which depicts the existing and proposed grades.*

Refer to Section V. Errata to Draft EIR for revised text.

#### **CVPWA 8 Comment**

7. Page 78: Mitigation Measures, no.1. Same comment as no.3, above.

#### **CVPWA 8 Response**

Page 78: Mitigation Measure 1 states a 30-foot bench height. This is the correct bench height.

#### **CVPWA 9 Comment**

A Mitigation Measure should be provided to address the relationship of the final, mined configuration of the site and the site boundaries. The concern is with respect to slope setbacks, rock-bolted blocks, slopes mined to a stable configuration or other means to assure that no unstable or daylighted blocks are left perched at the top of slope.

#### **CVPWA 9 Response**

As indicated on page 20 Item 8 of the original July 25, 1988 geotechnical exploration report prepared by Pacific Materials Laboratory, Inc., rock bolted blocks would not apply to Phase 3. Final quarry slope has an overall slope of 37 degrees, and rock bolts are intended for blocks which are daylighted in excess of 44 degrees. Please refer to Appendix C for a discussion of this issue.

**DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION DIVISION OF MINES AND GEOLOGY (MR. DOUGLAS P. WHEELER)**

**DMG 1 Comment**

The Mined-Land Reclamation Project staff of the Department of Conservation's Division of Mines and Geology (DMG) has reviewed DEIR and the reclamation plan for the Schmidt Rock Quarry (CUP # 3489 (MOD 2) located east of Highway 33 near Matilija Road. The following comments are offered to assist in your review of this project.

The Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1975 (SMARA - Public Resources Code (PRC) §§ 2710 et seq.) and the State Mining and Geology Board regulations for surface mining and reclamation practice (California Code of Regulations (CCR), Title 14, Chapter 8, Article 1, §§ 3500 et seq.) require that specific items be addressed or included in reclamation plans. For all reclamation plans approved or substantially amended after January 15, 1993, reclamation must be in conformance with the recently adopted Article 9 Reclamation Standards (copies enclosed). The following items were either not included or not sufficiently addressed in the documents we reviewed.

**DMG 1 Response**

The comment is acknowledged and will be forwarded to the appropriate decision makers.

The purpose of the Draft EIR is to provide an overall analysis of potential impacts associated with implementation of the proposed project. The mitigation measures developed for this project will reduce all geological and biological project related and cumulative impacts to a less than significant level. Your concerns are not related to the adequacy of the proposed mitigation measures, but rather focus on the development of a final Reclamation Plan. The Reclamation Plan contained in the Draft EIR, while sufficient for determining County or State standards (SMARA) for project approval.

However, the applicant will be required to prepare such plan prior to proceeding to the Planning Commission for consideration of the Conditional Use Permit. This plan will incorporate the mitigation measures required in the FEIR.

**DMG 2 Comment**

The DEIR evaluates the potential impacts from expansion of the Schmidt Rock Quarry mining operations. Included as part of the DEIR are several plan map sheets and map sheet notes which describe the proposed reclamation of the mine site. As presently written, the DEIR with the included reclamation plan map sheets constitutes the reclamation plan. Apparently, no stand-alone reclamation plan will be prepared. As presently written, the DEIR provides that mitigation measures for erosion and sediment control will be developed at a future date. We recommend that a stand-alone reclamation plan be prepared and that a site-specific erosion control and water quality monitoring plan be included in the document that is approved as the final reclamation plan. If a storm water pollution prevention plan for the mine site will be prepared for the Regional Water Quality Control Board, this plan might also be used to fulfill SMARA requirements.

## **DMG 2 Response**

A Reclamation Plan which meets both County and State standards will be prepared prior to project approval and will contain more detail regarding site-specific erosion control and a water quality monitoring plan to evaluate the success of erosion control measures.

## **DMG 3 Comment**

The DEIR requires that the quarry operator recontour the area of interface between the quarry and Matilija Creek to provide protection for the riparian habitat and to prevent future slope failures from impacting the stream. CCR Sections 3700 (c), (d), (e), and (g) require that the reclamation plan discuss methods for erosion and sediment control necessary to minimize siltation of watercourses. We recommend that the proposed future recontouring design for Matilija Creek be included in the reclamation plan and that site-specific monitoring and mitigation standards be developed to evaluate the success of the recontouring.

## **DMG 3 Response**

The comment is acknowledged and will be forwarded to the appropriate decision makers. The final Reclamation Plan will include more detail regarding a recontouring design plan along the interface between the quarry and Matilija Creek. A site-specific monitoring plan will be included which will evaluate the success of the recontouring.

## **DMG 4 Comment**

CCR Section 3704 (d) requires that final reclaimed fill slopes not exceed 2 horizontal to 1 vertical (2H:1V) except when site-specific engineering analysis demonstrates that the proposed final slopes will have a minimum slope stability factor of safety that is suitable for the proposed end use, and when the proposed final slope can be successfully revegetated. The DEIR indicates that the waste fill material for the mine site has been placed adjacent to Matilija Creek and has caused degradation of the stream. Item 2.0 of the Reclamation Notes, Exhibit 8A, attached to the reclamation plan maps states that all existing quarry tailing fill slopes shall be verified to be stable or reworked using certified fill to a stable 1:1 slope, as shown in Detail (H). Since Detail (H) states that final reclamation fill slopes will be at a 2H:1V gradient, Reclamation Notes Item 2.0 of Exhibit 8A should be corrected to state that final fill slopes will be at a 2H:1V gradient unless engineering slope stability analysis demonstrate that they will be stable at a steeper gradient and successfully revegetated.

## **DMG 4 Response**

Reclamation Notes Item 2.0 of Exhibit 8A has been revised to read:

ALL EXISTING SLOPES WHERE QUARRY TAILINGS (UNCERTIFIED FILL)  
WERE USED SHALL BE INSPECTED BY THE ENGINEERING GEOLOGIST TO  
VERIFY ITS SLOPE STABILITY. ~~IF FOUND UNSTABLE, SAID SLOPE SHALL~~

~~BE REWORKED USING CERTIFIED FILL TO A STABLE 1:1 SLOPE. FINAL FILL SLOPES MAY BE AT A 1.5H:1V GRADIENT ONLY IF ENGINEERING SLOPE STABILITY ANALYSIS DEMONSTRATES THAT THEY WILL BE STABLE AT THIS GRADIENT AND SUCCESSFULLY REVEGETATED. OTHERWISE FINAL FILL SLOPES WILL BE AT A 2H:1V GRADIENT. SEE DETAIL (H). PLANT TREES OR NATIVE SHRUBS WHERE SHOWN ON RECLAMATION PLAN, SHEET 2 OF 4.~~

Refer to Section V. Errata to Draft EIR for revised Exhibit 8A.

#### **DMG 5 Comment**

The DEIR indicates that the No Project Alternative would not allow for stabilization of the existing over-steepened cut slopes and that the potential impacts to Matilija Creek would be greater than the proposed expanded mining alternative. However, the attached project geotechnical report recommends that the unstable slopes, including those in the northwestern portion of the mine site, either be removed or buttressed to prevent potential translational movement. The DEIR does not provide an evaluation of the potential feasibility and associated impacts of buttressing the existing oversteepened and unstable slopes and continuing mining within the existing approved permit area. We recommend that this alternative be included in the DEIR.

#### **DMG 5 Response**

The Draft EIR does not provide an evaluation of the potential feasibility and associated impacts of buttressing the existing oversteepened and unstable slopes and continuing mining within the existing approved permit area. This alternative would not prove to be economically feasible due to the fact that the existing approved permit area has almost reached its mining potential.

According to Pacific Materials Laboratory, the certified geotechnical engineers for this project, no room exists for buttressing of the unstable slopes. Buttressing of the unstable slopes would result in the blockage of Matilija Creek.

#### **DMG 6 Comment**

CCR Section 3502 (b)(1) requires that the reclamation plan include a description of the environmental setting of the mine site. The DEIR provides a Biological Assessment of the proposed project site, but does not include sufficient information to fully ascertain the impact of mining on the environment. A full description of the site is necessary for the following three reasons: 1) to document baseline conditions, 2) to aid in development and evaluation of an appropriate revegetation plan, and 3) to evaluate purported mining and reclamation impacts on wildlife habitat.

#### **DMG 6 Response**

A biological assessment was prepared by S. Gregory Nelson on July 24, 1991, and incorporated into the Draft EIR. Baseline conditions are provided under the existing conditions heading of the

biology/sedimentation section. Biological resources of the subject property were described and evaluated with regard to their significance; potential impacts to those resources as a result of the proposed project were analyzed and discussed; and, recommendations for mitigation measures were made.

A literature review relating to sensitive and/or significant biological resources known to occur in the vicinity of the property was conducted in order to identify any significant and/or sensitive biological resources which potentially occur on site and therefore should be specifically evaluated and searched during field investigation.

Based upon the literature review, the biological assessment addresses species considered to be of special concern (Cooper's hawk and Sharp-shinned hawk). The assessment provides a description of resources found on the site through conducted literature review and field survey.

#### **DMG 7 Comment**

The description of the environmental setting should include a survey for sensitive species conducted at the appropriate time for observing each species. The survey conducted for the Biological Assessment in the DEIR was conducted on one day. A survey conducted for one day is not sufficient to observe every species, especially migratory wildlife or early blooming plants.

#### **DMG 7 Response**

Please refer to DMG 6 Response.

#### **DMG 8 Comment**

In addition, the description should include percent cover or density, and diversity measurements for each of the vegetation types that will be re-created on the reclaimed landform. The Biological Assessment listed species but not their percent cover or densities. Such quantitative data can also be used to guide the design of an appropriate revegetation plan.

#### **DMG 8 Response**

Please refer to DMG 6 Response.

#### **DMG 9 Comment**

Also prior to any site disturbance, the purported lack of impacts to sensitive, rare, threatened, and endangered plants and animals should be verified. The California Department of Fish and Game Natural Diversity Data Base reports the following sensitive species in the vicinity of the project:

California Condor  
*Gymnogyps californianus*

Federal: Endangered  
State: Endangered

Ojai Fritillary  
*Fritillaria ojaiensis*

Federal: Category 2  
CNPS List: 1B

Least Bells Vireo

Federal: Endangered

*Vireo belli pusillus*

State: Endangered

#### **DMG 9 Response**

Please refer to DMG 6 Response.

#### **DMG 10 Comment**

The revegetation of the site should be designed to help lessen impacts to unique species. Without the knowledge of which species occur on the site, the revegetation design cannot target those species. We recommend that a survey be conducted at the appropriate time for these sensitive species.

#### **DMG 10 Response**

Please refer to DMG 6 Response.

#### **DMG 11 Comment**

The DEIR does not address the reclamation of the biotic resources on the proposed project site. We recommend that the Final EIR include an approved reclamation plan as required by SMARA.

CCR Section 3503 (f) addresses resoiling and CCR Section 3707 and 3711 address protection and distribution of topsoil. The DEIR does not address these sections. Resoiling and topsoil management are critical components of revegetation. We recommend that the DEIR adequately address the aforementioned sections.

#### **DMG 11 Response**

The proposed expansion area contains very little topsoil. The Draft EIR specifies that revegetation of this area shall use native species only. The recontouring plan along the interface of the quarry and Matilija Creek (as described in response No. 3) shall include proper management of the existing topsoil in that area.

#### **DMG 12 Comment**

CCR Section 3503 (g) requires that appropriate species be used for revegetating a site and CCR Section 3705 establishes performance standards for revegetation. The DEIR did not address revegetation of the site. We recommend that the DEIR adequately address site revegetation as required in the aforementioned sections.

## **DMG 12 Response**

The Draft EIR requires that relandscaping be a part of the Reclamation Plan and use native species of trees, shrubs, and groundcover only. The Draft EIR includes a list of recommended native species of trees, shrubs, and groundcover which are to be used for revegetation.

## **DMG 13 Comment**

CCR Section 3705 (c) and (d) require compacted soils on all access roads, haul roads, and other traffic routes be reclaimed, stripped of any remaining roadbase materials, prepared in accordance with subsection 3705(g), covered with suitable growth media or topsoil, and revegetated. The DEIR did not address the reclamation of compacted roads. We recommend that the DEIR address these sections.

## **DMG 13 Response**

The Draft EIR specifies that the existing road surfaces shall be regraded as designed by an Engineering Geologist. New bench cut areas shall be landscaped. All final revegetation of the existing roads and proposed bench cuts shall be included in the final reclamation plan and shall utilize species from the list referenced under DMG 12 Response above.

## **DMG 14 Comment**

If you have any questions on these comments or require any assistance with other mine reclamation issues, please contact James Pompy, Mined-Land Reclamation Project Manager, at (916) 323-8565.

## **DMG 14 Response**

Refer to DMG 1 Response.

## **COUNTY OF VENTURA AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT (MR. BRENT BACKUS)**

### **CVAPCD 1 Comment**

Air Pollution Control District staff has reviewed the subject DEIR and offers the following comments:

- 1) The DEIR should quantify reactive organic compounds (ROC) and oxides of nitrogen (NOx) emissions, as well as, particulate matter (PM10) for the project. ROC and NOx emissions would occur from excavation of rock, transportation of rock to market, and employee vehicles. Total project emissions should be based on the extraction of 50,000 tons of rock per year.

The project is located in the Los Padres National Forest. The Los Padres National Forest is considered an attainment area for the National Ambient Air Quality Standards. However, the

project is adjacent to the non-attainment area of Ventura County. Therefore, a discussion of regional air quality should be included into the EIR.

#### **CVAPCD 1 Response**

During the Initial Study process for this project, the APCD indicated that since the facility has been in existence for many years, there will be an impact to air quality, but the impact will be insignificant. In addition, the APCD stated that due to the project's remote location and its intermittent operating schedule, there may be some dust impacts, but the impacts will not be significant. As a result of these comments, the Scope-of-Work developed for this project did not include an analysis of air quality impacts.

#### **CVAPCD 2 Comment**

The following are recommended permit conditions for the project:

- A) Site access roads shall be watered or otherwise treated with environmentally-safe dust palliatives to minimize fugitive dust during operation of the facility.
- B) Excavation activities shall use new technologies to control ozone precursor emissions as they become available and feasible.
- C) All diesel-powered vehicles and equipment shall be operated with fuel injection timing retarded 4 degrees from the manufacture's recommendation, and all engines shall be properly operated and maintained.
- D) All diesel fuel shall be 0.05 weight percent sulfur or less.

If I can be of further assistance, please feel free to contact me at 805/645-1428.

#### **CVAPCD 2 Response**

The comment is acknowledged and these conditions will be incorporated into the recommended conditions of approval for the Conditional Use Permit.

#### **STATE OF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION - DISTRICT 7 (WILFORD MELTON)(DOT)**

#### **DOT 1 Comment**

Caltrans has reviewed the above-referenced document proposing the expansion of the Schmidt Rock Quarry from 4 to 13 acres. Based on the information received, we find no apparent impact on the State Transportation at this time.

#### **DOT 1 Response**

The comment is acknowledged and will be forwarded to the appropriate decision makers.



## **DOT 2 Comment**

However any transport of heavy construction equipment which requires the use of oversize transport vehicles on State Freeways/Highways will require a Caltrans transportation permit. We recommend that truck trips be limited to off-peak commute periods. Also, transport of hazardous waste shall conform to all applicable State regulations and standards.

If you have any questions regarding this response, please call me at (213) 897-1338.

## **DOT 2 Response**

The comment is acknowledged and these conditions will be incorporated into the recommended conditions of approval for the Conditional Use Permit.

## **COUNTY OF VENTURA PUBLIC WORKS AGENCY - TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT (FRED BOROUMAND) (CVPWA2)**

### **CVPWA2 1 Comment**

We have reviewed the Draft Environmental Impact Report (D.E.I.R.) for the expansion of Schmidt Rock Quarry located in the unincorporated area of Ojai.

We find that the project will have no significant impact on the roadways in the unincorporated area of the County. However, Highway 33 is under the jurisdiction of the State Department of Transportation, therefore this DEIR should also be reviewed by Caltrans.

### **CVPWA2 1 Response**

The comment is acknowledged and will be forwarded to the appropriate decision makers.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT REVIEW COMMITTEE (ERRC)**

### **ERRC 1 Comment**

Any reference to "prior to issuance of grading permits" made within the Draft EIR should be revised to indicate "prior to issuance of a zoning clearance."

### **ERRC 1 Response**

Pages 12, 67, and 68 of the Draft EIR - Mitigation Measures 3, 4, and 5 of the Biology/Sedimentation section of the Draft EIR have been revised to read:

3. Prior to issuance of ~~grading permits~~ *a zoning clearance*, the project engineer shall develop and implement erosion and siltation control plans, during all

phases of quarry operations, to prevent erosion and siltation resulting in the transport of sediment into the drainages onsite and downstream to Matilija Creek where it may adversely impact riparian and aquatic habitat areas.

4. Prior to issuance of ~~grading permits~~ *a zoning clearance*, the existing interface between the quarry operations and Matilija Creek shall be recontoured so as to provide a protective berm along, but outside, of the riparian habitat. The purpose of this berm would be to stop any minor failures or slumping from reaching the creek and creating a sedimentation problem.
5. Prior to the issuance of ~~grading permits~~ *a zoning clearance*, a silt fence shall be placed at the bottom of the berm recommended in Mitigation Measure 3 on the creek side, to prevent the run-off of water borne sediments from the berm into the creek.

## V. ERRATA TO DRAFT EIR

The following changes to the Draft EIR are as noted below. Additions to the text are indicated with italics. Deletions to the text are indicated with strikeouts. The changes to the Draft EIR as they relate to issues contained within this errata sheet do not affect the overall conclusions of the environmental document. The changes are identified by the comment reference.

### CVPD 2 Response

On page 54, paragraph 7 has been revised to read:

~~Studies conducted in Ventura County in the past have demonstrated that substantial concern with visual resources exists and preservation of visual resources is very important. By assuming that this attitude still prevails, The view area from the communities surrounding the proposed project site can be judged to have~~ *has* a high sensitivity level (sensitivity level 1).

### CVPD 3 Response

On page 57, Paragraph 2 has been revised to read:

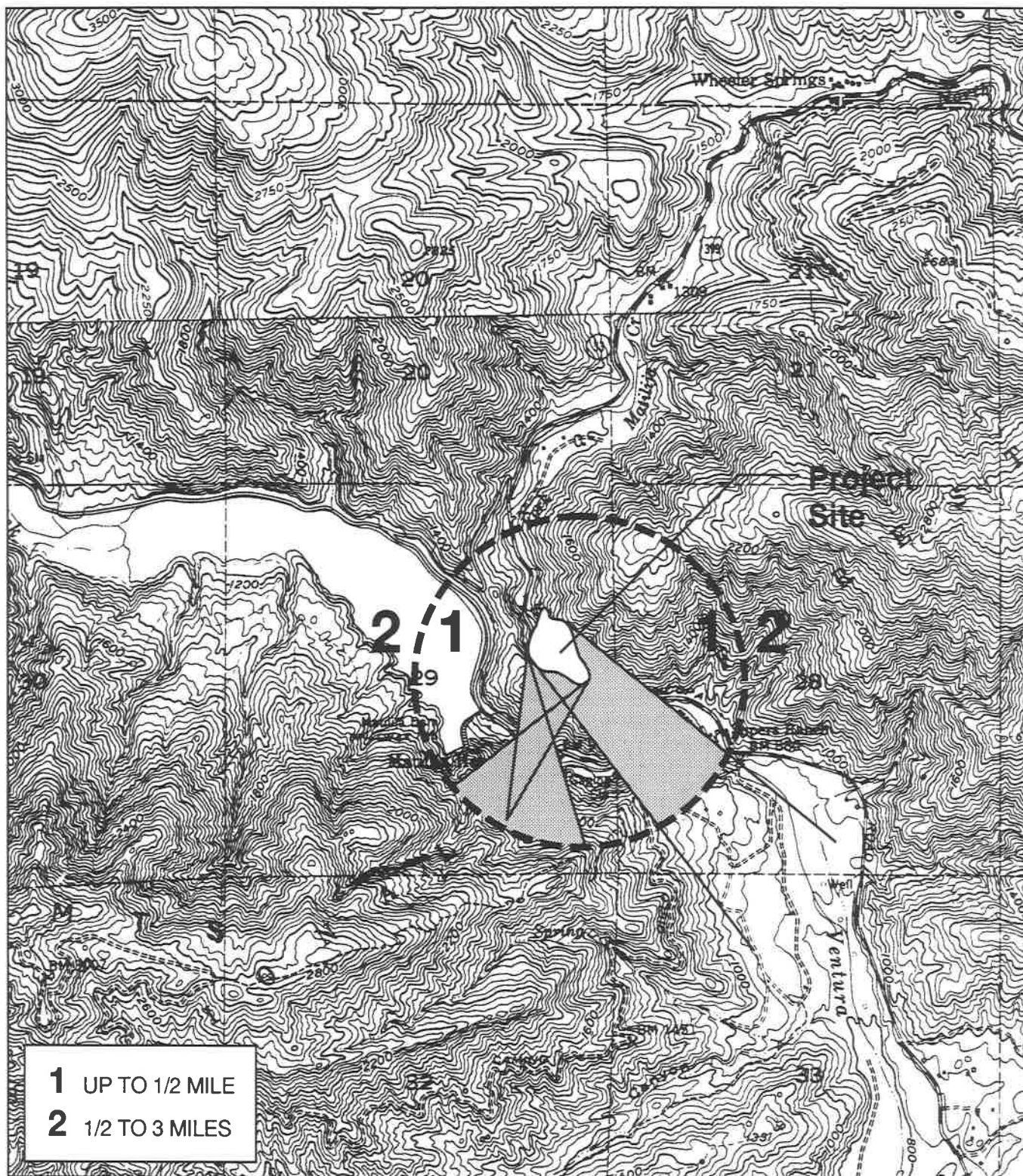
Immediately surrounding the 9 acre project site are 7 residences to the north and 29 to the south within the foreground view zone which are on the opposite side of intervening ridgelines. These ridgelines visually seclude the proposed project site from surrounding areas to a great degree. Due to the topography of the area, neither the existing nor proposed quarry is completely visible beyond 2.5 miles from the site. *Exhibit 17A indicates a view analysis from local residences. The dotted pattern on Exhibit 17A depicts the areas within the foreground, south of the project site, where there is a view of the site.*

Exhibit 17A has been added to highlight the location of the residences in the foreground where there is a view of the site.

### CVPD 4 Response

Page 52 of the Draft EIR has been revised to read:

*The County General Plan contains a Scenic Resources section which discusses the visual beauty and aesthetic quality of the natural landscape in Ventura County. The Scenic Resources section contains Goals, Policies, and Programs applicable to scenic resources within the County. According to Policy 1.7.2.4, "Discretionary development which would significantly degrade visual resources or significantly alter or obscure public views of visual resources shall be prohibited unless no feasible mitigation*



Source: USGS Quad Map - Wheeler Springs & Matilija

## VIEW ANALYSIS FROM LOCAL RESIDENCES

SCHMIDT ROCK QUARRY  
County of Ventura



No Scale

Exhibit 17A

*measures are available and the decision-making body determines there are overriding considerations." Please refer to Appendix D of this EIR for the Scenic Resource Policy.*

Page 60, SUMMARY of the Draft EIR has been revised to read:

*The General Plan Scenic Resources section provides the County with the ability to make overriding considerations for discretionary development which would significantly degrade visual resources; therefore, the project-specific impact to visual resources is not inconsistent with General Plan Policy.*

Appendix D Scenic Resource Policy has been added to the EIR Appendices. Refer to Appendix A of this response to comments document for Appendix D of the EIR.

#### **CVPD 5 Response**

Page 61 Level of Significance section of the Draft EIR has been revised to read:

Project-specific and cumulative impacts will be mitigated to a less than significant level for viewers in the background view zone. Implementation of mitigation measures which have been incorporated into this EIR will not mitigate project-specific and cumulative impacts to a less than significant level for those viewers in the foreground and middle ground view zone. *Although only a small percentage of those viewers in the foreground and middle ground will be impacted, this impact remains as significant and unavoidable.*

#### **CVPD 6 Response**

Page 3, Paragraph 4 has been revised to read:

The plan was subsequently refused by the Public Works ~~Administration~~ Agency.

#### **CVPD 7 Response**

Page 4, Paragraph 1 has been revised to read:

An application for a Major Modification was submitted on March 17, 1986 requesting *continuation of the existing operation and expansion of quarry operational area.*

#### **CVPD 8 Response**

Page 4, Paragraph 1 has been revised to read:

This application remained incomplete for several months while the applicant was responding to Public Works ~~Administration~~ Agency (PWA) requirements.

### **CVPD 9 Response**

Page 7, last line has been revised to read:

- Approval of Conditional Use Permit *Modification*

### **CVPD 10 Response**

Page 12, Mitigation Measure 1 under the Geology/Soils section has been revised to read:

During quarry operations, bench backcut slopes shall be limited to a maximum of 20 30 feet in vertical height and laid back at a temporary repose not to exceed 60 degrees.

### **CVPD 11 Response**

Pages 18-21 have been revised to read Proposed Project instead of Proposed Project Impacts.

### **CVPD 12 Response**

Page 22, paragraph 4 has been revised to read:

The areas surrounding the subject site include the Los Padres National Forest to the ~~north east~~ and *north/east*.

### **CVPD 13 Response**

Page 27, Paragraph 2 has been revised to read:

Significant cuts into the natural hillside within the quarry area have been made as a result of the mining activity. ~~Previous mining activities at the existing quarry have and has~~ resulted in unstable and unsafe hillside slopes on the parcel.

### **CVPD 14 Response**

Page 29, Paragraph 1 has been revised to read:

Exhibits 7 and 8 illustrate the reclamation plan for the proposed ~~continuation~~ *9 acre expansion* area.

### **CVPWA 2 Response**

Page 3 has been revised to read:

The Plan was subsequently refused by the Public Works ~~Administration~~ *Agency*.

Page 4 has been revised to read:

This application remained incomplete for several months while the applicant was responding to Public Works ~~Administration~~ Agency (PWA) requirements.

### **CVPWA 3 Response**

Page 12: General Summary of Impacts, Biology/Sedimentation Mitigation Measure 3 has been revised to read:

Prior to issuance of ~~grading permits~~ *a Zoning Clearance*, the project engineer shall develop and implement erosion and siltation control plans, during all phases of quarry operations, to prevent erosion and siltation resulting in the transport of sediment into the drainages onsite and downstream to Matilija Creek where it may adversely impact riparian and aquatic habitat areas.

### **CVPWA 4 Response**

Page 12 Mitigation Measure 1 under Geology/Soils section has been revised to read:

During quarry operations, bench backcut slopes shall be limited to a maximum of ~~20~~ 30 feet in vertical height and laid back at a temporary repose not to exceed 60 degrees.

### **CVPWA 5 Response**

Page 50 of the Draft EIR has been revised to read:

3. The operator must provide a financial assurance to cover the costs of reclamation to the DMG and local lead agency that can be adjusted annually to reflect the acreage of land to be reclaimed *and any areas successfully reclaimed in the previous year.*

### **CVPWA 6 Response**

Page 69: Local Geology has been revised to read:

The rocks of the area were deposited in the western Ventura Basin during ~~Eocene~~ *early Miocene* time.

### **CVPWA 7 Response**

Page 76: Slope Stability, second paragraph has been revised to read:

The potential of rock toppling was also noted on the proposed 9 acre site as indicated by several upslope boulders which are currently being undermined by ongoing quarry

activity. Please refer to Exhibit 2 in the Project Description section of the EIR for the location of the proposed 9 acre site and to Exhibit 5 which depicts the existing and proposed grades.

#### **DMG 4 Response**

Reclamation Notes Item 2.0 of Exhibit 8A has been revised to read:

ALL EXISTING SLOPES WHERE QUARRY TAILINGS (UNCERTIFIED FILL) WERE USED SHALL BE INSPECTED BY THE ENGINEERING GEOLOGIST TO VERIFY ITS SLOPE STABILITY. ~~IF FOUND UNSTABLE, SAID SLOPE SHALL BE REWORKED USING CERTIFIED FILL TO A STABLE 1:1 SLOPE.~~ FINAL FILL SLOPES MAY BE AT A 1.5H:1V GRADIENT ONLY IF ENGINEERING SLOPE STABILITY ANALYSIS DEMONSTRATES THAT THEY WILL BE STABLE AT THIS GRADIENT AND SUCCESSFULLY REVEGETATED. OTHERWISE FINAL FILL SLOPES WILL BE AT A 2H:1V GRADIENT. SEE DETAIL (H). PLANT TREES OR NATIVE SHRUBS WHERE SHOWN ON RECLAMATION PLAN, SHEET 2 OF 4.

#### **ERRC 1 Response**

Pages 12, 67, and 68 of the Draft EIR have been revised to read:

3. Prior to issuance of ~~grading permits~~ a zoning clearance, the project engineer shall develop and implement erosion and siltation control plans, during all phases of quarry operations, to prevent erosion and siltation resulting in the transport of sediment into the drainages onsite and downstream to Matilija Creek where it may adversely impact riparian and aquatic habitat areas.
4. Prior to issuance of ~~grading permits~~ a zoning clearance, the existing interface between the quarry operations and Matilija Creek shall be recontoured so as to provide a protective berm along, but outside, of the riparian habitat. The purpos of this berm would be to stop any minor failures or slumping from reaching the creek and creating a sedimentation problem.
5. Prior to the issuance of ~~grading permits~~ a zoning clearance, a silt fence shall be placed at the bottom of the berm recommended in Mitigation Measure 3 on the creek side, to prevent the run-off of water borne sediments from the berm into the creek.



**RECLAMATION NOTES:**


- 1.0 ALL ACCESS ROADS SHALL BE GRADED TO DRAIN INTO HILLSIDE WITH BOULDERS PLACED ALONG OUTSIDE OF ROADWAY AS SHOWN IN DETAIL (F).
- 2.0 ALL EXISTING SLOPES WHERE QUARRY TAILINGS (UNCERTIFIED FILL) WERE USED SHALL BE INSPECTED BY THE ENGINEERING GEOLOGIST TO VERIFY ITS SLOPE STABILITY. ~~IF FOUND UNSTABLE, SAID SLOPE SHALL BE REWORKED USING CERTIFIED FILL TO A STABLE 1:1 SLOPE. FINAL FILL SLOPES MAY BE AT A 1.5H:1V GRADIENT ONLY IF ENGINEERING SLOPE STABILITY ANALYSIS DEMONSTRATES THAT THEY WILL BE STABLE AT THIS GRADIENT AND SUCCESSFULLY REVEGETATED. OTHERWISE FINAL FILL SLOPES WILL BE AT A 2H:1V GRADIENT. SEE DETAIL (H).~~ PLANT TREES OR NATIVE SHRUBS WHERE SHOWN ON RECLAMATION PLAN, SHEET 2 OF 4.
- 3.0 ALL ACCESS ROAD DRAINAGE CANAL/DITCHES SHALL BE CONSTRUCTED ON EXISTING BEDROCK.
- 4.0 THIS RECLAMATION PLAN WAS PREPARED BASED ON THE QUARRY EXCAVATION SCHEME AS SHOWN IN THE QUARRY PLAN, BUT DUE TO POSSIBLE CHANGES IN QUARRY OPERATIONS DUE TO CHANGE IN STRUCTURAL GEOLOGY OF UNDERLYING STRATA, THIS RECLAMATION PLAN MAY BE REVISED ACCORDINGLY, SUBJECT TO THE REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE LEAD AGENCY.
- 5.0 QUARRY EXCAVATION SHALL BE UNDER THE OBSERVATION OF AN ENGINEERING GEOLOGIST WHO SHALL PROVIDE PERIODIC INSPECTION ON AT LEAST AN ANNUAL BASIS OF MEASURES TO MITIGATE QUARRY SAFETY AND TO AID IN IDENTIFICATION OF ANY CHANGES IN TERRAIN DISTURBANCE WITHIN OR ADJACENT TO THE QUARRY SITE. ANY CHANGE IN SLOPE PERFORMANCE OR EROSION/SEDIMENTATION CONDITIONS MAY REQUIRE REVISION TO THIS RECLAMATION PLAN. RESULTS OF THE ANNUAL INSPECTION SHALL BE SUMMARIZED IN A REPORT PREPARED BY THE ENGINEERING GEOLOGIST.
- 6.0 QUARRY EXCAVATION SHALL BE LIMITED TO 30 FOOT MAX. BENCHES WITH TEMPORARY QUARRY EXCAVATION SLOPE NOT TO EXCEED 60 DEGREE ANGLE OF REPOSE. TEMPORARY SLOPES ARE DEFINED AS SLOPES GRADED WITHIN THE PREVIOUS 12 MONTHS. FINAL SLOPES SHALL NOT EXCEED A 45 DEGREE ANGLE OF REPOSE AND SHALL HAVE 10 FOOT WIDE BENCHES EVERY 30 VERTICAL FEET. NO PERCHED BOULDERS SHALL EXIST AT ANY TIME ON THE SITE.
- 7.0 WARNING SIGN INDICATING QUARRY HAZARD AND POSSIBLE ROCKFALL DANGER SHALL BE POSTED ALONG HIGHWAY 33 BELOW QUARRY SITE. WARNING SIGN SHALL ALSO BE POSTED INDICATING NO RECREATIONAL USE OF CREEK BELOW QUARRY SITE.
- 8.0 THE WESTERLY EDGE OF THE QUARRY SITE SHALL BE SLOPED AND BERMED TO PREVENT ANY MATERIALS FROM ROLLING DOWN THE NATURAL SLOPE INTO HIGHWAY 33 OR MATILJA CREEK. IN THE EVENT THAT QUARRY MATERIALS FALL INTO MATILJA CREEK, SAID MATERIALS SHALL BE REMOVED IMMEDIATELY BY CONTRACTOR.

**QUARRY NOTES**

- 1.0 THIS PLAN WAS PREPARED TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF PACIFIC MATERIALS LABORATORY, INC. REPORT DATED JULY 25, 1988.
- 2.0 PRIOR TO ANY QUARRY EXCAVATION, ANY ON-SITE PERCHED BOULDERS OR LAND/ROCKSLIDES UPSLOPE THAT POSE DANGER TO ANY DOWNSLOPE QUARRY EXCAVATION SHALL BE REMOVED FIRST.
- 3.0 QUARRY EXCAVATION SHALL BE DONE IN STAGES. INITIAL STATE SHALL BE LIMITED TO PHASE I EXCAVATION AS FOLLOWS:

**STAGE**

**PURPOSE**

- 3.01 Phase 1-A TO PREVENT ANY POSSIBLE FAILURE ALONG ASSUMED FAILURE PLANE "D" AND "A" AS SHOWN IN GEOLOGIC SECTION "D- E-F-G" AND "A-B-C" RESPECTIVELY. (ENCLOSURE "B-2" AND "B-1" OF PMLI REPORT DATED JULY 24, 1988)
- 3.02 Phase 1-B TO PREVENT ANY POSSIBLE FAILURE ON THE NORTHERLY SIDE OF THE QUARRY ALONG ASSUMED FAILURE PLANE "F". THIS ASSUMED FAILURE PLANE "F" IS SHOWN IN GEOLOGIC SECTION "H- I-J-K" OF SAME REPORT (ENCLOSURE "B-3"). NO ROCKSLIDE IS ANTICIPATED DURING QUARRY EXCAVATION. HOWEVER, IN THE EVENT ANY ROCKSLIDE OCCURS, SUCH ROCKSLIDE WILL BE TOWARDS THE QUARRY SITE AND SHALL NOT POSE ANY DANGER TO THE NEARBY MARICOPA ROAD.
- 4.0 QUARRY WORK ON PHASE I-A AND PHASE I-B CAN BE DONE TOGETHER. ALL QUARRY EXCAVATION SHALL COMMENCE FROM THE TOP OF SLOPE PROCEEDING DOWNWARD AND SHALL BE PERFORMED ACCORDING TO TYPICAL BENCH DETAIL .

Source: LBH Engineering

## RECLAMATION AND QUARRY NOTES

SCHMIDT ROCK QUARRY  
County of Ventura

**EDAW**

No Scale

Exhibit 8A

## **APPENDIX A**

**(Note: The following is Appendix D to the EIR)**

**APPENDIX D**  
**SCENIC RESOURCE POLICY**

2. The Planning Division, in conjunction with the Agricultural Commissioner, Farm Advisor and Agricultural Advisory Committee, will develop and implement standards governing development adjacent to agricultural uses. The standards should address fencing and spray buffers between agricultural areas and residences, off-site flood control measures, siltation control from grading operations and the development of a standard County-imposed entitlement condition which notifies new property owners of County and State laws protecting agricultural operations. After the development of standards, they could be added as policies into the General Plan to guide future land use decisions.
3. The Planning Division will continue to work with State and Federal agencies to periodically update the Important Farmlands Inventory Map to reflect current conditions.
4. The Planning Division will prepare an annual status report on Land Conservation Act Contracts (LCA), agricultural acreage, and other agriculture related information.

### 1.7 SCENIC RESOURCES

The visual beauty and aesthetic quality of the natural landscape in Ventura County is perhaps one of its most significant resources. The scenic resources of Ventura County, especially the coastline, within the viewshed of the County's lakes, and along designated State and County Scenic Highways, are of considerable value both in providing a pleasurable environment for local citizens and in stimulating tourism. Coastline resources are discussed in the Coastal Area Plan, and lake resources and scenic highways are discussed in the Resources Appendix.

The County's natural visual resources are largely composed of the varied topography, exposed geological formations, heterogeneous vegetation, beaches and waterways. The man-made environment of parks, golf courses, harbors, public buildings, and major commercial, industrial, and residential developments can also contribute to, or detract from, scenic resource quality.

Conservation of scenic resources is most critical where the resources will be frequently and readily viewed, as from a highway, or where the resource is particularly unique. Ventura County has identified the viewsheds of lakes and other scenic areas as may be identified by an area plan, as being worthy of special protection via identification as Scenic Resource Areas on the Resource Protection Map (Figure 1).

The Resources Appendix describes the provisions of the State Scenic Highway Law for the regulation of land uses within the viewshed of a State Scenic Highway. The entire length of Highway 33 from milepost 17.5 to the Santa Barbara County line has been designated as a State Scenic Highway, and is identified as a Scenic Highway Area on the Resource Protection Map (Figure 1).

The goals, policies and programs which apply to scenic resources include:

#### 1.7.1 GOALS

1. Preserve and protect the significant open views and visual resources of the County.
2. Protect the visual resources within the viewshed of designated scenic highways, lakes and other scenic areas as may be identified by an area plan.
3. Enhance and maintain the visual appearance of buildings and developments.

### 1.7.2 POLICIES

1. Scenic Resource Areas as depicted on the Resource Protection Map (Figure 1) shall be governed by the provisions of the Scenic Resource Protection (SRP) Overlay Zone which include the following:

- (1) Any request for significant grading shall be evaluated through the discretionary permit process.
- (2) Removal, damaging or destruction of protected trees shall be in compliance with the County's "Tree Protection Regulations".
- (3) No discretionary development shall be approved which would significantly degrade or destroy a scenic view or vista.
- (4) No freestanding off-site advertising signs shall be permitted.

Federally-owned land is not subject to the Scenic Resource Protection Overlay Zone and is not subject to any permit requirements as specified under (1) or (2) above. To the extent possible, the agencies responsible for the administration of land use activities on Federally owned land should consider Policies (3) and (4) above in the planning and administration of new land uses within scenic resource areas.

2. Scenic Highway Areas as depicted on the Resource Protection Map (Figure 1) shall be governed by the provisions of the Scenic Highway Protection (SHP) Overlay Zone which includes the following:

- (1) All development shall require a Planned Development Permit.
- (2) Removal, damaging or destruction of a protected tree shall be in compliance with the County's "Tree Protection Regulations".
- (3) All new development shall be sited and designed to:
  - a. Minimize alteration of the natural topography and physical processes;
  - b. Prevent significant degradation of the scenic resource;
  - c. Minimize cut and fill operations, and area of disturbance;
  - d. Utilize native plants indigenous to the area whenever possible for revegetation;
  - e. Incorporate best feasible mitigation measures; and
  - f. Incorporate tree protection during construction.
- (4) Off-site signs are prohibited in the SHP Overlay Zone.

Federally-owned land is not subject to the Scenic Highway Protection Overlay Zone and is not subject to any permit requirements as specified under (1) or (2) above. To the extent possible, the agencies responsible for the administration of land use activities on Federally owned land should consider Policies (3) and (4) above in the planning and administration of new land uses within scenic highway areas.

3. Proposed undergrounding of overhead utilities within Scenic Resource Areas or Scenic Highway Areas shall be given first priority by the Public Works Agency in utilizing the County's allocation of Utility Undergrounding Funds.

4. Discretionary development which would significantly degrade visual resources or significantly alter or obscure public views of visual resources shall be prohibited unless no feasible mitigation measures are available and the decision-making body determines there are overriding considerations.
5. The Planning Division shall continue to implement the landscaping requirements of the Zoning Ordinance and the "Guide to Landscape Plans" to enhance the appearance of discretionary development.

#### 1.7.3 PROGRAMS

1. The Planning Division, in coordination with appropriate State and local agencies, will inventory and take steps to preserve and maintain unique natural features, and other scenic resources. These areas could be included in future Scenic Resource Areas and Scenic Highway Areas for consideration by the Board of Supervisors.
2. The Planning Division will continue to seek official State Scenic Highway designations for County designated Scenic Highways.

#### 1.8 PALEONTOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

Paleontological resources are the fossilized remains of ancient plants and animals.

A wide variety of paleontological resources exist in both the North and South halves of the County. The diverse geology of the Transverse Ranges encompasses many different kinds of fossil organisms. These fossil remains provide a record of lifeforms over millions of years, as well as having potential economic value.

The term cultural resources is most frequently identified with prehistoric (archaeological) or historic material items. These include prehistoric and historic districts, sites, structures, artifacts and other evidence of human use considered to be of importance to a culture, subculture, or a community for traditional, religious, scientific or other reasons. Cultural resources in Ventura County include: prehistoric aboriginal Indian sites, historic areas of occupation and activity, or features of the natural environment. Cultural resources also include less tangible, nonmaterial resources. These may include cognitive systems (including meanings and values attached to items of material culture, biota, and the physical environment), religion and world views, traditional or customary behavior patterns, kinship and social organization, folklore, and so on.

Archaeological resources refer to the material remains (artifacts, structures, refuse, etc.) produced purposely or accidentally by human beings. The scientific study of these remains can result in the identification of activities, types of adaption to the environment, and changes in activities and organization that were experienced by groups of people in the past. Furthermore, these remains often have special significance to Native Americans, ethnic groups, special interest groups (i.e., avocational archaeologists), and the general public.

Archaeological sites exist throughout the County, particularly adjacent to existing and previously existing natural water and food sources. Many sites have been located, and according to existing data, many potential sites remain undiscovered.

In the North Half there are 106 cultural resource sites which are recorded with Ventura County numbers in the official clearinghouse (at the University of California - Los Angeles). The Forest Service has surveyed and recorded an additional 71 sites and the Bureau of Land Management surveyed the Hungry Valley area and recorded 57 for a total of 234 known sites as of 1987. Two archaeological sites in the North Half are listed on the National Register of Historic Places and are characterized by a variety of remains including shells and sharks teeth.

Several Chumash villages in the North Half contain caves with elaborate artwork. A preliminary list of special management properties compiled by the Forest Service in the Los Padres National Forest (as of March, 1985) included both Mount Pinos and Frazier Mountain as sites of value to the practice of Indian religion. These sites are considered by many Native Americans to be the center of the Chumash world. Sespe Hot Springs and Nordhoff Peak are also significant religious sites.

In the South Half there are three archaeological sites on the National Register: Burro Flats Painted Cave, Calleguas Creek Archaeological Site and a lithic scatter (the remnants of stone implement fabrication) in Senior Canyon. In addition, many other significant sites are located in the South Half, including many large villages located near the coast and along major waterways.

Historical resources refer to the material and nonmaterial expressions of human adaptations which characterized the post-contact or historic period. These resources include historic event or activity sites, historic archaeological sites, standing architecture and other significant properties, and documents and other sources of historical information, objects of material culture, and, secondarily, the more nonmaterial cultural qualities such as folklore, social organization, and value systems which are associated with these properties.

The Ventura County Cultural Heritage Board recommends cultural, archaeological and historical resources for designation as County Historical Landmarks. The 42 landmark categories range from adobes to wharf sites. There are 136 sites designated Countywide. In the North Half, three sites are so designated. Sites in the South Half include homes, oil industry workings, ranches, groves of trees, cemeteries, portions of the Mission Aqueduct, and others. The list is quite diverse and properties are regularly considered for addition to the Landmarks list by the Cultural Heritage Board.

There are 16 historic sites listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Thirteen of these are also designated as County Landmarks and five of the 13 are California Historical Landmarks.

The goals, policies and programs which apply to paleontological and cultural resources are as follows:

#### **1.8.1 GOALS**

1. Identify, inventory, preserve and protect the paleontological and cultural resources of Ventura County (including archaeological, historical and Native American resources) for their scientific, educational and cultural value.
2. Enhance cooperation with cities, special districts, other appropriate organizations, and private landowners in acknowledging and preserving the County's paleontological and cultural resources.

#### **1.8.2 POLICIES**

1. Discretionary developments shall be assessed for potential paleontological and cultural resource impacts, except when exempt from such requirements by CEQA. Such assessments shall be incorporated into a Countywide paleontological and cultural resource data base.
2. Discretionary development shall be designed or re-designed to avoid potential impacts to significant paleontological or cultural resources whenever possible. Unavoidable impacts, whenever possible, shall be reduced to a less than significant level and/or shall be

# county of ventura

## ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (EIR) – ADDENDUM CEQA Guidelines Section 15164

*(Amended in response to comments at the April 12, 2012 hearing)*

### A. BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

1. **Entitlement:** Conditional Use Permit for Mineral Resource Development—Mining and Accessory Uses (LU11-0080) and Reclamation Plan Compliance Amendment (RPCA for the Mosler Rock—Ojai Quarry)
2. **Applicant:** Larry Mosler
3. **Property Owners:** GraLar, LLC.
4. **Location:** The project site is located at 1555 State Route 33, near the intersection of South Matilija Road and State Route 33, near the City of Ojai, in the unincorporated area of Ventura County.
5. **Assessor's Parcel Number:** 009-0-090-165 and 009-0-090-180
6. **Lot Size:** 34.61 acres
7. **General Plan Land Use Designation:** Open Space (10 Acre Minimum) and Agricultural (40 Acre Minimum)
8. **Zoning Designation:** OS-160 ac (Open Space, 160 Acre Minimum Lot Size)
9. **Project Description:** Modification of the following provisions in Conditional Use Permit Case No. CUP 3489-2: (a) Condition No. 1.b, to allow the use, maintenance and storage of additional mining related equipment (including a portable rock crusher) and vehicles in excess of what was previously permitted; (b) Condition No. 19 to allow entry gate to open at 6:30AM and close at 7:30PM, Monday through Friday so that the operation may operate 24 hours per day during an appropriate government declared emergency; (c) the phasing of the operation will be conducted from current phase 3 downward to current phase 1; and (d) submit a Reclamation Plan Compliance Amendment ("RPCA") to the approved reclamation plan for the Mosler Rock—Ojai Quarry, in order to abate permit and SMARA violations (ZV08-0030, PV10-0090 and SMARA violation, dated July 9, 2010<sup>1</sup>) for mining outside of the permitted mining boundary and below the final reclamation elevations.

### B. STATEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL FINDINGS:

#### Land Use Regulatory and CEQA Background

<sup>1</sup> The operator did not abate the SMARA violation, therefore an Order to Comply was issued October 17, 2011.





The project site has been used intermittently as a rock quarry since 1939, which at that time was known as the “Maricopa Placer Claim”. The original owner, Schmidt Construction, Inc., leased the site in 1948 and purchased it in fee in 1962.

In response to complaints received from nearby residents, in 1973 the Planning Division notified the property owner that a Condition Use Permit (“CUP”) would be required to continue the mining operation. In 1974, the property owner applied for a CUP, which was subject to an Environmental Impact Report (“EIR”) that the County prepared pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (“CEQA”). On January 15, 1976, the Planning Commission certified the EIR and granted CUP 3489 (including the site reclamation plan) for a period of 20 years.

In 1980, the property owner requested approval of a modification to CUP 3489 (Case No. CUP 3489-1) and a Reclamation Plan Amendment, in order to allow a five-year time extension to CUP 3489 for the continued mining of the four acre rock quarry. The Planning Commission determined that the modification would have a significant effect on the environment, but the original EIR adequately addressed the potential impacts. In 1981, the Planning Commission approved both the CUP Modification (CUP3489-1) and Reclamation Plan Amendment.

In 1986, the property owner requested approval of a modification to CUP 3489-1 (Case No. CUP 3489-2) to expand the mining boundaries by nine acres. In 1991, the Planning Division completed the preparation of an EIR for the proposed modification. On June 1, 1995, the Planning Commission certified the EIR which evaluated the environmental impacts of the proposed mining and reclamation activities—including the extraction of rock and sandstone for the production of rip-rap, crushed rock aggregate, and related stone products. The EIR identified potential project specific and cumulative impacts related to aesthetics (visual), biology/sedimentation, geology/soils and traffic.

More specifically, the aesthetic impacts were evaluated using the criteria established by the U.S. Forest Service for Natural Forest. Criteria included substantial obstruction of: (1) unique environmental or man-made visual features; or, (2) views from important public gathering places. Since the project could not meet the retention objectives (as developed for National Forests) for viewers in the foreground or middle ground view zones, it was determined that the project-specific visual impacts could not be mitigated to a less than significant level for those view zones; however, views within the background view zone could be mitigated and therefore, the project was conditioned to mitigate these impacts through a “Visual Mitigation Program” (CUP 3489-2 Condition of Approval No. I-1 (a-d)). The project was required to provide a landscape plan along Maricopa Highway at the entrance of the project site, above the Matilija Creek adjacent to the project site and along the access road to the quarry. The landscape plan was required to be consistent with the natural character of the area and the site was required to return the site to as natural a state as possible, post-mining activities.

The EIR identified potentially significant but mitigable impacts to biological resources. Two distinct vegetation types or plant communities were located on the project site—

mixed chaparral and riparian woodland. The riparian woodland and associated stream are considered to be sensitive and significant resources due to their limited distribution and value to wildlife and fish. General wildlife species which potentially use the riparian woodland are considered to be species of special concern. The EIR noted that the Cooper's Hawk (*Accipiter cooperi*) and Sharp-shinned hawk (*Accipiter striatus*) have a high probability of occurrence on the project site. The removal of the then existing vegetation would result in the loss of wildlife habitat, specifically, Cooper's Hawk and the Sharp-shinned Hawk. The loss of habitat to these sensitive species is considered adverse, but not significant on a regional basis due to abundance of chaparral habitat in the regional area. The biological assessment included a recommendation for using native vegetation as landscaping to reduce the impacts of the loss of chaparral.

The quarry operations would result in alterations to surface soils and underlying geology which is a part of the watershed for Matilija Creek. The California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) has jurisdiction over the North Fork of the Matilija Creek as it is a blue line stream. As the project would alter the surface soils, the EIR noted that there would be potential for greater erosion through the exposure of sediments and soils. Downstream, there would be the potential for changes to surfaces and groundwater hydrology which, if unmitigated, may have adverse impacts on downstream riparian and aquatic habitats; therefore, given the significance of stream riparian and aquatic habitats, the potential for erosion/siltation from the quarry was considered a significant adverse impact. The project was conditioned to mitigate the biological impacts by following a "Biological Mitigation Program (BMP)" [CUP 3489-2, Condition of Approval No. 1-2(a-d)], which included notifying the CDFG prior to altering any blue line drainage traversing the property, in an effort to allow the CDFG to regulate alterations to streambed habitats. The BMP also included mitigation measures for erosion and siltation control; an Emergency Remedial Response Plan, for treatment of soils, groundwater or surface water in the event of an accidental fuel or solvent spill; and each phase was to be revegetated utilizing native species of trees, shrubs and ground cover.

Since the County's certification of the EIR (1995) for this surface mining operation, Southern California steelhead trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) has been federally listed as endangered (listed in 1997). Southern California steelhead trout is what the US Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service call a Distinct Population Segment (DPS) of the steelhead trout species. Under the Endangered Species Act, an entire species can be listed as threatened or endangered or certain populations (i.e., a Distinct Population Segment) may be listed. For steelhead trout, several DPSs have been listed.

Critical habitat for the Southern California steelhead trout has been identified in Ventura County and includes the Ventura River and major tributaries (Matilija Creek - North Fork and San Antonio Creek) and the Santa Clara River and major tributaries (Sespe Creek and Santa Paula Creek). While the Matilija Creek runs adjacent to the project site (along the western mining boundary), the proposed project will not impact

the creek as the new reclamation areas are located on the eastern portion of the project site away from the creek. In addition, these areas have been previously disturbed by mining activities. The proposed project will include no reclamation activities, beyond those originally analyzed in the EIR. Further, the biological mitigation measures discussed above will continue to be executed on the site. The implementation of the mitigations measures reduced the project-specific and cumulative impacts to vegetation/plant communities, wildlife habitat, sensitive resources and sedimentation to a level less than significant.

The EIR stated that the project site has several potential geotechnical constraints. The original quarry operation created an unstable slope which has the potential for a rockfall that would impact quarry workers, Matilija Creek, and Highway 33. It was also noted, that the during quarry activities, quarry employees and Highway 33 users would be exposed to major geological hazards, which was considered a significant impact. To reduce the impact of the potential geotechnical hazards, the project was conditioned to comply with a "Geology and Soils Mitigation Program" [CUP 3489-2, Condition of Approval No. 1-3 (a-b)] which required the operator to submit a "Geologic/Slope Stability Program (GSSP)". The GSSP includes: on-going period inspections by a certified engineering geologist and licensed land surveyor to identify changes of lithology and/or geologic conditions and to ensure the safety of the site; methods to modify and backfill the precariously steep backcut slopes within the (then) current mining benches of the site; a map which identifies all on-site perch boulders (to be removed); a map which identifies all areas where the natural quarry fracture planes exceed 44 degrees; and additional engineering recommendations to ensure slope stability. The implementation of the mitigation measures reduced the (then) existing adverse conditions to joints, faulting/seismicity and slope stability to less than significant levels.

Traffic impacts were analyzed in the original EIR prepared for the site in 1975. The project was originally permitted for 20 truck trips per day for a total of 40 ADT (average daily trips). The current project is conditioned for a maximum of 20 truck trips per day, consistent with the original analysis, therefore, based on the previous environmental documentation and the fact that project continued to operate within the original truck trip allocation, the current EIR (focused) required no traffic mitigation as no impacts to traffic were identified.

#### Addendum to the 1995 EIR

Section 15164(a) of the CEQA Guidelines (Title 14, California Code of Regulations, Chapter 3) states that the decision-making body shall prepare an addendum to a previously certified EIR if some changes or additions are necessary, but none of the conditions described in Section 15162 of the CEQA Guidelines calling for the preparation of a Subsequent EIR have occurred.

The conditions described in Section 15162 of the CEQA Guidelines which require the preparation of a Subsequent EIR are provided below, along with a discussion as to why a Subsequent EIR is not required:

**1. Substantial changes are proposed in the project which will require major revisions of the previous EIR due to the involvement of new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects [§15162(a)(1)];**

The project does not require any major revisions to the previous EIR. The project proposes to increase the number of permitted mining equipment and vehicles only. No new additions of stationary infrastructure or expansions to mining area are proposed. The project will include the use of portable mining equipment (i.e., crusher, screens and conveyors) which will be permitted under an Authority to Construct and Permit to Operate issued by the Ventura County Air Pollution Control District (APCD). All equipment under this APCD permit will comply with all applicable APCD, State, and federal rules. This includes the Best Available Control Technology (BACT) and emission offset requirements of Rule 26, "New Source Review" (Attachment 2); the California Air Resources Board (ARB) Airborne Toxic Control Measure (ATCM) for Diesel Particulate Matter From Portable Diesel Engines, and the federal requirement 40 CFR Part 60, Subpart OOO, Standards of Performance for Non-Metallic Mineral Processing Plants.

The proposed permitted emissions for the proposed equipment are below the offset thresholds as shown in Table B-1 of Rule 26.2.B.1 which states that the individual pollutant offset thresholds for Reactive Organic Compound (ROC) and Nitrogen Oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>) are permissible at a rate of 5.0 tons per year. The Particulate Matter (PM-10) and Sulfur Oxides (SO<sub>x</sub>) permitted emissions are permissible at a rate of 15.0 tons per year. The proposed equipment will have ROC emissions of .03 tons per year, NO<sub>x</sub> emissions at 1.4 tons per year, PM-10 emissions at .07 tons per year and Sox emissions at .06 tons per year. All proposed equipment emissions are far below the off-set thresholds. Therefore, emission offsets are not required (see Attachment 3 – AQMP Memo, dated March 29, 2012). The proposed equipment is also anticipated to be consistent with established BACT and local air quality "rules".

The change in operational hours will only permit trucks to enter the site at 6:30AM (as opposed to 7:00AM, which is what is currently permitted), all other operations (loading, shipping, etc.) will remain permitted within existing operation hours. Phasing will now occur with a "top-down" approach, which is consistent with standard mining practice and will establish safer, more stable geotechnical conditions, as this method minimizes potential slope failures.

The proposed Reclamation Plan Compliance Amendment will incorporate previously disturbed areas into the Reclamation Plan. While some minimal grading is necessary in Area 1 (Attachment 1) to stabilize existing slope conditions, this grading will not have a significant environmental impact because it is a necessary and integral part of overall site reclamation. All reclaimed slopes (both existing and proposed) will meet the slope stability standards set forth by the original Conditional Use Permit, Reclamation Plan and EIR. Therefore, the proposed modification will

not result in any new significant environmental effects or an increase the severity of previously identified impacts.

- 2. Substantial changes occur with respect to the circumstances under which the project is undertaken which will require major revisions of the previous EIR due to the involvement of new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects [§15162(a)(2)]; or,**

The proposed project would not alter the existing environmental conditions such that major revisions to the previous EIR will be required. The entire project site (current CUP boundary) was previously surveyed to identify biological impacts by S. Gregory Nelson on July 24, 1991 (see Schmit Rock Quarry Biological Assessment, EIR – Appendix B). As mentioned above, the Southern California steelhead trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) has been federally listed as endangered since 1997 and the Critical habitat for the Southern California steelhead trout has been identified in Ventura County and includes the Ventura River and major tributaries, such as the Matilija Creek - North Fork, which runs adjacent to the project site. However, the proposed changes will not cause an impact to the creek and therefore could not affect the Southern California steelhead trout. The original project was conditioned to mitigate potential impacts to the creek by reducing sedimentation on-site. The project was also conditioned to mitigate any existing and potential geotechnical hazards. With both the biological and geotechnical mitigation measures in place, the proposed projection will not involve any new significant environmental impacts or cause a substantial increase in the severity of the previously identified significant effects.

- 3. New information of substantial importance, which was not known and could not have been known with the exercise of reasonable diligence at the time the Planning Director/Planning Commission/Board of Supervisors certified the previous EIR, shows any of the following:**

- a. The project will have one or more significant effects not discussed in the previous EIR [§15162(a)(3)(A)];**

The project proposes to increase the number of permitted mining equipment and vehicles only. All equipment subject to local Air Pollution Control District (APCD) must obtain required air quality permits to demonstrate compliance with air quality laws and regulations, including but not limited, to California Air Resource Board (CARB) Air Toxic Control Measure for Stationary Compression Ignition Engines. The EIR evaluated the production of rip-rap, crushed rock aggregate and related stone products, thus impacts related to the production of such projects was previously analyzed and no impacts were identified.

The proposed change in operational hours will only permit trucks to enter the site at 6:30AM all other operations (loading, shipping, etc.) will remain permitted within existing operation hours. Phasing will now occur with a “top-down” approach,

which is consistent with standard mining practice and will establish safer, more stable geotechnical conditions, as this method minimizes potential slope failures.

The proposed reclamation plan will incorporate previously disturbed areas into the Reclamation Plan and will meet the reclamation requirements of SMARA, the State Mining and Geology Board Reclamation Regulations and the Ventura County Non-Costal Zoning Ordinance.

The proposed operational changes will not cause any significant impacts not addressed in the EIR.

**b. Significant effects previously examined will be substantially more severe than shown in the previous EIR [§15162(a)(3)(B)];**

Implementation of the RPCA would serve to reduce the potential for erosion and sedimentation from the rock quarry through a lowering of slope gradient and re-vegetation of excavated areas.

The EIR evaluated the production of rip-rap, crushed rock aggregate and related stone products, thus impacts related to the production of such products ~~projects~~ was previously analyzed and no potentially significant and unmitigable impacts were identified. The proposed additional mining equipment is not expected to produce any un-related mining products or operate beyond the parameters discussed in the EIR. There will be no increase in production rates, expansion of mining area, or any other intensity of use and proposed operational changes will not cause any significant impacts not addressed in the EIR. As discussed above, the air quality impacts (emissions) for all mobile equipment is analyzed under the local air permitting agency (APCD). Emissions for the proposed equipment have been modeled and it is anticipated that the emissions will be far lower than the state and federal standards.

Because the proposed operational changes (e.g. phasing, hours of operation and reclamation activities) will not impact the aesthetics (visual), biology/sedimentation, geology/soils or traffic condition of the site, no impacts more severe than what was previously analyzed in the EIR are anticipated.

**c. Mitigation measures or alternatives previously found not to be feasible would in fact be feasible and would substantially reduce one or more significant effects of the project, but the project proponents decline to adopt the mitigation measure or alternative [§15162(a)(3)(C)];**

The proposed project would not alter the existing environmental conditions such that mitigation measures or alternatives previously found in the EIR to be infeasible would now be feasible. The proposed project would not cause any new impacts which would require mitigation. The project site was previously surveyed to identify biological impacts, geotechnical impacts, and aesthetics and the original project was conditioned to mitigate such impacts accordingly. The proposed project will

not involve any new significant environmental impacts or cause a substantial increase in the severity of the previously identified significant effects which would warrant additional mitigation measures.

**d. Mitigation measures or alternatives which are considerably different from those analyzed in the previous EIR would substantially reduce one or more significant effects on the environment, but the project proponents decline to adopt the mitigation measure or alternative [§15162(a)(3)(D)].**

The proposed project would not alter the existing environmental conditions such that mitigation measures or alternatives not ~~would~~ previously analyzed in the EIR would be necessary. The proposed project would not cause any new impacts which would require mitigation, as discussed above. The project was previously surveyed to identify biological impacts, geotechnical impacts, and aesthetics and the original project was conditioned to mitigate such impacts accordingly. The proposed project is substantially in conformance with the project description originally analyzed by in the EIR.

Therefore, based on the information provided above, there is no substantial evidence in the record to warrant the preparation of a Subsequent EIR and there is substantial evidence supporting the use of an Addendum in this matter. The decision-making body or decision maker shall consider this Addendum to the adopted EIR prior to making a decision on the project.

**C. PUBLIC REVIEW:**

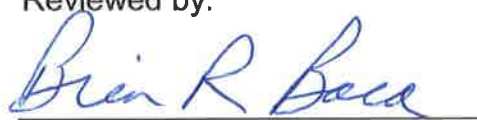
Pursuant to the CEQA Guidelines §15164(c), this Addendum to the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) does not need to be circulated for public review and comment, and shall be included in, or attached to, the adopted EIR.

Prepared by:



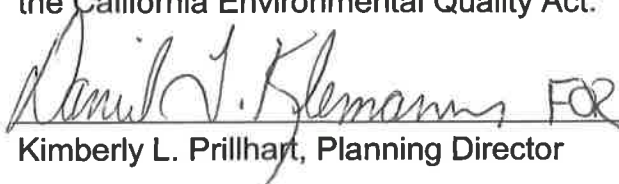
For Ebony J. McGee, Case Planner  
Commercial and Industrial Permits Section

Reviewed by:



Brian R. Baca, Manager  
Commercial and Industrial Permits  
Section

The Planning Director finds that this Addendum has been completed in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act.



FOR  
Kimberly L. Prillhart, Planning Director

4/17/12  
/Date

- Attachment 1 – Reclamation Plan Map
- Attachment 2 – APCD Rule 26 New Source Review Requirements
- Attachment 3 – APCD Memo, dated March 29, 2012
- Attachment 4 – Final Environmental Impact Report, dated September 2, 1993
- Attachment 5 – Letters of comment received by the County Planning Division
- Attachment 6 – Response to comments



## **Attachment 5**

### **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (EIR) – ADDENDUM CEQA Guidelines Section 15164**

**Mosler Rock-Ojai Quarry  
Conditional Use Permit Modification, Case No. LU11-0080  
Reclamation Plan Compliance Amendment**

**Letters of comment submitted for  
the April 12, 2012 Planning Director hearing**

- A. 4-11-12 letter from Santa Barbara Channelkeeper**
- B. 4-11-12 letter from the Casitas Municipal Water District (CMWD)**
- C. 4-12-12 letter from Lorenz K. Schaller**
- D. 4-12-12 Letter from the Environmental Coalition**
- E. 4-11-12 email from H. Smith, Ojai Stop the Trucks! Coalition, to K. Prillhart**
- F. 4-11-12 letter from M. Black, on behalf of Ojai Stop the Trucks! Coalition, to K. Prillhart**



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Paul Junger Will

April 11, 2012

Kimberly Prillhart  
Planning Director  
Resource Management Agency  
County of Ventura  
800 South Victoria Avenue  
Ventura, CA 93009

RE: April 12, 2012 Hearing on Mosler Rock-Ojai Quarry Reclamation Plan Compliance Amendment ("RPCA")

Dear Ms. Prillhart,

I am writing to express Santa Barbara Channelkeeper's (Channelkeeper) concerns regarding the proposed approval of Mosler Rock-Ojai Quarry's Reclamation Plan Compliance Amendment. Channelkeeper is a 501 c(3) non-profit organization that works to protect and restore the Santa Barbara Channel and its watersheds including the Ventura River watershed where we have conducted extensive water quality monitoring since 2001. In 2006, Channelkeeper became highly involved in monitoring and documenting water quality and habitat impacts in North Fork Matilija Creek resulting from operations conducted at the Ojai Quarry. Since that time we have communicated our concerns with local, State, and Federal agencies as well as with the owner of the Ojai Quarry himself in an effort to eliminate existing impacts.

While managers of the Ojai quarry have taken certain actions to address our many concerns, we believe that significant impacts to North Fork Matilija Creek and Federally Endangered Steelhead Trout continue to occur, in particular due to sediment contaminated stormwater runoff.

**Conditions Requiring Development of a Subsequent EIR**

Exhibit 21 of the County's staff report outlines its findings regarding requirements to revise the project's EIR. The county lists the conditions described in Section 15162 of the CEQA Guidelines, which require the preparation of a Subsequent EIR. We believe that the project clearly meets some of these conditions, and we therefore strongly disagree with the County's finding that no additional CEQA review should be required.

Condition 1 requires a Subsequent EIR if: **Substantial changes are proposed in the project which will require major revisions of the previous EIR due to the involvement of new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects;**

The applicant wishes to seek approval for the inclusion of a rock crusher for the proposed project machinery list. This piece of machinery will likely produce a large volume of fine sediment by-product with the potential to impact North Fork Matilija Creek if it is not



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RPCA/CUP3489-2  
Exhibit 22  
Santa Barbara Channel Keeper

contained and disposed of properly. We believe this addition is a substantial change to the project, which should be assessed in a Subsequent EIR.

2.

**Condition 2 requires a Subsequent EIR if: Substantial changes occur with respect to the circumstances under which the project is undertaken which will require major revisions of the previous EIR due to the involvement of new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects;**

As the County has identified, the Southern California steelhead trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) was federally listed as an Endangered Species in 1997 since the project's EIR was certified. North Fork Matilija Creek, which the project discharges to, is identified as Critical Habitat for this species. This designation means that project impacts may result in a take of an Endangered Species, thereby resulting in a substantial increase in the severity of biological and sediment impacts previously identified, thereby requiring preparation of a Subsequent EIR.

3.

**Condition 3 also requires a Subsequent EIR if: New information of substantial importance, which was not known and could not have been known with the exercise of reasonable diligence at the time the Planning Director/Planning Commission/Board of Supervisors certified the previous EIR, shows any of the following:**

**b. Significant effects previously examined will be substantially more severe than shown in the previous EIR**

Clearly the designation of Southern California steelhead trout as a federally listed Endangered Species is new information of substantial importance not known at the time of adoption, resulting in substantially more severe impacts than were previously identified in the EIR. It should be noted that steelhead trout inhabit North Fork Matilija Creek in fact, and not only in designation as has been documented by multiple private and public agency biologists. Attachment A shows recent photographs of a steelhead redd recently discovered directly downstream of the Ojal Quarry underneath Matilija Road bridge.

4.

Additionally, it has been made abundantly clear that the mitigation measures (1 – 5) identified in the EIR to address impacts to Biological and Sediment impacts are not even minimally effective to reduce impacts to a less than significant level. We strongly disagree with the following statement made by the County (Exhibit 21, Page 4, Paragraph 1), "Further, the biological mitigation measures discussed above [in the 1993 EIR] will continue to be executed on the site. The implementation of the mitigation measures reduced the project-specific and cumulative impacts to vegetation/plant communities, wildlife habitat, sensitive resources and sedimentation to a level less than significant." This later statement has over the last 18 years been demonstrated to be patently false.

5.

This fact is demonstrated through:

- Years of water quality monitoring conducted by Santa Barbara Channelkeeper including monitoring conducted after increased efforts to control sediment pollution were undertaken by the owner (Attachment C)

- Repeated intervention by the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board, which has issued multiple Notices of Violation and a Cleanup and Abatement Order to the Quarry for stormwater pollution impacts
- Intervention by National Marine Fisheries Service to compel the Ojai Quarry to develop more effective sediment management practices
- The Ojai Quarry's own 2010 – 2011 Annual Report (Attachment B), which indicates that discharge from the Ojai Quarry contained total suspended solids (sediment) at concentrations of 1220 mg/L. This level is over 12 times in exceedence of the Industrial Permit benchmark (100 mg/L) indicating that Best Management Practices are NOT minimizing sediment concentrations to a level that is not significantly impactful.

5.

As demonstrated, it is clear that significant effects that were previously examined have turned out to be substantially more severe than shown in the previous EIR. This condition therefore mandates that a Subsequent EIR be developed before the Amendment is approved.

As a final note, we also do not agree with the following statement (Exhibit 21, page 3, paragraph 4), "While the [North Fork] Matilija Creek runs adjacent to the project site along the western mining boundary, the proposed project will not impact the creek as the new reclamation areas are located on the eastern portion of the project site away from the creek." Channelkeeper notes that the new reclamation areas are all in fact located up-slope of North Fork Matilija Creek, and the gradient of the land will carry all pollutants associated with the project to the creek itself regardless of the site's east/west orientation.

6.

For the reasons stated above, Channelkeeper finds that the Planning Commission has no other legal option but to deny approval of the proposed Amendment until a Subsequent EIR is developed, which adequately assesses impacts to endangered species, critical habitat, and water quality in North Fork Matilija Creek.

7.

Thank you for your consideration,

Ben Pitterle  
Watershed Programs Director



B.

April 11, 2012

Kimberly Prillhart, Planning Director  
Resource Management Agency  
County of Ventura  
800 South Victoria Avenue  
Ventura, CA 93009

Subject: Mosler Rock Products – Order to Comply with Surface Mining and  
Reclamation Act: – CEQA Addendum

Dear Ms. Prillhart:

Casitas Municipal Water District (CMWD) is a special district organized under the California Municipal Water District Act of 1911. CMWD is located approximately 2 miles downstream of the project site and supplies municipal, industrial, and agricultural water for 65,000 people within its boundary. CMWD has also invested millions of dollars in support of the safe migration of southern California steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) upstream of Robles Diversion Dam and for the recovery and restoration of this species to the Ventura River. The Ventura River and its major tributaries, including the North Fork Matilija Creek, has been identified in the Southern California Steelhead Recovery Plan prepared by the National Marine Fisheries Service as a high priority river for recovery of the Federally listed endangered southern California steelhead. The recovery actions identified in the Steelhead Recovery Plan for the Lower North Fork of Matilija Creek include: "Develop and implement plan to remove and maintain quarry and landslide debris from the channel" and "Review and modify mining operations" (p. 9-57).

1.

CMWD has previously written letters outlining issues of concern to the United States Corps of Engineers and the California Regional Water Quality Control Board – Los Angeles related to the Mosler Rock Products. Because of CMWD's investment for the endangered species and continuing protection of water quality, the Board of Directors wish to comment on the discretionary action proposed for the Mosler Rock Products project and ask that this letter be included in the administrative record for any eventual application for new entitlements.

CMWD's review of the administrative record and conditions of approval for the project that was presented to the Planning Commission did not discover any mention of water quality impact analysis for project run-off that considered Total Dissolved Solids (TDS), siltation, turbidity, eutrophication, habitat values, endangered species, and health, safety, and welfare issues related to water quality. These issues are potentially significant adverse impacts associated with the

2.

proposed project and should be reviewed accordingly under CEQA. An analysis of these potential impacts may result in a change to the findings of the original environmental document, primarily because the original environmental document had no mitigation measures or conditions of approval that specifically address these issues.

2.

#### Fill Material

Fill material may not enter Waters of the United States under the Clean Water Act Section 404. Fill material entering the water course (Lower North Fork Matilija Creek), while being a violation of the Federal Clean Water Act, the fill is also potentially impacting (taking) species of special concern under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and causing degradation of water quality for total dissolved solids, silt, erosion, and eutrophication under the Clean Water Act Section 404.

3.

#### Mitigation Measures


The project impacts related to Total Dissolved Solids (TDS), turbidity, siltation, eutrophication are all related to storm water leaving the mining site in an unmitigated manner. The Ventura County Planning Division and Public Works Department should provide for mitigation measures to quarry operations approval that will adequately address each of these project impacts.

4.

In addition, a biological assessment should be conducted for the quarry project impacts on the areas of the Lower North Fork of Matilija Creek and the Ventura River. Specific attention should be made toward the impacts to the restoration of steelhead habitat and passage for migration to spawning grounds upstream.

5.

Sincerely yours,

  
Russ Baggerly  
President of the Board

CC: Ventura County Supervisor Steve Bennett  
Chris Stephens, Resource Management Agency Director  
Michael Villegas, APCD Director  
Brian Baca, Commercial and Industrial Section Manager  
Ebony J. McGee, SMARA Program Coordinator

C.

April 12, 2012

Page 1 of 3 Pages

Kimberly Prillhart, Planning Director  
Resource Management Agency  
County of Ventura  
800 South Victoria Avenue  
Ventura, CA 93009

**Re: Case Number:** RPCA/CUP 3489-2  
**Applicant:** Mosler Rock Products  
**Project Address:** 1555 Maricopa Highway, Ojai, CA 93023  
**Detail:** Request for Approval to Amend Current  
Reclamation Plan

*Dear Ms. Prillhart:*

Thank you for this opportunity to provide some written input regarding the matter cited above.

The undersigned (the writer of this letter) is a resident of Ventura County, occupying a residence continuously for the past 30-plus years in an unincorporated area of the County known as "Meiners Oaks." Said area lies directly adjacent to and west of, the City of Ojai.

The undersigned respectfully submits these remarks as "commentary of a public citizen," submitted at a public hearing pertaining to environmental matters located close to the undersigned's residence.

1.

**Proximity of This Letter-Writer's Residence to the Quarry Site**

The Mosler Rock Products quarry site at 1555 Maricopa Highway is located in relative close proximity to this writer's residence. Travel time from this writer's residence to Maricopa Highway itself on foot (pedestrian, walking) is approximately 8-9 minutes. By bicycle, the travel time to the Highway is about half of that ( i.e. 4-5 minutes).

Travel time from this writer's residence to the rock-quarry site on foot (pedestrian, walking) is about 60-minutes, and by bicycle, about half of that (approximately 30 minutes). To travel from this writer's residence to the quarry-site by automobile would take approximately 10-minutes (possibly less).

"Meiners Oaks" is a small residential district consisting of approximately 1,000 residences with each residence occupied by an average of perhaps 3-4 persons. Therefore, several thousand people (minimum) live quite close to the quarry site. This writer is simply one of those citizens, one with an interest in the natural environment. Many of my fellow citizens also share an interest in the natural beauty of the Los Padres National Forest, whose nearby splendors are visible from their homes every day. Among these citizens are those who feel that the health of the Forest and its ecosystems are indivisible from the health of all of us in the human community.

2.



Kimberly Prillhart, April 12, 2012

Page 3 of 3 Pages

The purpose of this letter is to comment on the document dated April 11, 2012 and submitted to today's Public Hearing by Santa Barbara Channelkeeper (signature: Ben Pitterle; Watershed Programs Director); 3-pages in length with attachments.

I have read Mr. Pitterle's document and feel its comments and findings are based on careful research and analysis.

I am in support of the County of Ventura giving its utmost careful attention to the matters specified in Mr. Pitterle's document. I also believe that those matters are issues of concern to many of my fellow citizens, especially those with an interest in the protection and stewardship of the natural world.

Thank you for this opportunity to contribute these opinions, and comments.

Sincerely,

*Lorenz K. Schaller*

Lorenz K. Schaller

330 South Pueblo Avenue  
Ojai, CA 93023

Tel (805) 646-0772

3.



ENVIRONMENTAL  
COALITION

P.O. BOX 68 • VENTURA, CA 93002

April 12, 2012

Ms. Kim Prillhart, Planning Director  
Resource Management Agency  
County of Ventura  
800 South Victoria Avenue  
Ventura, CA 93009

Subject: Mosler Rock-Ojai Quarry -1555 Maricopa Hwy., Ventura County, CA  
Reclamation Plan Compliance Amendment (RPCA) - EIR Addendum  
Modification to Conditional Use Permit No. 3489-2

Dear Ms. Prillhart:

An environmental impact report (EIR) for the Ojai Quarry was certified on January 15, 1976 by the Ventura County Planning Commission. A subsequent EIR dated June 1, 1995 for the Ojai Quarry was also approved by Planning Commission. Both documents were prepared and approved before the southern California steelhead were listed as an endangered species under the Endangered Species Act on August 18, 1997 (Southern California Steelhead Recovery Plan Summary January 2012 enclosed). The public and the regulatory agencies are being denied the environmental review that is generally provided when new significant information becomes available after the preparation of previous EIRs because the Planning Department has prepared only an Addendum for the proposed Reclamation Plan Compliance Amendment and Conditional Use Permit Modification. 1.

The Environmental Coalition of Ventura County believes that before the Ventura County Planning Director should take an action to approve an amended reclamation plan or the addition of new uses for the property that adequate environmental review should take place so that new significant impacts from the project and equipment can be fully disclosed and mitigations measures provided. For example, the addition of rock crushers to the CUP has the ability to add to the amount of total particulate matter that is already at a level of non-attainment for health based air quality standards and should be identified as a significant adverse impact. The additional sediment may also cause biological impacts to the stream. 2.

Another potential significant adverse impact that may result if the addition of rock crusher equipment on the Mosler Rock-Ojai Quarry is approved is the amount of sediment that will enter the north fork of the Matilija Creek will increase where the steelhead have to pass in order to reach their upstream spawning grounds. This may add to an already impacted stretch of the Creek 3.

Based on the above mentioned comments and the substantial evidence provided in the Santa Barbara Channelkeeper letter dated April 11, 2012 (herein incorporated by reference) we respectfully request that you prepare a subsequent EIR for the proposed projects. 4.

Sincerely yours,

Janis McCormick, President

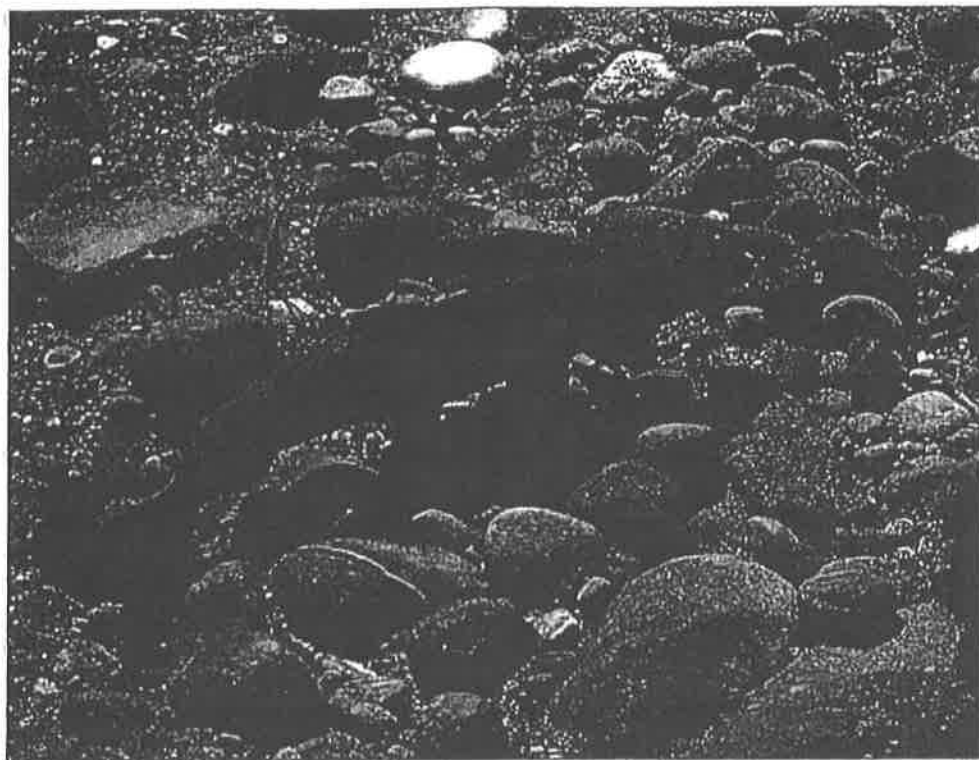
County of Ventura  
Planning Director Hearing  
RPCA/CUP3489-2  
Exhibit 27  
Environmental Coalition



National Marine Fisheries Service

Southwest Regional Office

## **Southern California Steelhead Recovery Plan Summary**



*Adult Female Steelhead, Mission Creek, Santa Barbara County*



**National Marine Fisheries Service  
Southwest Regional Office  
Long Beach, CA**

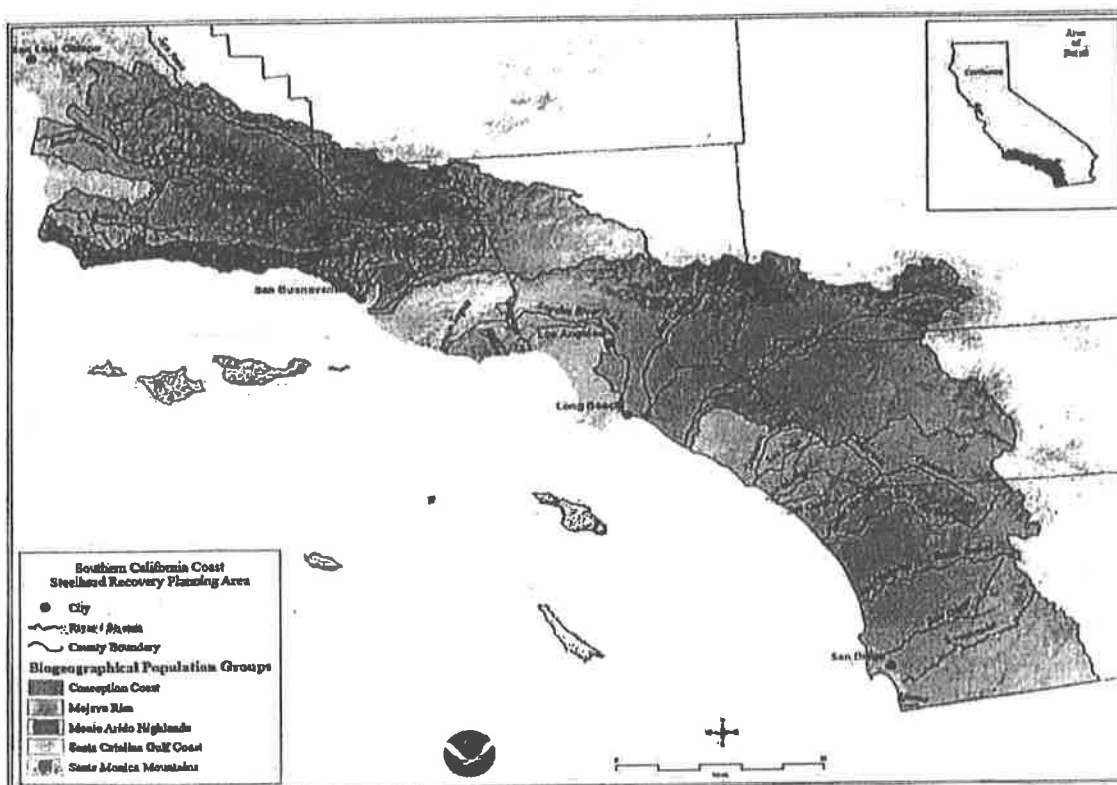
**January 2012**

**April 12, 2012  
Environmental Coalition  
Enclosure**



The Southern California Steelhead DPS encompasses all naturally-spawned anadromous *O. mykiss* between the Santa Maria River (inclusive) and the U.S.-Mexico border, whose freshwater habitat occurs below artificial or natural impassible upstream barriers, as well as *O. mykiss* residing above impassible barriers that are able to emigrate into waters below barriers and exhibit an anadromous life-history.

The SCS Recovery Planning Area is divided into five Biogeographic Population Groups (BPGs): Monte Arido Highlands, Conception Coast, Santa Monica Mountains, Mojave Rim and Santa Catalina Gulf Coast. Each BPG is characterized by a unique combination of physical and ecological characteristics that present differing natural selective regimes for steelhead populations utilizing the individual watersheds. The separate watersheds comprising each BPG are generally considered to support individual *O. mykiss* populations (i.e., one watershed = one steelhead population). Thus, single BPGs encompass multiple watersheds and multiple *O. mykiss* populations.



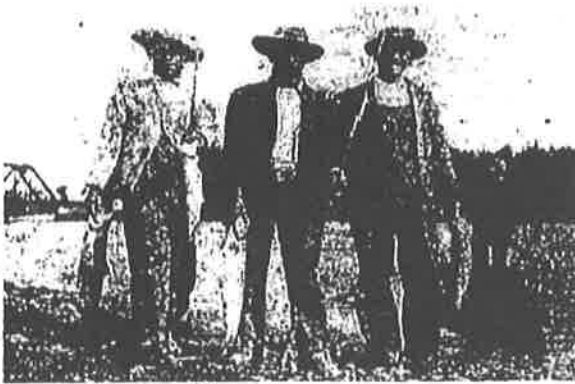
**The Southern California Steelhead Recovery Planning Area Biogeographic Population Groups.**

The basic goal of the Southern California Steelhead Recovery Plan is to recover anadromous steelhead and ensure the long-term persistence of self-sustaining wild populations of steelhead across the DPS – and ultimately to remove southern California steelhead from the Federal List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife. The Recovery Plan proposes to accomplish this goal by addressing factors limiting the species ability to survive and naturally reproduce in the wild within a set of core watershed populations distributed across the SCS Recovery Planning Area.



## Southern California Steelhead

For millennia, steelhead have been an integral part of southern California watershed ecosystems. The subsistence role of steelhead in pre-European settlement Native American cultures, however, is not as well understood as other marine species, and continues to be a subject of archeological and ethnographic research.



Ventura River Steelhead Anglers, 1909



Santa Ynez River Steelhead Angler, 1942

Up until the mid-1900s recreational steelhead angling was prevalent during the early to mid-1900s, and both steelhead and their progeny were sought out by recreational anglers - the ocean going steelhead pursued during the winter and the freshwater juveniles during the spring and summer angling seasons.

Following the dramatic rise in southern California's human population after WW II, and the associated land and water development in coastal watersheds, steelhead populations rapidly declined from an estimated 32,000 - 46,000 fish per year to less than 500 returning adults. While the steelhead populations declined sharply, most coastal watersheds retained populations of the non-anadromous form of the species, with many populations trapped behind dams and other impassible barriers.

### Factors Leading to Federal Listing

There is no single factor responsible for the decline of southern California steelhead; however, the destruction and modification of habitat has been identified as one of the primary causes of the decline of the Southern California Steelhead DPS.

Approximately half of the population of the State of California currently lives and works within the SCS Recovery Planning Area, placing extraordinary pressure on natural resources. As a result, anadromous *O. mykiss* in southern California face significant threats from water and land management practices that have degraded or curtailed freshwater and estuarine habitats, reducing the capability of the anadromous form of *O. mykiss* to persist within many watersheds.

Water withdrawals and diversions for agriculture, flood control, domestic water supply and hydropower purposes have greatly reduced or degraded historically accessible habitat. Dams and other water control structures have blocked access to historically important spawning and rearing areas; modified flow regimes necessary for migration, spawning and rearing; increased downstream water temperatures; degraded riparian habitats; and reduced gravel recruitment essential to support spawning and invertebrate food sources for rearing juveniles.



## Steelhead Recovery Goals, Objectives, and Criteria

The Recovery Plan is a guidance document for achieving recovery goals that include viability criteria for populations of *O. mykiss* and the DPS as a whole. The basic goal of the Southern California Steelhead Recovery Plan is to prevent the extinction of anadromous steelhead by ensuring the long-term persistence of viable, self-sustaining, wild populations of steelhead across the DPS. It is also the goal of the Recovery Plan to re-establish a sustainable southern California steelhead sport fishery.

The Recovery Plan outlines the following objectives that address factors limiting the species' ability to survive and naturally reproduce in the wild:

- ☐ ***Prevent steelhead extinction by protecting existing populations and their habitats.***
- ☐ ***Maintain current distribution of steelhead and restore distribution to some previously occupied areas.***
- ☐ ***Increase abundance of steelhead to viable population levels, including the expression of all life-history forms and strategies.***
- ☐ ***Conserve existing genetic diversity and provide opportunities for interchange of genetic material between and within viable populations.***
- ☐ ***Maintain and restore suitable habitat conditions and characteristics to support all life-history stages of viable populations.***

Biological viability criteria are identified for individual populations and the DPS as a whole. A *viable population* is defined as a population having a negligible (< 5%) risk of extinction due to threats from demographic variation, non-catastrophic environmental variation, and genetic diversity changes over a 100-year time frame. A *viable DPS* is comprised of a sufficient number of viable populations widely distributed throughout the DPS but sufficiently well-connected through ocean and freshwater dispersal to maintain long-term (1,000-year) persistence and evolutionary potential of the DPS.

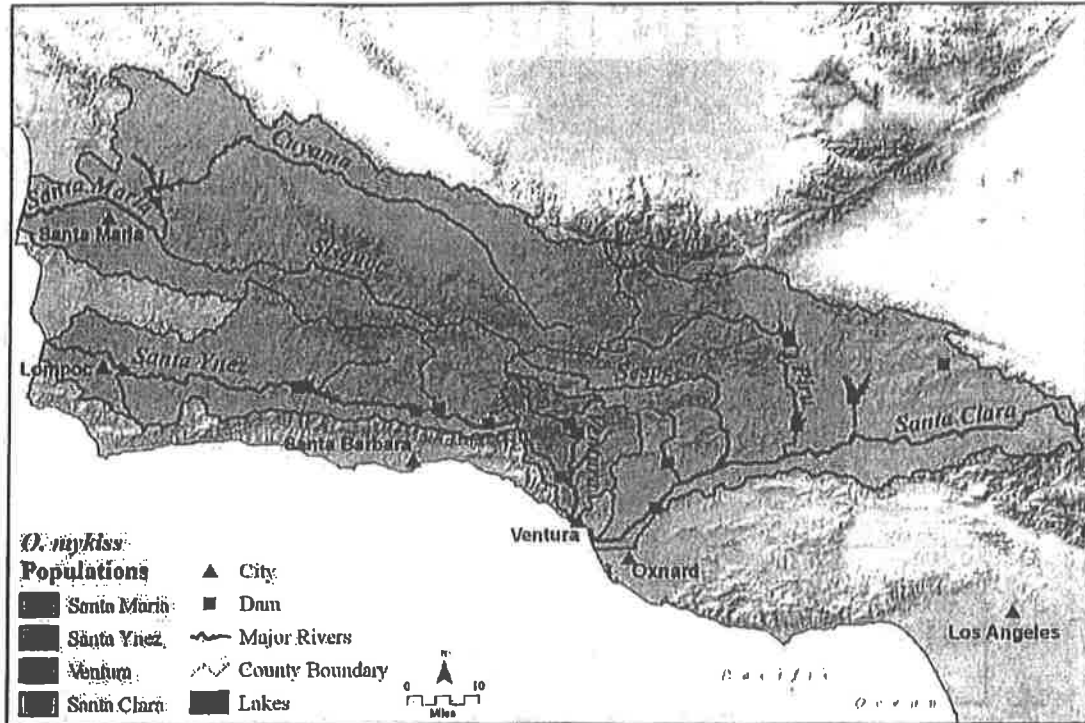
The population-level viability criteria apply to core populations in all of the BPGs. These criteria include population characteristics such as mean annual run-size, persistence during varying ocean conditions, spawner density, and the anadromous fraction of the individual populations. Because of the uncertainty regarding important aspects of the biology and ecology of southern California steelhead further research is needed to refine the population-level criteria in all BPGs, as well as the role of each of the BPGs.

The DPS-level viability criteria identify a minimum number of populations which must be restored to viability and the minimum spatial distribution between populations in each BPG: Monte Arido – 4 populations, Conception Coast - 3 populations, Santa Monica Mountains – 2 populations, Mojave River – 3 populations, and Santa Catalina Gulf Coast - 8 populations).

This redundancy ensures that there are a sufficient number of populations within the BPGs and across the DPS to provide resiliency in the face of environmental fluctuations, and also that a variety of habitat types and environmental conditions are represented to promote the continued evolution of the species. Some of these populations may be comprised of multiple watersheds if further research indicates that they act as trans-basinal populations.



## Monte Arido Highlands Biogeographic Population Group



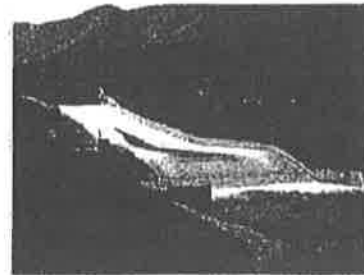
The Monte Arido Highlands BPG encompasses four medium to large coastal watersheds and eight sub-watersheds that drain the western half of the Transverse Range in southern San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Ventura, and eastern Los Angeles counties. These watersheds are highly disparate in terms of slope, aspect, and size, but share one common feature: the interior portions are mountainous and include high peak elevations, ranging between 5,700 and 8,600 feet above sea level. Each of these watersheds flows across a coastal terrace in its lower elevation, but the Santa Maria, Santa Ynez, and Santa Clara rivers traverse broad coastal plains before entering the Pacific Ocean. Overall, stream lengths tend to be long, due to multiple tributaries and topographic relief in the interior watersheds. The Santa Maria River watershed (Cuyama River sub-watershed) extends the furthest inland—almost 90 miles between the mouth and the limits of the upper watershed.



Santa Maria River



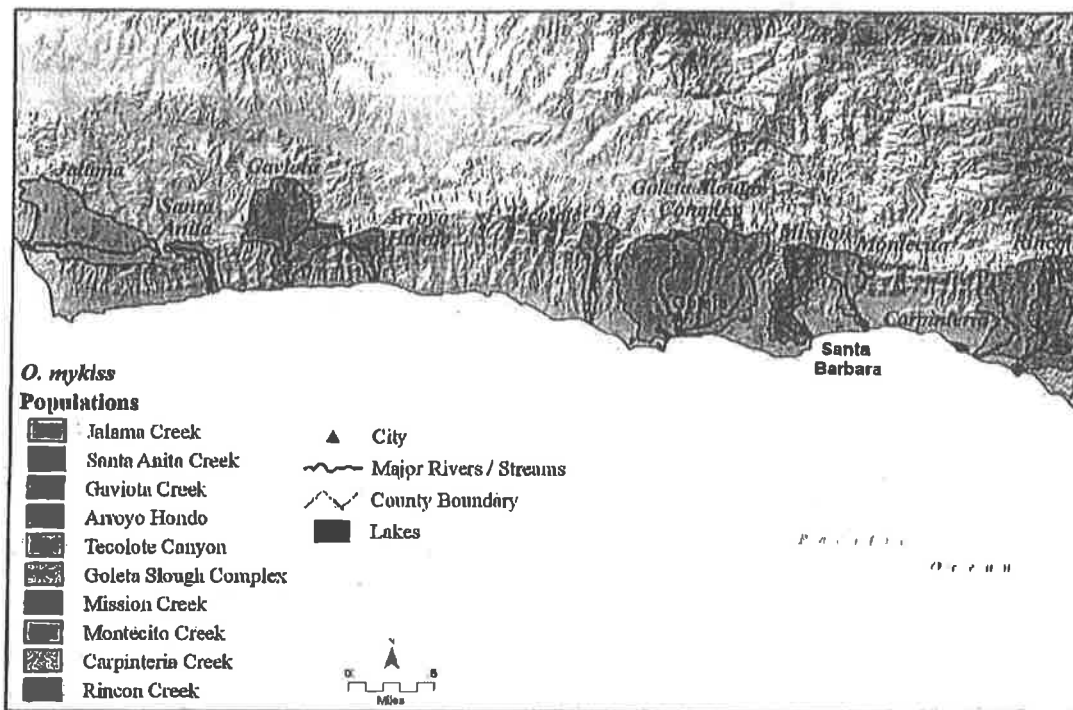
Adult Steelhead, Santa Clara River



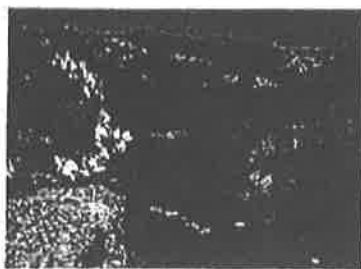
Bradbury Dam, Santa Ynez River



## Conception Coast Biogeographic Population Group



The Conception Coast BPG encompasses eight small coastal watersheds that drain a 50-mile long stretch of the south-facing slopes of the Santa Ynez Mountains in southern Santa Barbara County and extreme southwestern Ventura County. The Santa Ynez Mountains are an east-west trending spur of the Transverse Range that creates some of the steepest watersheds in any of the five BPGs in the SCS Recovery Planning Area. Peak elevations reach 4,300 feet within a few miles of the Pacific Ocean. These watersheds are relatively homogeneous in slope, aspect, and size, with steep upper watersheds and lower watersheds that cut across a relatively narrow coastal terrace. Stream lengths are relatively short in this BPG; the Gaviota Creek watershed penetrates the furthest inland (about seven miles). Rainfall amounts in the upper watersheds can be five to six times higher than on the coastal terrace during the same storm event, and the steep topography creates extremely "flashy" flows within these watersheds.



Gaviota Creek



Maria Ygnacio Creek

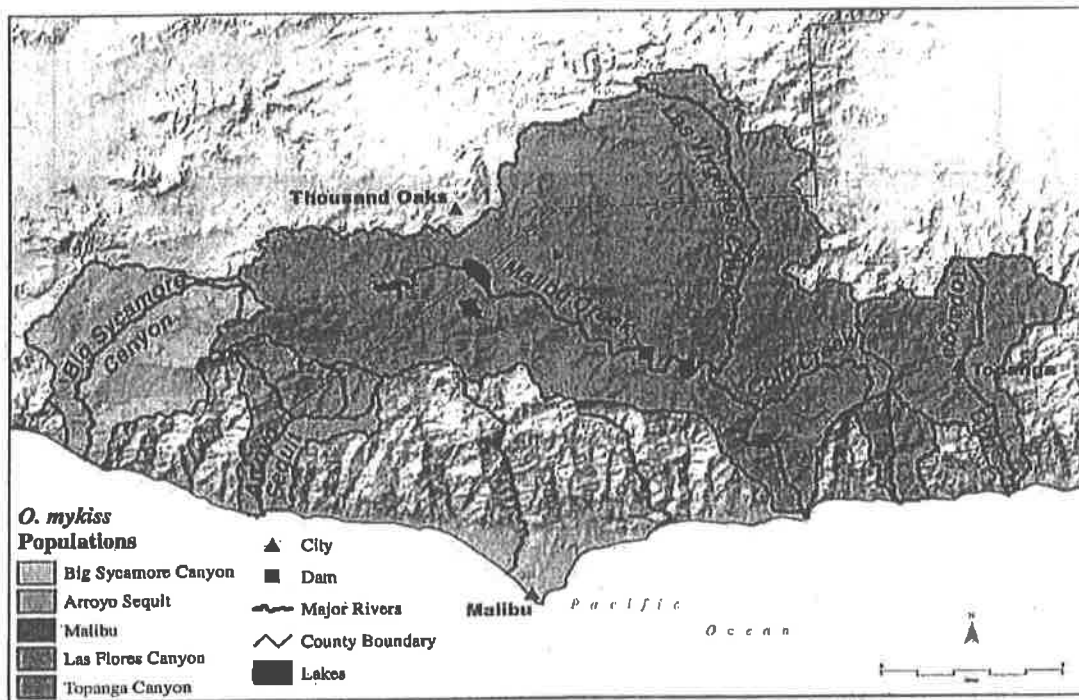


Adult Steelhead, Carpinteria Creek





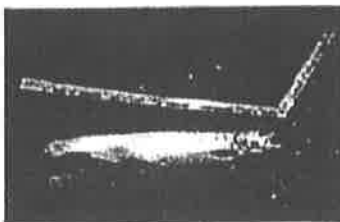
## Santa Monica Mountains Biogeographic Population Group



The Santa Monica Mountains BPG consists of five coastal watersheds located in southern Ventura and western Los Angeles counties which drain the east-west coastal Santa Monica Mountains. Similar to the Conception Coast BPG, it is comprised of a series of short, nearly parallel streams that drain steep south-facing slopes, but with an average elevation of less than 2,500 feet. These watersheds are relatively homogeneous in slope, aspect, and size, with steep upper watersheds and lower watersheds that cut across a relatively narrow coastal terrace. Malibu Creek is the largest of the five watersheds, encompassing approximately 110 square miles, and penetrates through a break in the Santa Monica Mountains to drain a portion of its north-facing slopes and the south-facing slopes of the Simi Hills. There are also a number of smaller watersheds within this BPG (e.g., Trancus, Zuma, Solstice, and Las Flores Canyon) which may also be used by steelhead when water conditions are periodically favorable. Calleguas Creek and the Los Angeles River, to the east and west of the BPG, drain the northern slopes of the Santa Monica Mountains.



Malibu-Los Angeles



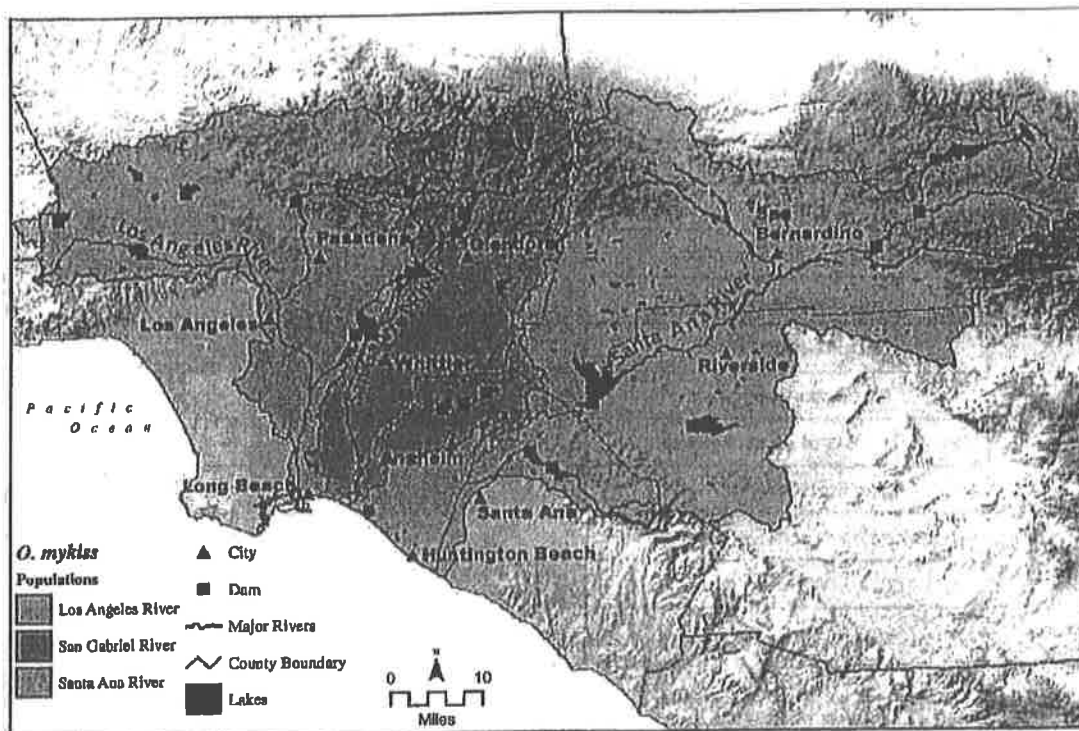
Adult Steelhead, Malibu Creek



Rindge Dam, Malibu Creek



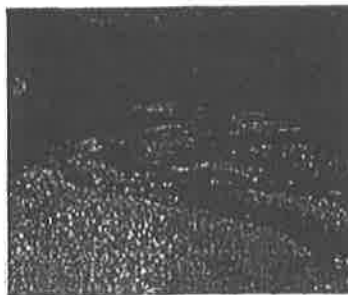
## Mojave Rim Biogeographic Population Group



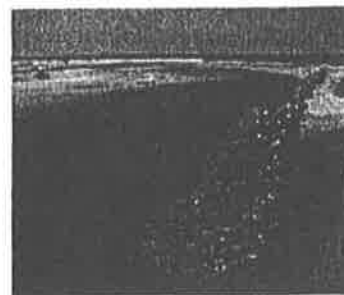
The Mojave Rim BPG encompasses three large coastal watersheds that drain the northern slopes of the Santa Monica Mountains and the southern slopes of the San Gabriel and San Bernardino mountains in southern Los Angeles County, southwestern San Bernardino, and western Riverside and Orange counties; the Los Angeles River, San Gabriel River, and the Santa Ana River. The upper portions of each of these watersheds include steep, mountainous terrain (within the Angeles and San Bernardino National Forests) and the lower watersheds cut across the Los Angeles Basin—an extensive coastal plain, with comparatively few, small tributaries.



Morris Dam, San Gabriel River.



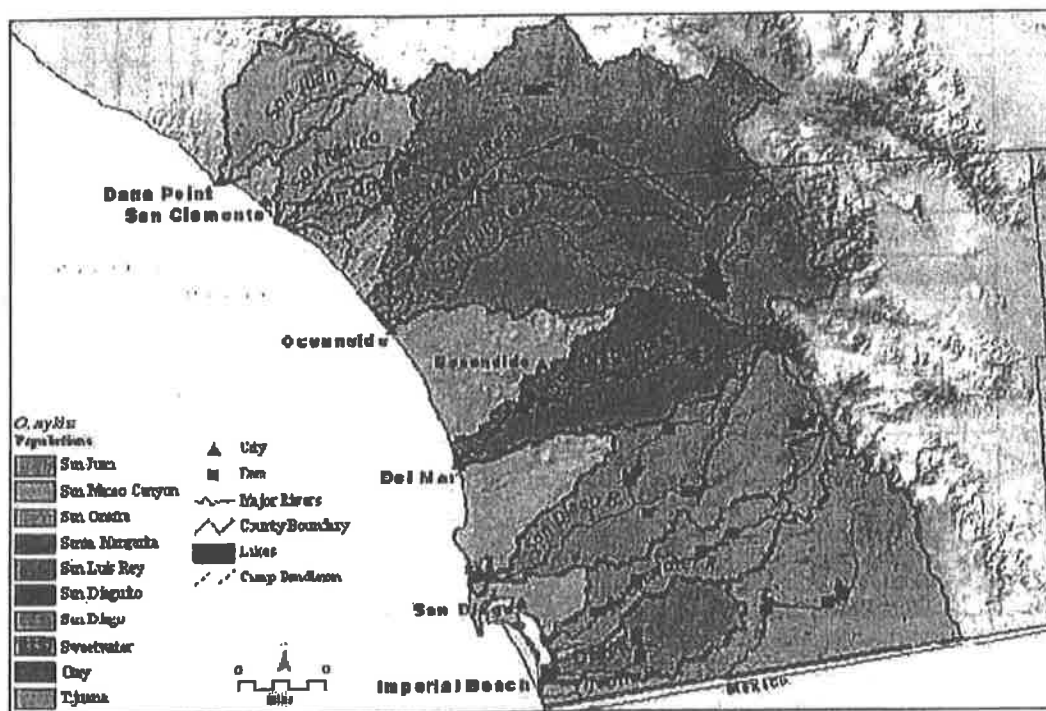
East Fork San Gabriel River



Santa Ana River Estuary



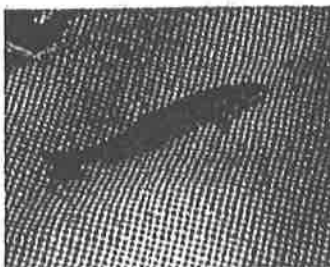
## Santa Catalina Gulf Coast Biogeographic Population Group



The Santa Catalina Gulf Coast BPG encompasses ten coastal watersheds of moderate size that drain the western slopes of the Santa Ana Mountains and Peninsular Range in southwestern Orange and Riverside counties southward through San Diego County to the United States-Mexico border. The upper portions of almost all of these watersheds include steep, mountainous regions and the lower watersheds cut across coastal terraces. Two watersheds, the Sweetwater River and Otay River, drain into San Diego Bay; the other eight watersheds drain directly into the Pacific Ocean. The component watersheds vary greatly in size and numerous tributaries contribute to the large total stream length for this BPG (4,235 miles). Because of low rainfall, many of the drainages in this BPG are naturally seasonal or have extensive dry reaches during years of below-average precipitation, particularly in their lower reaches.



Arroyo Trabuco Creek

*O. mykiss*, Pine Valley Creek

San Mateo Creek



## Summary

An array of natural and anthropogenic factors has reduced both the population size and historical distribution of steelhead within the SCS Recovery Planning Area, placing severe pressure on the species' ability to survive. However, steelhead are resilient fish and despite encroaching agricultural and urban development, they continue to persist in small numbers throughout the SCS Recovery Planning Area. The Southern California Steelhead Recovery Plan outlines a strategy for species' recovery by identifying core watersheds, threats to these watersheds and recovery actions to address those threats. The Recovery Plan also identifies a research program to address the biology and ecology of southern California steelhead necessary to refine the viability recovery criteria, and a monitoring program to assess the effectiveness of recovery actions and the status of individual populations and the DPS as a whole.

Many of the recovery actions identified in this Recovery Plan address watershed-wide processes (*e.g.*, wild-fire cycle, erosion and sedimentation, runoff, and non-point waste discharges) which will benefit a wide variety of other native species (including other state and federally listed species, or species of special concern) by restoring natural ecosystem functions.

Restoration of steelhead habitats in coastal watersheds will also provide substantial benefits for human communities. These include, but are not limited to, improving and protecting the water quality of important surface and groundwater supplies, reducing damages from periodic flooding resulting from floodplain development, and controlling invasive exotic animal and plant species which can threaten water supplies and increase flood risks. Restoring and maintaining ecologically functional watersheds also enhances important human uses of habitats occupied by steelhead; these include such activities as outdoor recreation, environmental education (at primary and secondary levels), field-based research on the physical and biological processes of coastal watersheds, aesthetic enjoyment, and the preservation of important tribal and cultural heritage values. Investment in the recovery of southern California steelhead will provide economic benefits, including stimulating the economy directly through the employment of a restoration workforce, and the expenditure of wages and restoration dollars for the purchase of goods and services. In addition, viable salmonid populations provide ongoing direct and indirect economic benefits as a natural resource base for angling, outdoor recreation, and tourist related activities. Recovering and delisting the Southern California Steelhead DPS will also reduce the regulatory obligations imposed by the ESA, and allow land and water managers greater flexibility to optimize their activities, and reduce costs related to ESA protections.

Recovery of viable, self-sustaining populations of southern California steelhead will require a shift in societal attitudes, understanding, priorities, and practices, and ultimately the re-integration of the species into a highly altered landscape that is home to more than 22 million people. These changes are necessary to both ensure sustainable communities in southern California and to restore the habitat upon which viable steelhead populations depend.

Recovery of southern California steelhead depends most fundamentally on a shared vision of the future. A shared vision for the future can align interests and encourage cooperation that, in turn, has the potential to improve rather than undermine the adaptive capacity of natural public resources such as functioning watersheds and river systems. The on-going cooperation and dedication of many stakeholders from both public and private sectors will therefore be essential to achieve the recovery of southern California steelhead.

**Southern California Steelhead Recovery Plan may be obtained from:**

National Marine Fisheries Service  
Office of Protected Resources  
501 W. Ocean Blvd., Suite 4200  
Long Beach, CA 90802  
562-980-4000

Or can be downloaded from the NMFS Recovery Planning website:

<http://swr.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/recovery/plans.htm>

E.

**Richelle Beltran - Fwd: In Opposition to Mosler Rock Quarry Proposals - April 12, 2012 - Planning Division**

**From:** Ebony McGee  
**To:** Beltran, Richelle  
**Date:** 04/12/2012 8:37 AM  
**Subject:** Fwd: In Opposition to Mosler Rock Quarry Proposals - April 12, 2012 - Planning Division  
**Attachments:** McGee, Ebony.vcf

EBONY J. MCGEE | SMARA PROGRAM COORDINATOR  
Surface Mining and Reclamation  
[ebony.mcgee@ventura.org](mailto:ebony.mcgee@ventura.org)

Ventura County Resource Management Agency | Planning Division  
P. 805.654.5037 | F. 805.654.2509  
800 S. Victoria Ave., L #1740 | Ventura, CA 93009-1740  
<http://www.ventura.org/rma/planning/Programs/smara.html>

>>> "Howard Smith" <[smythe1313@gmail.com](mailto:smythe1313@gmail.com)> 04/11/2012 8:00 PM >>>

Ms. Kim Prillhart

Planning Director, Ventura County

800 Victoria

Ventura CA

Mosler CUP3489-2

Dear Ms Prillhart

We are writing to express concerns that the above project has not been adequately analyzed and does not demonstrate compliance with the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act. The Plan as submitted and the EIR-A are fatally flawed for reasons articulated below.

At the last two hearings, the Planning Commission delayed making a final determination on the status of the Mosler Rock Ojai Quarry C.U.P. revocation after receiving assurances from both the owner and his attorney that the operator would abide by all laws and regulations. The Commission in fact made that stipulation a requirement. The Planning Division was to do no work on the C.U.P. unless the quarry was in compliance.

Clearly the events of this week where the quarry violated State contracting laws (the 3098 list) by selling rock to a government sub-contractor have demonstrated that the operator appears incapable of operating within the law - which is exactly what I predicted at December's hearing when I testified before the Planning Commission that "A tiger never changes its stripes."

1.

County of Ventura  
Planning Director Hearing  
RPCA/CUP3489-2

Exhibit 25

file:///C:/Users/beltrar/AppData/I

Ojai Stop the Trucking

SDPOREMA100... 04/12/2012

Given that the quarry is not in compliance, all work on the C.U.P., the Rec Plan, and the EIR-A should stop. The C.U.P. should be suspended and revoked immediately

1.

The Rec plan is fatally flawed Furthermore the quarry proposal has not been adequately analyzed and does not demonstrate compliance with the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act. Specifically:

- The staff report presents that the Planning Division forwarded an 'adequate' FACE to the OMR on February, 28, 2012 however the staff report and attachments contain over 900 pages that the public has had 4 days to review prior to the hearing. At a minimum, the hearing should be delayed to allow the public to review and comment on the FACE that was provided to the OMR.

2.

- The presented financial assurances are inadequate: Based on the FACE included in the staff report that the County found to be inadequate, the project assumes that fill can excavated and or blasted and placed at a 1.5:1 h:v angle for about \$1 per cubic yard. We do not believe it is physically possible for this to be completed at the assumed cost and that approval of this FACE will place the county and it taxpayers at risk of having to clean up the mess left by the operator. We would ask the County public works department confirm that this is a reasonable amount, perhaps by obtaining a real 'bid' for the work.

3.

- The final slopes may not be stable and have not been adequately evaluated, for example SMARA requires a site specific analysis when fill slopes greater than 2:1 h:v are proposed. The staff report says that the reclamation plan being considered brings the site into compliance with current SMARA standards, however we do not believe the stability of the fill slopes adequately analyzed and that substantial evidence has not been provided to demonstrate that the fill will not slide into the Matilija Creek and impact the endangered Southern California Steelhead Trout.

4.

- The changes to the project have not been adequately analyzed under CEQA. Do to the technical nature of the reports and project changes that are proposed, the public should be allowed to review the data and comment for a minimum of 15 days prior to making a decision.

5.

We are not sure why the county is rushing through this process when the operator has been in non compliance for years, it is important to take the time to adequately consider the proposed project and its impact on the environment, and we strongly urge that additional time be taken to address these important issues.

6.

Sincerely,

Howard Smith, Vice Chair

Ojai Stop the Trucks Coalition

F.

**CHATTEN-BROWN & CARSTENS**

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April 11, 2012

*Via e-mail [kim.prillhart@ventura.org](mailto:kim.prillhart@ventura.org)*

Kim Prillhart  
Director of Planning  
County of Ventura  
800 South Victoria Avenue, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Ventura, CA 93009

Re: Mosler Rock – Ojai Quarry  
Reclamation Plan Compliance Agreement  
CUP Permit Adjustment, CUP 3489-2  
Addendum Environmental Impact Report

Dear Ms. Prillhart,

The Ojai Stop the Trucks! Coalition (Coalition) includes the City of Ojai, the Ojai Valley Chamber of Commerce, the Ojai Valley Board of Realtors, Los Padres ForestWatch, and hundreds of citizens of the Ojai Valley who have been negatively-impacted by operations of the Mosler Rock – Ojai Quarry (Quarry) in violation of its permits and legal requirements.

1.

In February, the Planning Commission postponed judgment on revocation of the CUP for the Ojai Quarry after receiving assurance from the owner/operator and his attorney in that he “would be on his best behavior” and abide by all laws and regulations. Any illusions that the Quarry has entered a new era of compliance were dispelled this week when it supplied rock to a Caltrans project, despite removal of the Quarry from the state’s approved vendors list. Accordingly, instead of proceeding with the agenda set by the February Compliance Agreement, the Coalition requests that the April 12, 2012 hearing for the Reclamation Plan Compliance Amendment be suspended and a hearing be set for revocation of CUP 3489-2.

2.

In the alternative, the Coalition submits these comments. The Coalition supports the County’s recent enforcement actions and appreciates that the Reclamation Plan Compliance Amendment will require restoration of areas subjected to illegal disturbance. However, the Coalition is concerned that certain terms of the Compliance Agreement, such as possible approval of on-site rock-crushing, effectively reward the Quarry for its years of noncompliance and undermine the County’s enforcement authority.

3.

Additionally, aspects of the Compliance Agreement could have significant environmental impacts that are not fully mitigated by the previous EIRs or the addendum. The Reclamation Plan Compliance Amendment will increase the areas in which grading is allowed at the Quarry, which may increase operational air and water quality impacts. The Quarry owner also seeks a

4.

County of Ventura  
Planning Director Hearing  
RPCA/CUP3489-2  
Exhibit 24  
Casitas Municipal Water Dist



CUP amendment to legalize the presence and operation of its rock crusher, which would likely adversely affect air quality, downstream water quality in the North Fork of Matilija Creek, and endangered southern California steelhead populations. Given the increase in the magnitude of these potential environmental impacts, the County's processing of the Quarry's application with only an addendum environmental impact report violates the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

4.

**I. The Rock Crusher Would Magnify Adverse Environmental Impacts, and Therefore Requires Preparation of a Supplemental Environmental Impact Report.**

CEQA requires an agency to conduct environmental review for any discretionary action that "may have a significant effect on the environment." (Pub. Res. Code §§ 21080(d); 21065.) The County's approval of an adjustment to the Quarry's CUP is both discretionary, and may have a significant impact on the environment. Even if environmental review has been conducted in the past, as here, supplemental or subsequent environmental review of a discretionary action is required when substantial changes are proposed to a project, occur to the circumstances surrounding a project, or when new information becomes available that would require major or minor additions to the EIR. (Pub. Res. Code § 21166, CEQA Guidelines §§ 15163-15163.) New information that necessitates subsequent environmental review includes the availability of feasible alternatives or mitigation measures that would substantially reduce significant effects of the project. (CEQA Guidelines § 15162(a)(3)(C-D).) An addendum EIR is only appropriate when "minor technical changes or additions" are required to address a project's impacts. Here, the proposed changes to the project are major, and require more than minor changes to the environmental impact report to satisfy CEQA.

5.

**A. The Rock Crusher Would Impair Critical Habitat for Endangered Steelhead.**

Although the Ojai Quarry's application for a rock crusher does not appear on the agenda or in the staff report for the April 12, 2012 meeting, the Addendum EIR purports to address the "use, maintenance, and storage of additional mining related equipment and vehicles in excess of what was previously permitted." (Addendum EIR p. 1.) Accordingly, the Coalition submits its comments about the proposed rock crusher now.

The on-site crushing of rock, which has never been permitted under the Ojai Quarry's CUP, would drastically increase the amount of dirt, dust, and smaller rocks at the quarry. Since the Quarry sits above the North Fork of Matilija Creek, wind and water runoff will carry loose dust, dirt, and rocks into the creek, as it has often in the past. (See, Letter of Santa Barbara Channelkeeper, April 10, 2012, Attachment C, Photos of Quarry Runoff in River.) This will result in adverse impacts to downstream water quality, and on biological resources, both significant environmental impacts that warrant thorough environmental analysis.

6.

The endangered southern California steelhead resides in the North Fork of Matilija Creek, and both the river and its north fork have been designated as critical habitat for the species. (Attachment 1, Maps of Southern California Steelhead Critical Habitat, National Marine

7.



Fisheries Service (Service).) Southern California steelhead occupy less than one percent of their former range, in part due to development that has reduced the hospitability of streams. (See, Southern California Steelhead ESU, Southwest Regional Office, National Marine Fisheries Service, available online at <http://swr.nmfs.noaa.gov/hcd/soCalDistrib.htm>.) Steelhead require clear water for survival and spawning. Increases in sedimentation and turbidity, such as have occurred in the Matilija as a result of Quarry runoff, threaten the steelhead. (Southern California Steelhead Recovery Plan, January 2012 p. 4-5, available at [http://www.swr.noaa.gov/recovery/SC\\_Steelhead/Final\\_Southern\\_California\\_Steelhead\\_Recovery\\_Plan\\_Jan\\_2012.pdf](http://www.swr.noaa.gov/recovery/SC_Steelhead/Final_Southern_California_Steelhead_Recovery_Plan_Jan_2012.pdf); see also Letter of Santa Barbara Channelkeeper, Attachment B.) Photographs submitted by the Santa Barbara Channelkeeper show streams of mud flowing from the Quarry into the creek, and into its confluence with the main stem of Matilija Creek. For this reason, the National Marine Fisheries Service identifies mining and quarrying as a "very high threat" to steelhead recovery on the North Fork of the Matilija River. (Attachment 2, Recovery Plan, Table 9-2, p. 9-15.) The North Fork of the Matilija and its main stem are "[c]onsidered key habitat for restoring steelhead in Ventura [River] system" (Southern California Steelhead ESU) because of the excellent quality of habitat in upstream portions of the watershed. (Recovery Plan, p. 9-10.) In fact, the Service documented a steelhead redd (nest) below the Matilija Road bridge in February. (See, Letter of Santa Barbara Channelkeeper, Attachment A.) While this is a hopeful sign for the species, these eggs would be smothered if rain washes fine silt from the Quarry into the river.

In addition to requiring analysis under CEQA, impacts to endangered steelhead or to critical habitat for the species would constitute "take" under the Endangered Species Act that cannot be permitted without prior analysis, consultation with the Service, and consent.

Given that it identifies mining as a threat to species viability (Attachment 2), the County's approval of the requested permit modification would also be inconsistent with the Southern California Steelhead Recovery Plan, released in January of this year by NMFS.

Although an EIR was prepared for the quarry in 1993, it did not analyze the potential impacts of operating a rock crusher on downstream water quality or on endangered steelhead populations. On-site crushing of rock has never been authorized by a CUP. In addition to the substantial changes in Quarry operations to allow the crushing of gravel, substantial changes have occurred to the circumstances in which the Quarry is being operated that would render the prior analysis of biological resources inadequate. First, the National Marine Fisheries Service listed southern California steelhead as endangered in 1997, two years *after* approval of the quarry CUP. (<http://swr.nmfs.noaa.gov/hcd/soCalDistrib.htm>.) As the steelhead had not yet been listed, the MND would not have analyzed the quarry's likelihood of "taking" an endangered species, and the County may not have consulted with the Service during its analysis. Similarly, the pre-1995 analysis could not have analyzed impacts to the steelhead's critical habitat, as critical habitat was not approved for the species until 2005, a full decade later. (<http://swr.nmfs.noaa.gov/hcd/soCalDistrib.htm>.) Under the applicable standard, additional environmental review is required.

While the County did prepare an addendum EIR, the document fails to provide any biological analysis whatsoever. The document discloses the endangered status of the steelhead present, as well as the location of critical habitat adjacent to the Quarry, but it inexplicably claims that the project will not impact steelhead because the 1993 EIR mitigated the Quarry's potential erosion and siltation impacts. This is neither accurate, nor sufficient. As documented by Channelkeeper's letter (Attachment C), the existing BMPs (Best Management Practices) employed by the Quarry – silt fences and settling/detention basins – frequently fail and result in discharges of sediment-laden water that increase creek turbidity beyond what can be tolerated by the steelhead. In light of the rock crusher's potential contributions to sediment production, the addendum EIR should have discussed and required additional mitigation to prevent creek sedimentation. Although the Quarry is required to submit a storm water pollution prevention plan (SWPPP), the document itself will not ensure compliance. First, it neglects to mention the presence of endangered species on site, noting, "The site is not eligible for endangered species protection." (SWPPP at section 6.1.) If critical habitat does not warrant endangered species protection, what does? Furthermore, determination of BMPs is left to the Quarry, and no specific water quality mitigation measures are required. Thus, the mitigation is neither concrete, nor enforceable, as required by CEQA. Perhaps most alarming, given the Quarry's compliance history, the SWPPP's required wet weather and quarterly testing is based upon self-reporting. Without strict enforcement of mitigation measures by a third party, the Quarry will not likely comply.

12.

**B. The Rock Crusher Would Contribute to Significant Airborne Particulate Matter Impacts.**

Ventura County already exceeds state standards for particulate matter pollution. (Ventura County Air Pollution District, available online at <http://www.vcapcd.org/about.htm>.) If permitted, the Quarry's rock crusher would contribute to airborne particulate matter in Ventura County. This would be a significant adverse impact that must be analyzed in environmental review. By definition, a rock crusher crushes rock to produce gravel. The dirt and dust produced as a byproduct of this process contains particulate matter that is smaller than 10 microns in diameter (PM10). According to the California Air Resources Board, "PM10 is among the most harmful of all air pollutants. When inhaled these particles evade the respiratory system's natural defenses and lodge deep in the lungs." ("Air Pollution – Particulate Matter Brochure," California Air Resources Board, available online at <http://www.arb.ca.gov/html/brochure/pm10.htm>.) PM10 is associated with lung and cardiovascular disease, decreased immune function, and reduced life expectancy, especially for children and the elderly. (*Ibid.*) Consequently, environmental review is required, now, so that the public and decision makers can adequately assess the amount of additional particulate matter that the rock crusher would produce, and weigh the potentially significant impacts to human health and the environment.

13.

Further, the 1993 EIR prepared for the mine's 1995 CUP approval fails to analyze the impacts of using a rock crusher to produce gravel at the quarry. The CUP contains a list of approved equipment that the Quarry is allowed to have on-site. (CUP 3489-2, Condition No. 1(b).) Equipment not listed is not permitted on-site. (*Ibid.*) A rock crusher is not on this list.

14

The CUP also limits the Quarry's operations to "mining of large rocks and sandstone for the production of rip-rap, crushed rock aggregate, and related stone products..." (CUP 3489-2, Condition 1(a).) While the permit authorizes the mining of rock for crushed rock products, nothing in the permit authorizes the crushing of that rock on-site. Thus, the County's assertion that the original EIR analyzed the environmental impacts of "crushed rock" is unsupportable. Additionally, the Quarry was originally permitted to supply large boulder-sized rocks, such as those used in flood control channels and the walls of harbor breakwaters, not gravel. The processing of rock into gravel was not envisioned until recently, after Mr. Mosler assumed control of the Quarry.

14.

Although the addendum EIR mentions the potential use and maintenance of mining equipment that was not previously permitted, the EIR never discloses what this mining equipment will be, or how many additional units would be permitted. The inadequate project description is reflected in the analysis, none of which is provided in the addendum EIR itself. An attached March 29, 2012 Ventura Air Pollution Control District memorandum provides detailed analysis of three portable diesel engine-powered screening and crushing plants, but the EIR fails to confirm if this equipment is that which would be proposed in a CUP adjustment. Finally, this memorandum raises more questions than it answers. The documentation states both that "The Permit to Operate will require that the plants be operated with grid electricity and that the engines be removed from the site within one year of the Permit to Operate initial issuance date" and also that "The applicant has stated that additional time is required for portable operation...to bring electricity to the site." How long would the generators produce harmful diesel particulate matter? This question should be answered and analyzed in additional environmental review.

15.

**C. The Addendum EIR Fails to Analyze Additional Potential Impacts Caused by the Rock Crushing Equipment.**

The documentation provided by the Air Pollution Control District notes that the Quarry would rely on creek water to operate screens and crushers. While the documentation clarifies that water rights are secure, it does not disclose or analyze the increased amount of water that would be withdrawn from the creek, or what the impacts of that water intake, usage, and discharge or disposal would be on wildlife, including endangered Southern steelhead. If the watering processes would produce wastewater that would require disposal and deprive downstream instream users of water, that information should also be disclosed in subsequent environmental review.

16.

**D. The County's Approval of Rock Crusher Operation Would Reward the Applicant's Past Noncompliance with its CUP.**

The County's approval of the Quarry's rock crusher is inappropriate in light of the applicant's history of violating its CUP with the very same rock crusher that is now up for approval. As mentioned above, CUP-3489 contains a list of equipment approved for on-site use, and provides, "Only the items listed...shall be allowed within the permit area during the life of the permit." (CUP 3489-2, Condition 1(b).) The rock crusher, which already sits on-site, does

17.

not appear on the list of approved equipment. Therefore, its location at the Quarry for the last several years has presented a violation of the CUP. The County agrees, and issued an amendment to a Notice of Violation to the Ojai Quarry on May 13, 2010 for "Unpermitted Equipment" in the form of crushing and screening units. (Attachment 3, Letter from County of Ventura, May 13, 2010.) Instead of putting applicants on notice that the County intends to vigorously enforce permit conditions, however, a County approval of this application would effectively reward the Quarry for its illegal storage of the rock crusher on-site.

17.

## **II. The Addendum EIR Does Not Adequately Address the Impacts of the Reclamation Plan Compliance Amendment.**

The County's approval of an amendment to the Quarry's Reclamation Plan is also subject to CEQA, as it is both discretionary, and may cause significant impacts on the environment. (Pub. Res. Code §§ 21080(d); 21065.) Again, as this amendment requires more than "minor technical changes" to the previous analysis, a supplemental or subsequent EIR is required. (Pub. Res. Code § 21166, CEQA Guidelines §§ 15163-15164.)

The Reclamation Plan Compliance Amendment (RPCA) provides for reclamation of illegally-disturbed acres of the Ojai Quarry that lie outside of the existing mining boundaries. The RPCA "is intended to ensure adequate reclamation of these additional disturbed areas, which are not to be further mined." (RPCA p. 10.) While the goal is laudable, the environmental review performed is insufficient. The RPCA authorizes grading and earthmoving on four acres of land where it would not have otherwise occurred. This earthwork will result in airborne particulate matter (dust) on steep, highly erodible slopes. Combined with wind and rain, these slopes may increase the turbidity of Matilija Creek, which would harm critical habitat for endangered Southern steelhead. Together, the increased grading area, erosion exposure, and the potential for detrimental impacts to endangered species habitat require additional environmental review.

18.

The addendum EIR discloses the endangered status of the steelhead present, as well as the location of critical habitat adjacent to the Quarry, but it inexplicably claims that the project will not impact the creek as the new reclamation areas are located to the east. This is incorrect, as the newly included reclamation areas are located upslope of the creek, and the entire Quarry ultimately drains into the creek. The RPCA includes project changes that will increase its significant environmental impacts, as well as changes in project circumstances (i.e., the listing of the steelhead and designation of critical habitat) that necessitate major changes to the existing EIR. Thus, subsequent or supplemental environmental review is required.

19.

## **III. The Applicant Continues to Flout the Law, and Permit Revocation is Warranted.**

Despite the Ojai Quarry owner/operator's seeming inability to comply with applicable laws, compliance agreements, or promises of any kind (*see, e.g.*, Staff Report pp. 4-12), the County has had seemingly endless patience working with the Ojai Quarry toward compliance. As a result of its history of noncompliance, the Office of Mine Reclamation (OMR) removed the

20.

Ms. Kim Prillhart  
April 11, 2012  
Page 7 of 7

Quarry from its AB 3098 list of vendors approved to sell to state agencies. On Monday, April 9, 2012, however, photographs were taken that depict a Coronado Trucking hauler leaving the Ojai Quarry and delivering rock to a Caltrans work site. (Attachment 4.) Thus, despite knowledge of its removal from the AB 3098 list, the Quarry continued to supply rock to government contractors, in knowing violation of section 20676 of the Public Contract Code. According to OMR, the County is charged with implementing and enforcing SMARA within its boundaries. And it is the County that the Ojai Quarry owner/operator continues to defy. The Coalition hopes that the Director keeps the Quarry's compliance history in mind as it continues to process documents associated with the February 2012 Compliance Agreement. While the Coalition supports the County's efforts to require reclamation of illegally disturbed areas, the Coalition believes that the Quarry's compliance history warrants revocation, rather than adjustment, of its CUP.

20.

In closing, the Coalition requests that the County Planning Division immediately call a hearing to discuss revocation of the CUP for the Ojai Quarry. The Division should also reject the Ojai Quarry's permit adjustment application and the approval of the addendum EIR until after the completion of environmental review that thoroughly examines the potentially significant environmental impacts that crushing rock could have on air quality, on downstream water quality in the North Fork of the Matilija River, and on endangered Southern California steelhead.

21.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We also join in the comments of Santa Barbara Channelkeeper, dated April 11, 2012 and referenced throughout this letter.

Sincerely,



Michelle Black

cc:	Supervisor Steve Bennett	<a href="mailto:steve.bennett@ventura.org">steve.bennett@ventura.org</a>
	Chris Stephens	<a href="mailto:chris.stephens@ventura.org">chris.stephens@ventura.org</a>
	Brian Baca	<a href="mailto:Brian.Baca@ventura.org">Brian.Baca@ventura.org</a>
	Ebony McGee	<a href="mailto:Ebony.McGee@ventura.org">Ebony.McGee@ventura.org</a>
	Robert Kwong	<a href="mailto:Robert.Kwong@ventura.org">Robert.Kwong@ventura.org</a>

Attachments:

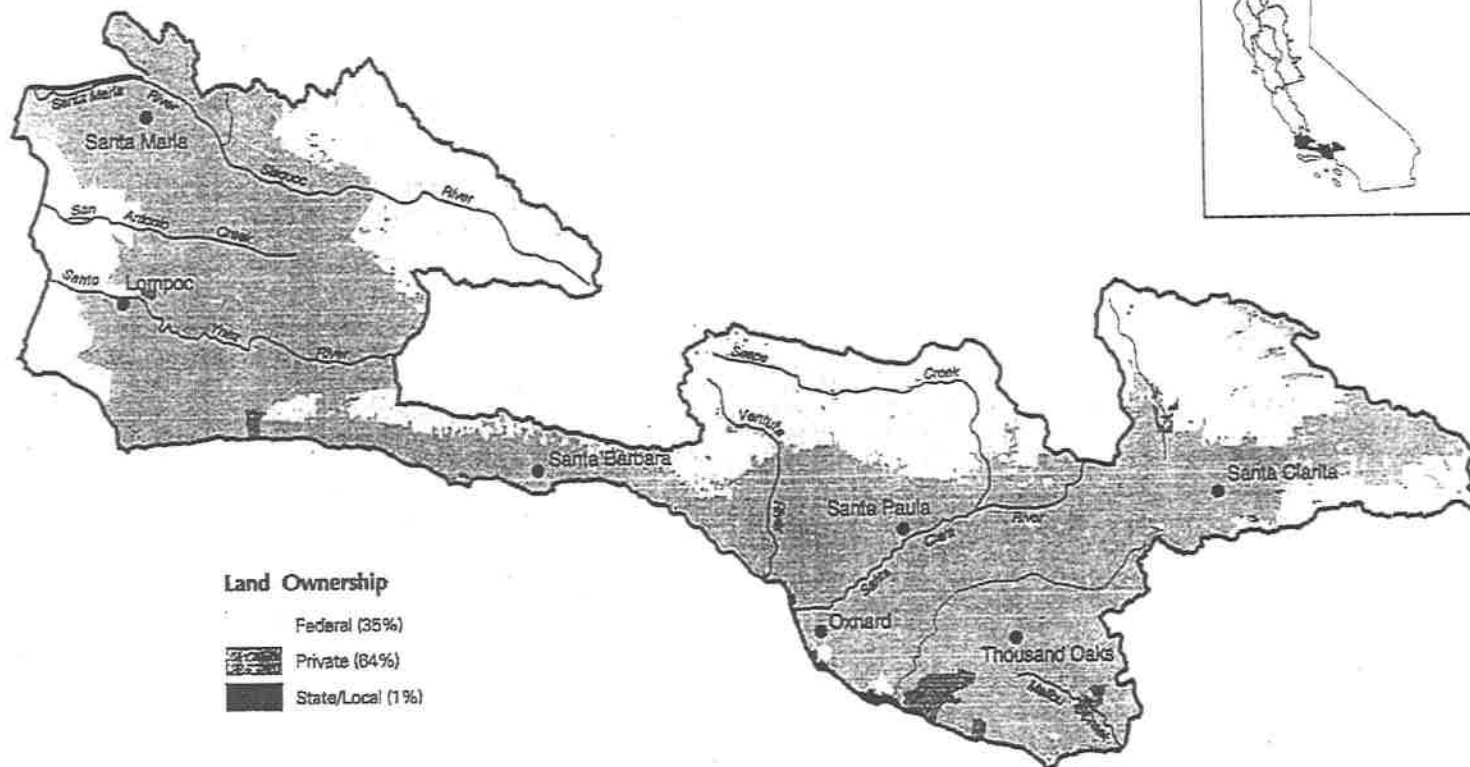
1. Maps of Southern California Steelhead Critical Habitat, National Marine Fisheries Service
2. Southern California Steelhead Recovery Plan, Table 9-2
3. Letter from County of Ventura, May 13, 2010.
4. Photographs of Coronado Trucking, April 9, 2012

## **ATTACHMENT 1**



## SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA STEELHEAD ESU

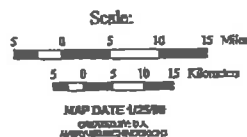
Steelhead ESUs



### Land Ownership



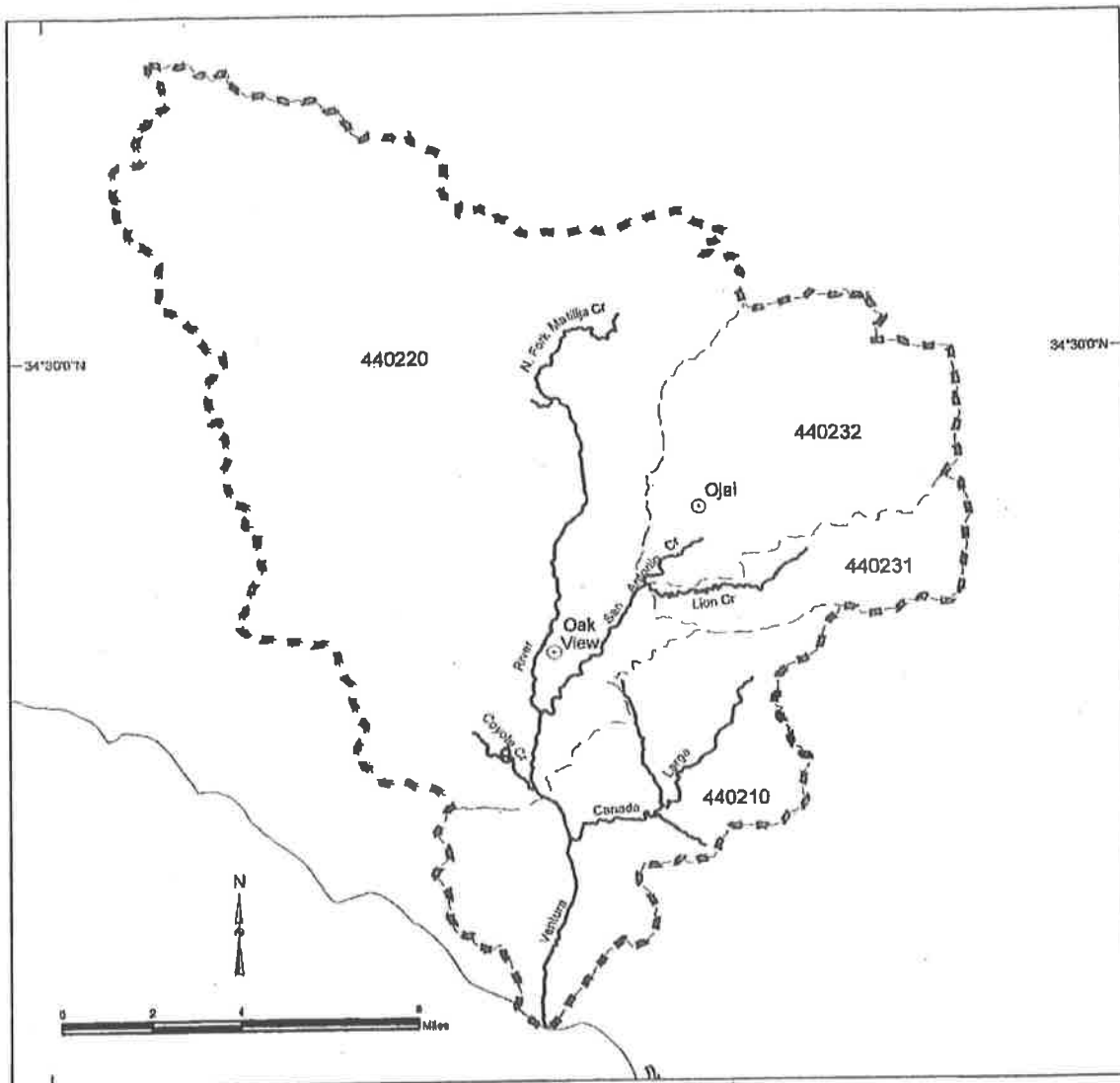
United States Department of Commerce  
National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration  
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE  
HABITAT CONSERVATION DIVISION  
525 N.E. Oregon St., Suite 410  
Portland, OR 97232  
Tel (503) 231-2223



Note: Map is for general reference only.

**Critical Habitat for the  
Southern California Steelhead**

**Ventura River Hydrologic Unit  
4402**



- Cities/Towns
- Critical Habitat
- - - Calwater Hydrologic Unit Boundary
- · · Fifth Field Calwater Hydrologic Sub-Area Boundary
- 331210 Fifth Field Calwater Hydrologic Sub-Area Number





## **ATTACHMENT 2**



Michelle Black <mnb@cbcearthlaw.com>

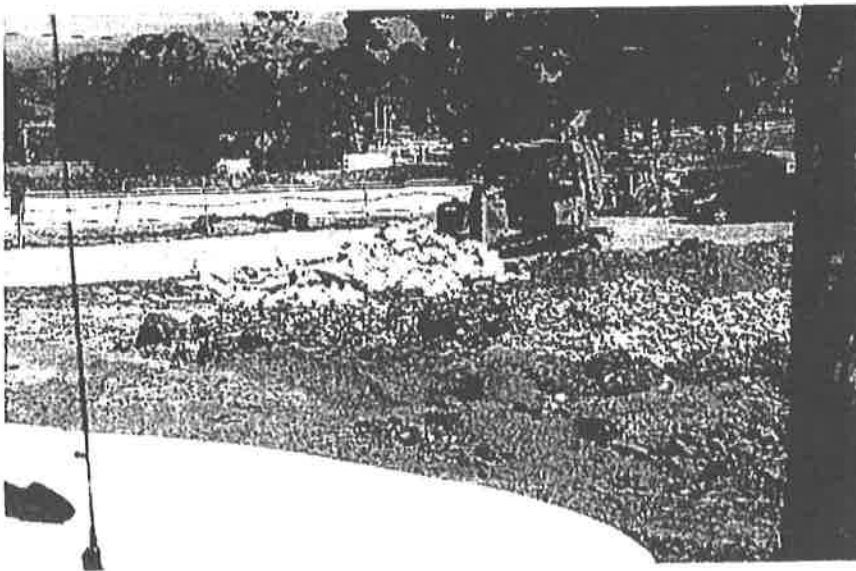
## Pictures of Alleged #3098 List Violations by Ojai Quarry for Caltrans

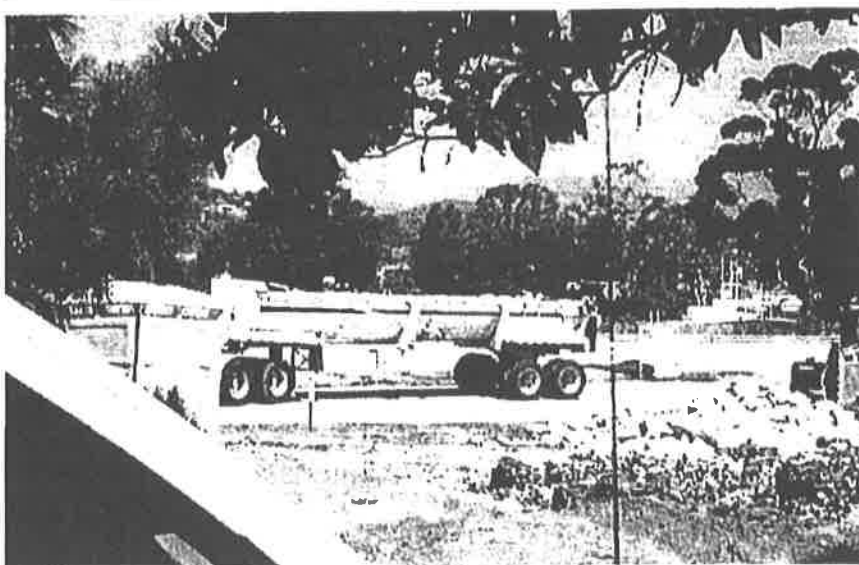
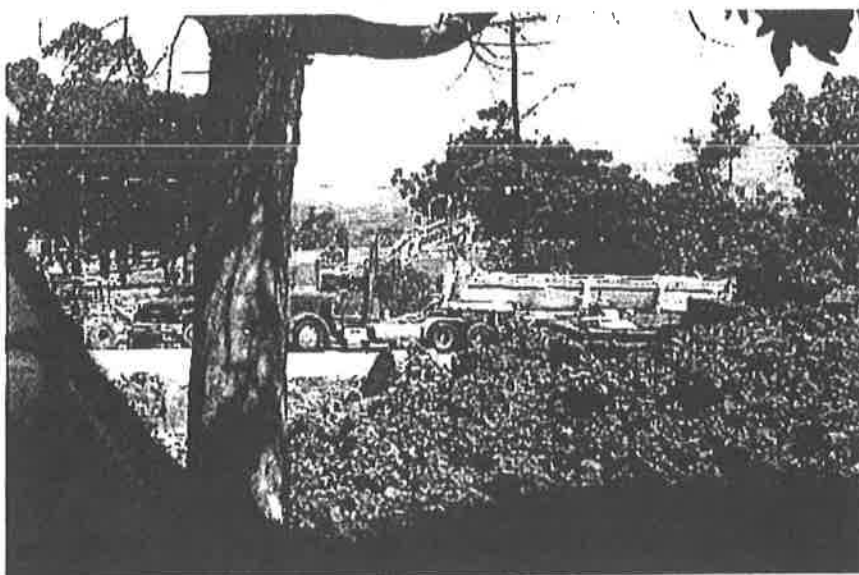
Ojai StopTheTrucks <ojaistopthetrucks@gmail.com>  
To: Ojai Stop the Trucks <stopthetrucks.ojai@gmail.com>  
Bcc: mnb@cbcearthlaw.com

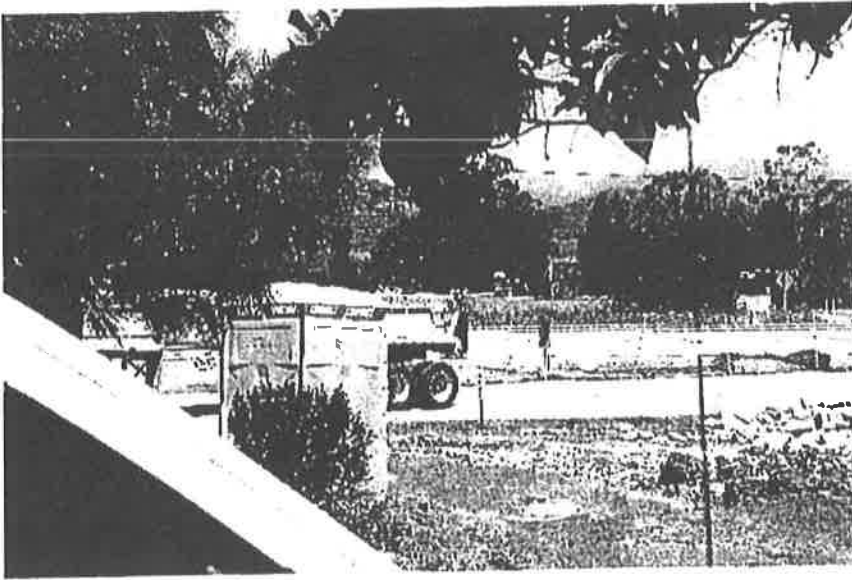
Mon, Apr 9, 2012 at 5:12 PM

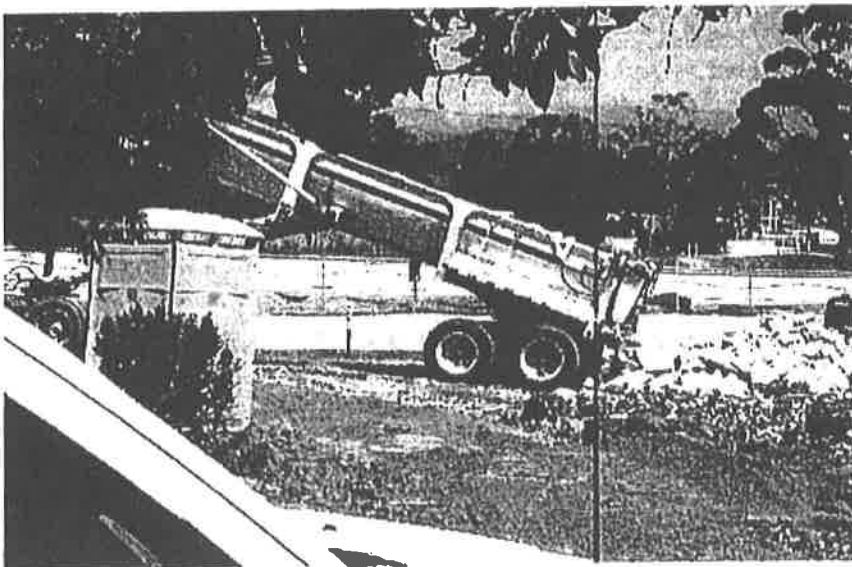
These are photos taken today of rock haulers from Coronado Trucking allegedly bringing rock to a Caltrans job that Granite is doing.... The last 4 pictures are of the truck leaving the Ojai quarry and the balance of the pictures are the same truck dumping at the Caltrans site today, Monday, April 9, 2012.

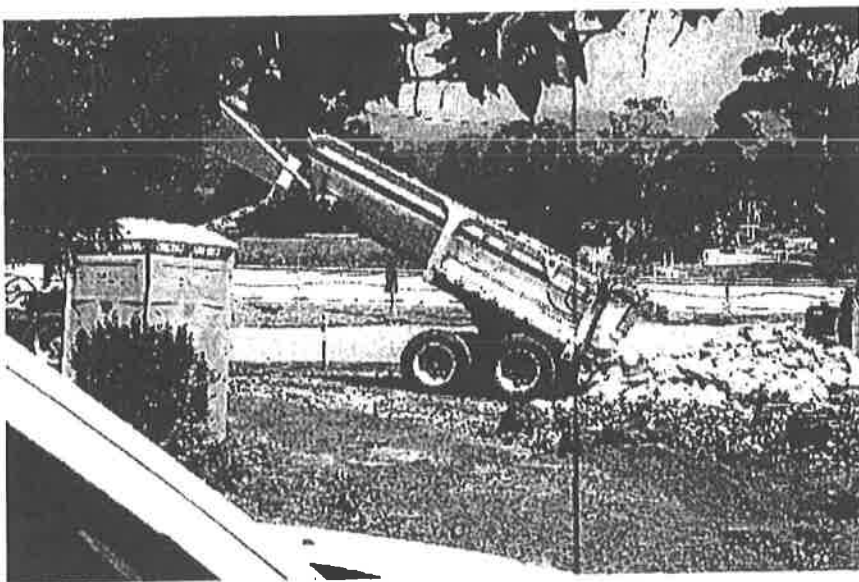
The Ojai Quarry is not on the approved supplier lists, the 3098 list. If these allegations are true, then it might constitute a severe violation of State law regarding contracting and suppliers by Caltrans, various contractors and others.

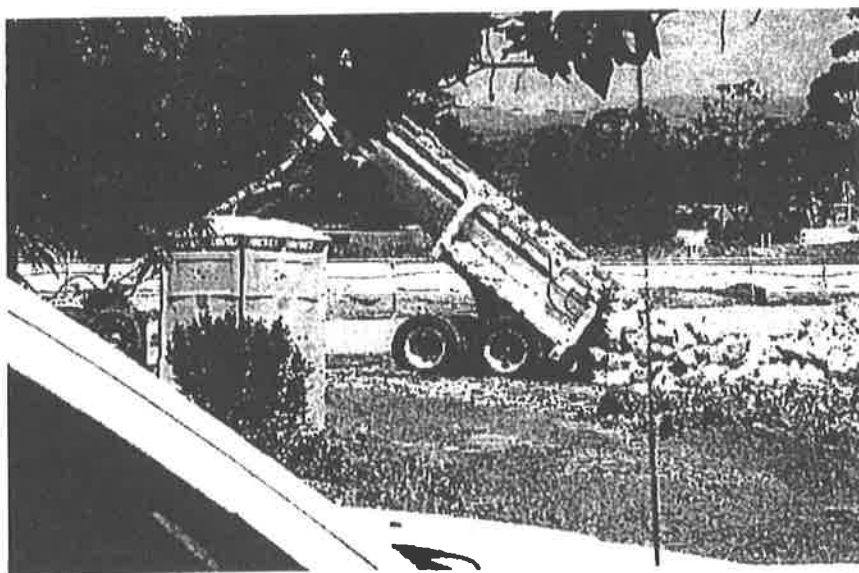


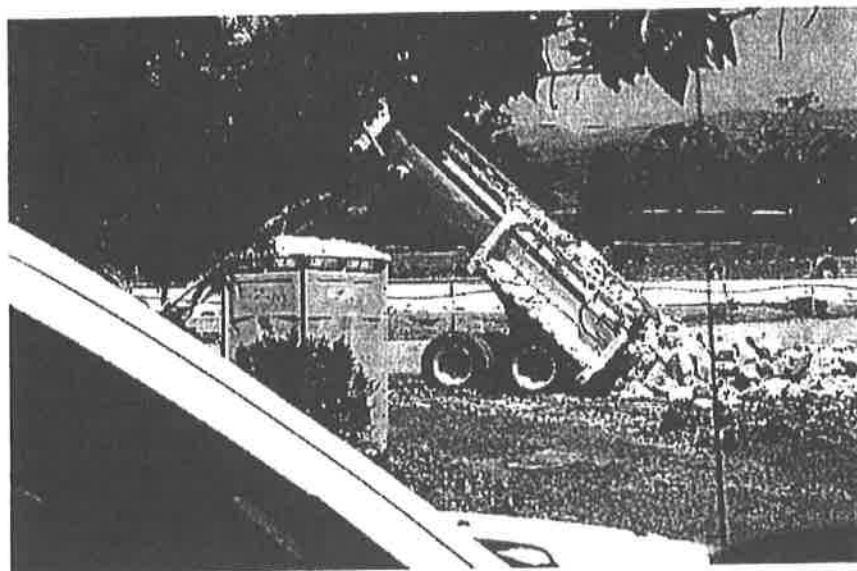
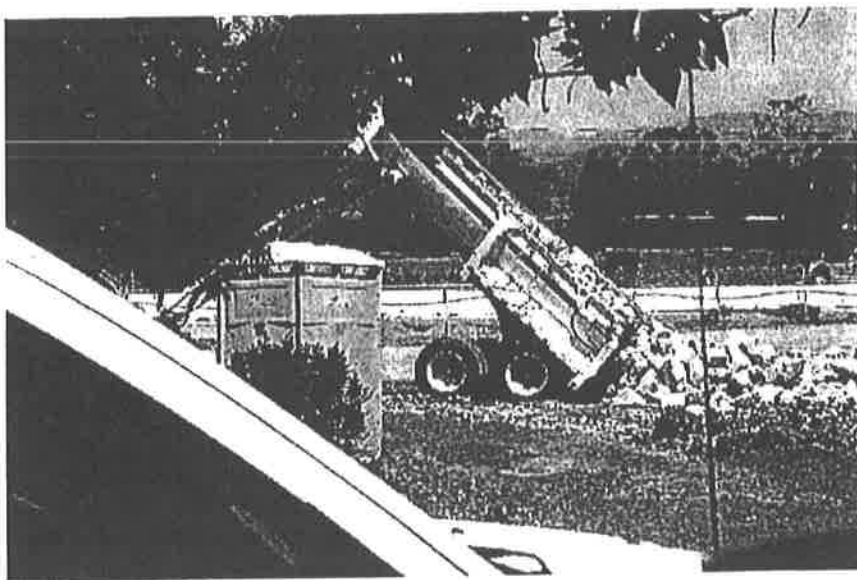




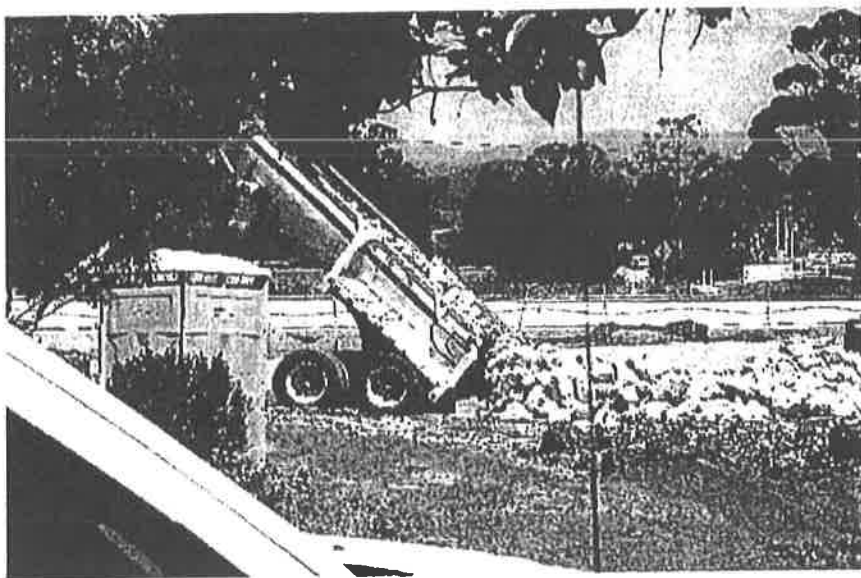


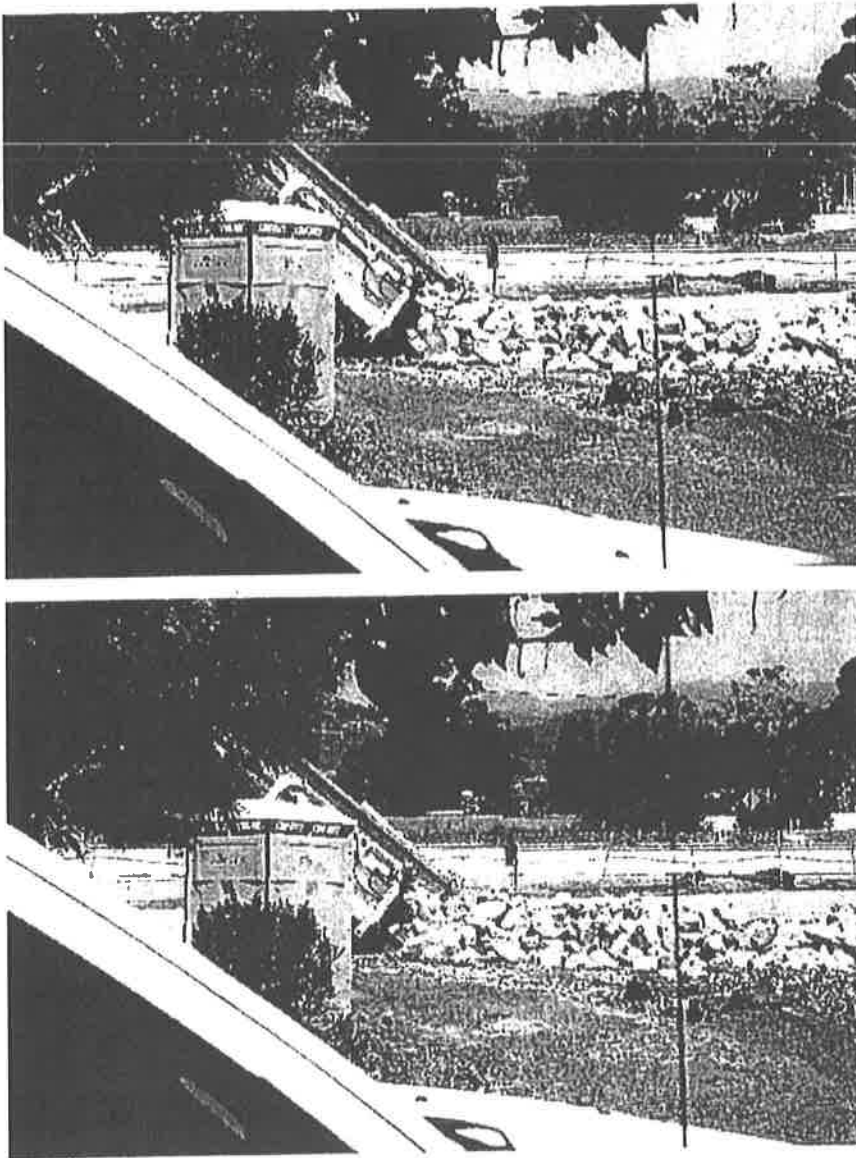


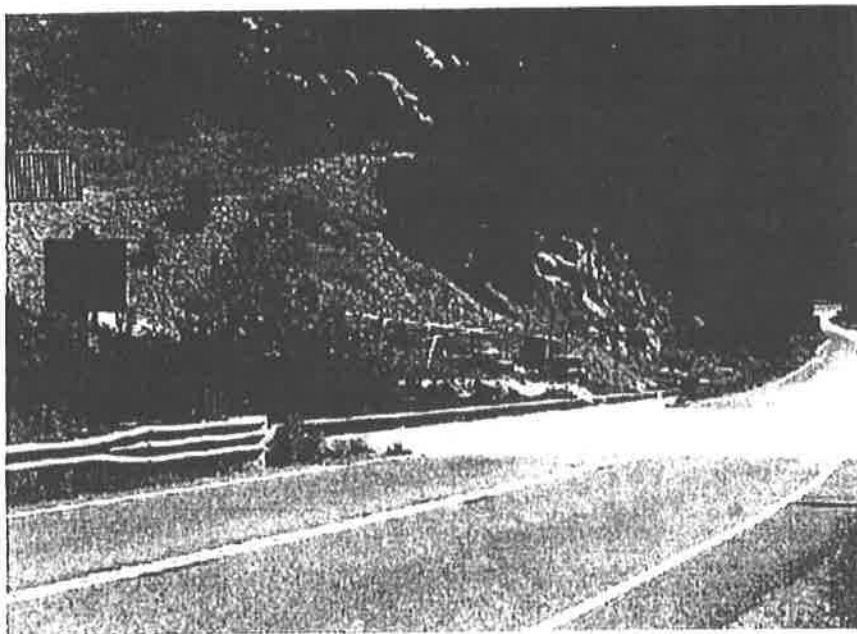
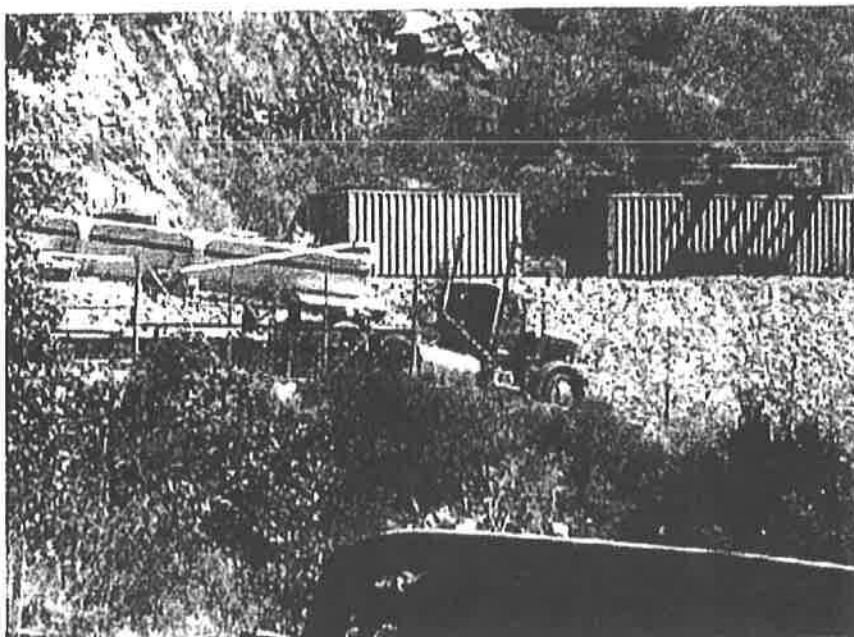


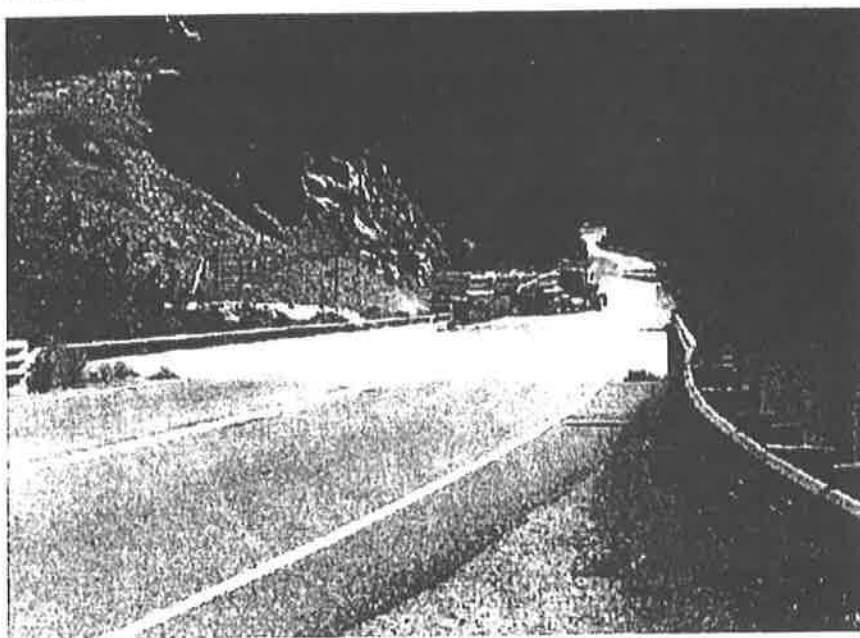












## **Attachment 6**

### **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (EIR) – ADDENDUM CEQA Guidelines Section 15164**

**Mosler Rock-Ojai Quarry**  
Conditional Use Permit Modification, Case No. LU11-0080  
Reclamation Plan Compliance Amendment

#### **Response to comments submitted for the April 12, 2012 Planning Director hearing**

Provided below are responses to the comments provided on CEQA issues raised in the letters received prior to and at the April 12, 2012 Planning Director hearing. Each response is numbered in correspondence with the marked copy of the letters of comment included in Attachment 5 of the Addendum.

#### **RESPONSES**

##### **A. 4-11-12 letter from Santa Barbara Channelkeeper**

1. Comment noted.
2. The 1995 EIR certified for this rock quarry specifically lists the production of crushed rock aggregate as part of the mining facility that was evaluated for environmental impacts. The following statements are included in the EIR:

*The materials extracted from the quarry consist of large rocks and sandstone for production of rip-rap, crushed rock aggregate, and related stone products. [Page 27]*

*The project objectives of the applicant are: To continue to be the sole source provider of rock materials, including rip-rap and crushed rock aggregate, which meet both State and County standards for Ventura County and surrounding areas. [Page 29]*

The EIR evaluates the potential impacts of the quarry operations on the downstream riparian and aquatic habitats along the North Fork of Matilija Creek regarding the potential increase in erosion and sedimentation. [EIR at pages 64, 66-68] Mitigation measures are identified in the EIR that directly address this issue and were found to reduce impacts to a less than significant level. [EIR at pages 67-68]

The commenter states that the "piece of machinery will likely produce a large volume of fine sediment by-product with the potential to impact North Fork

Matilija Creek *if* not contained and disposed of properly.” [Emphasis added] First, the commenter assumes that the mitigation measures will not properly contain quarry operation sediments onsite nor will the operator properly dispose or use the sediments as part of onsite reclamation. Second, the comment does not include any quantification of the volume of fine material or empirical data that indicates that this material would not be contained on the site. The design of the quarry includes a “Quarry Tailings Disposal Area” (QTDA) intended to serve as a disposal area for such material. [See EIR Exhibits 7 and 8.] Thus, it was anticipated and approved as part of the 1995 quarry design that unsold material (i.e., tailings) would be contained onsite as fill. The QTDA currently has approximately 100,000 cubic yards of available volume that can accept fine fill material. In addition, the volume of fine sediment produced by the operation of a small portable rock crusher would be a minor subset of the volume of fine sediment produced by excavation over the 12-acre mining site. As the operation of the crusher is limited to 300 hours per year (refer to the 3-29-12 VCAPCD Engineering Report attached to the Addendum), it would only be available for use during 15% of the authorized annual hours of mining activities.

Based on the above discussion, the proposed operation of a crusher does not involve a substantial change in the project or require major revisions of the previous EIR or necessitate the preparation of a subsequent EIR pursuant to CEQA Guidelines § 15162.

3. Refer to response #A2 above. In addition, this comment does not identify a substantial new impact on aquatic species in Matilija Creek or provide any empirical evidence showing the inadequacy of any one of the five mitigation measures set forth in the 1995 EIR (pages 67-68) which are designed to mitigate quarry operation offsite sedimentation impacts on the nearby blue line stream. And while the listing of the steelhead trout as a federally listed Endangered Species is a new circumstance since the 1995 EIR was certified, this fact alone does not require major revisions of the previous EIR because new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of the previously identified significant effects to migratory fish species have not been identified.
4. Refer to response #A3 above. Although the County agrees that the listing of the steelhead trout as a federally listed Endangered Species is new information of substantial importance, a subsequent EIR is not needed pursuant to CEQA Guidelines § 15162(a)(3) because this new information does **not** show: (a) that the project will have one or more significant effects not discussed in the 1995 EIR; (b) potential significant effects to the Matilija Creek will be substantially more severe than was shown in the 1995 EIR; (c) that mitigation measures previously found not to be feasible would now in fact become feasible; and (d) that different mitigation measures or project alternatives would substantially reduce project effects on the Matilija Creek.

5. Refer to response #A2 above. The discharge of sediment from the quarry during heavy rains in November and December of 2010 was reported to the County by Mr. Pitterle at that time. This information was included in the 2010 Surface Mining Inspection Report provided by the County to the California Department of Conservation.

Refer to response #F10 below regarding the Steelhead Recovery Plan prepared by the National Marine Fisheries Service.

The 2010-2011 *Annual Report for Storm Water Discharges Associated With Industrial Activities* for the Mosler Rock-Ojai Quarry includes an analysis of water quality for discharge from the site on December 18, 2010. This report identifies the level of Total Suspended Solids (TSS) as 1220 milligrams/liter (mg/l). This level of TSS is above the 100 mg/l threshold for the requirement of water quality monitoring. The 100 mg/l concentration does not represent a discharge limit or violation threshold.

County staff contacted the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (LARWQCB) by email on April 11, 2012 regarding the status of the Ojai Quarry and its stormwater runoff requirements. The LARWQCB indicates that the actions required to address the violations previously identified on the site have been completed as of the last inspection. No new violations of applicable stormwater regulations have been identified at the Ojai Quarry. According to the LARWQCB staff (telephone communication from Enrique Loera to Brian Baca, 4-17-12), the LARWQCB has the authority to establish a specific Total Suspended Solids (TSS) discharge limit for the Mosler Rock-Ojai Quarry under the applicable Industrial General Stormwater Permit. This agency, however, has not established such a limit for this facility. In addition, the North Fork of Matilija Creek has not been designated an impaired water body and no Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) has been established for this stream. The operator of the Mosler Rock-Ojai Quarry must comply with water quality Best Management Practices (BMPs) and continue reporting to the LARWQCB.

Based on the above discussion, it can be reasonably determined that the stormwater and sediment control facilities installed to implement the 1995 EIR mitigation measures are currently working to prevent sedimentation and that there is no substantially more severe impact to the Matilija Creek.

Implementation of the Reclamation Plan Compliance Amendment and the installation of a portable rock crusher will not substantially change the design, operation or erosion characteristics of the mining facility. Implementation of the RPCA would actually serve to reduce the potential for erosion and sedimentation from the rock quarry through a lowering of slope gradient and re-vegetation of excavated areas.

Based on the above discussion, the proposed RPCA and operation of a crusher would not constitute a substantial change in the project or require major revisions of the previous EIR. In any case, sedimentation of Matilija Creek was not identified as a "significant" impact of the project with the implementation of the identified mitigation measures. Thus, a significant impact will not be substantially more severe than shown in the previous EIR.

6. The commenter is correct in that the new reclamation area is located uphill of the creek. Erosion of this area would be lessened with implementation of the RPCA. Sediment derived from erosion of this area would be captured by the existing stormwater control facilities on the site. Accumulated fine material would be retained in the QTDA in accordance with the Approved Reclamation Plan.
7. Comment noted.

**B. 4-11-12 letter from the Casitas Municipal Water District (CMWD)**

1. Comment noted. No issue regarding the adequacy of the environmental document is raised. Thus, no response is required.
2. The 1995 EIR certified by the County identified the potentially significant impact of quarry-derived sedimentation of the creek on biological resources and, therefore, included feasible mitigation measures to address that issue. With implementation of these mitigation measures, the potentially significant impacts to biological resources, namely migratory fish, were mitigated or reduced to a less than significant level. In addition, the quarry operates in accordance with a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP; Attachment 8 of the RMA-Planning Staff Report for the April 12, 2012 hearing) prepared in accordance with stormwater runoff regulations implemented by the LARWQCB (refer to response #A5 above). The statement in the comment that water quality issues "are potentially significant adverse impacts associated with the proposed project" is a conclusion made without supporting evidence. No specific evidence is provided to indicate that the implementation of the RPCA or use of a portable rock crusher will have a substantial effect on water quality. As indicated in the response to comment A.2 above, it was anticipated and approved as part of the quarry design that unsold material (tailings) would be contained onsite as fill. The Quarry Tailings Disposal Area delineated on the Approved Reclamation Plan currently has approximately 100,000 cubic yards of available volume that can accept fine fill material. Given this approved project design, the required mitigation measures and compliance with stormwater regulations, the proposed RPCA and crusher do not have the potential to substantially change the level of sedimentation associated with the existing mining facility.
3. Refer to response #B2 above.
4. Refer to responses #A5 and #B2 above.



5. The Commenter requests that the County, as lead agency for this project, conduct a biological assessment of the Lower North Fork of Matilija Creek and the Ventura River to determine what, if any, impact the quarry operations have on these watercourses. However, the commenter neither cites to, or provides, any evidence that the proposed RPCA or use of a rock crusher at the quarry site will have a potential for causing a significant environmental effect on biological resources. Moreover, this unsubstantiated request for such an assessment is contrary to the guidance in CEQA Guidelines §15064 for determining significance of environmental effects. Please also refer to County responses #A2, #A3, #A5, and #B2 above.

**C. 4-12-12 letter from Lorenz K. Schaller**

1. Comment noted.
2. Comment noted.
3. Refer to responses #A1 through #A7 above.

**D. 4-12-12 Letter from the Environmental Coalition**

1. See County response #A2, A3 and A4 above. Pursuant to Section 15164 of the CEQA Guidelines, an Addendum to a previously certified EIR constitutes adequate environmental review where minor changes in an existing project would not result in new potentially significant impacts. In this case, the ongoing operation of the permitted Ojai Quarry is part of the existing environmental setting and not under review. The proposed project under review is the RPCA and the proposed operation of a portable rock crusher. The County has determined that these changes to the existing mining facility do not involve new potentially significant impacts that warrant the preparation of a subsequent EIR pursuant to CEQA Guidelines 15162. Thus, an Addendum to the previous EIR was prepared.
2. Refer to response #A2, #A5 and #B2 above.
3. No evidence or analysis is provided to support the conclusion that the "amount of sediment that will enter the north fork of the Matilija Creek will increase" with the operation of the rock crusher. Refer to response #A2 above.
4. Refer to responses #A1 through #A7.

**E. 4-11-12 email from H. Smith, Ojai Stop the Trucks! Coalition, to K. Prillhart**

1. The commenter requests that the County suspend and revoke the Ojai Quarry CUP because of the operator's alleged violation of state contracting laws (i.e., AB 3098). Not only is this comment unrelated to the CEQA issues of the RPCA project, but the commenter fails to understand that the AB 3098 list is exclusively administered by the California Department of Conservation. The County does not have a role in the preparation, maintenance or enforcement of the AB 3098 list. So, even if the alleged violations are true, they do not constitute a basis for CUP suspension or revocation under the Non-Coastal Zoning Ordinance.
2. The review and approval of a FACE is not a discretionary action subject to public review. The acceptance of a FACE by the County and the California Department of Conservation is a ministerial action based on the requirements of the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act.
3. Refer to response #E2 above.
4. The 1.5:1 gradient fill slopes are included in the Approved Reclamation Plan for the quarry. The stability of these slopes was considered at the time this Reclamation Plan was approved. The proposed RPCA would be consistent with the approved design. No substantial evidence is provided in this comment to indicate that the RPCA slopes will be unstable. Furthermore, comments on matters of engineering or geology must be provided by an Engineer or Geologist licensed to practice in the State of California.
5. The proposed RPCA and the requested Permit Adjustment to authorize the use of a portable rock crusher will be processed in accordance with applicable County Code and State Law. A public hearing was held on April 12, 2012 to receive comment on the proposed RPCA. Interested parties will be notified of any decision on the requested Permit Adjustment. Refer to response #A2 regarding the adequacy of the CEQA analysis.
6. Comment noted.

**F. 4-11-12 letter from M. Black, on behalf of Ojai Stop the Trucks! Coalition, to K. Prillhart**

1. Comment noted.
2. Refer to response #E1 above.
3. Comment noted.

4. As stated in the subject letter, the RPCA "will require restoration of areas subjected to illegal disturbance." It will not allow increased mining excavation at the quarry. Implementation of the RPCA will actually reduce erosion and sedimentation through a lowering of slope gradient and revegetation. Refer to responses #A2 and #A5 above regarding the proposed operation of a rock crusher.
5. Refer to responses #A2, #A5 and #B2 above regarding the proposed operation of a rock crusher.
6. Refer to responses #A2, #A5 and #B2 above regarding the proposed operation of a rock crusher.
7. Comments noted.
8. Refer to responses #A2, #A5 and #B2 above regarding the proposed operation of a rock crusher. The comment appears to discuss potential environmental effects of the existing permitted quarry operations rather than the potential effects of the minor project changes currently under CEQA review. Therefore, this comment is not relevant to the proposed EIR Addendum.
9. Comment noted.
10. Whether or not the proposed project changes are consistent with the January 2012 Southern California Steelhead Recovery Plan prepared by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Marine Fisheries Service is not part of the County's CEQA review of the proposed changes in the mining facility. Please be aware that a County Biologist review of the 2012 Southern California Steelhead Recovery Plan has determined that the plan is in agreement with the findings of the 1995 certified EIR that sedimentation from mining facilities has a potential significant impact on aquatic species. Regarding its applicability as a regulatory document, the Recovery Plan states:

*Recovery Plans identify recovery actions, based upon the best scientific and commercial data available, necessary for the protection and recovery of listed species. Recovery Plans published by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) are guidance documents, **not regulatory documents**; identification of an action to be implemented by any public or private party does not create a legal obligation beyond existing legal requirements. [emphasis added]*

It is also important to note here that the 1995 EIR imposed mitigation measures on the project to address those potential significant environmental impacts to aquatic life in the Matilija Creek. In any case, no explanation is provided in the

comment as to why the proposed changes are inconsistent with the Recovery Plan. Refer to responses #A2 and #A3 above.

11. Refer to responses #A2, #A3, #A5 and #B2 above regarding the proposed operation of a rock crusher.
12. Refer to responses #A2, #A3, #A5 and #B2 above regarding the proposed operation of a rock crusher.
13. The comment does not provide any evidence or analysis of the volume or quantity of particulate matter that would be produced by the proposed rock crusher. It appears to assume that any increase in particulate emissions is significant. However, the particulate emissions are analyzed and estimated in the March 29, 2012 Engineering Report prepared by the Ventura County Air Pollution Control District (Attachment 3 of the Addendum). This report finds that the permitted emissions levels for the rock crusher and associated equipment do not exceed established thresholds for the requirement of emission offsets. For example, the Particulate Matter (PM-10) permitted emissions of 0.07 tons per year is far less than the 15.0 tons per year threshold.
14. Refer to comment #A2. The EIR includes the following statements regarding the scope of the project:

*The materials extracted from the quarry consist of large rocks and sandstone for production of rip-rap, crushed rock aggregate, and related stone products. [Page 27]*

*The project objectives of the applicant are: To continue to be the sole source provider of rock materials, including rip-rap and crushed rock aggregate, which meet both State and County standards for Ventura County and surrounding areas. [Page 29]*

This language indicates that the production of crushed rock was part of the project evaluated in the EIR.

15. The Project Description provided in the Addendum will be clarified to indicate that the additional equipment requested to be authorized includes a portable rock crusher. This project description clarification does not have an impact on the County decision to prepare an EIR Addendum in this case.
16. The Addendum has been augmented to include information on water use associated with the use of a portable rock crusher.

According to the March 29, 2012 Engineering Report prepared by the Ventura County Air Pollution Control District (Attachment 3 of the Addendum), the

proposed rock crusher would operate at a maximum output of 150 tons/hour for a maximum of 300 hours per year. With these parameters, the output of the crusher would be a maximum of 45,000 tons per year ( $150 \times 300 = 45,000$ ).

The VCAPCD report cites a 3% moisture content for the crushed material as the operation would use water for dust suppression. Assuming a 6% water content (increased from 3% to account for evaporation), the crusher would utilize up to 1.9 acre-feet of water per year (AFY). This demand figure is calculated as follows:

$$(45,000 \text{ tons/year})(0.06)(2000 \text{ lbs/ton})(1 \text{ gallon}/8.34 \text{ lbs})(1 \text{ CF}/7.48 \text{ gal}) \\ (1 \text{ AF}/43560 \text{ CF}) = 1.99 \text{ AFY}$$

According to records maintained by the County Watershed Protection District, the average annual flow in the North Fork Matilija Creek for the 10-year period 2000-2009 was 7,033 AFY. The minimum annual flow during this period was 1020 AFY in 2002. Thus, the maximum potential water use of the crusher would be 0.2% of the minimum annual flow during the 10-year period. To account for peak production periods, the water demand for a single month in which 33% of the total annual production (15,000 tons) is assumed to occur was compared to the lowest monthly flow in the 10-year modeling period. An estimated 0.66 AF of water would be used in such a month for the production of 15,000 tons of crushed product. The lowest monthly flow during the 10-year period was 12 AF in August of 2004. Even in this theoretical extreme case, the water use by the crusher would only represent 5% of the creek flow. Given the above figures, the water demand associated with the proposed rock crusher would be negligible and not have the potential to substantially affect creek flows or biological resources.

17. This comment or complaint does not have a direct linkage to the proposed EIR Addendum. Moreover, the commenter should know that the mine operator has the opportunity under the provisions of the County Non-Coastal Zoning Ordinance to seek abatement of the violation of the unpermitted rock crusher through the application for a Permit Adjustment. The County decision-makers have the discretion to grant, deny or grant with modification such a request.
18. As stated in the subject letter, the RPCA "will require restoration of areas subjected to illegal disturbance." It will not allow increased mining excavation at the quarry. Although there will be some short-term effects during the creation of the final slopes, implementation of the RPCA will reduce long-term erosion and sedimentation through a lowering of slope gradient and revegetation. Note that the County is mandated to approve a Reclamation Plan that meets the standards of SMARA.

19. Refer to response #A6.

20. Refer to response #E1 above.

21. Refer to responses #F1 through #F20 above.