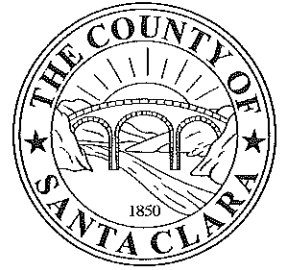


County of Santa Clara
Department of Planning and Development
Planning Office



County Government Center, East Wing, 7th Floor
70 West Hedding Street, 7th Floor
San Jose, California 95110
(408)299-5770 FAX (408)288-9198
www.sccplanning.org

**NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF AN
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT
COMPREHENSIVE RECLAMATION PLAN AMENDMENT
AND CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT
FOR PERMANENTE QUARRY (STATE MINE ID# 91-43-004)**

Project Owner/Applicant: Hanson Permanente Cement, Inc. (owner) and Lehigh Southwest Cement Company (operator), collectively Lehigh.

County File Number: 2250-13-66-10P-10EIR

Assessors Parcel Numbers: 351-09-011, -013, -020, -021, -022; 351-10-005, -033, -037, -038; 351-11-001, -005, -006, -007, and -012.

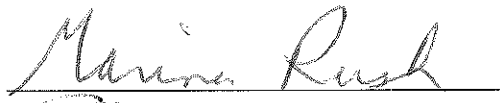
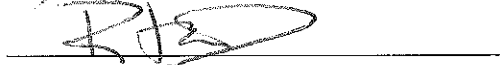
As the Lead Agency, the County of Santa Clara (County) will prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for a Comprehensive Reclamation Plan Amendment, to amend the existing 1985 Reclamation Plan, for expanding the mining area, including a new mining pit. Portions of the expanded reclamation area will also require a Conditional Use Permit. The County would like your views regarding the scope and content of the environmental information to be included in the EIR. Attached are a brief project description, site boundary, and summary of the potential environmental effects. For more information, please visit the County Planning Department Website at: www.sccplanning.org.

A Public Scoping Session to solicit comments for the Notice of Preparation will be held in the City of Cupertino on **Wednesday, March 30, 2011, 7:00 PM** at the **City of Cupertino Quinlan Center, Cupertino Room, 10185 North Stelling Road, Cupertino, California 95014**. In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), comments on the Notice of Preparation are due within 30 days of receipt of this notice. However, an earlier response, if possible, would be appreciated. Please send comments to:

County of Santa Clara
Planning Office, Att: Marina Rush
70 West Hedding , 7th Floor, East Wing
San Jose CA 95110
(408) 299-5770 marina.rush@pln.sccgov.org

Prepared by:
Marina Rush, Planner III

Approved by:
Rob Eastwood, Senior Planner



Signature

3-10-11
3-10-11
Date

*** Complete application materials and maps are available on the County website: www.sccplanning.org.**

Board of Supervisors: Mike Wasserman, George Shirakawa, Dave Cortese, Ken Yeager, Liz Kniss
County Executive: Jeffrey V. Smith

INTRODUCTION

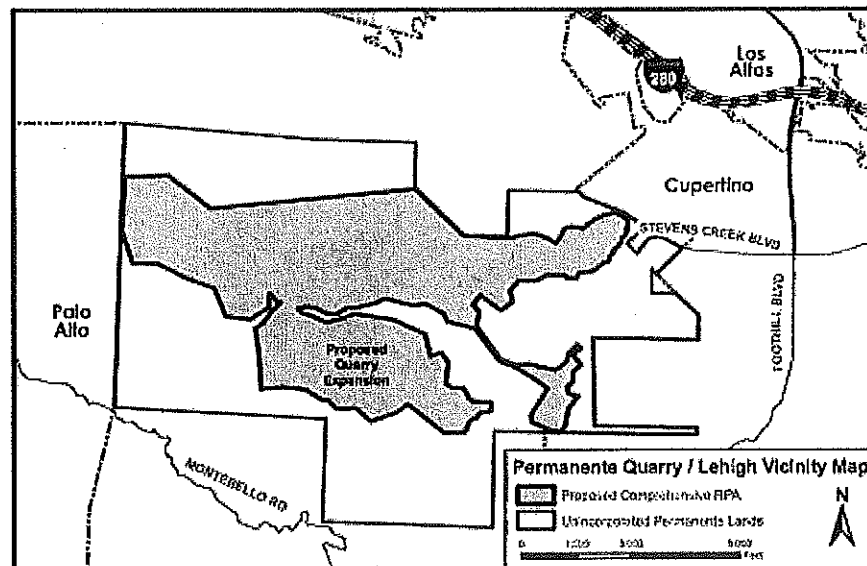
The purpose of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is to inform decision-makers and the general public of the environmental effects of a proposed project that an agency may implement or approve. The EIR process is intended to provide information sufficient to (a) evaluate a proposed project and its potential for significant impacts on the environment, (b) to examine methods of reducing adverse impacts; and (c) to consider alternatives to the project.

The EIR for the Comprehensive Reclamation Plan Amendment and Conditional Use Permit will be prepared and processed in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) of 1970, as amended. In accordance with CEQA, the EIR will include the following:

- A summary of the project
- A project description;
- A description of the existing environmental setting, potential environmental impacts, and mitigation measures;
- Cumulative impacts;
- Alternatives to the proposed project; and
- CEQA required environmental consequences, including (a) any significant environmental effects which cannot be avoided if the project is implemented; (b) any significant irreversible and irretrievable commitments of resources; (c) the growth inducing impacts of the proposed project; and (d) effects found not to be significant.

PROJECT LOCATION

The project is located in the unincorporated area of the western foothills of Santa Clara County, near the City of Cupertino, approximately two miles west of the intersection of Interstate 280 and Highway 85, at 24001 Stevens Creek Boulevard. Quarry access is via Stevens Creek Boulevard and Foothill Expressway, continuing to the terminus of Permanente Road.



PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The existing operations on the Lehigh property include mining limestone and aggregate, rock crushing, and a cement plant. Lehigh is requesting to amend the 1985 Reclamation Plan for Permanente Quarry to include all areas of existing mining disturbance, including the East Materials Storage Area, and an expansion area for a new limestone quarry pit. Lehigh is also requesting authorization of a Use Permit

that would allow mining activities on the portions of the project area that are not in a vested (legal nonconforming) mined area. The cement plant is a separate use operating under a use permit (No. 173.23), and is not located within the boundary of the existing or proposed reclamation plan area.

The proposed project area is approximately 1,105 acres, and includes 251 acres for the expansion area and 317 acres to remain undisturbed oak woodland. The proposed new limestone pit is located south of the existing mine pit, across Permanente Creek. The project proposes construction of new bridge over the creek and road system for access to the new mining area. The overburden (mining waste) from the new pit (South Quarry) will be deposited into the existing mining pit (North Quarry) and in a new mining waste storage area located east of the North Quarry pit.

The EIR will provide a project-level evaluation of the potential environmental impacts caused by the implementation of project through approval of the proposed Comprehensive Reclamation Plan Amendment and Conditional Use Permit. Practical mitigation measures will be developed and presented for all direct, indirect and cumulative impacts that are found to be potentially significant. The following describes the environmental aspects of the project, and how they are potentially affected.

POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS OF THE PROJECT

The EIR will identify the significant environmental effects anticipated to result from implementation of the proposed project. Specific environmental topics addressed will include:

A. Visual Resources

The project site is located in a Zoning District with a Design Review overlay for the Santa Clara Valley Viewshed (d1). Much of the proposed project area is considered visible from the Santa Clara valley floor. The EIR will describe the anticipated changes to the visual environment as a result of the proposed mining and reclamation activities, including ultimate completion of the landscape and final design of the reclamation area, assessing any potentially significant aesthetic impacts. Visual simulations of the project site will be prepared. The County is requesting public feedback regarding suggested viewpoints to be used in the EIR for the visual impact analysis.

B. Biological Resources

The proposed expansion area, located south of Permanente Creek, is undisturbed and contains contain dense, mature tree cover of Chaparral/Oak Woodlands, and is potential habitat for several special status wildlife and plant species. Permanente Creek runs through the project site. The EIR will describe impacts to biological resources that are anticipated to occur as a result of the proposed project. Mitigation measures will be identified for significant impacts, as warranted.

C. Cultural Resources

The EIR will present findings of a cultural resources evaluation that will identify and describe how the proposed project would impact cultural resources (both historical and prehistorical). Mitigation measures will be identified for significant impacts, as warranted.

D. Geology & Soils

Geologic and slope stability analysis for the project has been submitted by the owner / operator. The EIR will describe geology and soil conditions of the site and potential for the proposed mining and reclamation activities to cause increased slope instability or erosion potential, and include a peer review of the submitted geology reports. Mitigation measures will be identified for significant impacts, as warranted.

E. Surface Hydrology, Drainage & Water Quality

Permanente Creek runs through the project site, and is on the State of California 303d list for

selenium impairment. The EIR will describe hydrology and storm water quality impacts from the mining and reclamation process, and mitigation measures will be identified for significant impacts, as warranted. The EIR will evaluate the potential for the project to result in impacts to water quality, groundwater, and the hydrograph of Permanente creek.

G. Public Services

The EIR will describe the availability of services to serve the project site and identify, at a programmatic level, potential utilities and services impacts from the project. Mitigation measures will be identified for significant impacts, as warranted.

H. Noise and Vibration

The EIR will characterize ambient noise conditions in the vicinity of the project site and evaluate noise and vibration impacts from the proposed mining and reclamation activities with the County General Plan and Noise Ordinance standards. Mitigation measures will be identified for significant impacts, as warranted.

I. Land Use

Proposed mining activities in the new quarry pit and final use, appearance and stability of the reclamation area will be examined to assess whether these activities would conflict with any County General Plan Policies or Zoning Ordinances.

J. Air Quality

Impacts of the proposed project on local air quality and sensitive receptors will be evaluated with emphasis on dust generation and emissions related to mining and reclamation activities. Air Quality analysis will include a health hazards risk assessment to nearby sensitive receptors. The EIR will not evaluate emissions related to existing cement plant operations. Mitigation measures will be identified for significant impacts, as warranted.

K. Greenhouse Gas Emissions

The EIR will address the potential impact of the project on global climate change. It will include the most recent information regarding the current understanding of the mechanisms behind global climate change, greenhouse gas emissions, current conditions and trends, while also incorporating the Bay Area Air Quality Management District CEQA thresholds for greenhouse gas emissions.

L. Alternatives

The EIR will describe a range of reasonable alternatives to the proposed project, including a Reduced Scale Alternative, and No Project Alternative.

M. Growth Inducing Impacts

The EIR will discuss methods by which the proposed project will directly or indirectly induce economic, population, or housing growth.

N. Cumulative Impacts

The EIR will include a Cumulative Impacts section which will address the potential significant or irreversible cumulative impacts of the proposed mining and reclamation activities under the Use Permit and Comprehensive Reclamation Plan Amendment when considered with past, present, and probable future projects producing related or cumulative impacts, or projections contained in applicable land use documents of regional or area-wide conditions contributing to the cumulative impact.