

7. Other CEQA Considerations

This section presents several topics required by CEQA: growth-inducing effects (Section 7.1); energy conservation (Section 7.2); significant effects that cannot be avoided (Section 7.3); and, irreversible commitment of resources (Section 7.4).

7.1 Growth Inducement

Section 15126.2(d) of the State CEQA Guidelines provides the following guidance on growth-inducing impacts: a project is identified as growth inducing if it “could foster economic or population growth, or the construction of additional housing, either directly or indirectly, in the surrounding environment.”

Implementation of the Proposed Project would not involve any change to the existing quarry’s operation or operational throughput. No new full- or part-time personnel would be required that would cause the need for either additional housing or in-migration. No direct growth inducing impacts would occur.

Implementation of the Proposed Project would yield approximately 21.5 million tons of aggregate reserves. These reserves, in combination with the quarry’s existing entitled reserves, would result in the production of an estimated 33.2 million tons of aggregate products over a 59 year period. Some of this product could potentially be used for the construction of either new housing or other infrastructure that could be related to future growth within the quarry’s regional market area. However, this growth is based on existing population projections and planned development that would be expected to occur with or without implementation of the Proposed Project. Therefore, no indirect growth inducing impacts would occur. The Proposed Project would only serve known existing and projected future demand, as detailed in EIR Section 2.2 (Overview of Aggregate Demand).

7.2 Energy Conservation

As outlined in Table 4.5-3, the existing quarry’s energy consumption can be divided into the following operational categories: material processing (12 percent); electrical use (five [5] percent); propane use (three [3] percent); off-road equipment used on-site (38 percent); material hauling trips (37 percent); miscellaneous on-road vehicle trips (three [3] percent); and, employee commute trips (one [1] percent). Under the Proposed Project, no changes to the quarry’s existing operations would occur. Therefore, the Proposed Project would not increase the quarry’s average or peak production energy demands over baseline conditions. No direct or indirect impacts would occur. Further, as noted in this EIR’s policy consistency analysis (EIR Appendix E, Chapter 5, Energy Resources of the COSE), the Proposed Project can be conditioned to install and operate energy efficient equipment as part of its CUP for future quarry operation.

7.3 Significant Effects that Cannot be Avoided

Section 15126.2(b) of the State CEQA Guidelines requires that an EIR describe any significant impacts, including those that cannot be mitigated to a level of less than significant (e.g., a significant and unavoidable impact). Potential environmental effects of the Proposed Project and proposed mitigation measures are discussed in detail in Section 4 (Environmental Analysis) of this EIR. Implementation of the Proposed Project would result in one significant and unavoidable impact related to noise (Impact NS-1, in EIR Section 4.10 [Noise and Vibration]). This impact involves Project noise levels that exceed the County’s noise standards for vacant lands, which surround the Proposed Project, and peak operating truck traffic noise levels that would exceed the County’s interior noise standards along some hauling

route segments of State Route 58 and El Camino Real. Mitigation Measure NS-1 has been identified to minimize these noise levels to the maximum extent feasible; however, this impact would still be significant and unavoidable (Class I).

Due to the above Class I impact, the Proposed Project's incremental contribution to cumulative noise and vibration effects would also be significant and unavoidable. No additional mitigation measures to further reduce or minimize this cumulative impact have been identified as feasible.

7.4 Irreversible Changes

Section 15126.2(c) of the State CEQA Guidelines defines an irreversible impact as an impact that uses nonrenewable resources during the initial and continued phases of a project. Irrecoverable commitments of resources should be evaluated to assure that such consumption is justified.

Implementation of the Proposed Project would commit nonrenewable energy resources during the quarry's on-going operation. This includes the use of fossil fuels, the replacement of old equipment that cannot be recycled either during operation or at the end of the quarry's planned operational lifetime, and energy required for the production and processing of quarry products. However, as noted in Section 7.2 (Energy Conservation), no increases in the existing quarry's average or peak production are proposed, and, therefore, no change in the quarry's baseline consumption of nonrenewable resources is proposed. Therefore, an irreversible commitment of relatively small amounts of nonrenewable energy resources would occur. At the end of the quarry's operational life, it would be reclaimed to open space land uses and habitat that would not consume or otherwise commit any nonrenewable energy resources.

Implementation of the Proposed Project would not result in any significant and unavoidable impacts related to any other nonrenewable environmental resources, or otherwise consume water, electricity, and fossil fuels in an unnecessary, inefficient, or wasteful manner. Irreversible impacts associated with the Proposed Project would be less than significant (Class III).