

4.7 HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

4.7.1 Existing Conditions

Regional Setting

The Oster/Las Pilitas Quarry is located in central San Luis Obispo County within the Las Pilitas Planning Area and is designated as Rural Lands (San Luis Obispo County 2010). The land in and around the property consists of steep hillsides supporting natural vegetation and flatter areas are found along drainages. Rural residences and ranches are located south of the central and southwestern portions of the property. The Coastal Branch of the California Aqueduct, which is a buried water pipeline, 54 inches in diameter, crosses the southern portion of the site. The Aqueduct delivers water from the California State Water Project to communities in San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara Counties. The Santa Margarita Quarry of Hanson Aggregates is located to the west of the property.

Local Setting

The site vicinity is underlain by Cretaceous-aged granitic rock (Kgr) as mapped by Hart (1976) and Dibble (2004). In some locations, the Kgr is overlain by quaternary alluvium. Granitic rock does not normally contain naturally occurring asbestos (NOA). The issue of NOA is handled as a routine matter through review by the Air Pollution Control District, and is discussed in Section 4.3 of this EIR.

The quarry site is drained by three surface water features including the Calf Canyon Creek (far northeastern corner of the property), Moreno Creek (southern portion of the property) and the Salinas River (southwestern portion of the property). The quarry itself is not located in the 100-year floodplain of the Salinas River. The majority of the groundwater resource for the project is located in the southern part of the site in the quaternary alluvium deposits located adjacent to the Salinas River. Granitic rock (Kgr) is not a good source of groundwater.

Hazardous Materials Sites Database

The Hazardous Waste and Substances Sites (Cortese) List is a planning document used by the State and local agencies to comply with CEQA requirements. The List provides information about the location of hazardous material release sites. CalEPA is required to update the list at least annually. The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) is responsible for a portion of the information contained in the list, including State Response and/or Federal Superfund sites and Backlog Sites listed under the HSC section 25356.

Neither this Project site, nor any adjacent parcel, is listed on the Cortese List.

Valley Fever

Valley Fever occurs throughout San Luis Obispo County, and the Public Health Department recorded 789 cases from 2000 through 2008. This potential health issue was raised in 2010, during the Scoping process conducted for the project. No occurrences were mapped at the project site or in the project vicinity. Two cases were mapped in the village area of Santa Margarita (San Luis Obispo County Public Health Department 2012).

Valley Fever is a lung disease common in the arid areas of the southwestern United States and northwestern Mexico. It is caused by a fungus (*Coccidioides immitis*) that grows in soils, forming spores that may become airborne when the soil is disturbed by winds, construction activity, farming or similar activities. In susceptible people, infection occurs when spores are inhaled. People working in occupations, such as construction or farming have an increased risk of exposure to the fungus and contracting the disease. The disease may cause flu-like symptoms (fatigue, cough, chest pain, fever, rash, headache, and body and joint ache), but in most people the symptoms are mild and may be unnoticed or mistaken for a common cold.

4.7.2 San Luis Obispo County Plans and Policies

Table 4.7-1 presents a preliminary review of Plans and Policies of the San Luis Obispo County General Plan, relative to this proposed surface mining operation, that are applicable to hazardous materials.

4.7.3 Regulatory Setting

Federal and State requirements, applicable to hazards and hazardous materials, are presented below in Table 4.7-2.

4.7.4 Assessment Methodology

Potential impacts from hazards and hazardous materials were evaluated for the site and the project. The analysis of potential impacts considered both the construction and operation of the project.

The evaluation of potential hazards and hazardous materials impacts included the following:

- Review of the Cortese List data base of known existing hazardous sites located at, adjacent to, or near the site.
- Review of the site location in regards to potential naturally occurring hazardous substances, such as Naturally Occurring Asbestos.

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**TABLE 4.7-1
POLICY CONSISTENCY ANALYSIS –
HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS**

| Source | Policy Statement | Discussion | Preliminary Determination |
|-----------------------------|---|--|----------------------------------|
| Policy S-13, Safety Element | New development should be carefully located, with special attention given to fuel management in higher fire risk areas. Large, undeveloped areas should be preserved so they can be fuel-managed. New development in fire hazard areas should be configured to minimize the potential for added danger. | CALFIRE has been contacted and responded with their recommendations. The project will be compliant with these recommendations. | Potentially Consistent |
| Policy S-14, Safety Element | Ensure that adequate facilities, equipment and personnel are available to meet the demands of fire fighting in San Luis Obispo County based on the level of service set forth in the fire agency's master plan. | This policy relates to County administration and coordination with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. The project design includes additional water storage capacity to improve firefighting facilities for the area. | Potentially Consistent |
| Policy S-15, Safety Element | The CDF/County Fire Department will maintain and improve its ability to respond and suppress fires throughout the County. | This policy does not apply to individual projects. | Not applicable to the project |
| Policy S-16, Safety Element | Improve structures and other values at risk to reduce the impact of fire. Regulations should be developed to improve the defensible area surrounding habitation. | The project does not include any new habitable structures. The scale house and office will be located well away from vegetation. | Potentially Consistent |
| Policy S-21, Safety Element | Avoid development in areas of known slope instability or high landslide risk when possible, and encourage design and construction techniques appropriate for those areas. | A preliminary slope stability report has been prepared. The proposed project will be consistent with California Department of Conservation standards and consistent with this policy. | Potentially Consistent |
| Policy S-26, Safety Element | Reduce the potential for exposure to humans and the environment by hazardous substances. | The asphalt recycling facility will not be accepting hazardous grade material. There would be no foreseeable potential exposure to hazardous substances. Measures have been included to reduce potential impacts associated with Valley Fever. | Potentially Consistent |

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**TABLE 4.7-2
SUMMARY OF FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL REQUIREMENTS
HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS**

| Requirements | Administering Agency | Applicability |
|--|---|---|
| Federal | | |
| Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) – 40 CFR 261 et seq. | USEPA has authorized the California DTSC to administer the RCRA program in the State. | RCRA regulates hazardous waste from the time that the waste is generated through its management, storage, transport, and treatment until its final disposal. RCRA regulations address numerous aspects of hazardous waste management including determination of hazardous waste, containment requirements, inspections, training, spill response, contingency plans, treatment and disposal, recycling, reporting and additional other areas of hazardous waste management. |
| Oil Pollution Prevention – 40 CFR 112 et seq. | The County of San Luis Obispo Environmental Health Services, Hazardous Materials Program is the Certified Unified Program Agency for the project. | This regulation establishes procedures, methods, equipment and other requirements to prevent the discharge of oil and oil products from non-transportation related facilities into the waters of the United States. The regulation applies to facilities engaged in, among other activities, storing, processing, using or consuming oil and oil products. If specified storage thresholds are triggered, a Spill Prevention, Control and Countermeasure Plan must be prepared and implemented. |
| Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA) – 29 CFR 1910 et seq. | In the State of California, CalOSHA implements OSHA requirements. | Federal occupational safety and health regulations contain provisions for managing hazardous materials. OSHA promotes worker safety, worker training, and worker right-to-know. Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response (HAZWOPER) training is required for workers who handle hazardous materials, as appropriate for their job description and responsibilities. |
| Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) – 42 USC 1101 et seq. | The County of San Luis Obispo Environmental Health Services, Hazardous Materials Program is the Certified Unified Program Agency for the project. | EPCRA is also known as Title III of the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA). This law helps communities protect public health, safety and the environment from chemical hazards. EPCRA provides the requirements for emergency release notification, chemical inventory reporting and toxic release inventories for facilities that handle chemicals over certain thresholds. |
| Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) – Public Law 91-173 | Mine Safety and Health Administration. | MSHA requires that the Mine Safety and Health Administration inspect each surface mine at least two times a year to determine compliance with health and safety standards and whether an imminent danger exists. MSHA also requires rigorous training and education programs for employers and employees in the |

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**TABLE 4.7-2 (CONTINUED)
SUMMARY OF FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL REQUIREMENTS
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| Requirements | Administering Agency | Applicability |
|--|--|--|
| | | mining industry. |
| Safe Explosives Act | Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF). | The Safe Explosives Act of March 2003 requires background checks for all persons that handle, use, or have access to explosive materials. The Act also requires all persons who use explosives to obtain a federal blasting license issued by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF). |
| Department of Transportation (DOT) – CFR Title 49 | Department of Transportation. | DOT regulates the transportation of hazardous materials, including explosive materials. The regulations include requirements that companies transporting hazardous materials maintain a current DOT HAZMAT Certification Registration and maintain current enrollment in a drug screening program. DOT also has stringent standards for all vehicles that transport hazardous materials. |
| State | | |
| Surface Mining and Reclamation Act (SMARA) – PRC Chapter 9, Sections 2710–2796 | The County of San Luis Obispo acts as the Lead Agency under the State Office of Mine Reclamation (OMR) to implement and enforce SMARA regulations. | SMARA provides a comprehensive set of regulations for surface mining and reclamation to ensure that adverse environmental and safety impacts are minimized and that mined lands are reclaimed to a usable condition. SMARA requires the preparation, submittal and approval of a Reclamation Plan that demonstrates compliance with the regulations. Critical elements of the Reclamation Plan are the quarry design and slope stability. The Reclamation Plan is reviewed by the Office of Mine Reclamation (OMR) and approved by the County. |
| California Occupational Safety and Health (CalOSHA) Mine Safety Orders – CCR Title 8, Subchapter 17 Sections 6950–7283 | CalOSHA. | The CalOSHA Mine Safety Orders regulate the safe operation of mining activities including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Article 4: Accident Prevention Program • Article 6: General Safety Precautions • Article 11: Materials – Storage and Handling • Article 12: Ground Control • Article 15: Mining Equipment and Practices • Article 17: Loading, Hauling, and Dumping • Article 22: Fire Prevention and Control • Article 40: Inspections • Article 50: Explosives • Article 51: Storage of Explosives |

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**TABLE 4.7-2 (CONTINUED)
SUMMARY OF FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL REQUIREMENTS
HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS**

| Requirements | Administering Agency | Applicability |
|---|---|--|
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Article 52: Transportation of Explosives • Article 53: Handling and Use of Explosives • Article 54: Mixing Blasting Agents • Article 55: Licensing of Blasters |
| CalOSHA General Industry Safety Order Explosives and Pyrotechnics – CCR Title 8, Subchapter 7, Sections 5236–5374 | CalOSHA. | <p>The CalOSHA regulations regarding the safe management, handling, storage and transportation of explosive materials include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Article 113: Explosives and Pyrotechnics – Competency and Qualification of Blasters • Article 115: Transportation of Explosives • Article 116: Handling and Use of Explosives – Blasting Operations |
| Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA) – California HSC Chapter 6.11 Sections 25404 et seq.; CCR Title 27 Sections 15100 et seq. | The County of San Luis Obispo Environmental Health Services, Hazardous Materials Program is the Certified Unified Program Agency for the project. | <p>The Unified Program allows certain State laws and regulation to be implemented by local governmental agencies that are certified by the California EPA. The Unified Program consolidates, coordinates, and makes consistent the requirements, permits, inspections and enforcement activities of the State’s environmental and emergency response programs summarized below. Hazardous Materials Release Response Plans and Inventories (Business Plans): The California Office of Emergency Services (OES) established the Business Plan Program (CCR Title 19, Sections 2620 et seq.) to prevent or minimize the damage to public health and safety and the environment from a release or threatened release of hazardous materials, and to satisfy community right-to-know laws. This is accomplished by requiring businesses that handle hazardous materials over threshold quantities to prepare a Hazardous Materials Business Plan that includes a hazardous materials inventory, site map, emergency plan, and a training program. The Business Plan must be submitted to the CUPA/emergency responders.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • California Accidental Release Prevention (CalARP) Program: The CalARP Program (CCR Title 19, Sections 2735 et seq.) was established to prevent accidental releases of those substances determined to potentially pose the greatest risk of immediate harm to the public and environment. The CalARP Program requires businesses that store or use certain hazardous materials over threshold quantities to |

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**TABLE 4.7-2 (CONTINUED)
SUMMARY OF FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL REQUIREMENTS
HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS**

| Requirements | Administering Agency | Applicability |
|--|---|---|
| | | <p>prepare a risk management plan, an assessment of the off-site hazard potential and the implementation of a program to minimize the risk of a release.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aboveground Petroleum Storage Act (APSA) Program: The APSA Program (HSC Section 25404 et seq.) requires that the owner/operator of aboveground petroleum/oil storage tanks with cumulative capacities over 1,320 gallons prepare a Spill Prevention, Control and Countermeasure (SPCC) Plan, conduct inspections, and implement the SPCC if necessary. • Hazardous Waste Generator, On-site Hazardous Waste Management and Treatment Permitting Programs: These programs regulate the generation, management, treatment and disposal of hazardous waste (CCR title 22; HSC Sections 25100 et seq.). DTSC implements these programs through the State's hazardous waste generator regulations, Tiered Permitting program and the Unified Program. These programs apply to facilities that generate, treat, store, accumulate, handle, recycle, reuse and/or dispose of hazardous waste. • California Fire Code: The Office of the State Fire Marshal is responsible for ensuring the implementation of the Hazardous Materials Management Plans and Hazardous Materials Inventory Statements Programs (CCR Title 27, Sections 15100 et seq.) The California Fire Code (CFC) also requires that a business that handles hazardous materials prepare a Business Plan. |
| CalRecycle 14 CCR 17381, 17381.1, 17381.2, 17383(b), 17383.7, 17386, 17414 | CalRecycle – acting as the Local Enforcement Agency for San Luis Obispo County. | <p>The regulations in Section 17381 – 17383.7 define Type A inert processing operations, restrict the materials that may be accepted, and establish the “Notification Tier” for this type of operation.</p> <p>Section 17386 defines the “Operations Plan” that must be submitted to CalRecycle as part of the Notification.</p> <p>Section 17414 Sets forth record keeping requirements</p> |
| County/Regional | | |
| San Luis Obispo County Code Section 22.10.050 – Explosive Storage | The County of San Luis Obispo. | The project does not include storage of explosive material on-site. In the event that such storage was proposed, then these requirements would apply. An amendment to this land use permit would be required if the operator wishes to store explosive material on-site, |

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**TABLE 4.7-2 (CONTINUED)
SUMMARY OF FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL REQUIREMENTS
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| Requirements | Administering Agency | Applicability |
|---|--|---|
| | | in the future. In addition to this approval, a permit is required by the County Sheriff. A permit will only be approved where the Review Authority finds that the proposed site is within an area that is open in character and essentially free of development. Explosive storage shall not be located closer than 1,000 feet from any property line. Storage containment must be designed and constructed in compliance with the current edition of the California Fire Code adopted by the County and any applicable requirements of the County Sheriff. |
| San Luis Obispo County Code Section 22.36. – Surface Mining and Reclamation | The County of San Luis Obispo acts as the Lead Agency under the State Office of Mine Reclamation (OMR) to implement and enforce SMARA regulations. | This section provides regulations for surface mining and mineral extraction operations. It not only regulates the reclamation of the mined land but also regulates activities that could result in adverse environmental effects or impact health and safety. These standards are adopted as required by the SMARA. |
| San Luis Obispo County Code Section 22.50 – Fire Safety | CalFire enforces the State of California Fire Code. | This section provides standards for precautions to minimize hazards to life and property in the event of fire. In rural areas, a Fire Safety Plan must be submitted to the CalFire or designated appointee. It must include the location of water storage, storage of fuel, explosives, flammable or combustible liquids and gases, and identification of the extent of vegetative fuel reduction areas. |
| San Luis Obispo County Code Section 22.98 – Las Pilitas Planning Area | The CalFire enforces the State of California Fire Code. | This section provides standards for proposed projects that are specific to the Las Pilitas area and also includes requirements for a Fire Safety Plan. |

- Evaluation of potential hazards and hazardous materials impacts associated with project activities and operations, including transportation, use and storage of hazardous materials, fire hazards and slope stability.
- Review of information from the County Public Health Department regarding occurrence and recommendations to control Valley Fever.

4.7.5 Significance Criteria

With appropriate consideration of the significance criteria presented in Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines, the County of San Luis Obispo has developed and adopted the following significance criteria to determine project effects for Hazards and Hazardous Materials within

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San Luis Obispo County. Accordingly, the Las Pilitas Quarry project will have a significant impact if it will:

- a. Result in a risk of explosion or release of hazardous substances (e.g., oil, pesticides, chemicals, radiation) or exposure of people to hazardous substances; and/or
- b. Interfere with an emergency response or evacuation plan; and/or
- c. Expose people to safety risk associated with airport flight pattern; and/or
- d. Increase fire hazard risk or expose people or structures to high fire hazards conditions; and/or
- e. Create any other health hazard or potential hazard.

4.7.6 Project Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Criterion “a,” related to the use of explosives and other hazardous materials in the project, is addressed by Impacts HAZ-1 and HAZ-2 below. Criteria “b,” “c,” and “d” are each addressed as separate potential impacts below. Criterion “e” dealing with other hazards is addressed in two separate issues: slopes and related quarry hazards, and the potential exposure to Valley Fever.

Risk of Explosion or Release of Explosive Material

Mining procedures include drilling and blasting to develop a series of slopes and benches. It is anticipated that blasting would occur up to two times a week and only during daylight hours. According to the applicant’s Blast Plan (Gasch Associates 2009), blasting material will not be stored on-site but will be transported to the site by the contractor on an as needed basis. A blasting notification program will be implemented to notify the County and neighboring property owners before blasting events.

An inadvertent explosion of blasting material or accidental release of material during transportation could create a potentially significant risk to the public or environment. An accidental explosion of blasting materials on-site, or a blast when workers or others have not been sufficiently warned to clear the area, could injure or kill workers and/or create a significant impact to the environment. The Blast Plan (Appendix B) includes specifications for the use of explosives and blasting, limiting ground vibrations and air-overpressure levels, records requirements and safety and warning programs, and vibration predictions based on project parameters. OSHA includes detailed safety requirements for each blasting event to insure worker safety.

The project could create a risk to the public or to the environment through the inadvertent explosion or release of explosive materials during transportation or use on the property. This is considered a potential significant impact that can be mitigated.

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| Description of Impact | Mitigation Measure | Residual Impact |
|---|---|------------------------------|
| <p>IMPACT HAZ-1a: Risk of Explosion or Release of Explosive Material - Transportation. The Project could create a hazard to the public or the environment through inadvertent explosion during the transportation of explosives.</p> | <p>MM HAZ-1a: Risk of Explosion or Release of Explosive Material -Transportation. In accordance with the Blast Plan and as required by federal, state and local regulations, the Blaster and/or explosive delivery company must show evidence of compliance with the following requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Copy of drivers current CDL with HAZMAT endorsement, • Current USDOT HAZMAT Certification of Registration, • Maintain a current California HAZMAT Transportation License, • Current enrollment in a drug screening program according to USDOT CFR Title 49 regulations, and • Maintain a general liability insurance policy for explosive transportation for not less than \$5,000,000. | <p>Less than significant</p> |
| <p>IMPACT HAZ-1b: Risk of Explosion or Release of Explosive Material – Use On-site. The Project would create a hazard to workers, public or the environment as a result of accidental explosions of blasting material at the site.</p> | <p>MM HAZ-1b: Risk of Explosion or Release of Explosive Material – Use On-site. The management, handling and storage of explosive materials shall be conducted in accordance with the Blast Plan (Gasch & Associates, December 2009) and with stringent adherence to the federal, state and local regulations. The Blaster shall have a current, valid California “Blaster’s License” issued by CalOSHA. No on-site storage of explosive materials is allowed.</p> | <p>Less than significant</p> |

Release of Hazardous Materials or Wastes

The project does not include on-site fuel storage; vehicle and equipment refueling will be conducted by service trucks. Other small volumes of hazardous materials and wastes will be stored on-site in compliance with applicable regulations. These might include hydraulic fluid, lubricants, pesticides and similar common substances. Depending on the amounts of wastes generated and stored, the quarry operator or service contractor will be required to register as a hazardous waste generator, and may also be required to file a hazardous waste business plan and comply with other regulations such as those related to training requirements and emergency response planning. The detailed requirements are set by federal and state laws and regulations, and administered by the County Environmental Health Division of the Public Health Department, which serves as the Certified Unified Program Agency. Table 4.7-2 presents more detailed regulatory requirements.

All materials accepted for recycling must be “Type A” inert debris and will be required to be free of hazardous wastes and soluble pollutants at concentrations in excess of water quality objectives, and must meet other specifications. Type A inert debris may contain fully cured

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asphalt, which is defined in state regulations as “substantially hardened, and ...inelastic.” This material is not considered hazardous waste.

There could be accidental release of hazardous materials associated with fueling, washing, maintenance, leaks or spills of hazardous materials routinely used at mining operations (petroleum products, solvents, cleaning agents, grease, oils, welding gases and other hazardous substances). Asphalt and concrete debris from off-site construction projects will be brought to the Project site for recycling. Any hazardous substances contained within these debris loads could be released to the environment. This represents a potential significant impact that can be mitigated.

| Description of Impact | Mitigation Measure | Residual Impact |
|---|--|------------------------------|
| <p>IMPACT HAZ-2: Release of Hazardous Materials or Wastes. The Project could release hazardous materials or hazardous wastes stored on-site, or brought to the site in loads of material to be recycled.</p> | <p>MM HAZ-2: Release of Hazardous Materials or Wastes. Prior to issuance of a Notice to Proceed for the quarry project, the applicant/quarry operator shall provide the Planning and Building Department with documentation that the Environmental Health Division has reviewed and approved any required registration or plan documents related to the use of hazardous materials and/or generation of hazardous wastes. The management, handling, storage and disposal of hazardous materials and waste shall comply with the applicable federal, state and local hazardous materials and waste regulations. These may include the following requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potentially hazardous materials and waste shall be stored in a manner to minimize a release (e.g., secondary containment). • A Training Program that addresses the federal, state and local regulatory requirements shall be prepared and implemented. • A Contingency and Spill Response Plan shall be prepared and implemented. • A Business Plan which includes a hazardous materials/waste inventory, quantities and location of hazardous materials/waste and copies of the Training and Contingency Plans shall be prepared and provided to the Certified Unified Program Agency, if hazardous materials are stored above threshold quantities. • Routine inspections of the equipment and storage areas shall be conducted. • Hazardous waste shall be transferred off-site by a licensed transporter to a permitted hazardous waste disposal facility. • Servicing and fueling activities shall take place only in designated fueling areas. • Sediment runoff shall be managed under the SWPPP. • Spills of fluid hazardous materials shall be reported immediately to the site supervisor and Environmental Health Division. | <p>Less than significant</p> |

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| Description of Impact | Mitigation Measure | Residual Impact |
|-----------------------|--|-----------------|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inspection and emergency response records shall be maintained and made available to regulatory agencies upon request. • Any storage of materials needs to be consistent with Section 22.10.155 - Stormwater Management. | |

Effect on Emergency Response or Evacuation Plan

The Project is not expected to conflict with any emergency response or regional or local evacuation plans. The project will have its own dedicated access drive from SR 58, which will not affect access to either of the two residences located elsewhere on the property, or any other residences in the vicinity. Emergency response is provided by the CalFire/County Fire Station No. 40 on Parkhill Road, approximately 1.5 miles southeast from the project site. The access drive for the project is designed to meet CalFire requirements. The effect on regional or local evacuation plans will be less than significant.

| Description of Impact | Mitigation Measure | Residual Impact |
|--|--|------------------------------|
| <p>IMPACT HAZ-3: Effect on Regional or Local Evacuation Plans. The Project may potentially conflict with emergency response or regional or local evacuation plans. The project will have its own dedicated access drive from SR 58, which may potentially affect access to either of the two residences located elsewhere on the property, or any other residences in the vicinity.</p> | <p>MM HAZ-3: Effect on Regional or Local Evacuation Plans. Since this effect is less than significant, no mitigation is required.</p> | <p>Less than significant</p> |

Airport Flight Patterns

The site is not located in an area under an airport master plan, airport land use plan or within two miles of an airport landing strip. The nearest commercial airports are in: San Luis Obispo (13 miles) and Paso Robles (18 miles). The nearest private airstrip is Bogdan Airport, approximately 2 miles east of the Quarry site. The proposed quarry will not involve any tall structures or activities (i.e., blasting) that would interfere with aircraft operations in the vicinity. For these reasons, the proposed project would not expose people to a safety risk associated with airport flight patterns. This potential impact is less than significant.

| Description of Impact | Mitigation Measure | Residual Impact |
|--|---|------------------------------|
| <p>IMPACT HAZ-4: Airport Flight Patterns. The proposed quarry may potentially involve activities that would interfere with aircraft operations in the vicinity. For these reasons, the proposed project could potentially expose people to a safety risk associated with airport flight patterns.</p> | <p>MM HAZ-4: Airport Flight Patterns. Since this effect is less than significant, no mitigation is required.</p> | <p>Less than significant</p> |

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Fire Hazard Risk

The project will involve blasting and the use of heavy equipment in the vicinity of natural vegetation in an area with a very high fire hazard. These activities will increase the potential for man-made fires in the area, which would affect nearby residents and workers within the project site. This is considered a potential significant impact that can be mitigated through appropriate planning, access provision, and improved water availability.

CalFire reviewed the NOP and application materials for the project, and provided a preliminary review of requirements that would be applied to the project. These include compliance with applicable state fire laws, and include the following:

- Provision of a commercial access road with a minimum width of 20 feet, additional eight foot width for parking areas, all-weather surface, ability to support the weight of a fire engine, and vertical clearance of 13.5 feet
- Access gate meeting CalFire specifications for location clearance, access, emergency operation, and other requirements
- New water storage tank
- Site identification and address sign
- Portable fire extinguishers on all earth moving heavy equipment
- Spark arrestors on all equipment, and other clearance distances, smoking restrictions, and measures to minimize ignition sources

The project design includes the provision of an additional secondary water storage tank for the purpose of dust suppression and can also be used to augment water availability for CalFire use at the project site. The project will require a grading and building permit for creation of the access drive and scale house, and will require approval of a fire safety plan from CalFire, at which time final conditions will be established. Fire hazard risk is a potentially significant impact that can be mitigated.

| Description of Impact | Mitigation Measure | Residual Impact |
|---|--|------------------------------|
| <p>IMPACT HAZ-5: Fire Hazard Risk. The project will involve blasting and the use of heavy equipment in the vicinity of natural vegetation in an area with a very high fire hazard severity zone.</p> | <p>MM HAZ-5: Fire Hazard Risk. Prior to issuance of Notice to Proceed or issuance of a construction permit for the project, whichever occurs first the applicant shall apply for and obtain CalFire approval of a Fire Safety Plan for the project. The applicant shall comply with provisions of the Fire Safety Plan and other requirements from CalFire. The applicant/quarry operator shall comply with the current California Fire Code (24 CCR Part 9), California Building Code, the Public Resources Code and any other applicable fire laws, as outlined in the "Commercial Fire Plan Review" letter from CAL FIRE/San Luis Obispo County Fire Department, dated July 9, 2010.</p> | <p>Less than significant</p> |

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Slopes and Other Quarry Hazards

Unstable, steep slopes may be created during the mining process. Workers will be exposed to risks from heavy equipment, blasting, steep slopes, truck operations, and other activities associated with mining operations.

The engineering design of the slopes and benches created during the mining process is regulated and monitored by state and local agencies. A Reclamation Plan, including a quarry design and slope stability analysis must be reviewed by OMR and approved by the County (Lead Agency under SMARA) prior to the start of mining activities. This issue is addressed in Section 4.6 as Impact GEO-1. The Lead Agency conducts annual inspections of the mine to ensure compliance with SMARA requirements.

CalOSHA regulates worker safety near the free face of the slopes and benches in order to minimize the potential that workers could be injured or killed by ground failures such as rock falls or landslides. CalOSHA also requires monitoring of noise levels at worker locations, and implementation of hearing conservation and protective measures if noise levels exceed specified limits. These limits are shown in Table 4.8-6 in the Noise section of this EIR.

The proposed quarry is located in the interior of the subject property, with buffer distances ranging from 450 feet to 750 feet from the nearest properties to the east and south, and distances over 1,000 feet in the other directions. The project will include a public notification system and formal warning system prior to any quarry blasts, which are described more fully in Section 4.9, Impact NOISE-3 in this EIR. These measures serve to minimize the potential exposure of members of the public to quarry hazards. These impacts are considered potentially significant impacts that can be mitigated.

| Description of Impact | Mitigation Measure | Residual Impact |
|---|--|------------------------|
| IMPACT HAZ-6: Slopes and Other Quarry Hazards. Unstable, steep slopes may be created during the mining process. Workers will be exposed to risks from heavy equipment, blasting, steep slopes, truck operations, and other activities associated with mining operations. | MM HAZ-6: Slopes and Other Quarry Hazards. Throughout the quarry lifetime, the operator shall comply with all applicable worker protection measures addressed by CalOSHA regulations. See mitigation measure GEO-1 (related to quarry slope and bench stability). See mitigation measure NOISE-3 (includes public notification and warnings for blast events). | Less than significant |

Valley Fever

The project site (and all of San Luis Obispo County) is in an area that may contain the fungus that causes Valley Fever. If fungal spores are present, then clearing, grading, and stockpiling of topsoil material during construction or prior to starting a mine phase could release spores into the air and expose workers within the site to the disease. This is a potential impact, both

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to workers at the site and to travelers or nearby residents who may also be exposed to the disease. The County Public Health Department has developed a series of recommendations that can help minimize the potential for infection by the fungus and the potential for off-site transport of soil or material that may spread spores to other areas. Thus, the potential for exposure to Valley Fever is considered a significant impact that can be mitigated.

| Description of Impact | Mitigation Measure | Residual Impact |
|---|---|------------------------------|
| <p>IMPACT HAZ-7: Potential Exposure to Valley Fever. The project will grade, remove, and stockpile topsoil, which may expose workers to fungal spores that cause Valley Fever and contribute to the off-site transport of soil and spores.</p> | <p>MM HAZ-7a: Potential Exposure to Valley Fever/Dust Control. Mitigation measure AQ-1b (control of PM₁₀ and fugitive dust) will provide adequate control of dust within the project site.</p> <p>MM HAZ-7b: Exposure to Valley Fever/Worker Safety. The Quarry operator shall incorporate applicable recommendations from the Public Health Department regarding recognition and control of Valley Fever in safety plans and worker training material. The content of this training material shall require approval by the Planning and Building Department prior to issuance of the grading permit for construction or the Notice to Proceed (whichever occurs first), and this information shall be maintained with operational and safety plans on-site.</p> | <p>Less than significant</p> |

Cumulative Effects

The project is about one-half mile from the existing Hanson Santa Margarita Quarry. Both quarries are within the EX1 Extractive Resource Combining Designation, as shown on Figure 3-1. In this region, the EX1 Combining Designation is placed over the La Panza Granitics, a large area that is classified as MRZ-2 by the California State Geological Survey (1989:9). Since this Combining Designation is specifically intended to promote mineral extraction, it is reasonable to expect that future quarries will be approved and constructed in this area.

The project as designed and with the implementation of the identified mitigation measures will not have any significant impacts related to hazards and hazardous materials. There are several other granite quarries in the region which transport, manage and handle explosive and hazardous materials but each of these quarries are also subject to applicable regulatory requirements that mitigate their potential impacts. There are no additive or cumulative effects associated with the hazards or hazardous material at the site. Dust control measures and other recommendations to minimize the exposure of workers to Valley Fever are required at all major construction sites, quarries, and similar operations. These measures serve to minimize the potential for worker exposure to Valley Fever and the potential for any significant outbreaks or widespread infection from this disease.

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In summary, the application of existing regulatory programs that address and control hazards and hazardous material that may be associated with the project, and with all similar projects, prevent these effects from having a significant additive or cumulative impact.

| Description of Impact | Mitigation Measure | Residual impact |
|---|--|-----------------------|
| IMPACT HAZ-8: Cumulative Effects related to Hazards and Hazardous Materials. All present and future granite quarries which transport, manage and handle explosive and hazardous materials may cause potential impacts related to hazards. All quarries and major construction projects have potential to contribute to Valley Fever, through removal of vegetation and topsoil during grading. | MM HAZ-8: Cumulative Effects related to Hazards and Hazardous Materials. Since this effect is less than significant, no mitigation is required. | Less than significant |