

Notice of Completion & Environmental Document Transmittal

Mail to: State Clearinghouse, P.O. Box 3044, Sacramento, CA 95812-3044 (916) 445-0613
 For Hand Delivery/Street Address: 1400 Tenth Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

SCH #

Project Title: USG Plaster City Quarry Expansion and Well No. 3 Project**Lead Agency:** Imperial County Planning and Development Services Department**Contact Person:** Patricia Valenzuela, Planner IV**Mailing Address:** 801 Main Street**Phone:** 442-265-1749**City:** El Centro**Zip:** 92243**County:** Imperial**Project Location:** County: Imperial/San Diego City/Nearest Community: Ocotillo Wells/Borrego Springs**Cross Streets:** Multiple Locations - See Attachment A for detailed project location information**Zip Code:** _____**Longitude/Latitude (degrees, minutes and seconds):** _____ ° _____ ' _____ " N / _____ ° _____ ' _____ " W **Total Acres:** _____**Assessor's Parcel No.:** _____ **Section:** _____ **Twp.:** _____ **Range:** _____ **Base:** _____**Within 2 Miles:** State Hwy #: None**Waterways:** Fish Creek Wash/Coyote Creek Wash**Airports:** None**Railways:** Private USG narrow-gauge railroad **Schools:** None**Document Type:**

CEQA: ☒ NOP ☐ Draft EIR ☐ Supplement/Subsequent EIR (Prior SCH No.) _____ ☐ Other: _____
☐ Early Cons ☐ Neg Dec ☐ Mit Neg Dec

NEPA: ☐ NOI ☐ EA ☐ Draft EIS ☐ FONSI

Other: ☐ Joint Document ☐ Final Document ☐ Other: _____

Local Action Type:

☐ General Plan Update ☐ Specific Plan ☐ Rezone ☐ Annexation
☐ General Plan Amendment ☐ Master Plan ☐ Prezone ☐ Redevelopment
☐ General Plan Element ☐ Planned Unit Development ☒ Use Permit ☐ Coastal Permit
☐ Community Plan ☐ Site Plan ☐ Land Division (Subdivision, etc.) ☒ Other: Major Grading Permit

Development Type:

☐ Residential: Units _____ Acres _____
☐ Office: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____
☐ Commercial: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____
☐ Industrial: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____
☐ Educational: _____
☐ Recreational: _____
☒ Water Facilities: Type Well, 3.5-mile water line MGD 26 AF/year

☐ Transportation: Type _____
☒ Mining: Mineral Gypsum
☐ Power: Type _____ MW
☐ Waste Treatment: Type _____ MGD
☐ Hazardous Waste: Type _____
☒ Other: Restoration

Project Issues Discussed in Document:

☒ Aesthetic/Visual ☐ Fiscal ☐ Recreation/Parks ☒ Vegetation
☐ Agricultural Land ☒ Flood Plain/Flooding ☐ Schools/Universities ☒ Water Quality
☒ Air Quality ☐ Forest Land/Fire Hazard ☐ Septic Systems ☒ Water Supply/Groundwater
☒ Archeological/Historical ☐ Geologic/Seismic ☐ Sewer Capacity ☐ Wetland/Riparian
☒ Biological Resources ☒ Minerals ☒ Soil Erosion/Compaction/Grading ☐ Growth Inducement
☐ Coastal Zone ☒ Noise ☒ Solid Waste ☐ Land Use
☒ Drainage/Absorption ☐ Population/Housing Balance ☒ Toxic/Hazardous ☒ Cumulative Effects
☐ Economic/Jobs ☐ Public Services/Facilities ☐ Traffic/Circulation ☐ Other: _____

Present Land Use/Zoning/General Plan Designation:

See Attachment A for zoning information

Project Description: (please use a separate page if necessary)

See Attachment B for project description information

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

Reviewing Agencies Checklist

Lead Agencies may recommend State Clearinghouse distribution by marking agencies below with and "X".
If you have already sent your document to the agency please denote that with an "S".

<input type="checkbox"/> Air Resources Board	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Office of Historic Preservation
<input type="checkbox"/> Boating & Waterways, Department of	<input type="checkbox"/> Office of Public School Construction
<input type="checkbox"/> California Emergency Management Agency	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Parks & Recreation, Department of
<input type="checkbox"/> California Highway Patrol	<input type="checkbox"/> Pesticide Regulation, Department of
<input type="checkbox"/> Caltrans District # _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Utilities Commission
<input type="checkbox"/> Caltrans Division of Aeronautics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Regional WQCB # <u>7</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Caltrans Planning	<input type="checkbox"/> Resources Agency
<input type="checkbox"/> Central Valley Flood Protection Board	<input type="checkbox"/> Resources Recycling and Recovery, Department of
<input type="checkbox"/> Coachella Valley Mtns. Conservancy	<input type="checkbox"/> S.F. Bay Conservation & Development Comm.
<input type="checkbox"/> Coastal Commission	<input type="checkbox"/> San Gabriel & Lower L.A. Rivers & Mtns. Conservancy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Colorado River Board	<input type="checkbox"/> San Joaquin River Conservancy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conservation, Department of	<input type="checkbox"/> Santa Monica Mtns. Conservancy
<input type="checkbox"/> Corrections, Department of	<input type="checkbox"/> State Lands Commission
<input type="checkbox"/> Delta Protection Commission	<input type="checkbox"/> SWRCB: Clean Water Grants
<input type="checkbox"/> Education, Department of	<input type="checkbox"/> SWRCB: Water Quality
<input type="checkbox"/> Energy Commission	<input type="checkbox"/> SWRCB: Water Rights
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fish & Game Region # <u>6</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Tahoe Regional Planning Agency
<input type="checkbox"/> Food & Agriculture, Department of	<input type="checkbox"/> Toxic Substances Control, Department of
<input type="checkbox"/> Forestry and Fire Protection, Department of	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Water Resources, Department of
<input type="checkbox"/> General Services, Department of	
<input type="checkbox"/> Health Services, Department of	Other: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Housing & Community Development	Other: _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Native American Heritage Commission	

Local Public Review Period (to be filled in by lead agency)

Starting Date 07/18/2022

Ending Date 08/22/2022

Lead Agency (Complete if applicable):

Consulting Firm: Benchmark Resources

Address: 2515 East Bidwell Street

City/State/Zip: Folsom, CA 95630

Contact: Bruce Steubing

Phone: 916-983-3379

Applicant: United States Gypsum

Address: 3810 West Evan Hewes Highway

City/State/Zip: Imperial, CA 92251

Phone: _____

Signature of Lead Agency Representative: _____

Date: 06/30/2022

Authority cited: Section 21083, Public Resources Code. Reference: Section 21161, Public Resources Code.

ATTACHMENT A

Project Zoning and Location

Project Zoning: The Quarry parcels (including the expansion area) are zoned either S-2 (Open Space/Preservation) or BLM.

The Well No. 3 parcel is zoned S-2 (Open Space/Preservation).

The pipeline alignment parcels are generally zoned S-2 (Open Space/Preservation) with one parcel zoned STATE (APN 033-010-016).

The Viking Ranch restoration site and Old Kane Spring Road preservation site parcels are zoned General Rural (S92) in San Diego County.

Project Location: The United States Gypsum (USG) Plaster City Quarry (included the expansion area) is located in Imperial County on USG-owned property (2,032 acres) and on active unpatented mill site claims on BLM-administered public lands (73 acres) (Assessor Parcel Numbers [APNs] 033-060-09; 033-070-01, -04, -05, -08, -10, -11, -17, and -23; 033-080-05; 033-090-11, -12, -13, -14, and -15). It is located within portions of Sections 19, 20, 28, 29, 30, 32, and 33 of Township 13 South, Range 09 East of the San Bernardino Meridian (SBM).

The proposed USG Quarry Well No. 3 is located in Imperial County on USG-owned property APN 033-020-009. It is located within Section 16 of Township 13 South, Range 09 East SBM.

The proposed pipeline alignment is located in Imperial County within USG-owned property (APNs 033-020-009; 033-060-010 and -008); land owned by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) (APNs 033-010-025 and -017; and 033-060-012); and within Anza-Borrego Desert State Park (APN 033-010-016). The pipeline crosses Sections 16, 17, 18, and 19 of Township 13 South, Range 09 East SBM.

The Viking Ranch restoration site is located in San Diego County and consists of approximately 150 acres of Borrego Water District-owned property (APNs 140-030-09-00 and -11-00); approximately 10 acres of privately owned property (APN 140-030-10-00); and approximately 47 acres of lands adjacent to these parcels that would be restored or enhanced. The adjacent lands consist of approximately 13 acres of land owned by the Anza-Borrego Foundation (APN 140-030-05-00), approximately 3 acres of State Park owned land to the north of the restoration site and approximately 31 acres of State Park owned lands to the east of the restoration site (APN 140-030-07-00). The restoration site is located in the southeast corner of Section 4 of Township 10 South, Range 06 East SBM.

The approximately 121-acre Old Kane Springs Road preservation site is located in San Diego County on privately-owned property (APN 253-150-34-00). The mitigation site is located in Section 18 of Township 12 South, Range 08 East SBM.

ATTACHMENT B

Project Description

Environmental Setting: The project area, Viking Ranch restoration site, and Old Kane Springs Road preservation site are located within the Colorado Desert, marked by land with relatively low elevations, some areas even below sea-level. This area is characterized by a series of low-lying mountain ranges opening to the Salton Sea and Imperial Valley. The Quarry and project alignment are located in an undeveloped area at the northwest end of the Fish Creek Mountains, east of Split Mountain (part of the Vallecito Mountains) and along the southeast segment of the Fish Creek Wash. A portion of the northwest segment of the proposed pipeline alignment would cross Anza-Borrego Desert State Park.

The Quarry facilities, narrow-gauge railroad, and adjacent unpaved dirt access road are the only structures or infrastructure in the vicinity of the proposed project. The nearest residences are rural residences located approximately 2.5 miles north of the pipeline alignment at the nearest location, and approximately 3.7 miles northwest of Well No. 3.

The Viking Ranch parcel were primarily former agricultural land located within the Coyote Creek Wash. However, parcel 140-030-10-00 and the southwestern portion of parcel 140-030-11-00 are undeveloped and were not historically in agriculture. The Viking Ranch restoration site is bordered to the west, north, and east by the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park and to the south by privately-owned orchards. It is located at the base of Coyote Mountain, which is part of the Santa Rosa Mountains range. The nearest sensitive receptor is a rural residence located approximately 900 feet west of the southwest corner of the restoration site.

The Old Kane Springs Road preservation site is bisected by Old Kane Springs Road and an associated overhead power transmission line supported by wooden poles. It contains Sonoran mixed woody scrub and desert dry wash woodland with little non-native species. It is surrounded by undeveloped desert lands, some of which are privately owned, but the predominate ownership in the area is Anza-Borrego Desert State Park.

Project Summary: The proposed project consists of approval of a Conditional Use Permit from the County for the development of a new production well, Well No. 3, and an associated pipeline to provide water to the USG Quarry. Together, these three project components are referred to as the "project area".

The development of Well No. 3, the associated pipeline, and the long-term operation and reclamation of the Quarry were part of United States Gypsum Company Expansion/Modernization Project (USG Expansion/Modernization Project). A Draft EIR/EIS was completed for the project in April 2006. On March 18, 2008, a Final EIR/EIS was certified by the Imperial County Board of Supervisors (Board) pursuant to the requirements of CEQA (SCH 200121133). As such, the potential environmental impacts of proposed Quarry expansion and reclamation and development of Quarry Well No. 3 were previously evaluated in the 2008 EIR/EIS. Additional land use entitlements from the County are not needed for mining and reclamation activities under the Quarry expansion. However, because Well No. 3 and the associated pipeline would provide water to support Quarry operations, this Initial Study will evaluate potential environmental impacts associated with mining and reclamation activities under the Quarry expansion, for full disclosure and to provide the appropriate CEQA compliance analysis and mitigation for responsible agencies.

This Initial Study will also evaluate potential environmental impacts associated with the Viking Ranch site restoration and Old Kane Springs Road preservation actions, as proposed in the Habitat Mitigation and Monitoring Plan (Dudek 2022). USG identified the approximately 207-acre Viking Ranch site for restoration and the 121-acre Old Kane Spring Road site for preservation to provide compensatory mitigation for the impacts to 139 acres of water of the United States at the Quarry. Although the Viking Ranch restoration and Old Kane Spring Road preservation will not require entitlements from Imperial County, this Initial Study will evaluate the environmental impacts of these actions for full disclosure and to provide the appropriate CEQA compliance analysis and mitigation for responsible agencies.