

Summary Form for Electronic Document Submittal

Form F

Lead agencies may include 15 hardcopies of this document when submitting electronic copies of Environmental Impact Reports, Negative Declarations, Mitigated Negative Declarations, or Notices of Preparation to the State Clearinghouse (SCH). The SCH also accepts other summaries, such as EIR Executive Summaries prepared pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15123. Please include one copy of the Notice of Completion Form (NOC) with your submission and attach the summary to each electronic copy of the document.

SCH #: 2018022056

Project Title: Ward Lake Pit Amendment

Lead Agency: Lassen County

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Project Location: Litchfield, CA
City

Lassen County
County

Project Description (Proposed actions, location, and/or consequences).

Proposal to amend mining operations at the Ward Lake Pit (CA mine ID #91-18-0008). If approved, the amendment would allow for 24-hour mining operations Monday through Saturday (currently 6:00 am to 7:00 pm Monday through Saturday), extend the life of the mine from 2020 to 2030, and allow annual site production in excess of the permitted 100,000 tons during declared emergencies. The project site is located in Litchfield, CA at 476250 Ward Lake Road, off Center Road (A-27) in Lassen County, approximately 13 miles east of Susanville, CA. The project parcel is zoned Upland Conservation, Resource Management District and Upland Conservation, Agricultural Preserve Combining District, and is designated Extensive Agriculture by the Lassen County General Plan 2000. A.P.N. 109-100-59 (Old 109-100-40, 42, 44).

Identify the project's significant or potentially significant effects and briefly describe any proposed mitigation measures that would reduce or avoid that effect.

This project poses potentially significant effects to land use, aesthetics, biological resources, and noise due primarily to the proposed nighttime operations. Mitigation measures that have been identified to reduce these effects include continuation of limited winter operations during the daytime (no grading, excavating, blasting), limiting of 24-hour operations to April 1 – December 31 annually, limiting of all grading/excavating/blasting to 7:00a.m.-6:00p.m., limiting of start-up operations to 7:00a.m.-10:00p.m., installation of noise reduction barriers, use of fully shielded downward facing light fixtures, directing of light internally when possible, exclusive use of low beams on trucks through the local residential areas, posting of "reduce speed," "no use of Jake brake," and "wildlife crossing" signs, avoidance of the Litchfield residential area during nighttime operations, reduction of haul trucks to 250 per day (125 arriving and 125 departing), and implementation of driver education/awareness events. After mitigation, only certain impacts to aesthetics, biological resources, and noise remain significant in the Draft Subsequent Environmental Impact Report.

If applicable, describe any of the project's areas of controversy known to the Lead Agency, including issues raised by agencies and the public.

During during the early consultation period, responses were received from several agencies. The California of Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) recognized the effects that artificial lighting and noise has on birds and other nocturnal species, as well as the potential for impacts caused by vehicle collisions. The CDFW recommended that surveys be conducted to determine which species are in the project area and also that a detailed analysis of impacts from potential vehicle collisions be included in the environmental document. The Lassen County Department of Public Works discussed the potential impacts of increased traffic on Center Road (CR 2015), Ward Lake Road (CR 308), and Cutoff Road (CR 315). The Department of Public Works requested that the applicant provide a traffic study on these roads to determine whether improvements will be necessary to offset the increased travel load. A turn lane and overlay or rehab to surface roads and intersections were identified as possible improvements. The Department of Conservation, Division of Mine Reclamation, did not have any comment at that time.

Provide a list of the responsible or trustee agencies for the project.

- Department of Conservation, Division of Mine Reclamation (DMR)
- Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB)
- California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Region #1
- Caltrans, District #2
- Natural Resources Agency
- Office of Historic Preservation
- Department of Parks and Recreation
- California Highway Patrol
- Air Resources Board
- State Water Resources Control Board
- Department of Water Resources
- Department of Toxic Substances Control
- Native American Heritage Commission
- State Lands Commission
- Bureau of Land Management, Eagle Lake Field Office
- Pit River Tribe of California
- Greenville Rancheria of Maidu Indians
- Susanville Indian Rancheria
- Honey Lake Maidu
- Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California
- Lassen County Air Pollution Control District (APCD)
- Lassen County Fire Warden
- Lassen County Environmental Health Department
- Lassen County Public Works/Road Division
- Lassen County Planning Commission
- Lassen County Fish and Game Commission
- Standish-Litchfield Fire Protection District