



February 18, 2020

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

**FEB 18 2020**

**STATE CLEARINGHOUSE**

Dionne Harris  
Riverside County Planning Department  
4080 Lemon Street, 12<sup>th</sup> Floor  
P.O. Box 1409  
Riverside, CA 92502-1409

**Subject: SCH No. 2018051029** – Draft Environmental Impact Report for Revision No. 2 to Surface Mining Permit No. 159R2 – Riverside County

Dear Ms. Harris:

Thank you for allowing the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) staff to provide comments on the proposed project and for your agency's consideration of these comments as part of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) process.

### **PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

Riverside County Planning Department, acting as Lead Agency, has prepared and circulated a Draft Environmental Impact Report (Draft EIR) in order to comply with CEQA and to provide information to, and solicit consultation with, Responsible Agencies in the approval of the proposed project.

The proposed Revision No. 2 to Surface Mining Permit No. 159 (proposed project) is located northeast of Gilman Springs Road and Bridge Street. The Gilman Springs Mine (herein, "Mine") encompasses approximately 1,021.4 acres located 2.4 miles southeast of Moreno Valley and 2.6 miles north of the City of San Jacinto within the Inland Empire region of southern California. The proposed project consists of a second revision to Surface Mining Permit No. 159 (SMP 159R2). Approval of the proposed project would allow for:

1. The expansion of areas permitted for mining by 54.5 acres, resulting in approximately 204.9 acres permitted for mining activities;
2. Increase mining reserves from approximately 14,000,000 tons to 44,000,000 tons, representing an increase of approximately 30,000,000 tons;
3. Operation of an Inert Debris Engineered Fill Operation (IDEFO) to facilitate site reclamation;
4. Establish a revised reclamation plan in compliance with Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1975 (SMARA; Public Resources Code, § 2710 et seq.) and Riverside County Ordinance No. 555; and,

5. Amending the restrictions for mining activities within 300 feet of the Mine's boundaries from 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., Monday through Saturday except holidays, to 24 hours per day, seven days per week including Sundays and federal holidays.

## **COMMENTS**

### **Solid Waste Regulatory Oversight**

The County of Riverside, Department of Environmental Health, Local Enforcement Agency (LEA), and CalRecycle are responsible for providing regulatory oversight of solid waste handling activities, such as IDEFOs, including permitting and inspections.

Prior to implementation of an IDEFO, the operator shall submit an Enforcement Agency Notification pursuant to Title 14 California Code of Regulations (14 CCR), section 17388.3, to the LEA pursuant to 14 CCR, section 18100 et seq. Please contact Sandi Salas at 951.955.8980 or by e-mail at [SSalas@rivco.org](mailto:SSalas@rivco.org) to discuss the requirements for the proposed project.

## **CONCLUSION**

CalRecycle staff thanks the Lead Agency for the opportunity to review and comment on the environmental document and hopes that this comment letter will be useful to the Lead Agency preparing the Final EIR and in carrying out their responsibilities in the CEQA process.

CalRecycle staff requests copies of any subsequent environmental documents, copies of public notices and any Notices of Determination for this proposed project.

If the environmental document is adopted during a public hearing, CalRecycle staff requests 10 days advance notice of this hearing. If the document is adopted without a public hearing, CalRecycle staff requests 10 days advance notification of the date of the adoption and proposed project approval by the decision-making body.

If you have any questions regarding these comments, please contact me at 916.341.6363 or by e-mail at [Megan.Emslander@calrecycle.ca.gov](mailto:Megan.Emslander@calrecycle.ca.gov).

Sincerely,



Megan Emslander, Environmental Scientist  
Permitting & Assistance Branch – South Unit  
Waste Permitting, Compliance & Mitigation Division  
CalRecycle

cc: Ben Escotto, Supervisor  
Permitting & Assistance Branch – South Unit

Sandi Salas, Supervisor  
Riverside County LEA