

2019119047

Notice of Completion & Environmental Document Transmittal

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SCH #

Project Title: Niles Canyon Quarry (SMP-34) Reclamation Plan Amendment

Lead Agency: Alameda County Community Development Agency, NPS Department

Contact Person: James Gilford

Mailing Address: 224 W. Winton Avenue, Suite 110

Phone: (510) 670-6437

City: Hayward

Zip: 94544

County: Alameda

Project Location: County: Alameda City/Nearest Community: Sunol

Cross Streets: North side State Route (SR) 84 (Niles Canyon Road) at 5550 Niles Canyon Road Zip Code: 94586

Longitude/Latitude (degrees, minutes and seconds): 37 ° 59 ' 7777 " N / 121 ° 01 ' 9352 " W Total Acres: 182

Assessor's Parcel No.: 96-115-2-4, 96-125-6-1, and 96-125-6-2

Section: Twp.: Range: Base:

Within 2 Miles: State Hwy #: 84

Waterways: Alameda Creek

Airports:

Railways: The Niles Canyon Railway and railyard

Schools:

Document Type:CEQA: ☐ NOP☐ Draft EIRNEPA: ☐ NOIOther: ☐ Joint Document☐ Early Cons☐ Supplement/Subsequent EIR☐ EA☐ Final Document☐ Neg Dec

(Prior SCH No.)

☐ Draft EIS☐ Other:☒ Mit Neg Dec

Other: Subsequent MND

☐ FONSI**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: Reclamation Plan Amendment**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 _____ MGD _____☐ Transportation: Type _____☒ Mining: Mineral _____☐ Power: Type _____ MW _____☐ Waste Treatment: Type _____ MGD _____☐ Hazardous Waste: Type _____☐ Other: Mining has concluded on site. Project focuses on reclamation and restoration at the site.**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:**

The property is zoned A-Agricultural and has a designation of Larger Parcel Agricultural in the East County Area Plan (Alameda County 2002)

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

See separate pages.

Reviewing Agencies Checklist

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

<input type="checkbox"/> Air Resources Board	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> Parks & Recreation, Department of
<input type="checkbox"/> California Highway Patrol	<input type="checkbox"/> Pesticide Regulation, Department of
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Caltrans District # <u>4</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Utilities Commission
<input type="checkbox"/> Caltrans Division of Aeronautics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Regional WQCB # <u>2</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 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>3</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Tahoe Regional Planning Agency
<input type="checkbox"/> Food & Agriculture, Department of	<input type="checkbox"/> Toxic Substances Control, Department of
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Forestry and Fire Protection, Department of	<input type="checkbox"/> Water Resources, Department of
<input type="checkbox"/> General Services, Department of	
<input type="checkbox"/> Health Services, Department of	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Housing & Community Development	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Native American Heritage Commission	

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

Starting Date November 14, 2019 Ending Date December 16, 2019

Lead Agency (Complete if applicable):

Consulting Firm: <u>Benchmark Resources</u>	Applicant: <u>SRDC, Inc.</u>
Address: <u>2515 E. Bidwell Street</u>	Address: <u>6639 Smith Ave.</u>
City/State/Zip: <u>Folsom, CA 95630</u>	City/State/Zip: <u>Newark, CA 94560</u>
Contact: <u>Bruce Steubing</u>	Phone: <u>650-961-2742</u>
Phone: <u>916-983-3379</u>	

Signature of Lead Agency Representative:  Date: 11/14/19

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

NOTICE OF COMPLETION

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

OVERVIEW

The Niles Canyon Quarry, owned by SRDC Inc., was purchased in 1984. SRDC renewed the reclamation plan in 1996 for mining and reclamation, as allowed by the Alameda County (County) Surface Mining and Reclamation Plan Permit (SMP) 34. The approved 1996 mine plan was designed with the expectation that the property would be mined to consist of two pits, with a total of 1,850,000 cubic yards (cu. yd.) of material to be excavated over a 25-year period. The quarry has not been in operation since 2012.

The Niles Canyon Quarry site has not been in compliance with many of the its SMP conditions of approval (COA), the California Surface Mining and Reclamation Act (SMARA), County Surface Mining Ordinance (SMO), and County zoning requirements, which has led to County enforcement actions, including notices of violation and an order to comply. A key element of bringing the site into compliance is the development and processing of a reclamation plan amendment. This project description provides a description of the major elements of the reclamation plan amendment and will be used by the County to evaluate the environmental impacts of the construction and implementation of the reclamation plan amendment.

SRDC, Inc. is seeking approval of an amended reclamation plan for Niles Canyon Quarry. Niles Canyon Quarry is located in Alameda County approximately 1 mile west of Sunol, on the north side of State Route (SR) 84 (Niles Canyon Road) at 5550 Niles Canyon Road. The site location is shown on Figure 1, "Regional Location," and Figure 2, "Site Location." This reclamation plan amendment includes:

- reclaiming the quarry to be suitable for agricultural use;
- importing fill material for use as backfill;
- grading and/or backfilling mined surfaces to provide slope stability and erosion control;
- reconstructing and restoring the seasonal creek channel by removing human-made features to provide habitat connectivity, slope stability, and erosion control;
- vegetating disturbed surfaces with plants native to regional upland (i.e., grasslands and chaparral) and wetland habitats (i.e., upper riparian, lower riparian, and freshwater emergent wetlands); and
- monitoring the vegetation and slopes after completion of final reclamation to ensure successful establishment and erosion control.

BACKGROUND

Niles Canyon Quarry is an idle quarry owned by SRDC. SRDC purchased the property in 1984 and renewed the reclamation plan in 1996. Mining and reclamation are allowed by SMP-34. The approved 1996 mine plan was designed with the expectation that the property would be mined to consist of two pits: one to be mined after the other in phases, with a total of 1,850,000 cu. yd. of material to be excavated over a 25-year period. The pits were planned to be excavated to depths of 100 and 150 feet, respectively, using side-hill and multibench mining methods. The benches were to have 1.5:1 (horizontal: vertical) (1.5H:1V) slopes. Niles Canyon Quarry was approved to harvest clay, shale, and natural rock for individual sales and/or for use in mixing with crushed concrete to make Class II or Class III base rock.

The approved reclamation plan was designed to reclaim the mined site to open space and extensive and limited intensive agriculture. The slopes are to be backfilled using "native mineral soil or other inert mineral material as approved," to support planting, with no "major" backfill on the quarry floor. Final reclaimed fill slopes, including permanent piles of overburden, shall not exceed 1H:1V, except when site-specific and engineering analysis demonstrates that the proposed final slope suitable would have at least the minimum slope stability factor of safety suitable for the proposed end use and when the proposed final slope can be successfully revegetated. The slopes are to be planted with grasses that naturally occur in the area and clusters of native trees to approximately replace those lost as a result of mining and for visual mitigation. A system of 12- to 36-inch-diameter corrugated metal pipes is to

be used as necessary to aid slope drainage during and after mining operations. Rehabilitation of premining drainage is to be restored wherever possible and maintained to enhance slope stability. All stockpiles, structures, equipment and refuse are to be used or removed at the termination of quarrying; however, the existing maintenance building could remain as a permanent structure.

Regarding streambank treatment, the existing reclamation plan application provides:

There are no streams or creeks running through the quarry. Post mining drainage channels will be subject to "green water-way" treatment to minimize or eliminate silting of runoff water. The swale passing through sites 1 & 2 will be diverted via detention basins and rerouting storm lines to the existing sedimentation basin.

During the course of mining operation, the operator determined the materials to be mined did not meet the specification desired for their business and the operation was discontinued.

Beginning in early 2009, the County observed that conditions on-site were inconsistent with those anticipated in the currently approved reclamation plan. SRDC resolved some of the inconsistencies (including removing and properly disposing of contaminated soil on-site), but an amended reclamation plan was ultimately determined to be required because the approved mining would not occur, as-built conditions vary from those anticipated with the completion of mining, and modifications made to the site by the owner make implementing the approved reclamation plan infeasible. The issues and inconsistencies determined necessary to be addressed in the amended reclamation plan include providing plans for:

- grading and filling slopes in a manner that would provide a minimum slope stability factor of safety suitable for the proposed end use and that conforms with the surrounding topography and/or approved end use;
- backfilling slopes as necessary, including the source, quantity, and acceptance criteria for fill materials needed to reclaim the site;
- selecting a tree/bush palette suitable for the climate and soil conditions in each location; and
- restoring the stream channel that flows from the upper mine area to the lower portion of the site to its approximate path at the completion of excavation, with adequate soils and appropriate plantings to allow habitat restoration.

PROPOSED PROJECT

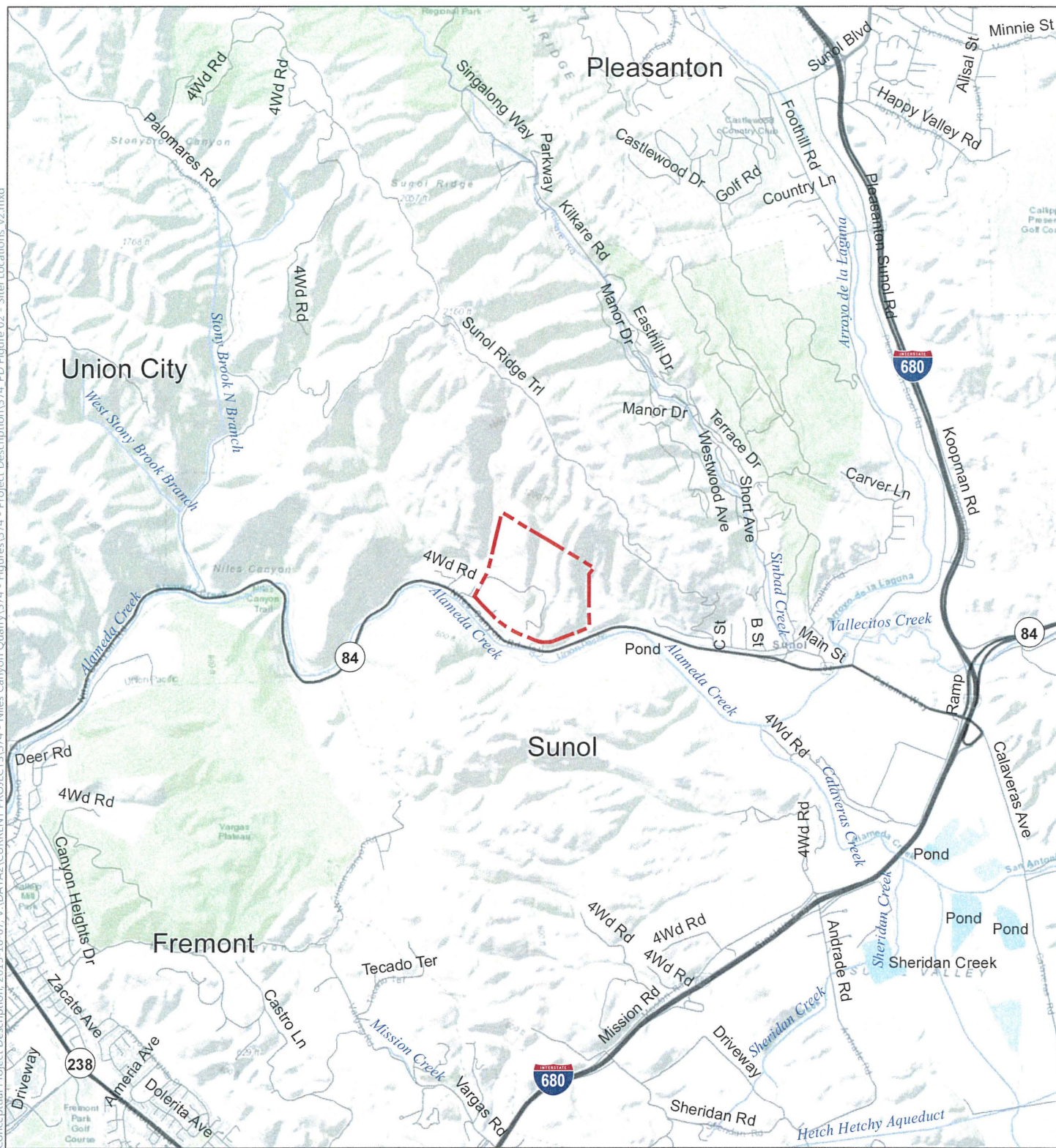
The reclamation plan amendment proposes changes to two primary elements of the approved reclamation plan: (1) import of soil to fill the upper pad and slopes to ensure that the applicable slopes are stable and (2) restoration of the stream channel that was disturbed as a result of mining and fill activities. The anticipated second land use of the site once reclamation actions are completed is agriculture on the upper and lower pads and open space within the riparian corridor of the restored stream channel. An overview of the plan for reclamation is shown in Figure 3.

In general, slopes in the upper pad, lower pad, stream channel, and slope east of the stream channel will be filled and graded to conform to the surrounding topography, provide slope stability, and control erosion. Fill material would be imported on-site, placed in the upper pad and slopes area, and graded to a minimum 2H:1V slope. Grading would begin at the southern and eastern portions of the upper pad in the first year, then proceed to the middle of the upper pad in year 2, and the northern portion in year 3. The entirety of the slide in the northern portion of the upper pad would be removed and replaced with fill as needed to conform to the surrounding ground surface.

The purpose of the proposed stream restoration is to restore this historic stream channel by removing anthropogenic changes and reconstructing the stream channel to provide habitat connectivity from the lower quarry pad through the native channel reach to upper pad area. Stream restoration activities would include grading, placing fill materials, and removing existing infrastructure (e.g. culverts and earthen dams) to create a new stream channel that includes rock ramps and plunge pools to protect the channel and banks from erosion. The fill material would ensure the restored stream channel is at a grade to support adequate flows and control erosion. After completion of reclamation, the drainage on-site would be similar to historical drainage patterns. Areas subject to reclamation grading, including the upper pad, lower pad, outslope road, slope repair, and riparian corridor, would be vegetated with plants native to regional upland (i.e., grasslands and chaparral) and wetland habitats (i.e., upper riparian, lower riparian, and

freshwater emergent wetlands). The success of revegetation would be monitored after completion of final reclamation to ensure successful establishment and erosion control.

Conceptual Project Description, 2015-10-07, V:\DATA\2\CURRENT PROJECTS\374 - Niles Canyon Quarry\374 - Figures\374 - Project Description\374 PD Figure 02 - Site Locations v2.mxd



SOURCES: ESRI World Shaded Relief accessed April 2018, ESRI World Topographic Map accessed July 2018; ESRI World Streetmap, 2009; Adapted by Benchmark Resources in 2019

NOTES: This figure was prepared for land use planning and informational purposes only. The information shown and its accuracy are reflective of the date the data was accessed or produced.

- Reclamation Plan Boundary
- Water Body
- Major Road
- Street
- River

Site Location

NILES CANYON QUARRY RECLAMATION PLAN NOTICE OF COMPLETION PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Figure 2