

Planning Department 168 North Edwards Street Post Office Drawer L Independence, California 93526

DRAFT MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT AND INITIAL STUDY

PROJECT TITLE: Amendment to Reclamation Plan 96-12/Keeler –MS#300 California Department of Transportation (Caltrans).

PROJECT LOCATION: This aggregate pit is located on BLM land near Owens Lake in Inyo County. The pit is adjacent to and east of Highway 136 at post-mile marker 15.5. The pit is approximately 3.5 miles southeast of the town of Keeler. The project site is located on the Keeler, California USGS 7 .5' Topographic Map in Township 17 South, Range 38 East, in the eastern 1/2 of Section 15, MDBM (Figure 2). The Tax Assessor Parcel Number (APN) 031-010-19 (please see attached maps).

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The applicant has applied for an amendment to Reclamation Plan 96-12. The project proposes expanded mining operations at Keeler Pit MS #300 for continued maintenance of dirt shoulders in Inyo County. Approximately 300,000 cubic yards of material will be extracted from the site over a 30 to 50-year span in an 8.1 acre-expansion area. Mining will occur in 4 phases, entailing the creation of a dirt access road and material extraction pit east and southeast of the existing pit. Four to six inches of topsoil will be relocated to soil berms on the north, south and east edges of the pit. The pit will be graded to ensure storm water containment (final slope configuration 3:1 or flatter). All equipment storage and operations will occur within the limits of the existing (lower) pit. A retention basin, to manage and contain all storm water, will be constructed in the lower pit.

FINDINGS:

A. The proposed project is consistent with goals and objectives of the Inyo County General Plan.

The proposed project is consistent with the County General Plan designation of 'Open Space and State and Federal Land (SFL) as the SFL designation allows for Mining uses under the approval of Bureau of Land Management accompanied by the reclamation plan(REC) approved by Inyo County under the Memorandum of understanding. The County approved the original (REC 96-12) in July 1997 with mining and excavation restricted to an excavation area of approximately 4.8 acres within an overall 84.18-acre parcel. Section 08.4.4 of the General Plan Goals and Policies states: 'protect the current and future extraction of mineral resources that are important to the County's economy while minimizing impacts on the public and the environment'. Caltrans mining currently plays a role in the County's maintenance of highway roads with local production of shale, sand and gravel crushed and screened to various sizes depending on product demand.

B. The proposed project is consistent with the provisions of the Inyo County Zoning Ordinance.

The proposed project is consistent with the County Zoning Ordinance designation of 'Open Space (OS) as the OS designation allows mining uses, as a conditional use or when managed by Bureau of Land Management an approval of a plan of operation. These include Mining and processing of natural resources, including borrow pits. The proposed amendment consists of expanding the existing pit that is a continued mining use.

C. Potential adverse environmental impacts will not exceed thresholds of significance, either individually or cumulatively.

Based on the proposed amendment to reclamation plan, the project is consistent with the requirements of Chapter 7.70 - Surface Mining and Land Reclamation of the Inyo County Code and will not exceed thresholds of significance individually or cumulatively.

D. Based upon the environmental evaluation of the proposed project, the Planning Department finds that the project does not have the potential to create a significant adverse impact on flora or fauna; natural, scenic and historic resources; the local economy; public health, safety, and welfare. This constitutes a Mitigated Negative Finding for the Mandatory Findings required by Section 15065 of the CEQA Guidelines.

Staff's assessment of the parcel described it as being mostly uniform throughout and comprised of shale, gravel, and sand. The site's vegetation is sparse and no special status species were found during the survey. Most of the site is undisturbed except for the disturbances due to the existing mining operations, which border the southernmost end of the project site and include unpaved roads, and pit.

The 30-day public & State agency review period for this Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration will expire on October 1, 2020. Inyo County is not required to respond to any comments received after this date.

Additional information is available from the Inyo County Planning Department. Please contact Project Planner if you have any questions regarding this project.

Cathreen Richards Director, Inyo County Planning Department

8/31/20

INYO COUNTY PLANNING DEPARTMENT

CEQA APPENDIX G: INITIAL STUDY & ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST FORM

EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS:

1) A brief explanation is required for all answers except "No Impact" answers that are adequately supported by the information sources a lead agency cites in the parentheses following each question. A "No Impact" answer is adequately supported if the referenced information sources show that the impact simply does not apply to projects like the one involved (e.g., the project falls outside a fault rupture zone). A "No Impact" answer should be explained where it is based on project-specific factors as well as general standards (e.g., the project will not expose sensitive receptors to pollutants, based on a project-specific screening analysis).

2) All answers must take account of the whole action involved, including off-site as well as on-site, cumulative as well as project-level, indirect as well as direct, and construction as well as operational impacts.

3) Once the lead agency has determined that a particular physical impact may occur, then the checklist answers must indicate whether the impact is potentially significant, less than significant with mitigation, or less than significant. "Potentially Significant Impact" is appropriate if there is substantial evidence that an effect may be significant. If there are one or more "Potentially Significant Impact" entries when the determination is made, an EIR is required.

4) "Negative Declaration: Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated" applies where the incorporation of mitigation measures has reduced an effect from "Potentially Significant Impact" to a "Less Than Significant Impact." The lead agency must describe the mitigation measures, and briefly explain how they reduce the effect to a less than significant level (mitigation measures from Section XVII, "Earlier Analyses," may be cross-referenced).

5) Earlier analyses may be used where, pursuant to the tiering, program EIR, or other CEQA process, an effect has been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR or negative declaration. Section 15063(c)(3)(D). In this case, a brief discussion should identify the following:

a) Earlier Analysis Used. Identify and state where they are available for review.

b) Impacts Adequately Addressed. Identify which effects from the above checklist were within the scope of and adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and state whether such effects were addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis.

c) Mitigation Measures. For effects that are "Less than Significant with Mitigation Measures Incorporated," describe the mitigation measures which were incorporated or refined from the earlier document and the extent to which they address site-specific conditions for the project.

6) Lead agencies are encouraged to incorporate into the checklist references to information sources for potential impacts (e.g., general plans, zoning ordinances). Reference to a previously prepared or outside document should, where appropriate, include a reference to the page or pages where the statement is substantiated.

7) Supporting Information Sources: A source list should be attached, and other sources used or individuals contacted should be cited in the discussion.

8) This is only a suggested form, and lead agencies are free to use different formats; however, lead agencies should normally address the questions from this checklist that are relevant to a project's environmental effects in whatever format is selected.

9) The explanation of each issue should identify:

a) the significance criteria or threshold, if any, used to evaluate each question; and

b) the mitigation measure identified, if any, to reduce the impact to less than significance issues.



Planning Department 168 North Edwards Street Post Office Drawer L Independence, California 93526

 Phone:
 (760)
 878-0263
 FAX:
 (760)
 872-2712
 E-Mail:
 inyoplanning@inyocounty.us

INYO COUNTY PLANNING DEPARTMENT

APPENDIX G: CEQA INITIAL STUDY & ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST FORM

1. <u>Project title</u>: Amendment to Reclamation Plan 96-12/Keeler –MS#300 California Department of Transportation (Caltrans).

2. <u>Lead agency name and address</u>: Inyo County Planning Department, P.O. Box L Independence, Ca 93526

3. Contact person and phone number: Ryan Standridge, Associate Planner, (760) 878-0405

4. <u>Project location</u>: This aggregate pit is located on BLM land near Owens Lake in Inyo County. The pit is adjacent to and east of Highway 136 at post-mile marker 15.5. The pit is approximately 3.5 miles southeast of the town of Keeler. The project site is located on the Keeler, California USGS 7 .5' Topographic Map in Township 17 South, Range 38 East, in the eastern 1/2 of Section 15, MDBM (Figure 2). The Tax Assessor Parcel Number (APN) 031-010-19 (please see attached maps).

5. <u>Project sponsor's name and address</u>: California State Department of Transportation -District 9(CALTRANS) 500 S. Main St. Bishop, Ca 93514

6. General Plan designation: State and Federal Lands (SFL)

7. Zoning: Open Space (OS)

8. Description of project: The applicant has applied for an amendment to Reclamation Plan 96-12. The Project proposes expanded mining operations at Keeler Pit MS #300 for continued maintenance of dirt shoulders in Inyo County. Approximately 300,000 cubic yards of material will be extracted from the site over a 30 to 50-year span, in an 8.1 acre-expansion area. Mining will occur in 4 phases, entailing the creation of a dirt access road and material extraction pit east and southeast of the existing pit. Four to six inches of topsoil will be relocated to soil berms on the north, south and east edges of the pit. The pit will be graded to ensure storm water containment (final slope configuration 3:1 or flatter). All equipment storage and operations will occur within the limits of the existing (lower) pit. A retention basin, to manage and contain all storm water, will be constructed in the lower pit.

9. Surrounding land uses and setting: The Property is surrounded by Vacant Public lands.

Location:	Use:	Gen. Plan Designation	Zoning
Site	Mine	State And Federal Land	Open Space with a 40 Acre minimum (OS-
		(SFL)	40)

North	Vacant Public Land	State And Federal Land	Open Space with a 40 Acre minimum (OS-
		(SFL)	40)
East	Vacant Public Land	State And Federal Land	Open Space with a 40 Acre minimum (OS-
		(SFL)	40)
South	Vacant Public Land	State And Federal Land	Open Space with a 40 Acre minimum (OS-
		(SFL)	40)
West	Vacant Land	Natural resources (NR)	Open Space with a 40 Acre minimum (OS-
			40)

10. <u>Other public agencies whose approval is required:</u> Department of Conservation, California Department Fish and Wildlife, Bureau of Land Management.

11. Have California Native American tribes traditionally and culturally affiliated with the project area requested consultation pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080.3.1? If so, has consultation begun?

Note: Conducting consultation early in the CEQA process allows tribal governments, lead agencies, and project proponents to discuss the level of environmental review, identify and address potential adverse impacts to tribal cultural resources, and reduce the potential for delay and conflict in the environmental review process. (See Public Resources Code section 21083.3.2.) Information may also be available from the California Native American Heritage Commission's Sacred Lands File per Public Resources Code section 5097.96 and the California Historical Resources Information System administered by the California Office of Historic Preservation. Please also note that Public Resources Code section 21082.3(c) contains provisions specific to confidentiality.

Inyo County started the 30-day Consultation according to Public Resource code section 21080.31. by sending out a certified written notice that described the project and location. The tribes notified are as follows: Big Pine Tribe of Owens Valley, Bishop Paiute Tribe, Fort Independence Indian Community of Paiutes, Lone Pine Paiutes-Shoshone Tribe, Timbisha Shoshone tribe, Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians, Cabazon Band of Indians. As of August 27, 2020, there has been no request formal request for a consultation submitted to the Planning Director.

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED:

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is a "Potentially Significant Impact" as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

Aesthetics Resources	Agriculture & Forestry	⊠Air Quality
Biological Resources	Cultural Resources	Energy
Geology /Soils	Greenhouse Gas Emissions	Hazards & Hazardous Materials
Hydrology/Water Quality	Land Use / Planning	Mineral Resources
Noise	Population / Housing	Public Services
Recreation	Transportation	Tribal Cultural Resources
Utilities / Service Systems	Wildfire	Mandatory Findings of
		Significance

DETERMINATION

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.

 \boxtimes I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.

I find that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.

I find that the proposed project MAY have a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated" impact on the environment, but at least one effect 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.

I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required.

Ryan Standridge, Assistant Planner Invo County Planning Department

Date

INYO COUNTY PLANNING DEPARTMENT ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST FORM

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<u>I. AESTHETICS</u> Would the project: a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?		\boxtimes		
No, the mine site is partially visible from very few points along Highwa the removal of the course ground-surface layer, and a decrease in the changes will be moderated by reclamation activities. Revegetation thr surface faction will integrate the site with the surround area, thereby r landscape.	density the vegetar ough naturalizatio	tion due to vegetat on and replacemen	ion removal. The total the total the total the course grant of the course grant of the course grant of the course grant of the total the tota the total the	ese round-
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?				\boxtimes
No, the proposed expansion will not damage scenic resources; there a general area.	re no nearby trees	rock outcropping	s or historic build	lings in the
c) In non-urbanized areas, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from publicly accessible vantage point). If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?				
No, the mine site will not substantially degrade the visual character as The existing textural contrast of the site is caused by removal of the cove vegetation due to vegetation removal. Reclamation activities will mod replacement of the course ground-surface faction will integrate the site visual change to the characteristic landscape.	ourse ground-surfa lerate these change	ce layer, and a de es. Revegetation t	crease in the den hrough naturaliz	sity of the ation and
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?				

No, the proposed expansion will not create a new source of substantial light or glare as site operations are conducted during daylight.

<u>II. AGRICULTURE AND FOREST RESOURCES</u>: In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Dept. of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. In determining whether impacts to forest resources, including timberland, are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to information compiled by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection regarding the state's inventory of forest land, including The Forest and Range Assessment Project and the Forest Legacy Assessment Project; and forest carbon measurement methodology Provided in Forest Protocols adopted by the California Air Resources Board. Would the project:

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a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?				
No, the proposed expansion will not be located on farmland.				
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?				
No, the proposed expansion will not be located on land zoned for agri	culture. There are	no Williamson Ac	t contracts in In	yo County.
c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?				
No, the proposed expansion will not be located on forested land.				
d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	□ 、			\boxtimes
No, the proposed expansion will not be located on forested land.	< ·			
e) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use?				
No, the proposed location will not cause changes to the surrounding e agricultural uses.	nvironment that co	ould result in any	losses to farmla	nd or
<u>III. AIR QUALITY</u> : Where available, the significance criteria estable management or air pollution control district may be relied upon to male			uld the project:	
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?		\boxtimes		
No, although there are portions of Inyo County within non-attainment microns or less in diameter) ambient air quality standards, the primar approximately 4.7-miles from the project site. The proposed project an Microns. The applicant will be subject to Great Basin Unified Air Pole during operation and shall be required to obtain all necessary permits	y source for this p nticipates new dist lution Control Dis	ollution is the Ow urbance of large p trict regulations r	ens dry lake, loc particle greater i egarding dust m	eated than 10 itigation
b) Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?				

, ,	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	, No Impact
No, although there are portions of Inyo County within non-attain microns or less in diameter) ambient air quality standards, the p approximately 4.7-miles from the project site. The proposed proj Microns. The applicant will be subject to Great Basin Unified A during operation and shall be required to obtain all necessary p	primary source for th ject anticipates new ir Pollution Control	is pollution is the C disturbance of larg District regulations	wens dry lake, i e particle greate regarding dust	ocated r than 10 mitigation
c) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non- attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?				
No, although there are portions of Inyo County within non-attain microns or less in diameter) ambient air quality standards, the p approximately 4.7-miles from the project site. The proposed pro Microns. The applicant will be subject to Great Basin Unified A during operation and shall be required to obtain all necessary p	primary source for th ject anticipates new ir Pollution Control	is pollution is the C disturbance of larg District regulations	Dwens dry lake, e particle greate s regarding dust	located er than 10 mitigation
d) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?			\boxtimes	
The noise emissions will be most heavily concentrated within the receptors by the pit walls and topsoil berms. The physical walls reduce the potential noise impact from mining. The nearest com	of the pit and the con	nsiderable distance	to sensitive rec	
e) Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?				
No, the proposed expansion does not create odor affecting a sub the project location. The nearest community is approximately 3		people. Also, there a	re no sensitive i	receptors near
IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES: Would the project: a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?				
No, based on staff's review of the CNDDB there are no known c and botanical study was completed on the project area for Cal I the project site in May 2019. Although no sensitive species were	Trans in 1997. An ad found during the 19	lditional biological 197 or 2019 studies,	survey was also the applicant p	conducted on roposed

the project site in May 2019. Although no sensitive species were jound during the 1997 or 2019 studies, the applicant proposed conducting focused surveys before disturbance occurs. The proposed mine areas are located at the southern end of Owens River Valley on an upland mesa/bluff, at an elevation range of 1100- 1200 meters (m), with lower elevation desert washes marking the site boundaries to the north and south. A minimum 30-foot offset boundary will be demarcated with metal stakes to buffer the edge of the bluff and provide a visual cue for excavation activities that will protect the area outside of the project boundary.

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b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or US Fish and Wildlife Service?

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
No, the proposed expansion area is not located in a National Marine habit. Also, no impacts to riparian habitat will occur due to the propo		(NMFS) and does	not include any r	riparian
c) Have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	r			
No, the proposed expansion area is not located in a National Marine A habit. Also, no impacts to riparian habitat will occur due to the propo		(NMFS) and does	not include any 1	riparian
d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?				
No, a biological study was completed in the project area. It determine operations and the general lack of suitable habitat within the immedia resident, migratory fish, or wildlife species or with established native native wildlife nursery sites.	ate project vicinity	v, results in no inte	erference with ar	iy native
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?				
No, the project site will not affect trees or other biological resources. ordinance.	Also, Inyo County	does not have a t	ree preservation	policy or
f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?				
No, the project site is not located on or near a conservation area and community conservation plan, or other approved local, regional, or su			nservation plan,	Natural
V. CULTURAL RESOURCES: Would the project: a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in Section 15064.5?				
No, the original Plan (RP 96-12) was approved by the County in July for approximately 100 Acres of land surrounding the site and again M resources that would be defined per 15064.5. In the unlikely event a h is included that work will stop until the resource can be evaluated.	lay of 2019 and be	oth reports determ	ined that there a	ere no
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to Section 15064.5?				

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	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
No, an archaeological investigation was conducted in 1992 for appro- of 2019 and both reports determined that there are no significant reso- historical resource is found during mining activities, a condition is in evaluated.	ources that would i	be defined per 150	64.5. In the unlik	kely event a
c) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of dedicated cemeteries?			\boxtimes	
No, an archaeological investigation was conducted in 1992 for appro May 2019 and both reports determined that there are no resources the historical resource is found during mining activities, a condition is in the event that human remains or related cultural materials are encour and the County Coroner notified in accordance with California Health are found during mining activities, work will be stopped until the reso 9.52 of the Inyo County Code - Disturbance of Archaeological, Paleo	at would be define cluded that work v ntered, Section 15 th and Safety Code ource can be evalu	d per 15064.5. In vill stop until the r 064.5(e) of CEQA 7050.5. In the un ated and appropri	the unlikely even esource can be e requires work to likely event humo	t a valuated. In be stopped, in remains
<u>VI. ENERGY</u> : Would the project: a) Result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation?				
No, the site does not have buildings or power poles that require const not impact the consumption of energy resources during operations.	umption of electric	ity therefore the p	roposed expansion	on area does
b) Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency			\boxtimes	
No, the expansion does not obstruct state or local renewable energy poverlay. The proposed expansion only utilizes approximately twenty percent on the west side available. However, the parcel is regulated is	five percent of the			
 VII. GEOLOGY AND SOILS: Would the project: a) Directly or indirectly cause substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss injury, or death involving: i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42. 				
No, the project area is not located within an Alquist-Priolo	Earthquake Fault I	Zone.		
ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?			\boxtimes	
Ground shaking may occur anywhere in the region whether the project site is within an identified Alq Building Code ensures that future structures shall to withstand such shaking, so this potential impac	uist-Priolo zone constructed to	e or not. Ĥowe required seism	ver, the Unifo ic standards (rm
iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including				\boxtimes

liquefaction?

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1 	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
No, the project area is not within an area of soils known i	to be subject to liq	uefaction.		
iv) Landslides?				\boxtimes
No, the project area is not subject to landslides.				
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?			\boxtimes	
No, the approved RP96-12 project site is required to conform to requirements as set forth by the Inyo County Public Works Depart Department, and other associated regulatory agencies will be writ Amendment. As a result of this regulation, potential impacts are co	ment, Inyo County ten into the Condi	of Inyo Environme tions of Approval fe	ental Health Serv	vices
c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?				
No, the project is not located on a geologic unit or soil that is cons	sidered unstable.			
d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18- 1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property?				
No, the project is not located on a geologic unit or soil that is cons	sidered expansive.			
e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?				\boxtimes
No, the site does not have water or septic on site. The project will	also will not creat	e additional waste.		
f) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?				\boxtimes
No, the proposed expansion of mining activities will not be located	l on or near any u	nique paleontologic	cal resources.	
VIII. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS: Would the project: a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?				
No, all equipment used at mining site meet California's CO2 emiss	sion requirements.	No portable gener	ators are used o	on-site.
b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?			\boxtimes	

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Potentially Significant Impact	With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
ı requirements. N	o portable genero	itors are used of	n-site.
n-site only crushi	ng and screening.	There will be n	io chemical
	Impact 1 requirements. N	Impact Incorporation	Impact Incorporation Impact

refueling comply with all rules and regulations implementing proper fueling procedures, fuel, and waste oil storage, and spill control measures and employee training per Cal Trans Emergency Response Plans and Procedures on file with the Inyo County Environmental Health Services (EHS). EHS is the Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA) that oversees hazardous materials storage, use, generation, and disposal. EHS will continue to permit the project.

c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?		
No, the project site is not within ¼-mile of a school.		
d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?		

No, the project is not located on a site included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5.

e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?

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No, the project location is neither within an airport land use plan nor within 2-miles of a public/public-use airport. The nearest town is 3.5 miles away and will not result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in Keeler.

f) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with		\boxtimes
an adopted emergency response plan or emergency		
evacuation plan?		

• ~	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
No, the project will not interfere with the implementation of an adopt	ed emergency p	olan.	<i>i</i>	
g) Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires,?				\boxtimes
No, the proposed project location is not adjacent to any urbanized ar land composed of shale, gravels, and sands.	ea and the surr	rounding area is BLI	M and DWP ma	naged vacant
X. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY: Would the				
project: a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality?				\boxtimes
No, water is supplied from the Cal Trans Independence Maintenance used for wetting down material and roads during mining activities. It wetting-down procedure as the sprayed water is absorbed by loose m recycling is required or planned. Bottled water is provided for emplo	is not anticipa aterials, or by	ted that there will be	e any excess wa	ter from the
b) Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?				
No, water is supplied from the Independence Maintenance shop.				
c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would:				
i) result in a substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site;			\boxtimes	
No, the project site is composed of shale, gravels and sands. impervious surfaces on-site. Erosion is not a concern on-site and "Best Management Practice" (BMP) requirements as so County of Inyo Environmental Health Services Department, regulation, potential impacts are considered less than signif	e. The mining s et forth by the and other asso	ite is required to con Inyo County Public	nform to all dra Works Departm	inage, grading, ent, Inyo
ii) substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or offsite;				
No, the project site is composed of shale, gravels and sands. impervious surfaces on-site. Erosion is not a concern on-site and "Best Management Practice" (BMP) requirements as so County of Inyo Environmental Health Services Department, regulation, potential impacts are considered less than signif	e. The mining s et forth by the and other asso	ite is required to con Inyo County Public	nform to all dra Works Departm	inage, grading, ent, Inyo
iii) create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff; or				
No, the project site is composed of shale, gravels and sands. there are no drainages or impervious surfaces on-site. Erost				

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•	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	, No Impact
iv) impede or redirect flood flows?				
No, no drainages or other water features were identified wit U.S. per the Clean Water Act. The project site is near an al The parallel unnamed alluvial drainage, are entirely outside	luvial drainage	to the North and So	outhside of the p	roject area.
d) In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?				
No, the project is in a minimal flood hazard area not known to be pro	one to seiche, ts	unami or mudflows.		
e) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?				\boxtimes
No, the project site is composed of shale, gravels and sands. This ma there are no drainages or impervious surfaces on-site that cause the				
XI. LAND USE AND PLANNING: Would the project:				
a) Physically divide an established community?				\boxtimes
No, the project borders vacant land owned by BLM, and DWP; there	fore, will not di	vide a community.		
b) Cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?				
The proposed project is consistent with the County Zoning Ordinance mining use approved by the Bureau of Land Management accompany Memorandum of understanding. Mining uses (Inyo County Code, Tit. of natural resources, including borrow pits. The proposed amendmen mining use. The General Plan includes a policy that protects the curr to the County's economy while minimizing impacts of this use on the	ied by the reclar le 18, Section18 1t consists of exp rent and future of	nation plan approv 8.12.040 I). These in panding the existing extraction of miner	ed by Inyo Coun Iclude mining a 19 Keeler pit that	nty under the nd processing t is a continued
XII. MINERAL RESOURCES: Would the project: a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?			\boxtimes	
No, this project is the mining of a mineral; however, this mineral is in deplete the mineral resource. The Inyo County General Plan encourd considering the significant quantities of it available within Inyo County	ages such minin	the area and minin g. The impact to th	g this small dep iis resource is m	oosit will not iinimal
b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan, or other land use plan?				
No, the project will have no impact on the resource.				
XIII. NOISE: Would the project result in the: a) Generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance,				

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1 1 2	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Inan Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
or applicable standards of other agencies?				
No, although there may be some noise during operation, it will not ir current level, as it will continue to use the pit walls and berm to keep			n the project are	ea above its
b) Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?				
No, although the mining operation requires the use of heavy construct away.	ction equipment	the nearest town is	approximately .	3.5 miles
c) For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or, an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?				
No, the project is not located within an airport land use plan and is n	ot within 2-mile	es of a public or pub	blic use airport.	
XIV. POPULATION AND HOUSING: Would the project: a) Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?				
No, the project is to expand mining. It does not include housing and is population increase.	is not an infrastr	ructure improvemen	nt that would car	use a
b) Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?				\boxtimes
No, the project is expansion of mining that will not result in a loss of	housing units of	r result in the displ	acement of peop	ole.
XV. PUBLIC SERVICES: Would the project: a) Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance				
objectives for any of the public services: Fire protection?				\boxtimes
No, the project is an expansion of mining of shale, sands and gravel. result in an overall loss in service provision.	It will not cause	e a high demand fo	r additional serv	vices that could
Police protection?				\boxtimes
No, the project is expansion of mining and is located within the jurisc for additional services that could result in an overall loss in service p		yo County Sheriff. I	It will not cause	high demand
Schools?				\boxtimes

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No, the project is an expansion of mining and is located within the Lone Pine Unified School District. It will not cause a high demand for additional services that could result in an overall loss in service provision.							
Parks?				\boxtimes			
No, the project is an expansion of mining. It will not cause a need for	new or improved	l park facilities.					
Other public facilities?				\boxtimes			
No, the project is an expansion of mining. It will not cause a need for	new or improved	d public facilities.					
XVI. RECREATION: Would the project: a) Increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?							
No, the project is an expansion of mining. It will not cause an increase	se of use to park o	and recreation fac	ilities.				
b) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?				\boxtimes			
No, the project is an expansion of mining. It does not include plans for	or new or an expo	nsion of recreatio	nal facilities.				
XVII. TRANSPORTATION: a) Conflict with a program, plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities?							
No, the project is an expansion of a mining site. It will have no impact	ct on adopted trai	nsportation plans,	policies or prog	grams.			
b) Conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines § 15064.3, subdivision (b)?.				\boxtimes			
No, the project is consistent with CEQA Guidelines § 15064.3, subdi miles traveled by utilizing local resources with an average of 30 mile 80 miles.							
c) Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?							
No, the project is an expansion of mining activities with a site enclos to the roads in the area.	ed by a berm with	h a gate. It will no	t cause a need f	or any changes			
d) Result in inadequate emergency access?				\boxtimes			
No, the project is an expansion of a mining site. It will not create lo	osses of emergend	cy access.					
XVIII. TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES: Would the project:							

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 a) cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code § 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is: i) Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register 				
of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1(k), or				
No, the project site is not on Tribal lands and the project, an site is completely devoid of vegetation. There are no known h				
 ii) A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code § 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resource Code § 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe. 				
No, the proposed expansion of mining activities will not be lo cultural resources as defined in Section 15064.5 on the site. will be stopped and a local Tribal representative will be cons proper handling of the resource will be written into the Cond	f cultural resource sulted with to deter	es are discovered i mine the significa	in the project ar	ea, work
XIX UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS: Would the project:				
a) Require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?				
No, all storm water received at this site will be contained on site or di or an expansion of existing storm water drainage facilities.	verted into existing	g drainage channe	els and will not r	equire new
b) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?				
Yes, the project is an expansion of mining site water use on-site is util Independence Maintenance shop as needed and kept in a water truck		ust generation. We	ater is supplied j	from the

c) Result in a determination by the waste water treatment provider, which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?			
No, the proposed project will not be serviced by a wastewater treatment	ent facility.		
d) Generate solid waste in excess of state or local standards, or in			\boxtimes

d) Generate solid waste in excess of state or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair

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the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?				
No, the project is served by a county landfill that has the capacity to a is disposed of according to State and County regulation.	ccommodate the p	roject's solid wast	e disposal needs	s. All refuse
e) Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?				
Yes, the applicant will be required to comply with federal, state and lo	cal statues and re	gulations related t	o solid waste.	
<u>XX. WILDFIRE</u> : a) Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?				
No, the project will not interfere with the implementation of an adopted	d emergency plan.			
b) Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire?				
No, the project site is comprised of shale, gravel, sand and the site's v	egetation is sparse	e reduces the risk	of wildfire.	
c) Require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment?				
No, the project site is comprised of shale, gravel, sand and the site's v	egetation is sparse	e with no structure	es that exacerba	te fire risk.
d) Expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes?				
No, the project site is approximately 3.5 miles from Keeler and does n	ot expose people o	or structures to sig	nificant risks.	
XXI. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE: a) Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?				
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Based on the information submitted by the applicant, the project does not have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory. The applicant had biological, and cultural studies prepared that found no significant impacts. Upon completion of mining activities, the site will be open space/habitat and will be resurfaced to blend in with the surrounding areas except the lower portion of the pit. It will remain available for stockpiling of natural materials, and be utilized as a staging area.

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b) Does the project have impacts that are individually

1	Potentiallý Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?				
The proposed expansion is located in a remote location and none	of the impacts of th	is project will be c	umulatively con	siderable.
c) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings,				\boxtimes

No, public access to the site will be restricted by a locked access gates to the mine site. The reclaimed 3H: 1V slopes will be of sufficient low gradient as not to cause a hazard to public safety if the public illegally trespasses onto the site past the gate and signs

either directly or indirectly?

AMENDMENT REC 96-12 CALTRANS KEELER

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0 2.25 4.5 9 Miles

AMENDMENT REC 96-12 CALTRANS KEELER

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0 0.425 0.85 1.7 Miles