



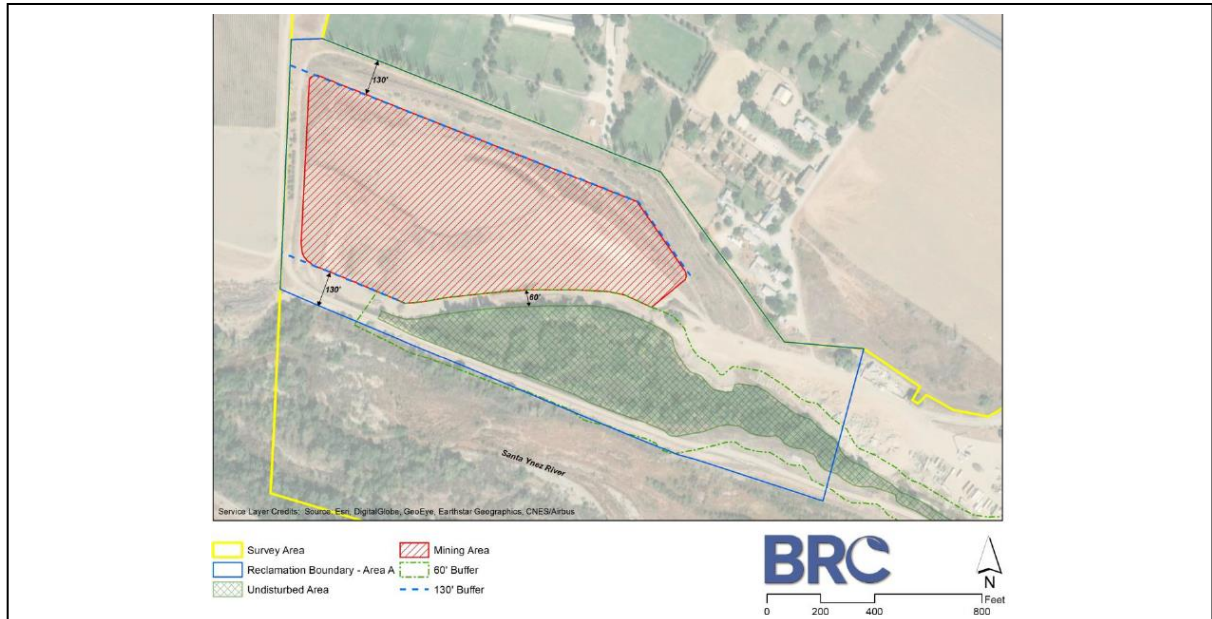
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

Planning and Development

www.sbcountyplanning.org

Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration

**Buellflat Rock Company
Deep Mining Reclamation Plan
Case No. 18RVP-00000-00006 to 88-RP-002 AM01
MND No. 21NGD-00000-00003
September 23, 2021**



For

Owner/Applicant

Jaime Hancock
Buellflat Rock Company, Inc.
1214 Mission Drive
Solvang, CA 93462
E: jhancock7@verizon.net

Agent

John Hecht
Sespe Consulting, Inc.
374 Poli Street, Suite 200
Ventura, CA 93001
E: jhecht@sespe.com

Engineer

John Rubenacker, CEG 2200
Mark Workman, RCE 68557
JCR Consulting
444 Moondance Street
Thousand Oaks, CA 91360
P: 805-300-4564

More Information Contact: Jacquelynn Ybarra, Planner, Energy, Minerals & Compliance
P: (805) 568-2055 E: jybarra@countyofsb.org

1.0 REQUEST/PROJECT DESCRIPTION

1.1 REQUEST

Buellflat Rock Company, Inc. (Buellflat) (Applicant) is requesting approval of a revision to Reclamation Plan 88-RP-002 AM01 for the Buellflat Rock Quarry to conduct deep mining and reclamation below the water table in a previously disturbed onsite mining area (Area A) to a depth of 300 feet above mean sea level (amsl). Other proposed changes to the Reclamation Plan include installing a drainage culvert from the deep mining pit to an existing sediment basin, making improvements to an existing access road, backfilling the proposed deep mining area to 340 feet amsl following mining activities, and revising the mining area's end use from open space/habitat to dry pasture agriculture.

The mining of mineral commodities for rock, sand, and gravel would remain the same. Total mining production would be reduced from up to 1,600,000 cubic yards of material to 518,149 cubic yards of material over the lifetime of the mine, which would be extended 20 years to 2038. No changes to the number of acres to be mined or disturbed are proposed. No changes to the processing and storage area (Area B), or Santa Ynez River (Area C) are proposed. Details for the reclamation of Area B and Area C, as approved in 88-RP-002 AM01, are included in this revision.

This revised Reclamation Plan would supersede all previous reclamation plans approved for the site (Case No. 88-RP-002 and 88-RP-002 AM01), and would govern mining and reclamation activities of the entire property going forward (Areas A, B, and C).

1.2 BACKGROUND

The Buellflat Rock Quarry is located in the inland portion of Santa Barbara County (County), adjacent to, and west of the City of Solvang within the Santa Ynez Valley. The quarry has operated since the 1930s, extracting surface materials from the Santa Ynez River channel and adjacent upland areas to process sand, rock, and gravel products for the local market. Material is also imported from offsite sources for processing and sale onsite.

The quarry is approximately 131-acres and is separated into three areas, designated as Areas A, B, and C. Area A, located on the western half of the site, contains an existing mine pit, silt pond, and a large portion of an existing sediment basin. Area B, located on the eastern half of the site, consists of the mine processing, storage, handling, and operational areas, as well as a small portion of the sediment basin. Area C, located along the entire southern half of the site, encompasses portions of the Santa Ynez River channel that were historically mined and have since been reclaimed.

Historic mining operations were limited to surface skimming in the river channel above the water table in Area C, and processing and operational areas in Area B. In 1975, the California Surface Mining and Reclamation Act (SMARA 1975) required all surfacing mining operations to file and obtain approval of a reclamation plan by July 1, 1990. Buellflat's original Reclamation Plan 88-RP-002 was approved by the County in April 1994, and then modified and re-approved in May 1996. In 1999, Buellflat discontinued mining in the river channel due to lack of sufficient redistribution and high water levels.

In March of 1997 prior to the discontinuation of in-river mining, Buellflat requested to mine Area A (then agricultural hillside outside of the riverbed), to groundwater surface elevations of approximately 334 feet amsl. In September 1997, the County Planning Commission acted to determine that Buellflat has a vested right to mine Area A based on the following findings, and subject to the approval of a revised Reclamation Plan:

1. The landowners had mined the sand and gravel deposits on adjacent parcels since at least the 1940s;
2. Area A is part of the historical riverbed of the Santa Ynez River. The sand and gravel deposits located in Area A are of the same origin as, and are contiguous to, those found in the adjoining river area historically mined;
3. Area A is within the historic flood plain of the Santa Ynez River and contains aggregate resources for mining operations. Area A was not mined during historical operations only because there was no market demand to extend operations into the area at the time;
4. The nature of historic mining operations implied that all onsite parcels were appropriated for mining use prior to 1958;
5. The landowner intended to mine all of the parcel containing Area A, which had been recognized throughout the community at the time;
6. The parcel containing Area A was leased out for a limited term in 1979, known to the lessees' that the land would not be sold, as it contained valuable sand and gravel to be mined in the future; and
7. The vested right to mine was established prior to 1958, and was transferred between property owners by operation of law.

In September 2001, the County Board of Supervisors approved the second Revised Reclamation Plan No. 88-RP-002 AM01 on appeal. The environmental effects of the revised Reclamation Plan were evaluated in Environmental Impact Report 00-EIR-05. Area A was initially excavated beginning in the early 2000's through approximately 2012. Initial removals were made along the northerly portion of Area A and progressed to the south over an approximate ten-year time frame. Removals have been limited to materials at or above groundwater levels.

Since 2015, mining has declined, and the site's shallow-depth aggregate reserves have nearly been exhausted. Onsite activities have generally consisted of importing materials from other sources for processing and sale, as well as importing clean fill for reclamation. Much of the original excavations have been backfilled and fill material is currently being stockpiled at the northwesterly side of Area A for future use as backfill.

In February 2018, Buellflat submitted an application for a subsequent Reclamation Plan revision to the County for deep mining within Area A (proposed project; Case No. 18RVP-00000-00006) to mine additional reserves below the water table. Planning and Development determined the application to be complete for further environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) in November of 2019.

In April of 2020, Buellflat submitted an application for an Interim Management Plan (IMP) for County and California Department of Conservation Division of Mine Reclamation (DMR) approval to curtail production to 10 percent or less of its maximum previous 5-year annual production amounts under SMARA Section 2270. The IMP was approved on September 11, 2020 and the mine is currently considered idle through September 11, 2025, pending decision on the currently proposed project.

Reclamation activities completed to date include import and placement of fill material in the northwest portion of Area A. Reclamation import truck trips have averaged 20-miles in length on public roads, and one-mile onsite (the first 500-ft of which is paved). Reclamation materials were dropped from each haul truck to the stockpile area. The historical rate of fill import was a peak of 248 trips/day. When combined

with mining import and export trips, the historical rate of total peak truck trips was 338 trips/day, which occurred in 2015.

Because the mining operations in Area A were previously determined to be vested, deep mining activities do not require a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) from the County; however actions would require approval of a revised Reclamation Plan. Approval of a revised Reclamation Plan constitutes a discretionary action subject to the requirements of CEQA; therefore, the potential environmental impacts of the current proposed Reclamation Plan revisions are evaluated herein.

1.3 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project is for a revision to Reclamation Plan 88-RP-002 AM01 (Case No. 18RVP-00000-00006) to: 1) conduct deep mining in Area A to a depth of 300 feet amsl; 2) backfill the deep mining area to 340 feet amsl; 3) install a drainage culvert from the mine pit to an existing sediment basin; 4) make improvements to an existing access road; 5) revise the end use of Area A from open space/habitat to agriculture; and 6) address current SMARA standards.

Area A is approximately 41 acres and is located north of the river channel (Area C) and west of the processing plant (Area B), and contains an existing mine pit and sediment basin. The request for deep mining is a result of the site's nearly exhausted shallow-depth aggregate reserves, and is limited to previously disturbed mining areas in Area A, approximately 30 to 40 feet below existing mining operations. The surrounding ground elevation outside the pit is approximately 360 feet amsl, and the existing ground elevation within the pit is approximately 330 feet amsl, creating a depression approximately 30 feet deep. Area A is buffered from the rest of the site by manmade levees and berm roads previously developed as mitigation for expanded mining operations under Reclamation Plan No. 88-RP-002 AM01. There is an approximate 130-foot buffer from the mining area to the northern property boundary, an approximate 130-foot buffer from the mining area to Area C, and an approximate 60-foot buffer from the mining area to the sediment basin.

Deep Mining

Deep mining would generally be conducted in one phase, and is anticipated to produce 10,000 to 100,000 tons of material per year, and up to 518,149 cubic yards of material over the life of the mine. Based on this production rate, market demand, and estimated reserves, the life of the mine would be extended 20 years to 2038. Deep mining would involve excavations ranging from 30 to 40 feet deep, to a maximum depth of 300 feet amsl, which is approximately 29 feet below estimated groundwater levels. Approximately 15 percent of this total production amount is estimated to be waste material (overburden, silts, etc.). Production would be reduced from the currently approved total production amount of up to 1,600,000 cubic yards of material.

The mining pit would be excavated with side slopes of 3:1 (horizontal to vertical, h:v) and would have a maximum depth of 60 feet, from top of slope to toe of slope. The planned slopes would be predominantly cut slopes; however the upper portions of the pit slopes would involve placement of compacted fill. Fill slopes are proposed at 3:1 and 5:1 (h:v) slope ratios. No slope benches are planned due to the relatively shallow depth of excavation. Based on exploratory borings completed as part of a geologic and geotechnical engineering investigation conducted for the project, mining operations are expected to encounter groundwater at an elevation of 329 feet amsl.

Equipment used for deep mining would include both a Caterpillar D-8 dozer and a Caterpillar 623H or K scraper, or a Caterpillar 349L excavator and a Caterpillar 745C haul truck. Each equipment unit would be equipped with an engine that meets U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Tier 4 emissions standards.

Reclamation

Reclamation would begin when active mining is completed, and is expected to take 10 years (2038 – 2048). Slopes in the backfilled pit would be finished at a 3:1 slope at the southern end of the pit, and a 5:1 slope at the northern end of the pit. The spoils from excavation and imported fill would be used to achieve a uniform gently sloping grade to the south. Final grading would result in a slight depression approximately 20 feet below existing grade and the established man-made levees.

To date, approximately 471,484 cubic yards of fill material to be used for reclamation has been stockpiled in the northwest corner of Area A. Approximately 191,777 cubic yards of clean fill would need to be imported over the next 20 years of mining activities for the site to begin reclamation. Stockpiled fill material plus imported fill material would equal 663,261 cubic yards, which is the amount of total backfill needed to elevate the mining pit to final grade. Some reclamation activities, such as vegetation salvage and restoration test plot planting/monitoring would be conducted concurrently during deep mining if feasible.

Truck Trips

Mining export would result in a maximum of 200 truck trips/day. Import to the surge pile would result in a maximum of 58 truck trips/day. Maximum daily import loads of fill material for reclamation would be limited to 100 truck trips/day. Therefore, the proposed project would result in a maximum of 358 truck trips/day. On-road equipment is assumed to meet fleet averages for 2019.

End Use

The proposed end use of Area A would be cattle and equine grazing ranch pasture or other agriculture use. Revegetation would occur in disturbed areas throughout Area A, including disturbed acreage within the mining excavation area, access roads, and desilting basin. Revegetation would consist of planting a set mixture of both grasses and legumes for forage production and erosion control (three grasses and two legume species). Test plots would be established to determine if soil conditions are appropriate for the proposed seed mixes, and areas to be planted would be hydroseeded or hand-broadcast at 30-50 pounds per acre. The existing sediment basin would not be revegetated. The basin will gradually dry upon cessation of mining; however, the basin is below the river grade, and near the top of groundwater, and therefore would likely continue to receive storm runoff from the site. It is anticipated that the bottom of the basin would retain some open water and remain as a freshwater marsh post-reclamation.

The proposed end use for Areas B and C would remain the same as previously approved, consisting of commercial/industrial uses, and river channel/open space, respectively. No revegetation is proposed for these areas. Revegetation of the river channel would be left to natural processes. Required levee improvements and willow tree plantings, as required per Reclamation Plan 88-RP-002 AM01, were previously implemented.

Site Improvements

Site improvements would be conducted at the initiation of deep mining activities, consisting of improvements to an existing east-west trending access road, located to the south of the excavation area, as well as the installation of a 24-inch culvert from the mining pit to the existing sediment basin in order to convey flows southward, and prevent standing water in the filled pit area. The inlet of the culvert would be at 339.5 feet amsl, which would be above groundwater levels and half a foot lower than the final pit elevation. The culvert would remain in place permanently through mining activities, as well as post-reclamation.

Operations and Personnel

No change in hours of operation or personnel are proposed. Project personnel consists of 15 full-time employees, and 1 part-time employee. Hours of Operation would be from 7:00 am – 6:00 pm, five (5) days per week, Monday through Friday, and to no more than eight (8) Saturdays per calendar year from 8:00 am - 4:00 pm.

Summary

The general changes from the proposed project to existing Reclamation Plan 88-RP-002 AM01 are summarized below.

Component	Existing Reclamation Plan (No. 88-RP-002 AM01)	Proposed Project (18RVP-006 to 88-RP-002 AM01)
<i>Mineral commodity</i>	Rock, sand, and gravel	Rock, sand, and gravel
<i>Estimated average production (cubic yards-per-year)</i>	123,600	10,000 to 100,000
<i>Estimated total production (cubic yards)</i>	1,6000,000	518,149
<i>Processing Plant Feed Rate</i>	4,200 tons per day	2,353 tons per day
<i>Elevation of mining</i>	334 feet amsl	300 feet amsl
<i>Elevation of backfill</i>	NA	340 feet amsl
<i>Mining termination date</i>	2015	2038
<i>Reclamation completion date</i>	2017	2048
<i>End use</i>	Area A: Open space and wildlife habitat Area B: Industrial/commercial uses including the storage of material and equipment Area C: River Channel at a 1.5:1 slope. Any breach in the existing levee is to be repaired and rock rip-rap is to be installed.	Area A: Agriculture/grazing pasture Area B: Industrial/commercial uses including the storage of material and equipment Area C: River Channel at a 1.5:1 slope. Any breach in the existing levee is to be repaired and rock rip-rap is to be installed.
<i>Revegetation Plan</i>	Area A: Revegetation with predominantly native plant cover to establish marsh, riparian woodland forest, and oak savanna. Planted oaks and other woody plants along the perimeter. Exotic weed species controlled for native plant establishment. Area B: No revegetation proposed. Area C: Willows along the toe of slope in the river channel. Other revegetation left to natural processes.	Area A: Grasses and legumes for dry pasture, forage production, and erosion control. Passive revegetation for the onsite desilting basin. Area B: No revegetation proposed. Area C: Revegetation left to natural processes. Willows along the toe of the slope have been planted.
<i>Monitoring completion date</i>	2002, or until goals are met	2053, or until goals are met

1.4 RECLAMATION PLAN AMENDMENT

The description information contained in the applicant's Amended Reclamation Plan dated January 2020 is incorporated throughout this document by reference, and is detailed below.

1.4.1 Mine Operator and Property Owner Information

Mine Name: Buellflat Rock Quarry
CA Mine ID Number: 91-42-0016
Location: 1214 Mission Drive, Solvang, California 93463

Assessor Parcel Numbers:

<i>APN</i>	<i>Zoning</i>	<i>Area (Acres)</i>
137-250-023	Industrial/M-2	23.62
137-250-037	Agriculture/AG-I-40	45.32
137-250-046	Industrial/M-2	68.98
	Agriculture/AG-I-20	
137-260-025	Industrial/M-1	0.14

Santa Barbara County Conditional Use Permit: Buellflat has a vested right to extract sand and gravel resources from the site, including Area A, as determined by the County in 1997. As a result of the vested rights determination, no conditional use permit or other "permit to mine" is required.

Santa Barbara County Reclamation Plan Number: 88-RP-002 AM01

Mine Operator: Buellflat Rock Company, Inc.
Contact: Mr. Jaime Hancock

Telephone Number: (805) 688-9812

Mailing Address: 1214 Mission Drive
Solvang, California 93463

Owners of the Possessory Interest: H.G. Peterson Family Properties, General Partnership
1214 Mission Drive
Solvang, California 93463

1.4.2 Lead Agency Information

Lead Agency: County of Santa Barbara, Planning and Development
Staff Contact: Jacquelynn Ybarra, Planner III
Telephone Number: (805) 568-2055
Email: jybarra@countyofsb.org
Mailing Address: 123 East Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, California 93101

Alternative: Errin Briggs, Supervising Planner
Staff Contact: (805) 568- 2047
Email: ebriggs@countyofsb.org
Telephone Number: 123 East Anapamu Street
Mailing Address: Santa Barbara, California 93101

1.4.3 General Mining Information

Start-up Date:	Approximately 1930s
Mining Termination Date:	December 31, 2038
Reclamation Completion Date:	December 31, 2048
Monitoring Completion Date:	December 31, 2053 or until goals are met
Mineral Resource Zone (MRZ):	MRZ-2
Easements:	None known
Topographic Map:	USGS Solvang 7.5' topographic quadrangle
	Section: 16, 17, 20, 21
	Township: 6 North
	Range: 31 West
	Meridian and Baseline: San Bernardino

1.4.3.1 Mining Operation Information

Component	Previous Plan	Amended Plan
<i>Mineral Commodity</i>	Rock, sand, and gravel	Rock, sand, and gravel
<i>Estimated Average Production (Cubic yards-per-year)</i>	123,600	10,000 to 100,000
<i>Estimated Total Production (cubic yards)</i>	1,600,000	518,149
<i>Number of Acres to be Mined</i>	99 acres total, including: 41 acres in Area A 58 acres in Area C	99 acres total, including: 41 acres in Area A 58 acres in Area C
<i>Anticipated Elevation Level of Mining (feet amsl)</i>	Groundwater surface elevation 334 feet amsl	Below groundwater surface elevation 300 feet amsl
<i>Mining Termination Date</i>	2015	2038
<i>Reclamation Completion Date</i>	2017	2048
<i>Monitoring Completion Date</i>	2022 or until goals are met	2053 or until goals are met

1.4.4 Mining and Processing

1.4.4.1 History of Production and Utilization

The mined materials consist of rock, sand, and gravel which are used for a variety of construction activities. The site is divided into three (3) distinct subareas. Area A, located north of the river channel and west of the processing plant, contains an existing mine pit and additional area to be deep mined. Area B consists of the processing, storage, and handling operations and is located north of the river channel on the east side of the site. Area C encompasses portions of the Sana Ynez river channel. Historic extraction operations consisted of extraction from the pit in Area A or surface skimming operations in the Santa Ynez River channel (Area C). Mined aggregate reserves excavated and transported to the on-site rock processing plant for washing and sizing, storage, and shipping from Area B.

Historically, the majority of material produced from onsite sources came from Area C (the riverbed); however, due to limitations in the river as a result of reduced redeposition and encountering high water levels, production from Area C has been suspended. Deep mining primarily proposes a greater mining depth within the existing mining pit footprint in Area A. The deposits in Area A would be taken in deeper lifts utilizing the same basic techniques and equipment.

1.4.4.2 Deep Mining (Area A)

Deep mining operations in Area A would be typical for sand and gravel extraction, using conventional mining practices common to the industry. When excavations are deep enough, aggregate materials would be mined from below the groundwater table using an excavator or dragline (wet mining). Soils, overburden, and accumulated unmarketable silts and clays (wash fines) would be used as backfill, to the extent available, for reclamation of the designated excavation area. No chemicals or hazardous materials are used in the mining or processing of materials. Blasting or explosives are not used or stored onsite.

Materials excavated from Area A would be transported to the receiving hopper in Area B, from which the materials are separated, crushed, washed, and stockpiled for shipment. The wash water is drained, by open ditch, to the existing silt pond and sediment basin. Water is obtained from onsite wells.

Based on the production rate, market demand, and estimated reserves, the life of the mine would be extended approximately 20 years. The majority of the reclamation activities would not be concurrent with the deep mining phase, and would begin when the active mining is completed. After completion of the deep mining phase, Area A would be reclaimed for use as a grazing pasture or other agricultural use. The spoils from excavation and imported fill would be used to achieve a uniform gently sloping grade to the south. Reclamation activities are expected to take approximately 10 years; however, due to the large volume of import fill material necessary to achieve the final reclamation design depth, the proposed schedule for completion of reclamation activities is highly variable. Some reclamation activities, such as vegetation salvage and test plot planting/monitoring, and backfill material stockpiling, would be conducted concurrently, as feasible, during deep mining.

1.4.4.3 In-Channel Mining (Area C)

Surface skimming operations in the Santa Ynez River channel (Area C) are dictated by both river conditions and market demand. Extractions from the river channel are typically made in shallow lifts, but an increase in material demand may result in deeper lifts or shallow lifts over a larger surface area. Because the river flows regenerate the sand and gravel deposits, the depth and surface area affected by mining in any given year is also a function of regeneration. As a result, there is not necessarily a correlation between the depth and surface area affected by mining and the volumes extracted from year to year. The in-channel mining operation does not involve excavation below water level, and is therefore limited by groundwater levels and/or the presence of any surface water flows. In years when the water levels are low, additional mining in the river can occur, with material in excess of sales being stored on site (in Areas A or B). In wetter years, extraction rates may be significantly reduced.

Buellflat discontinued mining in the river channel due to lack of sufficient redistribution and high water levels in 1999, and the area has since been reclaimed but not formally signed off by the County. The slope along the north bank (in the vicinity of Area A) was shaped at a 1.5:1 slope, and willows were planted along the toe of the slope in the vicinity of Area A in accordance with Reclamation Plan 88-RP-002 AM01.

The vested mining claim in the channel remains, and Buellflat may continue the in-channel mining operations at a later date if the necessary agency permits are secured. In the event that mining is resumed in Area C, reclamation would consist of the river channel re-establishing to its natural environment. The river would be shaped at 1.5:1 slope, and any breach in the existing levee would be repaired and rock rip-rap replaced and installed. Any disturbance or removal of previously planted willows along the toe of the slope would be re-established.

1.4.4.4 Processing Facility (Area B)

Raw materials and other mineral products which are not mined at the site are imported for processing, storage, and shipping in Area B. No mining is to occur in Area B. Buellflat maintains underground fuel

tanks under permits with the Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District (APCD). Chemicals and other hazardous materials maintained in Area B include the following:

- One 5,000 gallon gasoline tank
- One 15,000 gallon diesel tank
- Waste oil (500 gallons max)
- Motor oil (55 gallon drums, 650 gallons max)
- Solvents (55 gallon drums, 110 gallons max)
- Acetylene gas (170 cubic foot bottles, 3-4 bottles)
- Oxygen (251 cubic foot bottles, 5-6 bottles)
- Propane (75 gallon tank)
- Miscellaneous paints/sprays (15 gallons)

Onsite equipment includes the following:

- Fixed equipment consisting of rock crushing and screening equipment, including conveyor belts, hoppers, crushers, shakers, motors & water sprayers
- Mobile equipment including 2 large loaders, 1 scraper, 1 dump truck, 2 water trucks, 5 truck/trailers, 2 yard trucks, 1 crane, and 1 small loader

Area B would continue to be used for industrial purposes; no reclamation is proposed within this area and no phasing is proposed. At such a time that all onsite mining is terminated, residual stockpiled materials, if any, would be continued to be sold and trucked offsite, or used for backfill in Area A. Buildings and structures would remain and utilized for commercial/industrial purposes, as well as equipment and materials storage. The end use for Area B is continued industrial activity related to mining and processing.

1.4.4.5 Overburden and Waste Material Placement Sites

Non-marketable materials include overburden, crusher fines, and material wash water/silt. Mine waste is minimal and consists of approximately 15 percent of the total volume of the material mined. An estimated 471,484 cubic yards of non-marketable material is currently stockpiled onsite in Area A.

Non-aggregate soils (overburden and topsoil) generated during future mining operations would be stockpiled onsite and used in reclamation backfill of the quarry. Backfilling of the pit floor would commence once final design depth (300 feet amsl) is reached; available onsite overburden and unmarketable material/fines stockpiled from processing operations would be used to elevate the quarry floor to final reclamation design depth (340 feet amsl).

Imported material from offsite would also be used to backfill the quarry pit; an estimated 191,777 cubic yards of imported material would be necessary to achieve the final reclamation design depth (requiring 663,261 cubic yards of material total). On average, imported soil would typically be trucked in from sources approximately 40 miles from the site. The import soil sources would principally be construction or agricultural materials where surplus soil removal is needed within the County.

1.4.4.6 Water Use

Water is used at the quarry for washing of sand and aggregates and for dust control on the roads and at the crusher site. Water used for dust control quickly evaporates and does not flow offsite. Aggregate wash water generated by the material washing process is drained via an open ditch and culvert system to the existing silt pond located in the Area A, south of the mining pit. Water is obtained from existing private onsite wells. Water use for the office in Area B is served by the City of Solvang water and sewer system.

During the deep mining operation in Area A, the maximum potential evaporation loss due to exposed groundwater is approximately 60 acre-feet per year if the entire site is exposed at one time. However, once reclamation is complete, there would be no exposed groundwater and therefore no ongoing potential evaporation losses.

1.4.4.7 Buffer Zones/Setbacks

The deep mining slopes (3:1) and reclaimed slopes (3:1 and 5:1) include buffer zones (setbacks) from the abutting properties to the north and west. The top-of-slope setbacks are 75 feet from the adjoining property to the west, and 130 feet from the adjoining property to the north. In addition, there would be a minimum 25-foot buffer where no grading would occur around the existing well east of the mining pit.

1.4.5 Reclamation

1.4.5.1 Proposed End Use

Area A: After the deep mining phase is completed, Area A would be reclaimed for use as a dry land range grazing pasture or other agricultural use, with the planting of grasses for forage production and erosion control. The spoils from excavation and imported fill would be used to achieve a uniform gently sloping grade to the south.

Area B: The proposed end use for Area B is the continued use for commercial/industrial purposes including the storage of industrial and construction materials.

Area C: The proposed end use for Area C is river channel.

1.4.5.2 Proposed Time Schedule of Reclamation

After termination of deep mining, the pit bottom would be backfilled using stockpiled and imported nonmarketable soils (overburden, topsoil, crusher fines, silts, etc.). Slopes in the backfilled pit would be finished at 3:1(h:v) at the southern end of the pit, and 5:1 at the northern end of the pit. Final grading would be a slight depression below existing grade and the established levees, at approximately 20 feet deep. Area A would then be prepped and planted with the proposed agricultural seed mix, and monitored for up to three (3) years, or until established performance criteria are met.

Area B would continue to be used for industrial purposes; no reclamation is proposed. At such a time that all on-site mining is terminated, residual stockpiled market materials, if any, would be continued to be sold and trucked offsite or used for backfill in Area A. Buildings and structures would remain and utilized for commercial/industrial purposes, as well as equipment and materials storage.

In the event that mining is resumed in Area C, reclamation would consist entirely of the river reestablishing the natural environment. The reclamation of this area, including revegetation, would be left to natural processes.

1.4.5.3 General Reclamation Schedule

The general reclamation schedule is described below.

<i>Reclamation Site/Activities</i>	<i>Active Years</i>	<i>Reclamation Start</i>	<i>Reclamation Complete</i>	<i>Monitoring Period Complete</i>
<i>Vegetation Test Plots</i>	2018-2023	2018	2023	2021
<i>Deep Mining</i>	2018 – 2023	2038	2048	2053
<i>Backfill Quarry Pit*</i>	2038 – 2048	2038	2048	2053

**Reclamation of Area A will be conducted concurrently with backfill operations, to the extent feasible*

1.4.5.4 Public Health and Safety

Safety measures would be incorporated throughout the active mining period, as well as during reclamation and post reclamation, to reduce the potential risk of injury to the public. Property lines to the north and west are fenced and the public has not and would not be invited to enter or use the site without prior authorization. The site contains hazardous materials in the form of fuel and other fluids used to operate and maintain the heavy equipment at the site, which are governed by existing regulations. The proposed project does not propose the storage of hazardous materials within those portions of the site to be restored to open space/agricultural uses (e.g., Areas A and C).

The revegetation plan would result in a larger fuel load than the existing site vegetation in the event of wildfire; however, the increased vegetation is distant from residences, and is similar in density to the vegetation present adjacent to the nearest residences. The location of the site is near the river (a buffer to wildfire spread) and adjacent to the City of Solvang and its fire protection services.

Mining and reclamation activities would comply with all Federal (MSHA) and State (OSHA) mine safety regulations concerning operating standards and operation of equipment. After reclamation is completed, as well as during the interim while mining operations continue, the general public would not be admitted to enter the lands to be mined and reclaimed. When mining has concluded and reclamation has been completed, there would be no open pits or any hazardous materials present in Area A.

1.4.5.5 Control of Potential Contaminants

The quarry site is located within the Alamo Pintado Creek-Santa Ynez River watershed (Hydrologic Unit Code 1806001005). The quarry does not discharge dredged or fill materials into Waters of the U.S. The site maintains coverage under the California State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) Industrial General Permit (IGP) Number 2014-0057-DWQ. As required by the IGP, a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) has been prepared, implemented, and maintained, and has been filed on the SWRCB's online system (SMARTS). Storm water Best Management Practices (BMPs) described in the SWPPP are used to protect water quality in the Santa Ynez from storm water discharges, sediment transport and windblown dust.

The use of hazardous materials during mining activities consists of fuels, lubricants, fluids associated with vehicles and equipment. Routine equipment maintenance occurs onsite near the aggregate processing area (Area B). Any waste oil generated is collected and transported for offsite disposal by approved methods and properly trained personnel. No processing chemicals are used at the site. Hazardous materials are stored in accordance with regulatory requirements and spill prevention and response procedures and BMPs are established and implemented to protect water quality. The storage of hazardous materials within portions of the site to be restored to agricultural uses/open space is not proposed.

1.4.6 Revegetation

Revegetation would occur in disturbed areas throughout Area A. This includes disturbed acreage within the excavation area, access road areas, and desilting basin. Revegetation would consist of the planting of grasses and legumes for forage production and erosion control. The planned agricultural usage is dry land range grazing.

No specific revegetation actions are planned for the existing sediment basin, which over the years has become vegetated by primarily native species without active management. The depth of water within this basin is mostly controlled by the continuous input of wash-water from the site's industrial activities. If this continues, then this basin is likely to maintain its present vegetative cover. If rock processing is discontinued, then the basin will gradually dry. However, the depth of this basin is below the level of the river and is near to the top of groundwater levels and it would receive some storm runoff water from Area B. Therefore, it is anticipated that the bottom would always retain some open water and remain as a freshwater marsh. Revegetation of the river channel would be left to natural processes.

1.4.6.1 Site Preparation

The disturbed areas would be graded, and the preparation of the soil would include ripping and/or disking and incorporation of available topsoil (stockpiled during historic mining operations) into the seedbed. Following backfilling and contouring of the pit bottom, any heavily compacted areas (i.e., access roads, haul routes, traffic routes, stockpiling areas, etc.) to be revegetated would be scarified, as feasible, to a depth of at least one (1) foot to aid in revegetation.

1.4.6.2 Revegetation Methods

Topsoil

Post-mining and backfilling operations, remaining stockpiled topsoil would be spread on the finished slope areas to be revegetated onsite. However, the volume of stockpiled topsoil from previous mining operations may not be sufficient to redistribute across all planting areas of the site.

Planting Method

The planting method would be in compliance with the Natural Resources Conservation Service Conservation Practice Standard for Range Planting, Code 550.

Test Plots

The final end use of Area A would be cattle and equine grazing ranch pasture or other agriculture use. Two 20-foot by 20-foot test plots for the dry land range mix area planting would be established in determined Test Plot Areas. Test Plot A is located on the finished slope area on the southwestern corner of the pit, and Test Plot B is located on the flat area along the western property boundary near the levee. Test plot results would be used to determine if soil conditions are appropriate for the proposed seed mixes.

Two 20 X 20 test plots for the dry land range mix area planting would be established in the Test Plot Areas. One test plot would be seeded via hand broadcast or other agricultural planting methodology and the other will be seeded via hydroseeding. Test plot results would be used to identify the preferable seeding method used in reclamation.

Planting

Areas to be planted would be hydroseeded or hand broadcast onto the prepared areas and would be applied at 30-50 pounds per acre depending on test plot results. Site preparation would occur in the fall, immediately prior to planting. Seeding would occur in late fall, with plant growth occurring in the spring when temperature and moisture conditions are optimal. No irrigation would be used; the natural precipitation would be utilized to provide seed germination and root establishment of native species. The planting season

was selected to maximize the amount of rainfall potential for germination and growth, encouraging long-term revegetation success. Irrigation is not proposed so as to discourage growth of non-native invasive species. Tests would be performed, if necessary, on the seedbed prior to planting to determine if soil amendments (fertilizer) are necessary to aid in revegetation.

1.4.6.3 Seed Mixes

The seed mix would address erosion control and forage production. It contains three grasses and two legumes as described below.

Proposed Seed Mix – Area A

<i>Botanical Name</i>	<i>Common Name</i>
<i>Avena sativa</i>	California Oats
<i>Bromus hordeaceus</i>	Blando Brome
<i>Trifolium incarnatum</i>	Crimson Clover
<i>Vicia dasycarpa</i> “Lana”	Lana Vetch
<i>Vulpia myuros</i> var. <i>hirsute</i>	Zorro Annual Fescue

1.4.6.4 Control of Non-Native Vegetation

To discourage growth of non-native invasive species, irrigation is not proposed. Use of amendments would be discouraged due to the rapid response of weedy species to such soil treatments. Weed removal would be conducted during site preparation procedures, prior to installation of plant material and seeding, and during the plant establishment and long-term maintenance periods. Invasive species would be removed at a time of year (typically spring or early summer) to avoid soil erosion and inadvertent scattering of viable weed seeds over the site. Weeding after planting would be conducted primarily by hand unless otherwise authorized. Weed seedlings would be removed before weeds become too large for hand removal and prior to setting seed where possible. Weed removal via, a combination of mechanical and chemical methods would be used to remove and control invasive plants. Mechanical treatment would involve the use of weed trimmers, mowers, and/or disking, where necessary. The cut stems of these plants would immediately be sprayed with Roundup. Chemical control of herbaceous invasive plants would occur by aerial application of Roundup with portable tank sprayers.

1.4.6.5 Success Criteria/Performance Standards

A qualified biologist would perform an annual restoration survey to assess specific performance criteria and to evaluate the erosion control and permanent revegetation efforts. The surveys would commence in the year following the first reclamation planting and would continue until three (3) years after the reclamation planting is complete, or until the three (3) year performance standards have been met.

In Area A, the goal is to establish a producing dry land range crop for cattle and equine grazing as well as erosion control. The combined dry land range seed mix would provide a 75% cover each year for three years with no bare areas larger than 10 feet by 10 feet for erosion control. In the revegetated areas, there would be no formation of large gullies or loss of soil. Seed success would be based on test plot results.

Revegetation Performance Standards

<i>Goal</i>	Establish sufficient vegetative cover and density for cattle and equine grazing and to minimize effects of erosion and invasion by non-native species.
<i>Performance Standard</i>	Overall Cover: 75% cover with no bare areas larger than 10’ x 10’

1.4.6.6 Monitoring and Reporting

Periodic inspections of the revegetation efforts would occur for up to three (3) years during the establishment of the seedlings as part of ongoing reclamation maintenance, or until reclamation goals have been met. Maintenance seeding would be conducted in sparse areas if needed during this period. Weed control would be continued during the revegetation maintenance and monitoring period.

A qualified biologist would prepare an annual report with an evaluation of the revegetation effort and recommendations for remedial work for submittal to the County Planning Department; the Planning Department would direct the operator to conduct remedial work, if necessary.

Monitoring is designed to evaluate the success of the seeding procedures and subsequent plant growth over time and to implement contingency measures in the event the specified performance criteria are not achieved. The success of revegetation would be monitored annually for three (3) years, or until performance standards are met.

1.4.7 SMARA Reclamation Standards

The following sections describe how the Amended Reclamation Plan addresses the current SMARA regulations.

1.4.7.1 Wildlife Protection, CCR §3703

All native vegetation and wildlife habitat in Areas A and B have been removed, or is heavily disturbed, as a result of historic and ongoing mining operations. A Live Oak Riparian forest occurs 1,500 feet south of the river's south bank (approximately 2,150 feet from the southern property line). The reclamation activities associated with the proposed project would not impact this area.

Prior to resuming mining operations within the river channel (Area C), a California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and/or a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) permit would be required to be obtained to ensure that any rare, threatened, or endangered species or species of special concern and their respective habitat are conserved. If complete avoidance cannot be achieved through available alternatives, mitigation would be proposed in accordance with the provisions of the Federal and California Endangered Species Acts.

1.4.7.2 Backfilling, Regrading, Slope Stability, and Recontouring, CCR §3704

Backfilling

The quarry pit would be backfilled to approximately 340 feet amsl with overburden, process fines, and imported material. An estimated total of 663,261 cubic yards of backfill would be necessary to elevate the pit bottom to final reclamation grade (471,484 cubic yards of stockpiled material, plus 191,777 cubic yards of imported material). Non-marketable materials are currently stockpiled onsite in Area A. Non-aggregate soils generated during future mining operations would be stockpiled onsite and used in reclamation backfill of the quarry. Backfilling of the pit floor would commence once final design depth is reached; available onsite overburden and unmarketable material/fines stockpiled from processing operations would be used to elevate the quarry floor to final reclamation design depth. Imported material from offsite would also be used to backfill the quarry pit.

Suitable Fill Material

The excavated material from Area A would be processed and the remaining by-product used as backfill material along with the imported material currently stockpiled at the northwest portion of the site. All potential backfill material would be cleaned of any deleterious materials, such as concrete, asphalt, construction debris or toxic substances. Rocks larger than 12 inches would not be buried or placed in

compacted fill. Imported fill materials would have minimum shear strength values to result in satisfactory static and pseudo-static slope stability results. Any imported soil from off-site sources would be tested and approved prior to placement.

Placement of Fill

All fill would be placed in layers approximately 6 to 8 inches in maximum thickness, brought to near optimum moisture content, and compacted to a minimum of 85% of the maximum compaction (90% for fill slopes) up to finished grade. During reclamation operations, it is anticipated that some of the backfill material would be placed below the groundwater level; therefore proper compaction and conventional testing of backfill material placed below groundwater levels would not be possible. Instead, a granular fill would be placed into the excavation in a manner that displaces as much water as possible. Once the fill material is above the groundwater level, the fill would be placed with adequate compactive effort in order to “bridge” the fill materials, so that the upper five (5) feet of backfill would have a relative compaction of 85% in order to mitigate potential subsidence and excessive settlement of the agricultural use area. Track equipment would be used.

Regrading and Recontouring

Following backfilling to the reclamation elevation, the pit slopes would be graded to 3:1 and 5:1 (h:v) slope ratio and the pit bottom will be graded to a 1% minimum slope toward the 24-inch culvert on the southern edge of the pit. The maximum height of the reclaimed pit slopes is approximately 20 feet from existing grade. The slope along the southerly side of Area A would have a maximum height of approximately 16 feet and would be inclined at a 3:1 slope ratio. Disturbed areas outside of the pit would be recontoured as necessary to provide long term stability, promote effective drainage, blend with surrounding terrain, minimize potential visual impacts, and meet reclamation goals.

Slope Stability

The mining plan proposes to excavate to a maximum elevation of approximately 300 feet amsl which would require excavations below current groundwater levels. It is anticipated that the removal depths would be achieved by long reach excavators or dredging. Cut slopes would be made at a 3:1 slope ratio to a maximum height of 60 feet. The lower portions of the planned slopes would be cut slopes and the upper portions of the slopes would require placement of compacted fill. Extreme care would be exercised during the removal process. The native material at the toe of the fill slopes would not be removed.

Geotechnical

All 5:1 or greater fill slopes would be founded on a keyway of dense older alluvium as approved by a licensed civil engineer. The keyway would be a minimum of 15 feet in width, dipped into the hillside a minimum of 2%, and would extend at least two feet beyond the toe of slope and extend at least two feet into dense older alluvium at the outer edge of the keyway. The fill slope would be benched into the existing slope as fill placement progresses up slope.

Fill slopes would be constructed by placing fill soil at sufficient distance beyond the finished slope to allow compaction equipment to operate at the outer surface limits of the final slope surface. The excess fill would be cut back to the finished grade. Alternatively, the slope faces would be compacted by vibratory sheepsfoot, or other method found acceptable, to achieve 90% relative compaction at the exposed slope face. The planned fill material would be keyed and benched into dense older alluvium, to be confirmed by a licensed civil engineer. Due to the high permeability of the underlying material, a buildup of hydrostatic forces in the fill mass is not likely. Lateral subdrains are not regarded as necessary for stability of the fill slopes.

In the event that conditions warrant the installation of subdrains, they would consist of minimum 4-inch diameter perforated Schedule 40 PVC pipe or equivalent. All subdrain pipes would be surrounded by clean ¾ inch rock, and wrapped in a suitable filter fabric prior to back fill. The lowest subdrain would be constructed along the backcut slope at the heel of the key, or as low as possible to maintain gravity flow to

daylight. Lateral subdrains would be constructed every 15 vertical feet thereafter as backfill is placed and work progresses upslope. The perforated subdrains would be provided with solid outlet pipes sloping at 2% to daylight. Lateral subdrain outlet pipes would be placed at 50-foot (maximum) intervals. Subdrain locations and their outlet pipes would be surveyed in the field at the time of installation.

During the planned reclamation grading, grading work would be observed and approved by adequate testing by a geotechnical engineer. All fill would be placed under the supervision of and approved by a geotechnical engineer or their representative. All fill placed in the reclamation area within five feet of finish grade would be tested and approved by a geotechnical engineer or their representative. Compaction tests would be performed to verify the specified minimum compaction effort has been achieved for certification of engineered fills.

1.4.7.3 Drainage, Diversion Structures, and Erosion Control, CCR §3706

The quarry site is located along the north bank of the Santa Ynez River. The Santa Ynez River is the predominant hydrological feature in the Solvang area, with tributaries that include Alisal Creek, Adobe Creek, and Alamo Pintado Creek. The site maintains coverage for storm water discharges under the California Industrial General Permit, and as such, implements a site-specific SWPPP and BMPs to reduce or prevent pollutants in industrial storm water discharges and prevent substantial negative effects on downstream resources and users.

The active mining and processing areas are designed to contain all storm water that falls onsite. The final pit would be excavated below the existing drainage elevation, and would likely intercept any runoff and sediment transported down the slopes and into the bottom of the pit. The majority of the storm water that falls in the eastern portion of the site (Area B) is directed to a ditch through sheet flow or short culverts (beneath processing equipment) that carry the storm water to the silt pond in Area A. Storm water that falls in and around the silt pond collects in the silt pond and does not discharge from the site. The silt pond would remain in place post-reclamation to provide sufficient capacity to capture storm water that falls on Areas A and B. The southern boundary of the site has been bermed to contain storm water, and is designed to prevent storm water from discharging from the site to the Santa Ynez River.

In addition, at the initiation of deep mining in Area A, a 24-inch culvert would be installed to convey flows from the pit to the existing sediment basin. The inlet of the culvert will be at 339.5 feet amsl. The culvert would remain in place once the pit is backfilled and reclaimed to convey surface water flows southward to the sediment basin to prevent standing water in the filled pit area. Post-operational drainage control measures would include regrading/recontouring the pit slopes to 3:1 and 5:1 (h:v), and the pit bottom would be graded to a 1% minimum slope toward the culvert on the southern edge of the pit. Disturbed areas outside of the pit would be recontoured as necessary to provide long term stability, promote effective drainage, blend with surrounding terrain, minimize potential visual impacts, and minimize offsite sediment transport.

Buellflat is not currently permitted to continue operations within the river channel (Area C); however, the vested mining claim in the channel remains, and Buellflat may continue the in-channel mining operations at a later date if the necessary agency permits are secured. If mining in the river channel resumes, finished slopes in Area C would be cut to 1.5:1 maximum to establish slope stability, any breach in the existing levee would be repaired and rock rip-rap replaced and installed, and any replacement plantings for established willow trees would occur.

1.4.7.4 Prime Agricultural Land Reclamation, CCR §3707

According to the California Department of Conservation's Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program, the Buellflat Rock Quarry does not contain any prime agricultural land.

1.4.7.5 Other Agricultural Land Reclamation, CCR §3708

One of the primary objectives of the Reclamation Plan Amendment is to reestablish the end use of Area A for agricultural use. Reclamation of the mining pit would restore viable agricultural use to the property through improved drainage, erosion control measures, access, and development of a low water requirement crop.

1.4.7.6 Building Structure and Equipment Removal, CCR §3709

Upon termination of mining and reclamation activities, equipment would be moved out of Area A and either stored in Area B or sold. Any residual equipment or facilities, refuse, spillage of oil, grease, or other materials in Area A would be cleaned up and removed in a proper and legally acceptable manner. Area B has ongoing industrial/commercial/storage uses independent from the mining operations and buildings and structures would remain after reclamation.

1.4.7.7 Stream Protection, Including Surface Water, and Groundwater, CCR §3710

The proposed amendment primarily proposes a greater mining depth within the existing mining pit footprint. The mining pit is just behind the north bank of the Santa Ynez River main channel. A hydraulic analyses prepared for the site shows that the flood of record, which is similar to a 100-year flood, would not enter the mining pit.

The use of hazardous materials during mining activities consists of fuels, lubricants, fluids associated with vehicles and equipment. Hazardous materials are stored in accordance with regulatory requirements and spill prevention and response procedures are established and implemented to protect water quality. The quarry does not discharge dredged or fill materials into Waters of the U.S.; however it still maintains coverage under IGP Number 2014-0057-DWQ. As required by the IGP, a SWPPP has been prepared and implemented and has been filed on the SWRCB's SMARTS system. Storm water BMPs described in the SWPPP are used to protect water quality in the Santa Ynez from storm water discharges, sediment transport and windblown dust.

During the reclamation operations, it is anticipated that some of the backfill material would be placed below the groundwater level. The pit bottom elevation is 300 feet amsl, while the groundwater elevation is approximately 329 feet asml (as of January 2017). Materials used for backfilling the quarry pit would be visually inspected and the source of the fill material identified prior to placing the fill. Only clean fill dirt would be used in the reclamation backfill process.

Buellflat is not currently permitted to continue operations within the river channel (Area C); however, the vested mining claim in the channel remains, and Buellflat may continue the in-channel mining operations at a later date if the necessary agency permits are secured. If mining in the river channel resumes, extraction of aggregate from the river channel would be conducted in such a way so as to control channel degradation in order to prevent: undermining of downstream bridge supports; exposure of structures buried within the channel; loss of spawning habitat; restriction of spawning or migratory activities; lowering of ground water levels; destruction of riparian vegetation; and increased stream bank erosion.

1.4.7.8 Topsoil Salvage, Maintenance, and Redistribution, CCR §3711

Topsoil would be stored in the northern portion of Area A during mining and reused during reclamation. However, the availability of top soil is limited at the quarry since the majority of the site has been mined for an extended period of time. Non-marketable soils would be intermixed with the topsoil stockpiles. Berms would be placed around the growth media storage site to prevent erosion and loss. Seasonal rain and spontaneous vegetation by contained or windblown seeds would allow some revegetation of the storage site

to occur, which would help reduce erosion of the stockpiles. Stockpiled growth medium and available topsoil would be applied 1 to 1.5 feet thick.

1.4.7.9 Tailing and Mine Waste Management, CCR §3712

Mine waste at the quarry consists of overburden, waste rock, crusher fines, and silt. Mine waste is estimated to make up approximately 15% of the total volume of the material mined. An estimated 471,484 cubic yards of non-marketable material is currently stockpiled onsite in Area A. Mine waste generated during mining operations would be stockpiled onsite and used in reclamation backfill. During the deep mining phase, the non-marketable material would be stockpiled near the quarry pit in order to minimize the haul distance during reclamation, and not interfere with later quarry activities. The crusher fines are stockpiled adjacent to the crusher area. The quarry pit would also be backfilled with imported material from offsite in order to achieve the final reclamation design depth. If necessary, imported backfill material brought onsite prior to the completion of deep mining would be stockpiled in a similar fashion to site-generated backfill material.

1.4.7.10 Closure of Surface Openings, CCR §3713

No surface openings as described in 14 CCR §3713(b) have been, or would be produced during mining or reclamation activities.

2.0 PROJECT LOCATION

The Buellflat Rock Quarry is located at 1214 Mission Drive (Hwy 246) bordering the City of Solvang, California. Access to the site is along Hwy 246 from Hwy 101 to the west and Hwy 154 to the east. The project site is zoned AG-I-20, AG-I-40 (both Agricultural), and M-2 & C-3 (General Industry and General Commercial). Portions zoned General Commercial are not part of the mining and reclamation area.

Contiguous Buellflat properties total approximately 138 acres; however only approximately 131 acres are used in connection with the mining and reclamation activities and are included within the Reclamation Plan boundaries. The property consists of Assessor Parcel Numbers (APNs): 137-250-23, 137-250-37, 137-250-46, and 137-260-25, Third Supervisorial District. Of this area:

- APN 137-250-023: 23.62 acres containing the plant processing site (Area B) and river channel (Area C)
- APN 137-250-037: 45.32 acres containing the Area A existing mine pit (Area A) and river channel (Area C)
- APN 137-250-046: 68.98 acres containing stockpile and storage areas (Area B) and river channel (Area C)
- APN 137-260-025: 0.15 acres containing small industrial areas (Area B)

2.1 Site Information	
Comprehensive Plan Designation	Inner Rural and Urban Area; General Commercial, General Industrial and Agriculture (portions designated for commercial use are not within Reclamation Plan area)
Zoning District, Ordinance	Countywide Land Use Development Code; AG-I-20, AG-I-40, M-2 & C-3 (portions zoned commercial are not part of Reclamation Plan area)
Site Size	<p>Contiguous Buellflat properties total approximately 138 acres but only approximately 131 acres are used in connection with mining activities and are included within the Reclamation Plan boundaries. The proposed project is limited to mining and reclamation activities within Area A (41 Ac).</p> <p>APN 137-250-023 23.62 Ac. APN 137-250-037 45.32 Ac. APN 137-250-046 68.98 Ac. <u>APN 137-260-025 0.15 Ac.</u> Total 138.07 Ac.</p>
Present Use & Development	Current uses are light industrial/heavy commercial, aggregate mining and processing, and agriculture.
Surrounding Uses/Zoning	<p>North: Equestrian ranchettes and row crops/AG-I-40</p> <p>South: Santa Ynez River, wastewater treatment plant, open space and agriculture/AG-II-100</p> <p>East: Commercial and light industrial uses, with residential uses further eastward</p> <p>West: Agricultural lands in crop and hay production, along with some equestrian ranchettes and a winery/ AG-I-40</p>
Access	A direct connection to Mission Drive (Hwy 246) is existing; no additional access or changes to the existing access are proposed.
Public Services	<p>Water Supply: Existing on-site wells and City of Solvang water and sewer service</p> <p>Sewage: City of Solvang water and sewer service</p> <p>Fire: Santa Barbara County Fire Station 30 (Solvang)</p> <p>Police: County of Santa Barbara Sheriff's Department</p> <p>Other: Santa Ynez Valley Union School District</p>

3.0 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

3.1 PHYSICAL SETTING

The Project is located adjacent to and west of the City of Solvang within the Santa Ynez Valley in Santa Barbara County. The County is topographically diverse, with mountains, rich agricultural valleys, and distinct urban areas, all near the Pacific Ocean. The inland portion of the County where the project site lies is primarily rural, with the cities of Solvang, Buellton, Lompoc, and Santa Ynez housing most of the local population. The region is subject to various natural hazards, including earthquakes, landslides, and wildfires.

The project area consists of an active rock quarry and facilities including buildings in the eastern portion of the site, dirt roads, the Santa Ynez River channel, and a silt pond and sediment basin. A maintained dirt quarry road traverses the perimeter of the site along a man-made levee. South of the active quarry and below the levee is the Santa Ynez River and its floodplain.

Climate

The Project area is characterized by a Mediterranean-type climate, generally mild throughout the year. In the mountains and lowlands, summer months are typically hot and dry with daytime temperatures occasionally exceeding 100 degrees. Winters are mild but night temperatures often fall below freezing in inland valleys and canyons. The average annual temperature is 61.7 degrees and the average annual precipitation is 22.05 inches. Nearly all precipitation falls from Pacific storms that pass over the area any time from October to May, but mainly during the winter months.

Slope/Topography

The elevation of the site ranges from 300 to 400 feet above mean sea level. Most of the property lies on a broad shelf above the river but portions of the property lie within the river channel. The site does not retain significant topography; most grade changes and slopes are man-made. The primary natural grade change is located at the upper riverbank of the Santa Ynez River.

Flora/Fauna

Vegetation and habitat types vary throughout the project site. Area A is mostly disturbed and ruderal, as the native vegetation has either been removed or altered as a result of ongoing mining operations. Native vegetation in Area A is primarily found on the banks of the man-made levees, and within the existing silt pond (former excavation pit). Quailbush scrub exists within the northern boundary of Area A. Area B is almost entirely devoid of vegetation except for limited ruderal vegetation along the edges of internal roadways, and within the sediment basin, which contains southern cottonwood willow riparian forest and emergent wetland. Area C consists of the Santa Ynez River channel and contains freshwater marsh habitat, southern cottonwood willow riparian forest, and live oak riparian forest. A coast live oak tree, Peruvian pepper tree, and various southern cottonwood trees are scattered throughout Areas A and B. Wetland waters, non-wetland waters, and riparian areas are found within the sedimentation basin in Area B, as well as along the entirety of Area C. Special-status plant species have a low likelihood to occur within the project area; however several special-status animal species are documented to occur in the vicinity of the project site. Additional detailed descriptions of the flora and fauna onsite are presented in Section 4.4.

Archaeological Sites

An archaeological survey was conducted for the site in 1995 which concluded that no prehistoric or early historic occupation of the area was found. The survey determined that given the past extensive alteration of the site and prior uses, no hidden or buried resource are expected to exist.

Geology and Soils

The Santa Ynez Valley is located near the boundary of the Transverse Range Province to the south and the Coast Range Province to the north. The east-west trending Santa Ynez Mountain Range is usually considered the boundary between the two provinces. Folding and faulting of the region has created a complex geologic

setting. Consolidated shale, siltstone, and sandstone bedrock of Cretaceous through Miocene age make up the majority of the mountain range, while much younger weakly consolidated sediments are found between the Santa Ynez Range and San Rafael Range to the north. These non-marine and shallow marine sediments overlie the well-cemented parent bedrock in the area.

The project site is characterized by artificial fill, and Quaternary age native alluvial materials comprised of clays, sands, and pebble- to cobble-sized clasts. Soils within the project site include Made Land (Ma), Mocho Fine Sandy Loam (Mu), and Corducci & Typic Xerofluents. Artificial fill comprised of dark to medium brown and yellowish brown silts, sands, and clay is encountered at a depth of approximately 10 feet below existing grade. The native material is yellowish brown to grayish yellow, very fine- to coarse-grained sand with alternating layers of silty sand and gravel. Gravel and cobble percentages increase at depth.

Stream channel deposits occur within the southern part of the project area, and are comprised of cobbles, pebbles, sand, and silt. The pebbles and cobbles are typically composed of Monterey Shale, hard metamorphic and volcanic fragments, and other rock types derived from the erosional processes of surrounding mountains. Where present within the site, undisturbed soil is identified as the Mu series, which is described as a generally thin, sandy loam.

Surface Water Hydrology

The quarry lies near the center of the Santa Ynez River watershed, which extends westward to the Pacific Ocean from the Murrietta Divide, which lies just east of the Ventura/Santa Barbara County line. The watershed is roughly triangular in shape, with a north-south range of eight (8) to 20 miles, and a total area of approximately 900 square miles. The Santa Ynez River is the predominant hydrological feature in the area. The watershed is defined on the south side by the Santa Ynez Mountains, which separate the Valley from the coast, and to the north by the San Rafael Mountains and Purisma Hills. The drainage area of the Santa Ynez River watershed at the Solvang stream gauge (USGS no. 11128500) is approximately 579 square miles.

The three upstream dams, particularly the Bradbury Dam, have likely influenced the magnitude of surface water flow. The upstream dams control flow in the segment of the river channel in the project vicinity; however the fundamental hydrologic characteristics of the Santa Ynez River are considered to be similar to streams with unregulated flow. Peak flows for the river generally occur during winter months in response to storm events, while low flows tend to occur during the summer months. Low flows downstream of Bradbury Dam are supported through releases from Lake Cachuma. Onsite, surface water accumulates in the lower topographic portions of the site, and drains into the existing sediment basin.

Groundwater

The project site is located within the Santa Ynez River Alluvial Groundwater Basin, which consists of the unconsolidated sand and gravel alluvial deposits of the Santa Ynez River. These alluvial deposits are up to 150 feet thick and several hundred feet across and extend 36 miles from Bradbury Dam to the Lompoc Plain. Groundwater flow in the Alluvial Groundwater Basin is generally westerly and is in direct hydraulic communication with surface flow of the river.

Groundwater inflow to the basin is from river flow, direct percolation from rainfall, underflow from adjacent basins, and percolation from wastewater ponds in Solvang and Buellton. Water is released from the Cachuma Reservoir to recharge the Alluvial Basin based on water levels in monitoring wells and "credits" of water held in reservoir storage. Small amounts of recharge to the basin can occur when water is released from Lake Cachuma to the riverbed for Endangered Species Act purposes under certain hydrological conditions (the Cachuma Project). Therefore, at certain times the Cachuma Project controls basin water levels. This basin is not subject to overdraft, as the average annual flow to the Santa Ynez River is greater than the volume of the basin. Water is extracted from this basin for municipal and agricultural uses by both private and public entities.

Groundwater quality is influenced by natural environmental factors, primarily geology, surface-water infiltration, and precipitation. Of the various anthropogenic factors influencing groundwater quality,

agricultural use is considered a major control in the Santa Ynez Valley. Notably, the application of various fertilizers and pesticides can lead to increased concentrations of contaminants, particularly through irrigation-return flow. Irrigation-return flows are characterized by a relatively high Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) content and can introduce chloride and other substances into the ground-water reservoir by infiltration and leaching. Contaminants in irrigation-return flow may originate from many sources including applied water, soils, fertilizers, and pesticides and can be concentrated by evapotranspiration. Of the three major plant nutrients (nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium), only nitrogen may pass in significant amounts into the groundwater.

Surrounding Land Uses

The surrounding land use is a combination of residential agricultural and light industrial and commercial uses. Hwy 246, equestrian ranchettes, and row crops zoned AG-I-40 exist to the north. The Santa Ynez River, open space and agriculture exist to the south. Commercial and light industrial uses, with residential uses further eastward within the Solvang city limits exist to the east. Agricultural lands in crop and hay production, along with some equestrian ranchettes and a winery zoned AG-I-40 exist to the west.

Existing Structures

Area B contains a permanent office building, maintenance shop, fueling station, and covered parking area. A portable trailer is used as a scale house. Structures associated with mining activities include crushers, screens, conveyor belts, hoppers, shakers, motors, and water sprayers, and fuel pumps/underground tanks. These structures are used for sorting, washing, storage, and sale of building supplies. In the northeast portion of the site, there are several buildings being leased to others for a variety of small light industrial businesses unrelated to mining and reclamation activities.

3.2 ENVIRONMENTAL BASELINE

The environmental baseline from which the project's impacts are measured consists of the existing physical environmental conditions in the vicinity of the project, as described above. In addition to these on-the-ground conditions, the environmental baseline includes a historic 5 year operational period for mining and reclamation activities that occurred between 2013 and 2017. This historic period was used to reflect an established level of use for the site for operational issue areas in this document, such as traffic, greenhouse gasses and air quality. The current IMP, which was implemented for the site in September of 2020, has curtailed this historic production by 90 percent, and does not reflect an established use level for the site.

It is acknowledged that the historic and existing mining activities, including the sorting and storage activities, have already been determined to be vested, and thus are not part of the proposed project description. The proposed deep mining activities would also be vested and would not require a CUP from the County; however, the environmental impacts from the proposed deep mining activities, and well as the proposed reclamation changes are analyzed for potentially significant effects as required by CEQA, and are detailed in Section 4.0.

4.0 POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS CHECKLIST

The following checklist indicates the potential level of impact and is defined as follows:

Potentially Significant Impact: A fair argument can be made, based on the substantial evidence in the file, that an effect may be significant.

Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation: Incorporation of mitigation measures has reduced an effect from a Potentially Significant Impact to a Less Than Significant Impact.

Less Than Significant Impact: An impact is considered adverse but does not trigger a significance threshold.

No Impact: There is adequate support that the referenced information sources show that the impact simply does not apply to the subject project.

Reviewed Under Previous Document: The analysis contained in a previously adopted/certified environmental document addresses this issue adequately for use in the current case and is summarized in the discussion below. The discussion should include reference to the previous documents, a citation of the page(s) where the information is found, and identification of mitigation measures incorporated from the previous documents.

4.1 AESTHETICS/VISUAL RESOURCES

Will the proposal result in:	Poten. Signif.	Less than Signif. with Mitigation	Less Than Signif.	No Impact	Reviewed Under Previous Document
a. The obstruction of any scenic vista or view open to the public or the creation of an aesthetically offensive site open to public view?				X	
b. Change to the visual character of an area?			X		
c. Glare or night lighting which may affect adjoining areas?				X	
d. Visually incompatible structures?				X	

Existing Setting: As shown in the photos below, most of the property is not visible from State Route 246 (Mission Drive), as it lies behind the driveway off State Route 246, and is at a lower elevation than properties along the highway. In addition, there is existing vegetation along the highway that provides visual screening. The exception to this, is the easternmost portion of the property in Area B, which is visible from State Route 246. This area contains the access road to the existing businesses and facilities; no changes are proposed in this area. The mining and reclamation operations are most visible from the east and from the south side of the River. Vegetation at the north property line within Area A serves to hide the excavation area from adjacent properties. The general public does not have views of the area to be deep mined or reclaimed in Area A, as the property is behind and below private agricultural lands adjacent to State Route 246.



View of the entrance to the Buellflat Rock Quarry from Highway 246 (Mission Drive) and Skytt Mesa Drive, looking south. Area B is visible, as indicated by the black arrow. Photo taken from Google Maps based off 2019 aerial imagery.



View of Area A from Highway 246 (Mission Drive) looking southeast. View is blocked by private property and vegetation screening along the highway. Photo taken from Google Maps based off 2019 aerial imagery.



View of Area A from near the western property boundary, looking northeast. Excavation area, stockpile, and screening vegetation shown to the left. Photo taken from County staff site visit in November 2020.

County Environmental Thresholds: The County's Visual Aesthetics Impact Guidelines classify coastal and mountainous areas, the urban fringe, and travel corridors as "especially important" visual resources. A project may have the potential to create a significantly adverse aesthetic impact if (among other potential effects) it would impact important visual resources, obstruct public views, remove significant amounts of vegetation, substantially alter the natural character of the landscape, or involve extensive grading visible from public areas. The guidelines address public, not private views.

Impact Discussion: *No Impact (a,c,d).* No project components, including structures, land alterations or lighting, or grading would be visible from any public viewing place, such as roads, highways, railroads,

public and other open spaces, trails, beaches or other recreation areas. The project does not remove significant amounts of vegetation, nor would it adversely alter the character of the landscape or topography. The project would not affect neighboring areas with glare or night lighting.

Less than Significant Impact (b). Following mining, reclamation activities would restore Area A to agricultural land, which would change the visual character of the area from an open mine pit to dry pasture/agricultural fields, would be visually compatible with the surrounding area. Deep mining and reclamation activities would not alter the planned use of the industrial and commercial activities within Area B, or the open space/habitat use within Area C; therefore, no visual change from existing conditions would occur within those areas as a result of the project.

Cumulative Impacts: The implementation of the project is not anticipated to result in any substantial change in the aesthetic character of the area since deep mining and reclamation activities are visually compatible with the surrounding areas. In addition, deep mining activities, reclamation grading, and agricultural use following reclamation would not be seen from any public viewing place. Thus, the project would not cause a cumulatively considerable effect on aesthetics.

Mitigation and Residual Impact: No adverse impacts are identified. No mitigations are necessary and no residual impacts would occur.

4.2 AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES

Will the proposal result in:	Poten. Signif.	Less than Signif. with Mitigation	Less Than Signif.	No Impact	Reviewed Under Previous Document
a. Convert prime agricultural land to non-agricultural use, impair agricultural land productivity (whether prime or non-prime) or conflict with agricultural preserve programs?		X			
b. An effect upon any unique or other farmland of State or Local Importance?				X	

Existing Setting: The 131-acre parcel currently supports an existing mine pit, processing and storage areas, and the Santa Ynez river channel. Soils onsite include silty sands. As of 2016, the California Department of Conservation's Important Farmland Finder lists the site as urban and built-up land, and not prime farmland. Deep mining is limited to Area A, within the current existing mine pit (approximately 25 acres). Before it was a mining area, Area A was used for agriculture dating back to the early 1940s. The site was used as pasture land and subsequently planted in sorghum, tomatoes, and alfalfa, then dry farmed as pasture and corn. The property adjoins the following agricultural parcels ranging from approximately 9.5 to 276 acres: neighboring properties to the north are used for horse grazing and boarding; neighboring properties to the west are used for row crops and hay production; and neighboring properties to the south can be used for row crops. With the previous Reclamation Plan approval and vested rights determination to surface mine in Area A, the site converted the previous agriculture use to mining, and planned to provide open space/wildlife habitat after completion of mining activities. The proposed project would convert the existing mined lands back to agriculture following mining and reclamation activities.

County Environmental Thresholds: The County's Environmental Thresholds and Guidelines Manual (County of Santa Barbara 2021) Section 4 "Agricultural Resource Guidelines" provides a methodology for evaluating agricultural resources. These guidelines utilize a weighted point system to serve as a preliminary screening tool for determining significance. If the tabulated points total 60 or more, that parcel is considered viable for the purposes of analysis. The project would be considered to have a potentially significant impact if the division of land of a viable parcel would result in parcels that did not either score over 60 in themselves or

resulted in a score with a significantly lower score than the existing parcel. Any loss or impairment of agricultural resources identified using the Point System could constitute a potentially significant impact and warrants additional site specific analysis.

Impact Discussion: *Less than Significant with Mitigation (a).* The guidelines and methodology for evaluating agricultural resources do not apply, as the proposed project does not have the potential to convert prime agricultural land, impair agricultural land productivity, or conflict with agricultural preserve programs. Agricultural activities no longer exist within the project site, and soil suitable for agricultural has previously been mined. Following deep mining, reclamation activities would restore agricultural use to Area A by using clean fill and re-vegetating the area for cattle and equine grazing or other agricultural use. The site does adjoin neighboring agricultural operations; however topsoil and mine tailings would be stockpiled and redeposited in the excavation basin to create buffers from adjoining lands to the north and west, where active grazing and agriculture are located. The buffer would be 75 feet along the northern property line, and 50 feet along the western property line.

However, as the proposed end use is dry land pasture grazing, the backfill material used for reclamation would need to be suitable for agricultural use. Topsoil should fall into the pH range from 6.0 to 7.0 for pasture grasses and legumes, and should be free from debris like large stones, tree roots, or other trash. Soil amendments such as organic matter, nitrogen, potassium, or phosphorus may need to be added to the topsoil to support the proposed seed mix. These measures would reduce potential agricultural impacts to a less than significant level.

No Impact (b). The proposed Project would not have an effect upon any unique or other farmland of State or Local Importance.

Cumulative Impacts: The County's Environmental Thresholds were developed, in part, to define the point at which a project's contribution to a regionally significant issue constitutes a significant effect at the project level. In this instance, the project has been found to have no adverse impact on agricultural resources. Therefore, the project's contribution to the regionally significant loss of agricultural resources is not considerable, and its cumulative effect on regional agriculture is less than significant.

Mitigation and Residual Impact: The following mitigation measures would reduce the project's agricultural impacts to a less than significant level:

Special Ag-01 Pasture Fertilization. The Owner/Applicant shall implement the following pasture fertilization measures upon reclamation of Area A:

- a. Topsoil shall be free from debris like large stones, tree roots, or other trash.
- b. The Operator shall conduct an accurate soil test for pH, available phosphorous (P), and potassium (K). Soil test sampling shall follow an industry standard method, such as the California Department of Food and Agriculture soil test sampling instructions.
- c. The Operator shall amend soil as needed until pH, phosphorus (P) potassium (K), and nitrogen (N) are at optimal soil test levels. Nitrogen fertilizer shall be considered for a grass dominant pasture. Ammonium and nitrate forms of nitrogen shall be applied, if needed, as they are non-volatile and can be applied without significant loss. Application shall occur in the late summer.

PLAN REQUIREMENTS AND TIMING: These requirements shall be noted on the Final Reclamation Plan. Soil testing and any soil amendments shall be implemented prior to planting.

MONITORING: P&D compliance staff shall inspect revegetation effort during the annual SMARA inspections.

References:

California Department of Conservation 2021. California Important Farmland Finder. Available at: <https://maps.conservation.ca.gov/DLRP/CIFF/>. Accessed April 2021.

California Department of Food and Agriculture 2021. California Crop Fertilization Guidelines, Soil Test Sampling Instructions. Available at: <https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/is/fldrs/frep/FertilizationGuidelines/>. Accessed May 2021.

4.3a AIR QUALITY

Will the proposal result in:	Poten. Signif.	Less than Signif. with Mitigation	Less Than Signif.	No Impact	Reviewed Under Previous Document
a. The violation of any ambient air quality standard, a substantial contribution to an existing or projected air quality violation, or exposure of sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations (emissions from direct, indirect, mobile and stationary sources)?		x			
b. The creation of objectionable smoke, ash or odors?			x		
c. Extensive dust generation?		x			

Existing Setting: Santa Barbara County is part of the Central South Coast Air Basin, which also includes Ventura and San Luis Obispo Counties. Ambient air quality within the basin is generally good. However, the basin periodically experiences atmospheric temperature inversion layers, generally between May and October, which tend to prevent the rapid dispersion of pollutants. Presently, Santa Barbara County is in attainment of the California Ambient Air Quality Standards (CAAQS) for NO₂, SO₂, CO, sulphates (SO_{4,2}), hydrogen sulfide (H₂S), and lead (Pb) and in nonattainment of the CAAQS for O₃ (8-hour) and PM₁₀ and is unclassified for PM_{2.5}. The major sources of ozone precursor emissions in the County are motor vehicles and marine vessels, the petroleum industry, and solvent use. Sources of PM₁₀ include mineral quarries, grading, demolition, agriculture tilling, road dust, and vehicle exhaust (PM_{2.5}). The Santa Barbara County APCD provides oversight on compliance with air quality standards and preparation of the County's Clean Air Plan.

Some land uses are considered more sensitive to changes in air quality than others, depending on the population groups and the activities involved. The California Air Resources Board (CARB) identified the following typical groups who are most likely to be affected by air pollution: children under 14 years of age; elderly over 65 years of age; athletes; and people with cardiovascular and chronic respiratory diseases. Land uses typically associated with sensitive receptors include schools, parks, playgrounds, childcare centers, retirement homes, convalescent homes, hospitals, and clinics. There are no sensitive receptors near the project site. The closest receptors are located within the cities of Solvang and Buellton, approximately 1.5 - 3 miles away from the proposed project area. Single-family residences are located approximately 0.8 miles to the southeast of proposed mining and reclamation activities.

The site is an existing mining operation that produces operational air emissions. Baseline air emissions have been calculated from 2013 through 2017 for the existing mining operation and historical reclamation activities, and are detailed in the Applicant's *Updated Air Quality Impact Analysis*, dated October 10, 2019. The proposed project would create air emissions from deep mining operations, aggregate processing, the movement of stockpiles, reclamation grading, the creation of road dust, and from on-road engines.

County Environmental Thresholds: Chapter 5 of the *Environmental Thresholds and Guidelines Manual* (County of Santa Barbara 2021) addresses air quality. The thresholds provide that a proposed project will not have a significant impact on air quality if operation of the project will:

- Emit (from all project sources, mobile and stationary), less than the daily trigger for offsets for any pollutant (currently 55 pounds per day for NO_x and ROC, and 80 pounds per day for PM₁₀);
- Emit less than 25 pounds per day of oxides of nitrogen (NO_x) or reactive organic compounds (ROC) from motor vehicle trips only;
- Not cause or contribute to a violation of any California or National Ambient Air Quality Standard (except ozone);
- Not exceed the APCD health risk public notification thresholds; and
- Be consistent with the adopted federal and state Air Quality Plans.

No thresholds have been established for short-term impacts associated with construction activities. However, the County's Grading Ordinance (Santa Barbara County Code Chapter 14) requires standard dust control conditions for all projects involving grading activities. Long-term/operational emissions thresholds have been established to address mobile emissions (i.e., motor vehicle emissions) and stationary source emissions (i.e., stationary boilers, engines, and chemical or industrial processing operations that release pollutants).

Impact Discussion: *Less than Significant Impact (b).* The proposed project would not create a significant amount of objectionable smoke, ash or odors.

Less than Significant with Mitigation (a,c). Project-related construction activities would create long-term operation emissions from deep mining and aggregate processing, as well as short-term construction impacts from reclamation activities. Project-related construction activities would consist of the following, which would emit ozone precursors NO_x and ROC, as well as CO, SO_x, and fugitive dust emissions PM₁₀, and PM_{2.5}:

- Deep mining using two possible pairs of equipment with 2019 model year of later engines working together to mine the site. Either a Caterpillar D-8 dozer and a Caterpillar 623H or K scraper; a Caterpillar 349L Excavator and Caterpillar 745C haul truck; or equivalent models from an alternative manufacturer with equivalent emission characteristics.
- Aggregate processing using existing equipment and conveyed to stockpiles.
- Movement of reclamation stockpiles (approximately 471,484 cubic yards) to expose mining ore, and to use as backfill for reclamation activities.
- Use of on-road trucks and engines.
- Importation of 191,777 cubic yards of clean fill for reclamation activities. Imported fill would require 9,238 trips traveling a distance of 184,765 miles over 20 years for the site to begin reclamation, resulting in a maximum of 100 trips/day.
- Reclamation and revegetation grading to backfill site at 3:1 and 5:1 slopes.

The table below summarizes the estimated construction emissions from the proposed project. The estimated project emissions are based on a lower aggregates production rate than baseline (2,353 tons per day vs 4,200 tons per day in the environmental baseline), as the proposed project is anticipated to produce less tons of material than historical operations.

Summary of Estimated Project Air Emissions (Deep Mining and Reclamation)

Source	Worst Case Daily Emissions (lbs)							Annual Emissions (tons)						
	ROG	CO	NO _x	SO _x	PM ₁₀	PM _{2.5}	CO _{2e}	ROG	CO	NO _x	SO _x	PM ₁₀	PM _{2.5}	CO _{2e}
Offroad engines	2.8	20.5	34.3	0.042	1.3	1.2	-	0.05	0.27	0.51	0.00098	0.0178	0.0164	95.9
On-road engines	4.0	14.2	99.0	0.224	3.5	2.4	-	0.09	0.28	1.99	0.0047	0.07	0.05	474.7
Off-site														
On-road engines	0.44	0.98	4.3	n/d	0.072	0.069	-	0.007	0.015	0.069	-	0.001	0.001	1.9
on-site														
mining dust - bulldozer	-	-	-	-	7.5	3.36	-	-	-	-	-	0.102	0.05	-
mining dust - scraper/truck	-	-	-	-	2.0	0.22	-	-	-	-	-	0.05	0.01	-
reclamation dust	-	-	-	-	1.72	0.19	-	-	-	-	-	0.41	0.04	-
processing plant	-	-	-	-	10.3	3.69	-	-	-	-	-	0.26	0.092	-
Paved roads off-site	-	-	-	-	15.8	3.88	-	-	-	-	-	0.32	0.08	-
paved roads on-site	-	-	-	-	7.21	3.49	-	-	-	-	-	0.14	0.04	-
Unpaved road on-site	-	-	-	-	912	193.3	-	-	-	-	-	15.22	3.51	-
stockpiles	-	-	-	-	26.1	7.62	-	-	-	-	-	0.81	0.24	-
material drops	-	-	-	-	5.26	1.44	-	-	-	-	-	0.141	0.041	-
Electricity/Water Use	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	62.17
project total	7.2	35.8	137.6	0.27	993	221	-	0.14	0.57	2.6	0.0057	17.55	4.2	634.7
baseline	10.2	38.4	162	0.24	974	216	-	0.30	0.94	4.32	0.0067	17.49	3.70	775.2
project impact	-2.9	-2.6	-24	0.03	18.6	5.4	-	-0.16	-0.38	-1.75	-0.0011	-0.06	0.5	-140.6
County Significant Thresholds (mobile sources)	25	-	25	-	n/a	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
County Significant Thresholds (All Sources)	55	-	55	-	80	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Exceeds any Threshold?	No	-	No	-	No	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Source: Sespe Consulting, Inc. Updated Air Quality Analysis – Buellflat Reclamation Plan Revision Project, October 10, 2019, Tables 13 and 14

Long term operation of the project, which includes deep mining and reclamation, would generate ozone precursors and on-site fugitive emissions; however as summarized in the table above, project emissions would not exceed the County's thresholds of 25 lb/day for NO_x and ROG from mobile sources, and 55 lbs/day for total emissions. Nor would the project exceed 80 pounds per day for PM₁₀. Agricultural use following reclamation would not create substantial air emissions. Therefore, the proposed project would not have a potentially significant long-term impact on air quality.

The project production rates are also lower than the site's current potential to emit thresholds allowed by the APCD under the site's existing Permit to Operate (PTO) No. 08263-R10. Therefore, the site's PTO should be updated to reflect the new operational limits of the processing plant proposed by the project.

These revisions to the site's air permit would ensure air emission impacts are kept to a less than significant level.

In addition, reclamation activities require earthmoving, and therefore have the potential to generate significant dust. Neighboring properties would be impacted by nuisance dust generation. The estimated project dust emissions are below the County's significance thresholds; however, due to the non-attainment status of the air basin for ozone, the project should implement measures recommended by the APCD to reduce construction-related emissions of ozone precursors to the extent feasible. Dust mitigation measures involve use of water trucks where feasible to dampen graded areas and the treatment of stockpiled soil, as well as the establishment of an on-site dust control monitor. These measures would reduce potential dust impacts to a less than significant level.

Cumulative Impacts: The County's Environmental Thresholds were developed, in part, to define the point at which a project's contribution to a regionally significant impact constitutes a significant effect at the project level. In this instance, the project has been found not to exceed the significance criteria for air quality. Therefore, the project's contribution to regionally significant air pollutant emissions is not cumulatively considerable, and its cumulative effect is less than significant.

Mitigation and Residual Impact: The following mitigation measures would reduce the project's air quality impacts to a less than significant level:

Air-01 Dust Control. The Owner/Applicant shall comply with the following dust control components at all times including weekends and holidays:

- a. Dust generated by the development activities shall be kept to a minimum with a goal of retaining dust on the site.
- b. During clearing, grading, earth moving, excavation, or transportation of cut or fill materials, use water trucks or sprinkler systems to prevent dust from leaving the site and to create a crust after each day's activities cease.
- c. During construction, use water trucks or sprinkler systems to keep all areas of vehicle movement damp enough to prevent dust from leaving the site.
- d. Wet down the construction area after work is completed for the day and whenever wind exceeds 15 mph.
- e. When wind exceeds 15 mph, have site watered at least once each day including weekends and/or holidays.
- f. Order increased watering as necessary to prevent transport of dust off-site.
- g. Cover soil stockpiled for more than two days or treat with soil binders to prevent dust generation. Reapply as needed.
- h. If the site is graded and left undeveloped for over four weeks, the Owner/Applicant shall immediately: (i) Seed and water to re-vegetate graded areas; and/or (ii) Spread soil binders; and/or; (iii) Employ any other method(s) deemed appropriate by P&D or APCD.

PLAN REQUIREMENTS: These dust control requirements shall be noted on the Final Reclamation Plan.

PRE-CONSTRUCTION REQUIREMENTS: The contractor or builder shall provide P&D monitoring staff and APCD with the name and contact information for an assigned onsite dust control monitor(s) who has the responsibility to:

- a. Assure all dust control requirements are complied with including those covering weekends and holidays.
- b. Order increased watering as necessary to prevent transport of dust offsite.
- c. Attend the pre-construction meeting.

TIMING: The dust monitor shall be designated prior to Zoning Clearance. The dust control components apply from the beginning of any grading or construction throughout reclamation activities until reclamation is deemed by the County to be successfully completed and the financial assurances for reclamation have been released by the County.

MONITORING: P&D processing planner shall ensure measures are on plans. P&D compliance staff and APCD staff may spot check. In addition, annual SMARA inspections shall be performed. APCD inspectors shall respond to nuisance complaints.

Special-Air-01 APCD PERMIT TO OPERATE. The Owner/Applicant shall modify the site's existing APCD Permit to Operate (PTO No. 08263-R10) to reflect the new operational limits of the processing plant to ensure that the operational limits of the project are consistent with the operational limits in the air district permit.

PLAN REQUIREMENTS AND TIMING: Prior to approval of the Zoning Clearance, the Owner/Applicant shall submit a copy of the modified APCD PTO to P&D for review.

References:

Sespe Consulting 2019. Updated Air Quality Impact Analysis – Buellflat Reclamation Plan Revision Project. October 10.

4.3b AIR QUALITY - GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

Greenhouse Gas Emissions - Will the project:	Poten. Signif.	Less than Signif. with Mitigation	Less Than Signif.	No Impact	Reviewed Under Previous Document
a. Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?		X			
b. Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?		X			

Existing Setting: Greenhouse gases include carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄), nitrous oxide (N₂O), hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), perfluorocarbons (PFCs), sulphur hexafluoride (SF₆) and nitrogen trifluoride (NF₃). These gases are released as byproducts of fossil fuel combustion, waste disposal, energy use, land use changes, and other human activities. This release of gases creates a blanket around the earth that allows light to pass through but traps heat at the surface, preventing its escape into space. While this is a naturally occurring process known as “the greenhouse effect,” there is strong evidence to support that human activities have accelerated the generation of greenhouse gases beyond natural levels. The overabundance of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere has led to a warming of the earth and has the potential to severely impact the earth's climate system. For instance, according to the California Energy Commission, Santa Barbara County is projected to experience an increase in the number of wildfires, land vulnerable to 100-year flood events, and temperature increases, even under a low-emissions scenario.

Climate change under CEQA differs from most other types of impacts in that, by definition, it is only examined as a cumulative impact that results not from any one project's GHG emissions, but rather from GHG emissions “... generated globally over many decades by a vast number of different sources.”¹ Therefore, analysis of a project's GHG emissions under CEQA focuses solely on the incremental contribution of estimated project emissions to climate change. A CEQA lead agency may determine that a

project's incremental contribution to an existing cumulatively significant issue, such as climate change, is not significant based on supporting facts and analysis (§15130(a)(2)). CEQA Guidelines direct that a project's contribution to a significant cumulative impact will be rendered less than significant if the project is required to implement or fund its fair share of a mitigation measure designed to alleviate the cumulative impact (§15130(a)(3)). Such determinations must be based on analysis in the environmental document with substantial evidence to demonstrate that mitigation required of a project represents the project's "fair-share" contribution towards alleviating the cumulative impact.

County Environmental Thresholds: The proposed deep mining and reclamation project is considered an industrial stationary-source project. On May 19, 2015, the County Board of Supervisors adopted a numerical threshold of significance for GHG emissions from industrial stationary source facilities. All industrial stationary-source projects shall be subject to a numeric, bright-line threshold of 1,000 MTCO₂e/year to determine if greenhouse gas emissions constitute a significant cumulative impact. Annual GHG emissions that are equivalent to or exceed the threshold are determined to have a significant cumulative impact on global climate change unless mitigated.

For the purpose of addressing the potential for unmitigated incremental growth, the combined GHG emissions from one or more previous discretionary permit project approvals are considered in the environmental review of all subsequent discretionary permit applications that, as determined by the County, constitute separate parts or phases of the previously approved projects, including but not limited to:

- Any series of oil and gas production projects under common ownership or control, including related processing and transport operations that are located within the same State-designated oil field, or represent an expansion of any State-designated oil field.
- Any series of surface mining projects under common ownership or control, including related processing and transport operations that are located within the same individually designated SMARA operation, or represent an expansion of any individually designated SMARA operation.

The threshold applies to the following greenhouse gases, per the California Health and Safety Code §38505(g), and any other gas that the California Air Resources Board recognizes as a greenhouse gas in the future: carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄), nitrous oxide (N₂O), hydrofluorocarbons (HFC), perfluorocarbons (PFC), sulfur hexafluoride (SF₆), nitrogen trifluoride (NF₃). The County recognizes that environmental documents will primarily focus on the first three chemicals, because the latter four are unlikely candidates to be associated with projects subject to this threshold. The threshold applies to industrial stationary sources subject to discretionary approvals by the County, where the County is the CEQA lead agency. The threshold applies to both direct and indirect emissions of greenhouse gases, where protocols to support calculation of such emissions are available.

Direct emissions encompass the project's complete operations, including greenhouse gases emitted from a location within California from all stationary and mobile sources, involved in the operation, including off-road equipment, as well as removal of trees and other vegetation.

Indirect emissions encompass greenhouse gases that are emitted:

- To provide the project with electricity, including generation and transmission;
- To supply the project with water, including water treatment; and
- To transport and treat solid and liquid waste produced from the project's operations and water to the project's operations and the emissions to transport and process solid.

Construction-related emissions are to be accounted for in the year that they occur. The threshold does not apply to greenhouse gases that are emitted throughout the life cycle of products that a project may produce or consume, except as identified above as a project's indirect emissions. The threshold does not apply to residential or commercial development.

Quantification of Greenhouse Gas Emissions

The environmental document shall first quantify and disclose a project's greenhouse gas emissions by individual greenhouse gas and then convert the project's emissions to metric tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent per year (MTCO₂e/year), based on the global warming potential of each gas. Renewable energy projects, such as solar and wind projects, may be credited for greenhouse gas emissions that would otherwise be emitted by natural gas-fueled electrical generation, based on consistency with California greenhouse gas reduction strategies to increase statewide reliance on renewable energy. Projects found to result in a significant cumulative impact would be required to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions to the applicable threshold, where feasible, through onsite reductions and/or offsite reduction programs approved by the County.

Impact Discussion: *Less than Significant with Mitigation (a-b).* Climate change impacts cannot result from any one project's greenhouse gas emissions. However, the project's incremental contribution of greenhouse gas emissions combined with all other cumulative sources of greenhouse gases, when taken together, may have a significant impact on global climate change.

The Final EIR No. 00-EIR-05 for the previously amended Reclamation Plan No. 88-RP-002 AM01 did not include a GHG analysis, as it was developed in March of 2001 prior to the state of California enacting requirements for lead agencies to consider greenhouse gas emissions in their CEQA reviews. Greenhouse gas emission guidelines were later adopted in December 2009 under CEQA Section 15064.4.

GHG emissions for both the baseline and project related activities were calculated as part of the project's Updated Air Quality Impact Analysis (Sespe Consulting 2019). Baseline emissions were estimated based upon historical annual production rates, equipment usage, truck trips, and vehicle miles traveled from 2013 through 2017, using a 5-year operational average. Project-related GHG emissions were estimated based on maximum future aggregate production rates, truck trips for import and export, and equipment types and usage assumed to meet the fleet average emission factors in Calendar Year 2019. Project-related GHG emissions would primarily be generated by deep mining and reclamation activities. The majority of emissions would result from the use of heavy-duty construction equipment at the site, and truck traffic transporting aggregate materials and backfill to and from the site.

Based on the emission calculations summarized below, the project would generate approximately 634.7 MTCO₂e/year of GHG's, which is below the County of Santa Barbara threshold of 1,000 MTCO₂e/year. Therefore, impacts from GHG emissions would be less than significant. The project production rates are lower than the site's current potential to emit thresholds allowed by the APCD under the site's existing PTO No. 08263-R10. Therefore, the site's PTO should be updated to reflect the new operational limits of the processing plant proposed by the project, as described in mitigation measure Special-Air-02. These revisions to the site's air permit would ensure GHG impacts are kept to a less than significant level.

Summary of Estimated Project GHG Emissions (Deep Mining and Reclamation)

Source	MTCO_{2e}/year
<i>Offroad engines</i>	95.9
<i>On-road engines Off-site</i>	474.7
<i>On-road engines On-site</i>	1.9
<i>mining dust - bulldozer</i>	-
<i>mining dust -scraper/truck</i>	-
<i>reclamation dust</i>	-
<i>processing plant</i>	-
<i>Paved roads off-site</i>	-
<i>paved roads on-site</i>	-
<i>Unpaved road on-site</i>	-
<i>stockpiles</i>	-
<i>material drops</i>	-
<i>Electricity/Water Use</i>	62.17
project total	634.7
<i>Baseline estimate</i>	775.2
project impact	-140.6
<i>Santa Barbara County Stationary Source Threshold</i>	1,000
Exceeds any Threshold?	No

Source: Sespe Consulting, Inc. Updated Air Quality Analysis – Buellflat Reclamation Plan Revision Project, October 10, 2019, Table 13 – Annual Facility-Related Emissions with Project

Cumulative Impacts: The County’s 1,000 MTCO_{2e}/year stationary source GHG emission threshold of significance considers a project’s incremental contribution to climate change, and whether or not it is cumulatively considerable. As discussed above, the project is below the threshold of 1,000 MTCO_{2e}/year. Therefore, the project’s incremental contribution to a cumulative effect is not cumulatively considerable, and the project’s GHG emissions will not have a significant impact on the environment.

Mitigation and Residual Impact: The following mitigation measures would reduce the project’s air quality impacts to a less than significant level:

Special-Air-01 APCD PERMIT TO OPERATE. The Owner/Applicant shall modify the site’s existing APCD Permit to Operate (PTO No. 08263-R10) to reflect the new operational limits of the processing plant to ensure that the operational limits of the project are consistent with the operational limits in the air district permit.

PLAN REQUIREMENTS AND TIMING: Prior to approval of the Zoning Clearance, the Owner/Applicant shall submit a copy of the modified APCD PTO to P&D for review.

References:

County of Santa Barbara Planning and Development, *Environmental Thresholds and Guidelines Manual*, October 2008 (Revised January 2021).

Sespe Consulting 2019. Updated Air Quality Impact Analysis – Buellflat Reclamation Plan Revision Project. October 10.

4.4 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Will the proposal result in:	Poten. Signif.	Less than Signif. with Mitigation	Less Than Signif.	No Impact	Reviewed Under Previous Document
Flora					
a. A loss or disturbance to a unique, rare or threatened plant community?			X		
b. A reduction in the numbers or restriction in the range of any unique, rare or threatened species of plants?		X			
c. A reduction in the extent, diversity, or quality of native vegetation (including brush removal for fire prevention and flood control improvements)?		X			
d. An impact on non-native vegetation whether naturalized or horticultural if of habitat value?			X		
e. The loss of healthy native specimen trees?				X	
f. Introduction of herbicides, pesticides, animal life, human habitation, non-native plants or other factors that would change or hamper the existing habitat?		X			
Fauna					
g. A reduction in the numbers, a restriction in the range, or an impact to the critical habitat of any unique, rare, threatened or endangered species of animals?		X			
h. A reduction in the diversity or numbers of animals onsite (including mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fish or invertebrates)?		X			
i. A deterioration of existing fish or wildlife habitat (for foraging, breeding, roosting, nesting, etc.)?		X			
j. Introduction of barriers to movement of any resident or migratory fish or wildlife species?		X			
k. Introduction of any factors (light, fencing, noise, human presence and/or domestic animals) which could hinder the normal activities of wildlife?		X			

Existing Conditions: Santa Barbara County has a wide diversity of habitat types, including chaparral, oak woodlands, wetlands and beach dunes. These are complex ecosystems and many factors are involved in assessing the value of the resources and the significance of project impacts. For this project, biological surveys were conducted on March 26, 2020 and June 5, 2020 and associated biological reports were prepared by BioResource Consultants Inc. (BRC) (Applicant's agent). The following analysis is based on this information.

Vegetation

Vegetation communities within the project site include Southern Cottonwood Willow Riparian Forest, Quail bush Scrub, and Active Quarry – Disturbed as described below.

Southern Cottonwood Willow Riparian Forest vegetation community comprises approximately 65 acres onsite, and is identified by the CDFW as a sensitive plant community. This community is dominated by Fremont cottonwood (*Populus fremontii*), red willow (*Salix laevigata*), and arroyo willow (*Salix lasiolepis*), and is associated with stream banks and benches, slope seeps, and stringers along drainages. On the project site, this community is associated with the Santa Ynez River in Area C, as well as the side-drainage in the south-central portion of the property within Areas A and B. This vegetation community is south of the active mining area. The understory is composed of upland floodplain and emergent wetlands. The wetlands are dominated by

cattail (*Typha domingensis*), rush (*Juncus* sp.) and bulrush (*Schoenoplectus californicus*). Other species in the Southern Cottonwood Willow Riparian are narrow leaf willow (*Salix exigua*), California sycamore (*Platanus racemosa*), coyote brush (*Baccharis pilularis*), and mulefat (*Baccharis salicifolia*).

Quail Bush Scrub (*Atriplex lentiformis*) Shrubland Alliance comprises approximately 3.50 acres onsite and is dominated by quail bush, coyote brush, and mulefat. This community is found in alkali sinks, flats, washes, wetlands, and on gentle to steep slopes. On the project site, the community is located on the south-facing slope of the northern levee in Area A.

Active Quarry – Disturbed habitat comprises approximately 69 acres onsite and includes the active quarry, structures, roads, silt pond, and other features associated with mining activities. This area is generally devoid of vegetation or dominated by ruderal non-native species and is generally highly disturbed. Native shrubs and trees including toyon (*Heteromesis arbutifolia*), cottonwood, California sycamore, and one coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*) occur scattered throughout Areas A and B. This community is found over the majority of the site in Areas A and B.

Flora and Fauna

Various native and non-native plants grow in and around the project area. Common native plant species include yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*), deerweed (*Acmispon glaber*), western ragweed (*Ambrosia psilostachya*), California sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*), coyote brush, mulefat, California brome (*Bromus carinatus*), morning glory (*Calystegia macrostegia*), and rush, among others.

Various reptiles and birds also live in and around the project area. Wildlife species typically associated with riparian habitats and that have been observed in the project area include western fence lizard (*Sceloporus occidentalis*), and birds such as California scrub jay (*Aphelocoma californica*), California quail (*Callipepla californica*), red-tailed hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*), American crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*), California towhee (*Melospiza crissalis*), western bluebird (*Sialia mexicana*), and lesser goldfinch (*Spinus psaltria*), among others.

Special Status Species

According to previously conducted biological evaluations and surveys conducted by BRC, the following special-status species have the potential to occur within the project area based on habitat suitability and requirements, biological surveys, elevation and geographic range, soils, topography, surrounding land uses, and proximity of known occurrences in the CDFW California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) to the project area.

Special Status Species with the Potential to Occur within the Project Area		
Common Name	Scientific Name	Rank
<i>Plant Species</i>		
-	-	-
<i>Wildlife Species</i>		
California red-legged frog	<i>Rana draytonii</i>	FT, SSC
Coopers hawk	<i>Accipiter cooperii</i>	CDFW Watch List
Least Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii pusillus</i>	FE, SE
Prairie Falcon	<i>Falco mexicanus</i>	CDFW Watch List
Southern Steelhead	<i>Oncorhynchus mykoses irideus</i>	FE
Southwestern Pond Turtle	<i>Emys marmorata</i>	SSC
Southwestern willow flycatcher	<i>Empidonax traillii extimus</i>	FE, SE
Two-striped Garter Snake	<i>Thamnophis hammondi</i>	SSC
<small>Source: BioResource Consultants Inc., Biological Assessment, Buellflat Rock Quarry Project, June 29, 2020</small>		

Listing Status:

SE – State listed Endangered

FE – Federally listed Endangered

ST – State listed Threatened

FT – Federally listed Threatened

SSC – CDFW Species of Special Concern

Nesting Birds - The Project site provides suitable nesting and foraging habitat for bird species especially within the Quail bush Scrub in Area A, and within the Southern Cottonwood Willow Riparian Forest located in Areas A and B and throughout Area C.

Critical Habitat - Designated critical habitat is not found within the project site; however, designated critical habitat for the southwestern willow flycatcher does exist along the Santa Ynez River downstream of the project area to the northwest of the site. Suitable nesting habitat for the southwestern willow flycatcher, as well as for least Bell's vireo occurs within the Southern Cottonwood Willow Riparian community in Area C. In addition, the CDFW has designated the Santa Ynez River in the vicinity of the project as a Southern California Steelhead Stream.

Wildlife Movement and Connectivity - The Santa Ynez River in Area C provides wildlife a corridor to move through the Santa Ynez Valley, connecting to the Los Padres Mountains, the Pacific Ocean, and the Sierra Madre Mountains.

Wetlands and Waters - Areas meeting the three mandatory criteria (hydrophytic vegetation, hydrology, and hydric soils) for wetland waters of the U.S. and state occur within the project area in Areas A, B and C. These wetlands are located within the sediment basin in Areas A and B, and the Santa Ynez River in Area C. The Santa Ynez River and the sediment basin have reliable ordinary high-water marks, defined by bed and banks or other physical indicators of flow.

The sediment basin flows from Area B to Area A, and is manmade within upland habitats. The wash plant in Area B generates water flow into the basin. The water in the basin is present long enough to support hydrophytic plant species; however the water source is intermittent and when the water ceases to flow, the area is expected to return to upland habitat. The sediment basin has no outlet to the Santa Ynez River; therefore, it is not considered Wetland Waters of the U.S. and is not under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). The Southern Cottonwood Willow Riparian Forest extends from the wetland and is considered CDFW riparian habitat. The sediment basin is outside of the project mining and reclamation area, and is buffered from proposed project activities by approximately 60 feet.

The Santa Ynez River is a direct tributary to the Pacific Ocean and is considered a Water of the U.S. and a CDFW jurisdictional streambed. Wetlands occur along the north portion of the river within the floodplain. The Southern Cottonwood Willow Riparian Forest extends beyond the streambed and upslope from the wetland and is considered associated CDFW riparian habitat. This portion of the river has been identified as potential non-wetland waters under the Jurisdiction of the USACE and RWQCB pursuant to the Clean Water Act (CWA) due to its connectivity with the Pacific Ocean. The Santa Ynez River is outside the project mining and reclamation area, and is buffered from proposed project activities by approximately 130 feet. The table below describes the wetlands and waters within the proposed project area.

Jurisdictional Waters in and around the Project Area							
Feature	Wetland Waters of the U.S./State		Non-Wetland Waters of the U.S./State (USACE/RWQCB)		CDFW Jurisdictional Resources (CDFW)		Inside Proposed Project Boundaries (Area A)?
	Acres	Linear Feet	Acres	Linear Feet	Acres	Linear Feet	
<i>Santa Ynez River</i>	17.55	3,371	28.74	4,320	55.51	8,051	No
<i>Sediment Basin*</i>	3.64	958	0.76	1,987	9.53	3,095	No
TOTAL	21.19	4,329	29.5	6,307	65.04**	11,147**	-
<i>*State Wetland and Non-Wetland Waters (Streambed) only not considered Wetland or Non-Wetland Waters of U.S.</i>							
<i>**Includes CDFW associated riparian habitat.</i>							
<i>Source: BioResource Consultants Inc., Biological Assessment, Buellflat Rock Quarry Project, June 29, 2020</i>							

County Environmental Thresholds: Santa Barbara County's Environmental Thresholds and Guidelines Manual (2021) includes guidelines for the assessment of biological resource impacts. The following thresholds are applicable to this project:

Wetlands: Projects which result in a net loss of important wetland area or wetland habitat value, either through direct or indirect impacts to wetland vegetation, degradation of water quality, or would threaten the continuity of wetland-dependent animal or plant species are considered to have a potentially significant effect on the environment. Projects which substantially interrupt wildlife access, use and dispersal in wetland areas would typically be considered to have a potentially significant impact. Projects which disrupt the hydrology of wetlands systems would be considered to have a potentially significant impact.

Riparian Habitats: Project created impacts may be considered significant due to: direct removal of riparian vegetation; disruption of riparian wildlife habitat, particularly animal dispersal corridors and or understory vegetation; or intrusion within the upland edge of the riparian canopy leading to potential disruption of animal migration, breeding, etc. through increased noise, light and glare, and human or domestic animal intrusion; or construction activity which disrupts critical time periods for fish and other wildlife species.

Individual Native Trees: Project created impacts may be considered significant due to the loss of 10% or more of the trees of biological value on a project site.

Impact Discussion: *Less than Significant With Mitigation (b,c,f-k).* The project would be limited to the existing mining area within Area A and would not occur within jurisdictional waters, or within the Southern Cottonwood Willow Riparian Forest associated with the Santa Ynez River in Area C, and the sediment basin in Areas A and B. No direct or indirect impacts are anticipated to sensitive wildlife species, other than nesting birds.

Direct impacts to native vegetation would occur if native vegetation is removed in Area A within the Quail bush Scrub (less than 1 acre). This habitat also provides suitable habitat for nesting birds. Direct impacts to bird species could occur if removal takes place during the typical avian nesting season, generally February 1 through September 15. Loss of suitable nesting and foraging habitat could occur, and/or the loss of a nest or abandonment of nest could occur. The mining and reclamation area extends slightly into the quail brush scrub habitat which may be impacted by mining and reclamation activities. Although native species exist within this habitat type, it does not contain any unique, rare or threatened plant communities.

Potential short-term indirect impacts to sensitive biological resources, particularly nesting and foraging birds, could also result from project-related noise, harassment, and dust emissions during mining and reclamation activities. Disturbances as a result of increased human activity onsite could also result in the loss of prey base. Human activity and noise would remain consistent with existing activity levels.

With the change in end use for Area A from natural open space for wildlife to dry pasture agriculture, there would be a loss of native herbaceous and perennial species that would have been planted. Vegetation that was included in the original Reclamation Plan was a mixture of native grasses, scrub species, toyon, willows, poplars, and oak trees. With the proposed project, the amount of native vegetation would not be expanded, and the area would not provide more habitat for flora and fauna, including sensitive species. The proposed project would no longer increase native species abundance and diversity at the site. Exotic species would not be removed or controlled. Area A would likely no longer serve as an area for the re-introduction of native animals to the area, nor serve as a source for the dispersal of known detrimental species into the local environment.

Less than Significant Impact or No Impact (a,e). There would be little to no loss or disturbance to a unique, rare or threatened plant community, as the area to be deep mined and reclaimed is mostly previously disturbed ruderal ground, with portions of native quail brush scrub. There would be no loss of healthy native specimen trees, including oaks, as the existing trees onsite are not within the proposed mining and reclamation area and would be avoided.

Cumulative Impacts: Since the project would not significantly impact biological resources onsite, it would not have a cumulatively considerable effect on the County's biological resources.

Mitigation and Residual Impact: The following mitigation measures would reduce the project's biological resource impacts to a less than significant level.

Bio-01 Fish and Wildlife Jurisdictional Advisory. The project site is within the range of Cooper's hawk, prairie falcon, southern steelhead, California red-legged frog, southwestern pond turtle, two-striped garter snake, southwestern willow flycatcher, and least Bell's vireo, species listed as Threatened, Endangered, of Special Concern, and/or a Watch List Species by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Marine Fisheries Service and/or California Department of Fish and Wildlife. Based upon a report prepared by BRC dated June 29, 2020, it has been determined that the probability for species occurrence on the site is high for Coopers hawk and prairie falcon, and medium for the remaining species listed. The issuance of a permit does not relieve the permit-holder of any duties, obligations, or responsibilities under the federal or California Endangered Species Act or any other law. The permit-holder shall contact the necessary jurisdictional agencies to ascertain their level of risk under the federal and California Endangered Species Act in implementing the project.

Indemnity for Violation of the Endangered Species Act: The applicant shall defend, indemnify and hold harmless the County or its agents, officers and employees from any and all claims, actions, proceedings, demands, damages, costs, expenses (including attorneys fees), judgments or liabilities, against the County or its agents, offices or employees brought by any entity or person for any and all actions or omissions of the applicant or his agents, employees or other independent contractors alleged to be in violation of the federal or California Endangered Species Acts (16 USC Sec. 1531 et seq.; Cal. Fish and Game Code Sec. 2050 et sec.). A permit does not authorize, approved or otherwise support a "take" of any listed species as defined under the federal or California Endangered Species Acts. Applicant shall notify County immediately of any potential violation of the federal and/or California Endangered Species Act.

Bio-03 Nesting Bird Surveys. To avoid disturbance of nesting birds, including raptorial species, protected by the Federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and Sections 3503, 3503.5, and 3513 of the California Fish and Game Code (CFGC), the removal of vegetation, ground disturbance, exterior construction activities, and demolition shall occur outside of the bird nesting season (February 1 through August 31) whenever feasible. If these activities must occur during the bird nesting season, then a pre-construction nesting bird survey shall be performed by a County-qualified biologist. Pre-construction surveys for nesting birds shall occur within the area to be disturbed and shall extend outward from the disturbance area by 500 feet. The distance surveyed from the disturbance may be reduced if property boundaries render a 500-foot survey radius infeasible, or if existing disturbance

levels within the 500-foot radius (such as from a major street or highway) are such that project-related activities would not disturb nesting birds in those outlying areas. If any occupied or active bird nests are found, a buffer shall be established and demarcated by the biologist with bright orange construction fencing, flagging, construction lathe, or other means to mark the boundary. The buffer shall be 300 feet for non-raptors and 500 feet for raptors, unless otherwise determined by the qualified biologist and approved by P&D. Buffer reductions shall be based on the known natural history traits of the bird species, nest location, nest height, existing pre-construction level of disturbance in the vicinity of the nest, and proposed construction activities. All construction personnel shall be notified as to the location of the buffer zone and to avoid entering the buffer zone during the nesting season. No ground disturbing activities or vegetation removal shall occur within this buffer until the County-qualified biologist has confirmed that nesting is completed, the young have fledged and are no longer dependent on the nest, or the nest fails, and there is no evidence of a second nesting attempt; thereby determining the nest unoccupied or inactive. If birds protected under MBTA or CFGC are found to be nesting in construction equipment, that equipment shall not be used until the young have fledged and are no longer dependent on the nest, and there is no evidence of a second nesting attempt.

PLAN REQUIREMENTS AND TIMING: This condition shall be printed on project plans and Final Reclamation Plan submitted for Zoning Clearance.

If construction must begin within the nesting season, then the pre-construction nesting bird survey shall be conducted no more than one week (7 days) prior to commencement of vegetation removal, grading, or other construction activities. Active nests shall be monitored by the biologist at a minimum of once per week until it has been determined that the nest is no longer being used by either the young or adults, and there is no evidence of a second nesting attempt. Bird survey results and buffer recommendations shall be submitted to County Planning and Development for review and approval prior to commencement of grading or construction activities. The qualified biologist shall prepare weekly monitoring reports, which shall document nest locations, nest status, actions taken to avoid impacts, and any necessary corrective actions taken. Active nest locations shall be marked on an aerial map and provided to the construction crew on a weekly basis after each survey is conducted. Active nests shall not be removed without written authorization from the USFWS and CDFW.

MONITORING: P&D shall be given the name and contact information for the biologist prior to initiation of the pre-construction survey. Permit Compliance and P&D staff shall review the survey report(s) for compliance with this condition prior to the commencement of ground-disturbing activities and perform site inspections throughout the construction period to verify compliance in the field.

Special-Bio-01 General Avoidance Measures. The following general avoidance measures shall be adhered to for the length of the project.

- All personnel associated with the project shall attend a worker education training program, conducted by a qualified biologist, to avoid or reduce impacts on sensitive biological resources. The training shall include the life history of special-status species documented within the Project vicinity and all mitigation measures for the project. A training hand out shall also be developed prior to the training program and distributed at the training program to all contractors, employers and other personnel involved with the construction of the project.

- Vehicles will not exceed a speed limit of 15 mph within the excavation areas and adjacent habitat areas.
- To prevent harassment or mortality of wildlife and special-status species by dogs or cats, no pets will be permitted on site, including at the employee/caretaker residences.
- All food-related trash items including wrappers, cans, bottles, and food scraps, will be disposed of in tightly covered and secured trash containers, the contents of which will be removed from the site on a regular basis.
- Use of chemicals or biocides will be conducted following all local, state, and federal regulations. This is necessary to minimize the possibility of contamination of habitat or poisoning of wildlife.

PLAN REQUIREMENTS AND TIMING: This condition shall be printed on project plans and Final Reclamation Plan submitted for Zoning Clearance. The Owner/Applicant shall submit a worker education training program training record to Permit Compliance and P&D staff for review and approval prior to commencement of grading or construction activities.

MONITORING: Permit Compliance and P&D staff shall review the training report(s) for compliance with this condition prior to the commencement of ground-disturbing activities.

Special-Bio-02 Southwestern Willow Flycatcher and Least Bell's Vireo. To reduce the potential for indirect impacts to southwestern willow flycatcher (WIFL) and least Bell's vireo (LBVI), a minimum 60-foot setback from the side drainage and the sediment basin boundary in Area B shall be established. The setback shall be clearly delineated with stakes or fencing with signs posted designating the area as an environmental sensitive area. No activity shall occur within the 60-foot setback during WIFL and LBVI nesting season, April 1 through July 31. If project activities do need to occur during the WIFL and LBVI nesting season, non-protocol nesting bird surveys shall be conducted twice-monthly from April thru July by a County-approved biologist. The surveys shall be conducted to determine presence of these species and nesting bird behavior in the sediment basin, and nests shall be avoided. If nests of WIFL or LBVI are observed, the Applicant shall immediately notify the County, CDFW and USFWS. An appropriate buffer from the nest(s) shall be established in consultation with CDFW and USFWS. No activity shall occur within the buffer until the end of the nesting season or no breeding/nesting behavior is observed.

PLAN REQUIREMENTS AND TIMING: This condition shall be printed on project plans and Final Reclamation Plan submitted for Zoning Clearance.

WIFL and LBVI survey results, CDFW and USFWS correspondence, and buffer determinations shall be submitted to County Planning and Development for review and approval prior to commencement of grading or construction activities in the observed area(s). The qualified biologist shall prepare weekly monitoring reports, which shall include survey methodology, results, including documentation of any nest locations, nest status, as well as avoidance measures and recommendations. Active nest locations shall be marked on an aerial map and provided to the construction crew on a weekly basis after each survey is conducted. Active nests shall not be disturbed without an Incidental Take Permit from the USFWS and CDFW.

MONITORING: P&D shall be given the name and contact information for the biologist prior to initiation of the nesting bird survey. Permit Compliance and P&D staff shall review the survey report(s) for compliance with this condition prior to the commencement of ground-disturbing activities, and perform site inspections throughout the construction period to verify compliance in the field.

Special-Bio-03 California Red-legged Frog. To reduce potential impacts to the red-legged frog (CRLF), a minimum 60-foot setback from the side drainage and the sediment basin boundary shall be established. The setback shall be clearly delineated with stakes or fencing with signs posted designating the area as an environmental sensitive area. No activity shall occur within the 60-foot setback during CRLF breeding season, November through March. If project activities do need to occur within the 60-foot setback during breeding season, a nighttime survey shall be conducted by a County-approved biologist prior to any ground disturbance. If CRLF are observed within or adjacent to the side drainage, the Applicant shall immediately notify the County, CDFW and USFWS, and no work shall occur within the setback. The Applicant shall then coordinate with CDFW and USFWS for the appropriate next steps prior to the commencement of construction activities in the area. No activity shall occur within the buffer until written concurrence is obtained from the CDFW and USFWS.

PLAN REQUIREMENTS AND TIMING: This condition shall be printed on project plans and Final Reclamation Plan submitted for Zoning Clearance.

CRLF survey results, and any correspondence with CDFW and USFWS shall be submitted to County Planning and Development for review and approval prior to commencement of grading or construction activities. The qualified biologist shall submit all monitoring reports, which shall include survey methodology, results, avoidance measures and recommendations, as well as copies of any field notes and all other supporting documentation. CRFL shall not be disturbed without an Incidental Take Permit from the USFWS and CDFW.

MONITORING: P&D shall be given the name and contact information for the biologist prior to initiation of the nighttime survey. Permit Compliance and P&D staff shall review the survey report(s) for compliance with this condition prior to the commencement of ground-disturbing activities, and perform site inspections throughout the construction period to verify compliance in the field.

Special-Bio-04 Revegetation Monitoring and Reporting. A P&D approved biologist shall perform an annual survey to assess revegetation performance criteria and to evaluate the erosion control and permanent revegetation efforts. The biologist shall prepare an annual report with an evaluation of the reclamation effort and recommendations for remedial work for submittal to P&D. The report shall contain at the minimum a description of reclamation activities, monitoring methodology, performance criteria, results, and recommendations for any remedial work. P&D shall direct the Owner/Applicant to conduct remedial work as necessary.

PLAN REQUIREMENTS AND TIMING: This condition shall be printed on project plans and Final Reclamation Plan submitted for Zoning Clearance.

Surveys shall commence in the year following the first reclamation planting and shall continue for up to three (3) years after reclamation planting is complete, or until the performance standards have been met. Surveys shall be conducted in the optimal biological season to analyze the associated performance criteria. Reports shall be submitted to P&D within 60 days following the surveys.

MONITORING: P&D shall be given the name and contact information for the biologist prior to initiation of surveys. Permit Compliance and P&D staff shall review the survey reports for compliance with this condition, and perform site inspections throughout the annual SMARA process to verify compliance in the field.

References:

BioResource Consultants Inc. (BRC), 2020. Biological Assessment, Buellflat Rock Quarry Project, Solvang, Santa Barbara County, California. June 29.

Wetland and Waters Jurisdictional Delineation, Buellflat Rock Quarry Project, Solvang, Santa Barbara County. June 29.

4.5 CULTURAL RESOURCES

Will the proposal:	Poten. Signif.	Less than Signif. with Mitigation	Less Than Signif.	No Impact	Reviewed Under Previous Document
a. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of any object, building, structure, area, place, record, or manuscript that qualifies as a historical resource as defined in CEQA Section 15064.5?			X		
b. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a prehistoric or historic archaeological resource pursuant to CEQA Section 15064.5?			X		
c. Disturb any human remains, including those located outside of formal cemeteries?			X		
d. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in the Public Resources Code Section 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: 1) 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 2) 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 Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resource Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.			X		

Existing Setting: For at least the past 10,000 years, the area that is now Santa Barbara County has been inhabited by Chumash Indians and their ancestors. As described in the Buellflat Rock Co. Amended Reclamation Plan EIR No. 00-EIR-05 dated March 2001, Clay Singer & Associates completed an archaeological survey for 146 acres of the site north of the Santa Ynez River in 1995. A thorough surface survey of Area A and the surrounding property produced no evidence of either prehistoric or early historic occupation of the area, with no pedagogically intact surfaces, and no evidence of cultural resources of any kind. Although both prehistoric and historic cultural resources are present in the near vicinity of the larger property, none are situated within or adjacent to the property or smaller mining area.

As required by State law under State Assembly Bill AB-52, a notice of consultation for tribal cultural resources was sent to applicable parties on June 7, 2021. The Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians requested formal consultation for the proposed project on June 29, 2021, and a first government to government consultation meeting was held on August 5, 2021. Santa Barbara County and the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians continue to consult on the proposed project regarding tribal cultural resources.

County Environmental Thresholds: Chapter 8 of the Santa Barbara County Environmental Thresholds and Guidelines Manual (County of Santa Barbara 2021) contains guidelines for the identification, significance evaluation, and mitigation of impacts to cultural resources, including archaeological, historic, and tribal cultural resources. In accordance with the requirements of CEQA, these guidelines specify that if a resource cannot be avoided, it must be evaluated for importance under specific CEQA criteria. CEQA Section 15064.5(a)(3)A-D contains the criteria for evaluating the importance of archaeological and historic resources. Generally, a resource shall be considered by the lead agency to be “historically significant” if the resource meets the significance criteria for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources: (A) Is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of California’s history and cultural heritage; (B) Is associated with the lives of persons important in our past; (C) Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, region, or method of construction, or represents the work of an important creative individual, or possesses high artistic values; or (D) Has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history. The resource also must possess integrity of at least some of the following: location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. For archaeological resources, the criterion usually applied is (D).

CEQA calls cultural resources that meet these criteria “historical resources”. Specifically, a “historical resource” is a cultural resource listed in, or determined to be eligible for listing in, the California Register of Historical Resources, or included in or eligible for inclusion in a local register of historical resources, as defined in subdivision (k) of Section 5020.1, or deemed significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (g) of Section 5024.1. As such, any cultural resource that is evaluated as significant under CEQA criteria, whether it is an archaeological resource of historic or prehistoric age, a historic built environment resource, or a tribal cultural resource, is termed a “historical resource”.

CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5(b) states that “a project that may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an historical resource is a project that may have a significant effect on the environment.” As defined in CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5(b), substantial adverse change in the significance of an historical resource means physical demolition, destruction, relocation, or alteration of the resource or its immediate surroundings such that the significance of an historical resource would be materially impaired. The significance of an historical resource is materially impaired when a project: (1) demolishes or materially alters in an adverse manner those physical characteristics of an historical resource that convey its historical significance and that justify its inclusion in, or eligibility for, inclusion in the California Register of Historical Resources; (2) demolishes or materially alters in an adverse manner those physical characteristics that account for its inclusion in a local register of historical resources; or (3) demolishes or materially alters in an adverse manner those physical characteristics of a historical resource that convey its historical significance and that justify its eligibility for inclusion in the California Register of Historical Resources as determined by a lead agency for purposes of CEQA.

For the built environment, a project that follows the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for Preserving, Rehabilitating, Restoring, and Reconstructing Historic Buildings or the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation and Guidelines for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings (Weeks and Grimmer 1995), is generally considered as mitigated to a less than a significant impact level on the historical resource.

Impact Discussion: *Less than Significant Impact (a-d).* As discussed above, no cultural resources were identified within or adjacent to the project area. There would be no new disturbance to any previously undisturbed areas, as project changes are confined to Area A, and the deep mining activities would take place wholly within previously mined areas. As a result, the proposed project would not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of any historical resource, cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a prehistoric or historic archaeological resource, disturb any human remains, or cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource. In order to comply with cultural resource policies, the development project would be conditioned with a standard archaeological discovery clause which requires that any previously unidentified cultural resources discovered during site development are treated in accordance with the County's Cultural Resources Guidelines [Chapter 8 of the County's Environmental Thresholds and Guidelines Manual (2021)]. Impacts would be less than significant.

Cumulative Impacts: Since the project would not significantly impact cultural resources, it would not have a cumulatively considerable effect on the County's cultural resources.

Mitigation and Residual Impact: No mitigation is required. Residual impacts would be insignificant.

References:

Clay A. Singer, 1995. Cultural Resources Survey and Impact Assessment for the Buellflats Annexation EIR, Santa Barbara County, California. April 6.

4.6 ENERGY

Will the proposal result in:	Poten. Signif.	Less than Signif. with Mitigation	Less Than Signif.	No Impact	Reviewed Under Previous Document
a. Substantial increase in demand, especially during peak periods, upon existing sources of energy?			X		
b. Requirement for the development or extension of new sources of energy?			X		

Existing Setting: Private electrical and natural gas utility companies provide service to the site, and mining and reclamation operations would utilize diesel-fueled equipment.

County Environmental Thresholds: The County's Environmental Thresholds and Guidelines Manual does not contain significance thresholds for electrical and/or natural gas service impacts (County of Santa Barbara 2021). Private electrical and natural gas utility companies provide service to customers in Central and Southern California, including the unincorporated areas of Santa Barbara County.

Impact Discussion: *Less than Significant Impact (a-b).* The scope of the project is too small to substantially affect energy demand or energy resources. There would be no substantial increase in demand upon existing sources of energy, nor new sources of energy for mining and reclamation; therefore impacts are less than significant.

Cumulative Impacts: The project's contribution to the regionally significant demand for energy is not considerable, and is therefore less than significant.

Mitigation and Residual Impact: No mitigation is required. Residual impacts would be less than significant.

4.7 FIRE PROTECTION

Will the proposal result in:	Poten. Signif.	Less than Signif. with Mitigation	Less Than Signif.	No Impact	Reviewed Under Previous Document
a. Introduction of development into an existing high fire hazard area?			X		
b. Project-caused high fire hazard?			X		
c. Introduction of development into an area without adequate water pressure, fire hydrants or adequate access for fire fighting?			X		
d. Introduction of development that will hamper fire prevention techniques such as controlled burns or backfiring in high fire hazard areas?			X		
e. Development of structures beyond safe Fire Dept. response time?			X		

Existing Setting: The site area is considered a high fire hazard area. The project involves deep mining operations and associated land reclamation activities, and would involve mining below the water table, soil stockpiling, earth movement, compaction and recontouring, revegetation, and eventual introduction of cattle and/or horse grazing use. The project site is served by the County Fire Department, Station 30 in Solvang.

County Environmental Thresholds: The following County Fire Department standards are applied in evaluating impacts associated with the proposed project:

- The emergency response thresholds include Fire Department staff standards of one on-duty firefighter per 4,000 persons (generally 1 engine company per 12,000 people, assuming three firefighters/station). The emergency response time standard is approximately 5-6 minutes.
- Water supply thresholds include a requirement for 750 gpm at 20 psi for all single family dwellings.
- The ability of the County's engine companies to extinguish fires (based on maximum flow rates through hand held line) meets state and national standards assuming a 5,000 square foot structure. Therefore, in any portion of the Fire Department's response area, all structures over 5,000 square feet are an unprotected risk (a significant impact) and therefore should have internal fire sprinklers.
- Access road standards include a minimum width (depending on number of units served and whether parking would be allowed on either side of the road), with some narrowing allowed for driveways. Cul-de-sac diameters, turning radii and road grade must meet minimum Fire Department standards based on project type.
- Two means of egress may be needed and access must not be impeded by fire, flood, or earthquake. A potentially significant impact could occur in the event any of these standards is not adequately met.

Impact Discussion: *Less than Significant Impact (a-e).* Predictions about the long-term effects of global climate change in California include increased incidence of wildfires and a longer fire season, due to drier conditions and warmer temperatures. Any increase in the number or severity of wildfires has the potential to impact resources to fight fires when they occur, particularly when the state experiences several wildfires simultaneously. Such circumstances place greater risk on development in high fire hazard areas.

Revegetation and end use of dry pasture would result in a larger fuel load than the existing site vegetation in the event of wildfire. However, the increased vegetation in Area A would be distant from residences, and would be similar in density to the vegetation present adjacent to the nearest residences. In addition, deep mining and reclamation activities would not involve the introduction of development into a high fire hazard area. The project would not involve development in an area without adequate water resources/access, nor development that would hamper fire prevention or development of structures beyond safe fire department response time. Given the location of the site near a river (a buffer to wildfire spread), and adjacent to the City of Solvang and its fire protection services, no significant fire hazard is expected. The site has adequate access for purposes of fire response.

Cumulative Impacts: Since the project would not create significant fire hazards, it would not have a cumulatively considerable effect on fire safety within the County.

Mitigation and Residual Impact: No mitigation measures are required. Project impacts on fire hazard would be less than significant.

4.8 GEOLOGIC PROCESSES

Will the proposal result in:	Poten. Signif.	Less than Signif. with Mitigation	Less Than Signif.	No Impact	Reviewed Under Previous Document
a. Exposure to or production of unstable earth conditions such as landslides, earthquakes, liquefaction, soil creep, mudslides, ground failure (including expansive, compressible, collapsible soils), or similar hazards?		X			
b. Disruption, displacement, compaction or overcovering of the soil by cuts, fills or extensive grading?		X			
c. Exposure to or production of permanent changes in topography, such as bluff retreat or sea level rise?			X		
d. The destruction, covering or modification of any unique geologic, paleontologic or physical features?				X	
e. Any increase in wind or water erosion of soils, either on or off the site?		X			
f. Changes in deposition or erosion of beach sands or dunes, or changes in siltation, deposition or erosion which may modify the channel of a river, or stream, or the bed of the ocean, or any bay, inlet or lake?			X		
g. The placement of septic disposal systems in impermeable soils with severe constraints to disposal of liquid effluent?				X	
h. Extraction of mineral or ore?			X		
i. Excessive grading on slopes of over 20%?		X			
j. Sand or gravel removal or loss of topsoil?			X		
k. Vibrations, from short-term construction or long-term operation, which may affect adjoining areas?			X		
l. Excessive spoils, tailings or over-burden?		X			

Existing Setting: For this project, a geotechnical investigation was conducted on January 27, 2017 and an associated Geologic and Geotechnical Engineering Investigation Report and Surface Stability Analysis, including subsequent updates and responses, were prepared by JCR Consulting (Applicant's agent). The following analysis is based on this information.

Earth materials onsite include artificial fill and Quaternary aged native alluvial materials comprised of clays, sands, and pebble to cobble-sized clasts. Groundwater is encountered at an elevation of approximately 329 feet amsl; however, seasonal groundwater fluctuations are anticipated due to the porosity of the underlying alluvial materials. No evidence of ancient or recent landslides have been observed or documented on or near the site, and the project area is not known to be underlain by any seismically active or potentially active faults. The risk of surface faulting and strong ground shaking at the site are considered to be minimal. Site drainage within Area A is by topographically controlled sheet flow runoff to the lowest portion of the site (currently in the southwest corner). No gullies or excessive erosion (concentrated flows) exist within the proposed excavation area. No groundwater seeps or springs exist onsite.

The project area is an existing mining operation that extracts and processes aggregate materials for market. For deep mining operations, two phases of earthwork would occur within Area A. The first phase, the mining phase, would involve excavations ranging from 30 to 40 feet deep to a maximum elevation of 300 feet amsl. Removal depths would be achieved by long reach excavators or dredging. Slopes adjacent to the removals would be excavated at a 3:1 slope ratio and would have a maximum height of approximately 60 feet. The planned slopes would be predominately cut slopes, with the upper portions consisting of compacted fill. Native material at the toe of the fill slopes would not be removed. Improvements to the existing east-west trending access road, located at the southerly side of the planned excavation, are also planned. It is anticipated that approximately 518,000 cubic yards of material would be mined as a result of the proposed project.

The second phase of the project, the reclamation phase, would include refilling of the mining excavation to 340 feet amsl. It is anticipated that a total of approximately 663,261 cubic yards of material would be required to achieve the planned finish grades (including stockpiled fill and imported fill). Final grading perimeter slopes would be at a maximum height of 20 feet and inclined at a slope ratio of 5:1. The slope along the southerly side of Area A would have a maximum height of approximately 16 feet, and would be inclined at a 3:1 slope ratio. Granular fill would be placed into the excavation in a manner that displaces as much water as possible. Once fill material is above the groundwater level, fill would be placed with adequate compactive effort to bridge the fill materials, so that the upper five feet of backfill would have a relative compaction of 85%. Backfill placed below groundwater would not be placed as certified fill; therefore, placed backfill would only enable the final configuration of Area A to be suitable for agricultural or open space use. Area A would be a hazard defined as a geotechnical restricted area, limited only for agricultural or open space use. No structures would be permitted in this area.

County Environmental Thresholds: Pursuant to the County's Adopted Thresholds and Guidelines Manual, impacts related to geological resources may have the potential to be significant if the proposed project involves any of the following characteristics:

1. The project site or any part of the project is located on land having substantial geologic constraints, as determined by P&D or PWD. Areas constrained by geology include parcels located near active or potentially active faults and property underlain by rock types associated with compressible/collapsible soils or susceptible to landslides or severe erosion. "Special Problems" areas designated by the Board of Supervisors have been established based on geologic constraints, flood hazards and other physical limitations to development.
2. The project results in potentially hazardous geologic conditions such as the construction of cut slopes exceeding a grade of 1.5 horizontal to 1 vertical.

3. The project proposes construction of a cut slope over 15 feet in height as measured from the lowest finished grade.
4. The project is located on slopes exceeding 20% grade.

Impact Discussion:

- a. Potential to Result in Geologic Hazards. *Less than Significant with Mitigation.* The project site is not underlain by any known fault. The makeup of the underlying sedimentary material and the relatively shallow groundwater levels could cause susceptibility to liquefaction and/or seismically induced settlement; however the geotechnical investigation found that the liquefaction potential in the area was low. The investigation also determined that rockfall, sieche, and tsunamis are not considered to be potential hazards at the site, and no other geologic hazards were identified.

However, upon final reclamation, Area A would be a hazard defined as a geotechnical restricted area, as backfill below groundwater would not be placed as certified fill. Area A would only be suitable for agricultural or open space use, and no structures would be permitted in this area. The site would require a buyer notification of this restricted use.

- b, e, f, i, l. Potential for Grading-Related and Erosion and Sedimentation Impacts. *Less than Significant with Mitigation.* Because mining and reclamation involves excavation below current groundwater levels, grading, recompaction, and contouring, there is the potential for creating grading-related and erosion and sedimentation impacts due to unstable cut and fill slopes. During deep mining activities, the proposed cut slopes are anticipated to expose dense older alluvium. Portions of the cut slopes may expose gravelly sands; however the surficial stability analysis conducted for the project determined that the excavation side slopes would have an adequate factor of safety against surficial slope failure exceeding the industry's minimum accepted safety factor of 1.5. Mitigation measures to reduce this impact to less than significant include having cut slopes be observed by a licensed geotechnical engineer and soils engineer upon completion, and then monitored routinely until reclamation is complete. If soil conditions are observed that may result in surficial instability or raveling, further geotechnical would be required for either a stability fill or bank erosion mitigation system.

During reclamation activities, backfill material would be placed below groundwater levels; therefore, proper compaction and conventional testing of backfill material placed below groundwater levels would not be possible. This potential impact would be avoided or mitigated by ensuring native material at the toe of the fill slopes is not removed, and by using a granular fill during reclamation to "bridge" the fill materials so that the upper five feet of backfill has a relative compaction of 85 percent (for engineered fill in Area A). If 85 percent relative compaction cannot be achieved by bridging and conventional compaction methods at a depth of five feet below the proposed finish grade, a layer of geogrid (a geosynthetic material used to reinforce soil) is recommended to be placed at that depth prior to placing additional fill. In addition, all 5:1 or greater fill slopes are recommended to be founded on a keyway of dense older alluvium as approved by a geotechnical engineering firm, and compacted to achieve 85 percent relative compaction. Only engineered fill for Area A would be placed at 85 percent relative compaction, since this area would be used for agricultural purposes. All other engineered fill would be placed as 90 percent compacted fill. Potential grading related and erosion and sedimentation impacts would also be mitigated by: using track equipment; using suitable fill material; adhering to SMARA performance standards 3704 (Backfilling, Regrading, Slope Stability, and Recontouring) and 3706 (Drainage, Diversion Structures, Waterways, and Erosion Control); and applying the standard engineering grading procedures and County standards for erosion-control, drainage design, and revegetation.

- c. Permanent Changes in Topography. *Less than Significant Impact*. The site is not in the proximity to coastal bluffs, and more rapid sea-level rise is not anticipated. The project area is in a broad shelf of land that lies above and in the channel of the Santa Ynez River at about 385 feet in elevation. Temporary changes in topography would occur during deep mining, where excavation activities would reach approximately 300 feet amsl over the course of mining. However, proposed reclamation would backfill the site to approximately 340 feet in elevation. The project area varies in topography over Area A, B, and C, and the end topography for the mining area within Area A would be similar to the surrounding topography.
- d. Physical Features. *No Impact*. The project would not destruct, cover, or modify any unique geological, paleontologic, or physical feature.
- g. Septic Systems. *No Impact*. The project would not result in the use of septic systems.
- h, j, k. Other Potential Geological Hazards. *Less than Significant Impact*. The project is limited to deep mining of existing aggregate mining operations and reclamation activities. The extraction of aggregate from Area A is a vested activity. Topsoil is stockpiled onsite and is reused during reclamation, intermixed with non-marketable soils as needed. Upon reclamation, extraction/removal of aggregates would cease, and the excavation would be backfilled to 340 amsl, similar to the surrounding topography. Stockpiled growth medium and available topsoil would be applied one to one and half feet thick. Vibrations from short-term construction activities during reclamation would not affect adjoining areas. The nearest residences are located east of Area B, approximately 0.8 miles to the southeast of proposed mining and reclamation activities, sufficiently distant that they would not be affected by vibrations associated with machinery necessary for mining and reclamation.

Cumulative Impacts: Mining and reclamation activities would be completed in accordance with recommendations by a licensed geotechnical engineer, engineering geologist, and the Building and Safety Division of the County Planning and Development Department. Therefore, geologic/seismic impacts associated with cumulative projects in the vicinity of the project area would generally be site-specific and less than significant. Since the project would be mitigated to a less than significant level, it would not have a cumulatively considerable effect on geologic hazards within the County.

Mitigation and Residual Impact: The following mitigation measures would reduce the project's geologic impacts to a less than significant level:

Geo-01 Erosion and Sediment Control Plan. Where required by Chapter 14 of the Santa Barbara County Code, an Erosion and Sediment Control Plan (ESCP) shall be implemented as part of the project. Grading and erosion and sediment control plans shall be designed to minimize erosion during construction and shall be implemented for the duration of the grading period and until re-graded areas have been stabilized by structures, long-term erosion control measures or permanent landscaping. The Owner/Applicant shall submit the ESCP using BMPs designed to stabilize the site, protect natural watercourses/creeks, prevent erosion, and convey storm water runoff to existing drainage systems keeping contaminants and sediments onsite. The ESCP shall be a part of the Grading Plan submittal and will be reviewed for its technical merits by P&D. Information on Erosion Control requirements can be found on the County web site re: Grading Ordinance Chapter 14 (<http://sbcountyplanning.org/building/grading.cfm>) refer to Erosion and Sediment Control Plan Requirements.

PLAN REQUIREMENTS: The grading and ESCP shall be submitted for review and approved by P&D prior to issuance of a Zoning Clearance. The plan shall be designed to address erosion, sediment and pollution control during all phases of mining and reclamation activities until all disturbed areas are permanently stabilized.

TIMING: The ESCP requirements shall be implemented prior to the commencement of grading associated with mining and reclamation activities and maintained throughout the length of the project. The ESCP shall be implemented between November 1st and April 15th of each year, and ongoing erosion control and pollution control measures shall be implemented year round.

MONITORING: P&D staff shall perform annual SMARA site inspections throughout the project duration.

Special-Geo-01: Subsidence and Excessive Settlement. Native material at the toe of fill slopes shall not be removed. A granular fill shall be placed into excavations in a manner that displaces as much water as possible. Once the fill material is above the groundwater level, the fill shall be placed with adequate compactive effort to “bridge” the fill materials, so that the upper 5 feet of backfill will have a relative compaction of 85 percent to mitigate potential subsidence and excessive settlement. Track equipment shall be used. If 85 percent relative compaction cannot be achieved, a layer of geogrid shall be placed at a depth of 5 feet below finish grade prior to placing additional fill.

PLAN REQUIREMENTS: All construction and grading techniques and recommendations of the Geologic and Geotechnical Engineering Investigation Report and Grading Plan and subsequent documents from the geotechnical engineer shall be incorporated into the design of the project and detailed on the project grading plans.

TIMING: The subsidence and settlement mitigation measures shall be implemented during project construction and reclamation.

MONITORING: A report documenting the specifics of the fill material and placement approved by the licensed geotechnical engineer shall be submitted to P&D at the end of reclamation activities. P&D compliance monitoring staff will ensure fill material and placement have been successfully achieved prior to final reclamation clearance and release of the SMARA financial assurance mechanism (FAM). In addition, P&D compliance monitoring staff shall perform annual SMARA site inspections throughout the project duration.

Special-Geo-02: Geotechnical Restricted Area. Area A shall be designated a geotechnical restricted area adequate for agricultural use or open space use only. No structures shall be permitted in the area. The Owner/Applicant shall record with the final grading plans, a buyer notification on a separate information sheet that reads as follows: **“IMPORTANT: BUYER NOTIFICATION:** This property is located on a geotechnical restricted area, and is located in an area that has been planned for agricultural uses. The Board of Supervisors has determined that no structures shall be permitted in “Area A” to avoid geotechnical hazards. The area is only suitable for agricultural or open space usage only.”

PLAN REQUIREMENTS: The restriction shall be incorporated into the design of the project and detailed on the project grading plans.

TIMING: The buyer notification shall be submitted with final grading plans, and reviewed and approved by P&D prior to issuance of a Zoning Clearance.

MONITORING: P&D processing planner shall verify that the buyer notification has been submitted prior to issuance of a Zoning Clearance.

Special-Geo-03: Fill Material and Placement. All backfill material shall be cleaned of any deleterious materials, such as concrete, asphalt, construction debris or toxic substances. For fill material placed within the top 5 feet of finished grade, the following shall apply.

- Rocks larger than 12 inches shall not be buried or placed in compacted fill.
- Imported fill materials shall have minimum shear strength values that will result in satisfactory static and pseudo-static slope stability results.
- Any imported soil shall be tested and approved prior to placement.

- All reclamation grading work shall be observed and approved by adequate testing by a licensed geotechnical engineer.
- All fill shall be placed in layers approximately 6 to 8 inches in maximum thickness, brought to near optimum content, and compacted to a minimum of 90 percent of the maximum compaction up to finish grade. The following minimum observations and testing shall be conducted:
 1. All fill shall be placed under the supervision of, and approved by a licensed geotechnical engineer.
 2. All fill shall be tested and approved by a licensed geotechnical engineer.
 3. Compaction tests shall be performed to verify the specified minimum compaction effort has been achieved for certification of engineered fills.

PLAN REQUIREMENTS: All construction and grading techniques and recommendations of the Geologic and Geotechnical Engineering Investigation Report and Grading Plan and subsequent documents from the geotechnical engineer shall be incorporated into the design of the project and detailed on the project grading plans.

TIMING: The fill material and placement requirements shall be tested and approved prior to reclamation placement.

MONITORING: A report documenting the specifics of the fill material and placement approved by the licensed geotechnical engineer shall be submitted to P&D at the end of reclamation activities. P&D compliance monitoring staff will ensure fill material and placement have been successfully achieved prior to final reclamation clearance and release of the SMARA FAM. In addition, P&D compliance monitoring staff shall perform annual SMARA site inspections throughout the project duration.

Special-Geo-04: Fill Slopes. All 5:1 or greater fill slopes shall be founded on a keyway of dense older alluvium as approved by a licensed geotechnical engineer. The keyway shall be a minimum of 15 feet in width, dipped into the hillside a minimum of 2 percent, and shall extend at least 2 feet beyond the proposed toe of the slope, and extend at least 2 feet into dense older alluvium at the outer edge of the keyway. The fill slope shall be benched into the existing slope as fill placement progresses up slope. Fill slopes shall be constructed by placing fill soil at sufficient distance beyond the proposed finished slope to allow compaction equipment to operate at the outer surface limits of the final slope surface. The excess fill shall be cut back to the finished grade. Alternatively, the slope faces shall be compacted by vibratory sheepfoot, or other method found acceptable, to achieve 90 percent relative compaction at the exposed slope face.

PLAN REQUIREMENTS: All construction and grading techniques and recommendations of the Geologic and Geotechnical Engineering Investigation Report and Grading Plan and subsequent documents from the geotechnical engineer shall be incorporated into the design of the project and detailed on the project grading plans.

TIMING: The fill material and placement requirements shall be tested and approved prior to reclamation placement.

MONITORING: A report documenting the specifics of the fill material and placement approved by the licensed geotechnical engineer shall be submitted to P&D at the end of reclamation activities. P&D compliance monitoring staff shall ensure fill material and placement have been successfully achieved prior to final reclamation clearance and release of the SMARA FAM. In addition, P&D compliance monitoring staff shall perform annual SMARA site inspections throughout the project duration.

Special-Geo-05: Cut Slopes. Cut slopes shall be observed by a licensed geotechnical engineer and soils engineer upon completion, and then monitored on an annual basis until reclamation is complete.

If quarry excavation work exceeds more than six months of activity per year, then two inspections per year shall be performed by a licensed geotechnical engineer and soils engineer. If soil conditions are observed that may result in surficial instability or raveling, further geotechnical investigations shall be required, and either a stability fill or bank erosion mitigation system shall be developed and implemented.

PLAN REQUIREMENTS: All construction and grading techniques and recommendations of the Geologic and Geotechnical Engineering Investigation Report and Grading Plan and subsequent documents from the geotechnical engineer shall be incorporated into the design of the project and detailed on the project grading plans. The Owner/Applicant shall submit any needed stability fill or bank erosion mitigation system to P&D for review and approval.

TIMING: Cut slopes shall be observed upon completion, and then monitored on an annual basis until reclamation is complete. If quarry excavation work exceeds more than six months of activity per year, then two inspections per year shall be performed. If further geotechnical investigation are needed to analyze surficial instability or raveling, work shall stop and the site and excavations shall be secured until the stability fill or bank erosion mitigation system is developed and approved.

MONITORING: A report documenting the specifics of the cut slopes approved by the licensed geotechnical engineer shall be submitted to P&D prior to December 31st of each calendar year. P&D compliance monitoring staff will ensure cut slopes have been successfully achieved prior to the commencement of reclamation activities. In addition, P&D compliance monitoring staff shall perform annual SMARA site inspections throughout the project duration.

Special-Geo-06: Subdrains. In the event soil conditions warrant the installation of subdrains during the construction of the fill slopes, they shall be installed in accordance with the following:

- Subdrains shall consist of a minimum 4-inch diameter perforated Schedule 40 PVC pipe or equivalent.
- All subdrain pipes shall be surrounded by clean ¾-inch rock, and wrapped in a suitable filter fabric prior to backfill.
- The lowest subdrain shall be constructed along the backcut slope at the heel of the key, or as low as possible to maintain gravity flow to daylight.
- Lateral subdrains shall be constructed every 15 vertical feet thereafter as backfill is placed and work progresses upslope.
- The perforated subdrains shall be provided with solid outlet pipes sloping at 2 percent to daylight.
- Lateral subdrain outlet pipes shall be placed at 50 foot (maximum) intervals.
- Subdrain locations and their outlet pipes shall be surveyed in the field at the time of installation.
- A typical subdrain detail is included in the Geologic and Geotechnical Engineering Investigation Report and Grading Plan, and shall be made part of the project.

PLAN REQUIREMENTS: All construction and grading techniques and recommendations of the Geologic and Geotechnical Engineering Investigation Report and Grading Plan shall be incorporated into the design of the project and detailed on the project grading plans.

TIMING: Subdrains shall be installed as needed during construction of the fill slopes.

MONITORING: A report documenting the specifics of the subdrains approved by the licensed geotechnical engineer shall be submitted to P&D at the end of reclamation activities. P&D compliance monitoring staff will ensure subdrains have been successfully installed prior to final

reclamation clearance and release of the SMARA FAM. In addition, P&D compliance monitoring staff shall perform annual SMARA site inspections throughout the project duration.

With the incorporation of these measures, residual impacts would be less than significant.

References:

JCR Consulting, 2017. Geologic and Geotechnical Engineering Investigation Report and Grading Plan Review, Buellflat Quarry, 1214 Mission Drive, Solvang Area, County of Santa Barbara. April 12.

2019. Update Report and Review Response. April 2.

2019. Response to Geotechnical Review Letter by GeoDynamics, Inc. dated September 5, 2019, Buellflat Quarry. October 14.

2021. Cut Slope Inspection Recommendation Clarification. August 2.

4.9 HAZARDOUS MATERIALS/RISK OF UPSET

Will the proposal result in:	Poten. Signif.	Less than Signif. with Mitigation	Less Than Signif.	No Impact	Reviewed Under Previous Document
a. In the known history of this property, have there been any past uses, storage or discharge of hazardous materials (e.g., fuel or oil stored in underground tanks, pesticides, solvents or other chemicals)?			X		
b. The use, storage or distribution of hazardous or toxic materials?			X		
c. A risk of an explosion or the release of hazardous substances (e.g., oil, gas, biocides, bacteria, pesticides, chemicals or radiation) in the event of an accident or upset conditions?			X		
d. Possible interference with an emergency response plan or an emergency evacuation plan?				X	
e. The creation of a potential public health hazard?				X	
f. Public safety hazards (e.g., due to development near chemical or industrial activity, producing oil wells, toxic disposal sites, etc.)?				X	
g. Exposure to hazards from oil or gas pipelines or oil well facilities?				X	
h. The contamination of a public water supply?			X		

Existing Conditions: The site contains hazardous materials in the form of fuel and other fluids used to operate and maintain the heavy equipment used at the site. Diesel fuel and lubricants are currently used for mining, processing, and reclamation equipment, and would remain the same for the proposed project. There is also a small gas pump in Area B with an associated underground storage tank. Storage of hazardous materials is not proposed in Areas A and C.

County Environmental Threshold: The County's safety threshold addresses involuntary public exposure from projects involving significant quantities of hazardous materials. The threshold addresses the likelihood and severity of potential accidents to determine whether the safety risks of a project exceed significant levels.

Impact Discussion: *Less than Significant (a-c,h).* The site contains hazardous materials used to operate and maintain mining and reclamation equipment onsite; however the handling and storage of these materials is governed by existing regulations and does not create a hazardous situation. Operations do not store, use, or handle any EPA-designated Extremely Hazardous Materials Chemical Substances, or any mixture containing an EPA Extremely Hazardous Substance in any amount. The risk of exposure to the public or contamination of the site or area water supply from hazardous materials is negligible because the public is not allowed on site; the nearest residences are approximately 0.8 miles away; the amount of material is relatively low; and all storage would be accomplished in accordance with the requirements of the Fire Department and existing regulations. In addition, mining and reclamation activities must comply with MSHA and OSHA mine safety regulations concerning operating standards and operation of equipment. The general public would not be admitted to enter the lands to be mined and reclaimed. When mining has concluded and reclamation is complete, there would be no open pits or hazardous materials present in Area A.

No Impact (d-g). The project is not expected to interfere with emergency response access because it is located on private property served by existing fire protection services, and away from residences and public roads. No oil exploration or oil extraction activity is known to have occurred on the project site, nor are major pipelines present. The mining and reclamation activities at the site do not involve actions that could significantly impact local groundwater resources that would in turn affect drinking water supplies.

Cumulative Impacts: Since the project would not create significant impacts with respect to hazardous materials and/or risk of upset, it would not have a cumulatively considerable effect on safety within the County.

Mitigation and Residual Impact: No mitigation measures are required. Project impacts on hazardous materials/risk of upset would be less than significant.

4.10 LAND USE

Will the proposal result in:	Poten. Signif.	Less than Signif. with Mitigation	Less Than Signif.	No Impact	Reviewed Under Previous Document
a. Structures and/or land use incompatible with existing land use?				X	
b. Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?				X	
c. The induction of substantial growth or concentration of population?				X	
d. The extension of sewer trunk lines or access roads with capacity to serve new development beyond this proposed project?				X	
e. Loss of existing affordable dwellings through demolition, conversion or removal?				X	
f. Displacement of substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?				X	
g. Displacement of substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?				X	

Will the proposal result in:	Poten. Signif.	Less than Signif. with Mitigation	Less Than Signif.	No Impact	Reviewed Under Previous Document
h. The loss of a substantial amount of open space?				X	
i. An economic or social effect that would result in a physical change? (i.e. Closure of a freeway ramp results in isolation of an area, businesses located in the vicinity close, neighborhood degenerates, and buildings deteriorate. Or, if construction of new freeway divides an existing community, the construction would be the physical change, but the economic/social effect on the community would be the basis for determining that the physical change would be significant.)				X	
j. Conflicts with adopted airport safety zones?				X	

Existing Setting: The project site is located in the inland portion of Santa Barbara County, adjacent to and west of the City of Solvang city limits, within the Santa Ynez Valley. The project site is within the County of Santa Barbara's Santa Ynez Valley Community Plan. Zoning includes agriculture (AG-I-20 and AG-I-40), and well as general industry and general commercial (M-2 and C-3). Portions of the site designated for commercial use are not within the area proposed to be mined (Area A). Comprehensive Plan designations for the project parcels include inner rural and urban areas, general industrial, and agriculture. Existing land uses in the vicinity include commercial, industrial, agriculture, and residential uses.

County Environmental Thresholds: The County's Environmental Thresholds and Guidelines (County of Santa Barbara 2021) contains no specific thresholds for land use. Generally, a potentially significant impact can occur if a project would result in substantial growth-inducing effects or result in a physical change in conflict with County policies adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect.

Impact Discussion: *No Impact (a-j).* No new facilities, services, or resources would be required beyond those already available and existing at the site. Water and sewer are supplied to the site from onsite wells (water), as well as through the City of Solvang (water and sewer). Upon termination of deep mining, Area A would be restored to dry pasture agriculture. The proposed project does not cause a physical change that conflicts with adopted environmental policies or regulations. The project is not growth inducing, would not result in a substantial loss of open space, and does not result in the loss of affordable housing or a significant displacement of people. The project does not involve the extension of a sewer trunk line, and does not conflict with any airport safety zones. The project is compatible with existing land uses and policies.

The Conservation Element of the County Comprehensive Plan contains general policy language regarding the extraction of mineral resources, as follows:

Mineral resource extraction in the County makes a relatively important contribution to the local, state, and national economies, and, as such, should be encouraged. At the same time, every effort should be made to minimize direct and indirect adverse environmental impacts, and to achieve and maintain federal and State standards of emissions controls and environmental quality. Much already has been done by the County to achieve these goals, the oil drilling ordinances and the air and water pollution control regulations being prime examples. However, the County and the cities should continue to push for necessary environmental safeguards, as well as to encourage exploration for new resource sites. To meet these general objectives, the County and the cities should adopt the following policies on mineral resource extraction:

In addition to the relevant policies within this Element, all proposed surface mining operations shall be required to be consistent with the policies contained in the other elements of the Santa Barbara County Comprehensive General Plan, all relevant sections of the Santa Barbara County Code, and all relevant sections of State law.

Under provisions of the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1975, the County must adopt ordinances to establish procedures for the review of site reclamation plans and issuance of permits to conduct surface mining operations. Within one year after State geologists map areas of mineral deposits, the County must establish resource management policies for incorporation into the Comprehensive Plan. The Board of Supervisors on October 23, 1978, adopted Ordinance No. 3065 (Case No. 77-0A-33), amending Santa Barbara County Zoning Ordinance No. 661 relative to surface mining operations and reclamation plan requirements. The State has not yet mapped County mineral resources.

The County, in cooperation with responsible federal and State agencies, should undertake a study to evaluate its mineral resources, particularly rock, sand, and gravel, to determine how to protect and exploit them to meet future needs without adverse environmental impacts. The Comprehensive Plan then should be examined in light of the new information gleaned from this analysis, and revisions of the plan made as necessary to achieve maximum compatibility of mineral resource extraction programs with other planned land uses. The results of studies of offshore oil drilling also should be considered in this analysis.

The reclamation of mined land is required by SMARA and Santa Barbara County Code. Mining is allowed on Agricultural zoned land with a Conditional Use Permit (LUDC Sections 35.21.030 and 35.82.160). Mining onsite has been determined to be vested; and therefore does not require a CUP. The proposed project is consistent with State and County codes and guidelines would be compatible with existing land uses on the site and in the project area.

Mitigation and Residual Impact: No mitigation measures are required. Project impacts on land use would be less than significant.

4.11 NOISE

Will the proposal result in:	Poten. Signif.	Less than Signif. with Mitigation	Less Than Signif.	No Impact	Reviewed Under Previous Document
a. Long-term exposure of people to noise levels exceeding County thresholds (e.g. locating noise sensitive uses next to an airport)?			X		
b. Short-term exposure of people to noise levels exceeding County thresholds?			X		
c. Project-generated substantial increase in the ambient noise levels for adjoining areas (either day or night)?			X		

Setting/Threshold: Noise is generally defined as unwanted or objectionable sound which is measured on a logarithmic scale and expressed in decibels (dB(A)). The duration of noise and the time period at which it occurs are important values in determining impacts on noise-sensitive land uses. The Community Noise Equivalent Level (CNEL) and Day-Night Average Level (L_{dn}) are noise indices which account for differences in intrusiveness between day- and night-time uses. County noise thresholds are: 1) 65 dB(A) CNEL maximum for exterior exposure, and 2) 45 dB(A) CNEL maximum for interior exposure of noise-sensitive uses. Noise-sensitive land uses include: residential dwellings; transient lodging; hospitals and other long-term care facilities; public or private educational facilities; libraries, churches; and places of public assembly. The proposed project

site is located outside of 65 dB(A) noise contours for roadways, public facilities, airport approach and take-off zones. Surrounding noise-sensitive uses consist of residential areas approximately 0.8 miles (1,600 feet) east of the mining and reclamation area.

Impact Discussion: Less Than Significant Impact (a-c). The proposed project consists of deep mining and post-mining reclamation activities which would involve the use of heavy equipment and associated noise. Based on information from the U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration's Construction Noise Handbook (Department of Transportation 2006), and calculated on a logarithmic scale, estimated noise emissions for the proposed project (dozer and scraper or excavator and haul truck) would be approximately 88.01 dB(A) to 87.54 dB(A) respectively.

Equipment Type	Noise Level ³
Dozer	85 dB(A)
Scraper	85 dB(A)
Or	
Excavator	85 dB(A)
Haul Truck	84 dB(A)
Total	88.01 - 87.54 dB(A) ^{1,2}
<small>¹ Noise measurements are based on a logarithmic scale, and therefore are not added or subtracted in the usual arithmetical way.</small>	
<small>² Calculated from: http://www.snapfour.com/CombinedNoise_Calculations.aspx</small>	
<small>³ Estimated from: https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/noise/construction_noise/handbook/handbook09.cfm</small>	

The sound of equipment is reduced significantly by distance, and the sound of equipment would be reduced to approximately 41.52 – 41.99 dB(A) at a distance of 200 feet, which is below the County's threshold for noise impacts of 65 dB(A). Moreover, mining activities are limited to daytime hours of 7:00 am to 6:00 pm, Monday through Friday, and limited Saturdays from 8:00 am – 4:00 pm. Therefore, the noise generated onsite from mining and reclamation activities would not exceed County thresholds or substantially increase ambient noise levels in adjoining areas. Adjoining areas include a combination of residential, agricultural, light industrial, and commercial uses. Hwy 246, equestrian ranchettes, and row crops exist to the north. The Santa Ynez River, open space and agriculture exist to the south. Commercial and light industrial uses, with residential uses further eastward within the Solvang city limits exist to the east. Agricultural lands in crop and hay production, along with some equestrian ranchettes and a winery exist to the west. There are no noise sensitive uses on or near the project site, and no offsite sensitive receptors within 1,600 feet. Impacts would be less than significant.

Cumulative Impacts: The implementation of the project is not anticipated to result in any substantial noise effects. Therefore, the project would not contribute in a cumulatively considerable manner to noise impacts.

Mitigation and Residual Impact: No mitigation measures are required. Project impacts on noise would be less than significant.

References:

Department of Transportation, 2006. Construction Noise Handbook. Available at: https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/noise/construction_noise/handbook/handbook09.cfm. Accessed June 2021.

4.12 PUBLIC FACILITIES

Will the proposal result in:	Poten. Signif.	Less than Signif. with Mitigation	Less Than Signif.	No Impact	Reviewed Under Previous Document
a. A need for new or altered police protection and/or health care services?				X	

Will the proposal result in:	Poten. Signif.	Less than Signif. with Mitigation	Less Than Signif.	No Impact	Reviewed Under Previous Document
b. Student generation exceeding school capacity?				X	
c. Significant amounts of solid waste or breach any national, state, or local standards or thresholds relating to solid waste disposal and generation (including recycling facilities and existing landfill capacity)?				X	
d. A need for new or altered sewer system facilities (sewer lines, lift-stations, etc.)?				X	
e. The construction of new storm water drainage or water quality control facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?				X	

Existing Setting: Public services include law enforcement, fire protection, schools, library, solid waste management, water, wastewater, and specialized facilities such as landfills and jails. The project does not contain any public service facilities. The nearest law enforcement location is the Solvang Sheriff's department at 1745 Mission Drive in Solvang, approximately 1.8 miles east of the project site. The nearest school is Solvang Elementary School at 565 Atterdag Road in Solvang, approximately 1.4 miles east of the project site. The nearest hospital is the Santa Ynez Valley Cottage Hospital at 2050 Viborg Road in Solvang, approximately 2.3 miles northeast of the site. Section 4.7, Fire Protection, addresses fire hazards and protection, and Section 4.13, Recreation, addresses potential impacts to recreation uses.

County Environmental Thresholds: A significant level of school impacts is generally considered to occur when a project would generate sufficient students to require an additional classroom. A project is considered to result in significant impacts to landfill capacity if it would generate 196 tons per year of solid waste (operational). This volume represents 5% of the expected average annual increase in waste generation, and is therefore considered a significant portion of the remaining landfill capacity. In addition, construction and demolition waste from new construction, remodels, and demolition/rebuilds is considered significant if it exceeds 350 tons. A project that generates between 40 and 196 tons per year of solid waste is considered to have an adverse cumulative effect on solid waste generation, and mitigation via a Solid Waste Management Plan is recommended. According to Appendix G for the 2019 State *CEQA Guidelines*, a project may have a significant adverse impact of public services if it would result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need of new or physically altered government 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.

Impact Discussion: *No Impact (a-e).* The proposed project is the continuation of an existing mining use and associated reclamation, and does not include residences, businesses, or other new land uses that would result in additional population to the area, including new residents or students. The project would not have a significant impact on existing police protection, schools, or health care services. Existing service levels would be sufficient to serve the proposed project. The proposed project would not generate solid waste in excess of County thresholds. The project would not cause the need for new or altered sewer system facilities as it is already in the service district, and the district has adequate capacity to serve the project.

Mitigation and Residual Impact: No impacts are identified. No mitigation is necessary.

4.13 RECREATION

Will the proposal result in:	Poten. Signif.	Less than Signif. with Mitigation	Less Than Signif.	No Impact	Reviewed Under Previous Document
a. Conflict with established recreational uses of the area?				X	
b. Conflict with biking, equestrian and hiking trails?				X	
c. Substantial impact on the quality or quantity of existing recreational opportunities (e.g., overuse of an area with constraints on numbers of people, vehicles, animals, etc. which might safely use the area)?				X	

Existing Setting: The project site is located on private property with no designated public access, recreation use, or trails. The nearest recreation area consists of the Hans Christian Andersen Park, located approximately 0.8 miles to the east of the project site, within the City of Solvang.

County Environmental Thresholds: The County's *Environmental Thresholds and Guidelines Manual* (County of Santa Barbara, 2021) contains no thresholds for park and recreation impacts. The Board of Supervisors has established a minimum standard ratio of 4.7 acres of recreation/open space per 1,000 people to meet the needs of a community. The County Parks Department maintains more than 900 acres of parks and open spaces, as well as 84 miles of trails and coastal access easements.

Impact Discussion: *No Impact (a-c).* The project site is located on private property which has no existing or designated public access, recreation use, or trails. Because the project involves only mining and reclamation activities, it has no potential to impact other recreational facilities or affect recreational needs of the area.

Mitigation and Residual Impact: No impacts are identified. No mitigation is necessary.

4.14 TRANSPORTATION

Will the proposal result in:	Poten. Signif.	Less than Signif. with Mitigation	Less Than Signif.	No Impact	Reviewed Under Previous Document
a. Conflict with a program, plan, ordinance, or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadways, bicycle, and pedestrian facilities?				X	
b. Conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.3(b)?			X		
c. Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?				X	
d. Result in inadequate emergency access?				X	

Existing Setting: The project site is located in the County of Santa Barbara adjacent to the City of Solvang. The regional transportation network mostly consists of State Route 246 (Mission Drive) through the City of Solvang, as well as Highway 101 near Buellton to the west, and State Route 154 in the Santa Ynez Valley to the east. There are also local residential and commercial streets centered in Solvang's downtown. The only access to the project site is via Mission Drive, a two lane road/state highway.

Equipment necessary for deep mining and reclamation are present onsite and used for existing mining and reclamation activities. Imported fill for the project would require 9,238 truck trips traveling a total distance of

184,765 miles over the next 20 years. Reclamation import would result in a maximum of 100 truck trips per day, deep mining export would result in a maximum of 200 truck trips per day, and off-site import of feed materials would result in a maximum of 58 truck trips per day, for a total maximum of 358 trips per day. The maximum truck trips calculated for the proposed project would be slightly greater than the baseline peak day truck trips of 338 trips per day. There would be no increase in the number of employees used to staff the proposed project.

County Environmental Thresholds: According to the County's Environmental Thresholds and Guidelines Manual, a significant transportation impact would occur when:

- a. **Potential Conflict with a Program, Plan, Ordinance, or Policy.** The County and CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.3(a) no longer consider automobile delay or congestion an environmental impact. Therefore, threshold question "a" does not apply to provisions that address level of service (LOS) or similar measures of vehicular capacity or traffic congestion. A transportation impact occurs if a project conflicts with the overall purpose of an applicable transportation and circulation program, plan, ordinance, or policy, including impacts to existing transit systems and bicycle and pedestrian networks pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21099(b)(1).
- b. **Potential Impact to VMT.** The County uses the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments' (SBCAG) Regional Travel Demand Model (RTDM), and a Project-Level Vehicle Miles Travelled (VMT) Calculator to estimate VMT. The VMT Calculator incorporates screening criteria, thresholds of significance, mitigation measures, and data from the SBCAG RTDM. Projects with VMT below applicable thresholds would normally result in a less than significant VMT impact and, therefore, would not require further analyses or studies. Projects with a VMT above applicable thresholds would normally result in a significant VMT impact and, therefore, would require further analyses and studies, and, if necessary, project modifications or mitigation measures.

Mining and energy facilities are categorized by the County as Employment Projects, as allowable uses contained in the Agricultural, Commercial, Industrial, and Special Purpose zone designations. For Employment Projects, a significant transportation impact would occur when project VMT exceeds a level of 15 percent below existing County VMT for home-based work VMT per employee.

- c. **Design Features and Hazards.** Threshold "c" considers whether a project would increase roadway hazards. An increase could result from existing or proposed uses or geometric design features, such as a driveway that would not meet site distance requirements, a project that adds a new traffic signal, a project that adds substantial traffic to a roadway with poor design features, or a project that introduces a new use and substantial traffic that would create a potential safety problem on an existing road network.
- d. **Emergency Access.** Threshold "d" considers any changes to emergency access resulting from a project, such as proposed roadway design changes. A project that would result in inadequate emergency vehicle access would have a significant transportation impact and, as a result, would require project modifications or mitigation measures.

Impact Discussion:

- a. **Potential Conflict with a Program, Plan, Ordinance, or Policy.** *No Impact.* The proposed project does not conflict with a program, plan, ordinance, or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadways, bicycle, and pedestrian facilities.

- b. Potential Impact to VMT. *Less than Significant Impact*. The proposed project would generate up to a maximum of 358 commercial truck trips per day, resulting in a net increase of 20 truck trips per day compared to the baseline peak day in 2015 (338 trips per day). However, mining and reclamation equipment and trucks are categorized as commercial vehicles, not passenger vehicles (i.e. cars and light duty trucks). Per the County's Environmental Thresholds, Chapter 18, Section H, *Thresholds for Projects with Commercial Vehicles*, VMT criteria and thresholds are based on passenger vehicles, and not apply to commercial vehicles. Therefore there would be no VMT impact from commercial vehicles. Project employee passenger trips would be less than 110 average daily trips, which would result in less than significant VMT impacts.
- c. Design Features and Hazards. *No Impact*. The proposed project would not increase roadway hazards, nor would it create any incompatible uses, as it is a continuation of existing mining and reclamation activities. There are no proposed driveway changes, no new traffic signals, or no new addition of traffic to a roadway with poor design features, or that would create a potential safety problem on an existing road network (Highway 246). Highway 246 is a two-lane highway in the project area, with various industrial and commercial uses located off the highway that contribute to regular traffic along the road network.
- d. Emergency Access. *No Impact*. The proposed project would not result in any inadequate emergency vehicle access, as the site is an existing location serviced by both fire and police stations located in Solvang. In addition, the mining operation has, and would continue to maintain, emergency response plans and procedures that are overseen and implemented through federal and state regulations.

Cumulative Impacts: The County's Environmental Thresholds were developed, in part, to define the point at which a project's contribution to a regionally significant impact constitutes a significant effect at the project level. In this instance, the project has been found not to exceed the threshold of significance for transportation. Therefore, the project's contribution to the regionally significant transportation impacts is not considerable, and is less than significant.

Mitigation and Residual Impact: No mitigation is required. Project impacts on transportation would be less than significant.

4.15 WATER RESOURCES/FLOODING

Will the proposal result in:	Poten. Signif.	Less than Signif. with Mitigation	Less Than Signif.	No Impact	Reviewed Under Previous Document
a. Changes in currents, or the course or direction of water movements, in either marine or fresh waters?				X	
b. Changes in percolation rates, drainage patterns or the rate and amount of surface water runoff?			X		
c. Change in the amount of surface water in any water body?			X		
d. Discharge, directly or through a storm drain system, into surface waters (including but not limited to wetlands, riparian areas, ponds, springs, creeks, streams, rivers, lakes, estuaries, tidal areas, bays, ocean, etc) or alteration of surface water quality, including but not limited to temperature, dissolved oxygen, turbidity, or thermal water pollution?		X			

Will the proposal result in:	Poten. Signif.	Less than Signif. with Mitigation	Less Than Signif.	No Impact	Reviewed Under Previous Document
e. Alterations to the course or flow of flood water or need for private or public flood control projects?				X	
f. Exposure of people or property to water related hazards such as flooding (placement of project in 100 year flood plain), accelerated runoff or tsunamis, sea level rise, or seawater intrusion?			X		
g. Alteration of the direction or rate of flow of groundwater?			X		
h. Change in the quantity of groundwater, either through direct additions or withdrawals, or through interception of an aquifer by cuts or excavations or recharge interference?			X		
i. Overdraft or over-commitment of any groundwater basin? Or, a significant increase in the existing overdraft or over-commitment of any groundwater basin?			X		
j. The substantial degradation of groundwater quality including saltwater intrusion?			X		
k. Substantial reduction in the amount of water otherwise available for public water supplies?			X		
l. Introduction of storm water pollutants (e.g., oil, grease, pesticides, nutrients, sediments, pathogens, etc.) into groundwater or surface water?		X			

Existing Setting: Area A's mining pit is located in the overbank area just behind the north bank of the Santa Ynez River's main channel. The Santa Ynez River flows in a westerly direction near the site. The 100-year floodplain and floodway for the river extends beyond the main river channel and over a portion of the proposed project site and mining pit. A final hydraulic analysis was prepared for the quarry by Chang Consultants in January 2020 (applicant's agent), consisting of an existing condition hydraulic analysis of the Santa Ynez River both upstream and downstream of the project site to assess potential river impacts. Conclusions from the hydraulic analysis show that a flood of record, which is similar to a 100-year flow rate, would not enter the mining pit, and deep mining and reclamation activities would not impact river flows.

County Environmental Thresholds:

Water Resources: A project is determined to have a significant effect on water resources if it would exceed established threshold values which have been set for each overdrafted groundwater basin. These values were determined based on an estimation of a basin's remaining life of available water storage. If the project's net new consumptive water use [total consumptive demand adjusted for recharge less discontinued historic use] exceeds the threshold adopted for the basin, the project's impacts on water resources are considered significant. A project is also deemed to have a significant effect on water resources if a net increase in pumpage from a well would substantially affect production or quality from a nearby well.

Water Quality: A significant water quality impact is presumed to occur if the project:

- Is located within an urbanized area of the county and the project construction or redevelopment individually or as a part of a larger common plan of development or sale would disturb one (1) or more acres of land;

- Increases the amount of impervious surfaces on a site by 25% or more;
- Results in channelization or relocation of a natural drainage channel;
- Results in removal or reduction of riparian vegetation or other vegetation (excluding non-native vegetation removed for restoration projects) from the buffer zone of any streams, creeks or wetlands;
- Is an industrial facility that falls under one or more of categories of industrial activity regulated under the NPDES Phase I industrial storm water regulations (facilities with effluent limitation; manufacturing; mineral, metal, oil and gas, hazardous waste, treatment or disposal facilities; landfills; recycling facilities; steam electric plants; transportation facilities; treatment works; and light industrial activity);
- Discharges pollutants that exceed the water quality standards set forth in the applicable NPDES permit, the RWQCB Basin Plan or otherwise impairs the beneficial uses² of a receiving water body;
- Results in a discharge of pollutants into an “impaired” water body that has been designated as such by the State Water Resources Control Board or the RWQCB under Section 303 (d) of the Federal Water Pollution Prevention and Control Act (i.e., the Clean Water Act); or
- Results in a discharge of pollutants of concern to a receiving water body, as identified by the RWQCB.

Impact Discussion:

- a. Changes in currents, or the course or direction of water movements, in either marine or fresh waters. *No Impact.* Proposed project operations would not discharge dredged or fill materials into onsite jurisdictional wetlands or waters, and therefore would not alter the current, course, or direction of water movement. The Santa Ynez River would continue to flow in a westerly direction near the site as normal.
- b. Changes in percolation rates, drainage patterns or the rate and amount of surface water runoff. *Less Than Significant Impact.* The final mining pit would be excavated below the existing drainage elevation, and would intercept any runoff and sediment transported down the pit slopes and into the bottom of the pit. The installed 24-inch culvert would convey flows from the pit to the existing sediment basin to prevent standing water in the filled pit area, which may increase the amount of surface water runoff to the sediment basin. However, the overall site drainage patterns would remain the same, and would continue to contain all storm water that falls on the site. The majority of the storm water that falls in the eastern portion of the site is directed to a ditch through sheet flow or short culverts to the silt pond. Storm water that falls in and around the silt pond collects in the silt pond and does not discharge from the site. The silt pond would remain in place to provide sufficient capacity to capture storm water that falls on Areas A and B. The southern boundary of the site has been bermed to contain storm water, and is designed to prevent storm water from discharging from the site to the Santa Ynez River. There would be no increase in the amount of surface water runoff, as no new disturbance acreages are proposed.

In addition, adherence with SMARA performance standards 3704 (Backfilling, Regrading, Slope Stability, and Recontouring), 3706 (Drainage, Diversion Structures, and Erosion Control), and 3710

² Beneficial uses for Santa Barbara County are identified by the Regional Water Quality Control Board in the Water Quality Control Plan for the Central Coastal Basin, or Basin Plan, and include (among others) recreation, agricultural supply, groundwater recharge, fresh water habitat, estuarine habitat, support for rare, threatened or endangered species, preservation of biological habitats of special significance.

(Stream Protection), as well as the application of standard County grading, erosion, and drainage-control measures would ensure that no significant increase of erosion or storm water runoff would occur.

- c. Change in the amount of surface water in any water body. *Less Than Significant Impact.* The mining pit would be drained by the 24-inch culvert such that it would not accumulate surface and groundwater, plus any water lost to natural evaporation. Water would be contained in the mining pit, sediment basin, and silt pond, and would not drain into the Santa Ynez River; therefore, the project would not result in increased runoff, or surface water to the river. Upon reclamation, the mining pit would be backfilled, and surface water in the sediment basin and silt pond would likely decrease.
- d. Discharge, directly or through a storm drain system, into surface waters (including but not limited to wetlands, riparian areas, ponds, springs, creeks, streams, rivers, lakes, estuaries, tidal areas, bays, ocean, etc) or alteration of surface water quality, including but not limited to temperature, dissolved oxygen, turbidity, or thermal water pollution. *Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation.* Deep mining activities would disturb groundwater within the mining pit, and would likely alter the surface water quality of discharge entering the sediment basin and silt pond. The site maintains coverage under the RWCQB's Industrial General Permit Number 2014-0057-DWQ, which would continue to be maintained throughout project activities. A SWPPP is maintained for the site, overseen and managed through the RWQCB. Stormwater BMPs described in the SWPPP are used to protect water quality from storm water discharges, sediment transport, as well as windblown dust. To help ensure BMPs are effective for deep mining and reclamation activities, the SWPPP shall be updated with the new proposed project description, and reviewed and approved by the RWQCB. A SWPPP is required for Buellflat to maintain coverage under the site's Industrial General Permit.
- e. Alterations to the course or flow of flood water or need for private or public flood control projects. *No Impact.* The proposed project would not alter the course or flow of flood water, nor does it consist of a private or public flood control project.
- f. Exposure of people or property to water related hazards such as flooding (placement of project in 100 year flood plain), accelerated runoff or tsunamis, sea level rise, or seawater intrusion. *Less Than Significant Impact.* The proposed project area is within the Santa Ynez River's 100 year flood plain; however the hydraulic analysis conducted for the project determined that a flood of record, similar to a 100-year flood event, would not enter the mining pit (Chang Consultants 2020). Therefore site workers and the mining and reclamation areas would not be exposed to water related hazards such as flooding.
- g,h. Alteration of the direction or rate of flow of groundwater. Change in the quantity of groundwater, either through direct additions or withdrawals, or through interception of an aquifer by cuts or excavations or recharge interference. *Less Than Significant Impact.* Deep mining activities would encounter groundwater at approximately 329 feet amsl, and could potentially impact the quality of exposed groundwater. However, potential risks would be limited to the accidental release or illicit disposal of a hazardous substance into exposed groundwater (i.e., fuel or lubricant leak from heavy equipment, etc.), and would not substantially alter the direction or rate of flow of groundwater beneath the site. Groundwater flow rates into the mining pit would be localized, and temporary during deep mining activities. Upon reclamation, the mining pit would be backfilled and revegetated and groundwater would no longer be encountered.

- i.k. Overdraft or over-commitment of any groundwater basin or, a significant increase in the existing overdraft or over-commitment of any groundwater basin. A substantial reduction in the amount of water otherwise available for public water supplies. Less Than Significant Impact. Proposed project activities would not overdraft or over-commit the groundwater basin. Exposure of groundwater during deep mining would be localized to the mining pit, and the maximum potential evaporation loss due to exposed groundwater would be approximately 60 acre-feet per year if the entire site is exposed at one time. Water used at the quarry for washing of sand and aggregates and for dust control would continue to be obtained from existing private onsite wells. Upon reclamation, there would no longer be any exposed groundwater, and therefore no ongoing potential evaporation losses.
- j. The substantial degradation of groundwater quality including saltwater intrusion? Less Than Significant Impact. Deep mining activities could potentially impact the quality of exposed groundwater through the accidental release (fuel or lubricants from heavy equipment) or illicit disposal of a hazardous substance into exposed groundwater. The site maintains coverage under RWQCB's Industrial General Permit, and implements an approved SWPPP with BMPs that protect water quality. BMPs include: oversight from a pollution prevention team; good housekeeping measures; maintenance of equipment, vehicles, and systems; spill and leak prevention and response measures; material handling and waste management procedures; erosion and sediment control procedures; employee training; particulate control measures; and storm water containment, among others (Sespe Consulting 2016). Therefore, no substantial degradation of groundwater quality is anticipated. There would be no saltwater intrusion into the site.
- l. Introduction of storm water pollutants (e.g., oil, grease, pesticides, nutrients, sediments, pathogens, etc.) into groundwater or surface water. Less Than Significant with Mitigation. The use of hazardous materials during mining activities consists of fuels, lubricants, and fluids associated with vehicles and heavy equipment. Routine equipment maintenance occurs onsite within Area B. All waste oil generated is collected and transported offsite. No processing chemicals are used at the site, and hazardous materials are stored in Area B in accordance with regulatory requirements. Pollutants could be introduced to storm water at the site through the accidental release or illicit disposal of substances into the mining pit, or elsewhere on the site. The site maintains coverage under the RWQCB's Industrial General Permit, which would continue to be maintained throughout project activities. The SWPPP, including BMPs are also maintained for the site, overseen and managed through the RWQCB. To help ensure the SWPPP and BMPs are effective in preventing and minimizing the introduction of storm water pollutants, the SWPPP should be updated with the new proposed project description, and the SWPPP should be reviewed and approved by the RWQCB.

Cumulative Impacts: The County's Environmental Thresholds were developed, in part, to define the point at which a project's contribution to a regionally significant impact constitutes a significant effect at the project level. In this instance, the project has been found not to exceed the threshold of significance for water resources. Therefore, the project's contribution to the regionally significant issues of water supplies and water quality is not considerable, and is less than significant.

Mitigation and Residual Impact: The following mitigation measures would reduce the project's geologic impacts to a less than significant level:

WatConv-03 Erosion and Sediment Control Revegetation. The Owner/Applicant shall re-vegetate graded areas within 30 days of completion of grading activities in accordance with the revegetation methods outlined in the Amended Reclamation Plan to minimize slope failure and erosion potential. Use hydroseed, straw blankets, other geotextile binding fabrics or

other P&D approved methods as necessary to hold slope soils until vegetation is established.

REQUIREMENTS: Include this measure as a note on all grading and building plans.

TIMING: The Owner/Applicant shall re-vegetate graded areas within 30 days of completion of reclamation grading activities. The quarry's Financial Assurance Mechanism (FAM) shall be maintained and updated annually as required by SMARA, and kept on file with P&D throughout reclamation and revegetation activities. The FAM shall not be released to the Owner/Applicant until final reclamation is approved by both P&D and DMR.

MONITORING: The Owner/Applicant shall demonstrate compliance to grading and building inspectors in the field. Financial assurances shall be coordinated and approved by the P&D SMARA Planner on an annual basis.

WatConv-04 Equipment Storage-Construction. The Owner/Applicant shall designate a construction equipment filling and storage area(s) within the existing site boundaries to contain spills, facilitate clean-up and proper disposal, and prevent contamination from discharging to the storm drains, street, drainage ditches, creeks, or wetlands. The areas shall be no larger than 50 x 50 foot unless otherwise approved by P&D and shall be located at least 100 feet from any storm drain, waterbody or sensitive biological resource.

PLAN REQUIREMENTS: The Owner/Applicant shall designate the P&D approved location on the Grading Permit.

TIMING: The Owner/Applicant shall install the area prior to commencement of construction.

MONITORING: P&D compliance monitoring staff shall ensure compliance prior to and throughout construction during the annual SMARA inspections.

WatConv-07 SWPPP. The Owner/Applicant shall revise the existing SWPPP to include the new project description for deep mining and reclamation. The SWPPP shall be updated to include spill prevention, control, and counter measures to help prevent and control a discharge of fuels or lubricants into groundwater. The SWPPP shall describe: equipment handling procedures while conducting deep mining operations; spill prevention practices; control measures; the personnel, equipment, and resources at the site that are used to prevent spills from reaching groundwater; and countermeasures to contain, cleanup, and mitigate the effects of a spill.

TIMING: Prior to issuance of a Zoning Clearance, the Owner/Applicant shall provide a copy of the revised and RWQCB-approved SWPPP to P&D. The Owner/Applicant shall keep a copy of the SWPPP on the project site during mining and reclamation activities.

MONITORING: P&D permit processing planner shall review the documentation prior to issuance of the Zoning Clearance. P&D compliance monitoring staff shall site inspect during construction for compliance with the SWPPP.

SpecialWatConv-01 Hazardous Materials Business Plan. The Owner/Applicant shall update their Hazardous Materials Business Plan to include the deep mining and revised reclamation activities. Measures describing any hazardous materials and other waste releases, emergency response procedures, and contingency measures shall be updated as needed.

TIMING: Prior to issuance of a Zoning Clearance, the Owner/Applicant shall provide a copy of the revised Hazardous Materials Business Plan to P&D for review and approval. The Owner/Applicant shall keep a copy of the plan on the project site during mining and reclamation activities.

MONITORING: P&D permit processing planner shall review the documentation prior to issuance of the Zoning Clearance. P&D compliance monitoring staff shall site inspect during construction for compliance with the plan.

References:

Chang Consultants, 2020. Hydraulic Analysis for the Buellflat Quarry. January 14.

5.0 INFORMATION SOURCES

5.1 COUNTY DEPARTMENTS CONSULTED

Police, Fire, Public Works (Transportation), Flood Control, Parks, Environmental Health, Special Districts, Regional Programs, Other: APCD and Building & Safety

5.2 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Seismic Safety/Safety Element		Conservation Element
	Open Space Element	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Noise Element
	Coastal Plan and Maps		Circulation Element
	Environmental Resource Management	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Agricultural Element
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Land Use Element		Scenic Highways Element
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Energy Element		Hazardous Waste Element
	Housing Element		

5.3 OTHER SOURCES

	Field work		Ag Preserve maps
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Calculations	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Flood Control maps
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Project plans	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other technical references (reports, survey, etc.)
	Traffic studies		
	Records	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Planning files, maps, reports
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Grading plans	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Zoning maps
	Elevation, architectural renderings	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Soils maps/reports
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Published geological map/reports	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Plant maps
	Topographical maps	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Archaeological maps and reports
			Other

6.0 PROJECT SPECIFIC (*short- and long-term*) AND CUMULATIVE IMPACT SUMMARY

6.1 SIGNIFICANT UNAVOIDABLE IMPACTS

The proposed project would not result in any significant and unavoidable impacts.

6.2 SIGNIFICANT BUT MITIGABLE IMPACTS

The proposed project may result in the following significant impacts; however, implementation of the identified mitigation measures would reduce impacts to a less-than-significant level.

Agricultural Resources. The project may result in the following impacts, which would be mitigated by Mitigation Measure Special-Ag-01:

- Convert prime agricultural land to non-agricultural use, impair agricultural land productivity (whether prime or non-prime) or conflict with agricultural preserve programs.

Air Quality. The project may result in the following impacts, which would be mitigated by Mitigation Measures Air-01 and Special-Air-01:

- The violation of any ambient air quality standard, a substantial contribution to an existing or projected air quality violation, or exposure of sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations (emissions from direct, indirect, mobile and stationary sources).
- Extensive dust generation.

Biological Resources. The project may result in the following impacts, which would be mitigated by Mitigation Measures Bio-01, Bio-03, and Special-Bio-01 through Special-Bio-04:

- A reduction in the numbers or restriction in the range of any unique, rare or threatened species of plants.
- A reduction in the extent, diversity, or quality of native vegetation (including brush removal for fire prevention and flood control improvements).
- Introduction of herbicides, pesticides, animal life, human habitation, nonnative plants or other factors that would change or hamper the existing habitat.
- A reduction in the numbers, a restriction in the range, or an impact to the critical habitat of any unique, rare, threatened or endangered species of animals.
- A reduction in the diversity or numbers of animals onsite (including mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fish or invertebrates).
- A deterioration of existing fish or wildlife habitat (for foraging, breeding, roosting, nesting, etc.).
- Introduction of barriers to movement of any resident or migratory fish or wildlife species.
- Introduction of any factors (light, fencing, noise, human presence and/or domestic animals) which could hinder the normal activities of wildlife.

Geologic Processes. The project may result in the following impacts, which would be mitigated by Mitigation Measures Geo-01, Special-Geo-01 through Special-Geo-06:

- Disruption, displacement, compaction or overcovering of the soil by cuts, fills or extensive grading.
- Any increase in wind or water erosion of soils, either on or off the site.
- Excessive grading on slopes of over 20%.
- Excessive spoils, tailings or over-burden.

Water Resources/Flooding. The project may result in the following impacts, which would be mitigated by Mitigation Measures WatConv-03, WatConv-04, WatConv-07, and Special-WatConv-01:

- Discharge, directly or through a storm drain system, into surface waters (including but not limited to wetlands, riparian areas, ponds, springs, creeks, streams, rivers, lakes, estuaries, tidal areas, bays, ocean, etc) or alteration of surface water quality, including but not limited to temperature, dissolved oxygen, turbidity, or thermal water pollution.
- Introduction of storm water pollutants (e.g., oil, grease, pesticides, nutrients, sediments, pathogens, etc.) into groundwater or surface water.

6.3 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

Cumulative impacts are defined as two or more individual effects which, when considered together are considerable, or which compound or increase other environmental impacts. Under Section 15064 of the CEQA Guidelines, the lead agency (Santa Barbara County Planning and Development Department) must identify cumulative impacts, determine their significance and determine if the effects of the project are cumulatively considerable. Cumulative impacts have been addressed under each issue area. As discussed therein, the proposed project would not result in cumulatively considerable contributions to cumulative impacts.

7.0 MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

Will the proposal result in:	Poten. Signif.	Less than Signif. with Mitigation	Less Than Signif.	No Impact	Reviewed Under Previous Document
1. Does the project have the potential to substantially 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, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal, contribute significantly to greenhouse gas emissions or significantly increase energy consumption, or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?		X			
2. Does the project have the potential to achieve short-term to the disadvantage of long-term environmental goals?				X	
3. Does the project have impacts that are individually 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.)			X		
4. Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?		X			
5. Is there disagreement supported by facts, reasonable assumptions predicated upon facts and/or expert opinion supported by facts over the significance of an effect which would warrant investigation in an EIR ?				X	

1. Less than significant with mitigation. As detailed in Section 4.2 *Agricultural Resources*, Section 4.3 *Air Quality*, Section 4.4 *Biological Resources*, Section 4.8 *Geologic Processes*, and Section 4.15 *Water Resources/Flooding*, deep mining and reclamation would have the potential to cause agricultural impacts, air quality impacts, and disturbance to biological resources, geologic processes, and water resources/flooding. With the implementation of the following mitigation measures, the potential impacts would be reduced to less-than-significant levels.

- Special-Ag-01 which requires a pasture fertilization plan to ensure the site soil is suitable for agricultural use upon final reclamation.
- Air-01 and Special-Air-01 which require dust suppression measures and an updated Permit to Operate from the APCD.
- Bio-01, Bio-03, and Special-Bio-01 through Special-Bio-04, which require general avoidance measures, biological surveys, and coordination with the CDFW and USFWS as needed.

- Geo-01, and Special-Geo-01 through Special-Geo-06, which require an erosion and sediment control plan, establishment of a geotechnical restricted area, and engineering requirements for fill material and placement, fill slopes, cut slopes, and subdrains.
- WatConv-03, WatConv-04, WatConv-07, and Special-WatConv-01, which require revegetation timelines, specific equipment storage areas, sediment and contamination containment, an updated and approved SWPPP through the RWQCB, and an updated Hazardous Materials Business Plan.

The potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment would be less than significant with mitigation incorporated under the proposed project.

2. **No Impact.** The project is designed to deep mine in vested areas, and reclaim an existing mining site as required under SMARA. The project does not have the potential to achieve short-term environmental goals to the disadvantage of long-term environmental goals. No impact would occur.
3. **Less than Significant Impact.** As discussed in Sections 4.1 through 4.15, the project would have impacts that are individually limited to the project area, but are not cumulatively considerable. This impact would be less than significant.
4. **Less than Significant with Mitigation.** In general, impacts to human beings are associated with such issues as air quality, hazards and hazardous materials, and noise impacts. As detailed in Section 4.3 *Air Quality*, deep mining and reclamation would have the potential to generate extensive dust, as well as emissions from direct, indirect, mobile and stationary sources. With implementation of Mitigation Measures Air-01 and Special-Air-01, which require implementation of the County's and APCD's dust control measures and an updated APCD Permit to Operate, the potential impacts would be reduced to less-than-significant-levels. Therefore, impacts to human beings would be less than significant with mitigation incorporated under the proposed project.
5. **No Impact.** There is no known disagreement supported by facts or any reasonable assumptions predicated upon facts and/or expert opinion supported by facts over the significance of an effect which would warrant investigation in an EIR.

8.0 PROJECT ALTERNATIVES

Pursuant to CEQA, project alternatives are only required for projects which would result in significant and inmitigable impacts to the environment. Any potentially significant impacts resulting from the proposed project could be mitigated to less than significant impacts. Therefore, no project alternatives were considered.

9.0 INITIAL REVIEW OF PROJECT CONSISTENCY WITH APPLICABLE SUBDIVISION, ZONING AND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN REQUIREMENTS

9.1.1 Land Use Designation

Consistent. The proposed project is consistent with minimum lot size requirements and proposes allowable, or conditionally allowable, uses. Mining and the proposed end use of agriculture is allowed within the Agriculture and Industrial land use designations.

9.1.2 Land Use Development Policy #4

Prior to issuance of a use permit, the County shall make the finding, based on information provided by environmental documents, staff analysis, and the applicant, that adequate public or private services and resources (i.e., water, sewer, roads, etc.) are available to serve the proposed development. The applicant shall assume full responsibility for costs incurred as a result of the proposed project. Lack of public or private services or resources shall be grounds for denial of the project or reduction in the density otherwise indicated in the land use plan.

Consistent. No new facilities, services, or resources would be required beyond those already available and existing at the site.

- Water: Proposed service by existing on-site well, which is adequate to provide water for mining and reclamation activities.
- Sewer: The existing wastewater system would continue to be used.
- Roads: The project site would be accessed via existing driveways off 1214 Mission Drive.
- Fire: Fire Protection service would be provided by County Fire Station 30 located in Solvang.

9.1.3 Hillside and Watershed Protection Policies #1, 2, 4, 5, 6, and 7

Consistent. The Owner/Applicant has vested rights in mine in Area A. Reclamation is designed to minimize the effects of mining by backfilling the deep mining pit and limiting its steepness to that which is safe and consistent with SMARA standards, revegetating the area with dry pasture grasses and legumes, and buffering the mining area from adjoining properties. The area proposed for deep mining and reclamation would not be appropriate for development due to geologic hazards, and are proposed to return to agriculture. There are existing sediment basins onsite that would be used in conjunction with mining and reclamation activities. The sediment basin and the silt pond would be maintained throughout the project, and are designed to contain all sediment onsite. Cut and fill slope development would be overseen by a qualified civil engineer. Following deep mining, revegetation of the site would be accomplished consistent with County and SMARA performance standards. The potential degradation of water quality from pollutants would be minimized by implementation of the site's SWPPP and coverage under the RWQCB's Industrial General Permit.

9.1.4 Streams and Creeks Policy #1

All permitted construction and grading within stream corridors shall be carried out in such a manner as to minimize impacts from increased runoff, sedimentation, biochemical degradation, or thermal pollution.

Consistent. The proposed project does not consist of construction and grading within the Santa Ynez River corridor. Previous bank protection and levee repairs have been completed to buffer the mining and reclamation area from the river. Sediment would be controlled onsite through the use of the culvert, silt pond, and sediment basin and would not discharge to the river.

9.1.5 Visual Resources Policy #2

In areas designated as rural on the land use plan maps, the height, scale, and design of structures shall be compatible with the character of the surrounding natural environment, except where technical requirements dictate otherwise. Structures shall be subordinate in appearance to natural landforms; shall be designed to follow the natural contours of the landscape; and shall be sited so as not to intrude into the skyline as seen from public viewing places.

Consistent. The visual character of the site would not be substantially different or more obtrusive than current conditions. Following reclamation, the site would remain in agriculture use, which is consistent with the visual character of the surrounding area. Existing structures that can be seen from Mission Drive would not be altered by any proposed project activities.

9.1.6 Groundwater Resources Policy #2.1

Where feasible, in cooperation with local purveyors and other groundwater users, the County shall act to protect groundwater quality where quality is acceptable, improve quality where degraded, and discourage degradation of quality below acceptable thresholds.

Consistent. Existing berms constructed around the mining area serve to divert runoff from adjoining agricultural properties that could accumulate in the project area. Implementation and maintenance of the site SWPPP and coverage under the RWQCB's Industrial General Permit would minimize degradation of water quality below acceptable thresholds.

9.1.7 Santa Ynez Valley Goals, Agriculture

Agriculture should be preserved and protected as one of the primary economic bases of the Valley.

Consistent. The proposed project would return the deep mining area to dry pasture agricultural lands. The end use would not jeopardize the long-term viability and suitability of agriculture on adjacent properties.

10.0 RECOMMENDATION BY P&D STAFF

On the basis of the Initial Study, the staff of Planning and Development:

- ☐ Finds that the proposed project WILL NOT have a significant effect on the environment and, therefore, recommends that a Negative Declaration (ND) be prepared.
- ☒ Finds that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because the mitigation measures incorporated into the REVISED PROJECT DESCRIPTION would successfully mitigate the potentially significant impacts. Staff recommends the preparation of an ND. The ND finding is based on the assumption that mitigation measures will be acceptable to the applicant; if not acceptable a revised Initial Study finding for the preparation of an EIR may result.
- ☐ Finds that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and recommends that an EIR be prepared.
- ☐ Finds that from existing documents (previous EIRs, etc.) that a subsequent document (containing updated and site-specific information, etc.) pursuant to CEQA Sections 15162/15163/15164 should be prepared.

Potentially significant unavoidable adverse impact areas:

☐ With Public Hearing ☒ Without Public Hearing

PREVIOUS DOCUMENT: 00-EIR-05

PROJECT EVALUATOR: Jacquelynn Ybarra, Planner III

DATE: June 2021

X I agree with staff conclusions. Preparation of the appropriate document may proceed.
 I DO NOT agree with staff conclusions. The following actions will be taken:
 I require consultation and further information prior to making my determination.

INITIAL STUDY DATE: June 2021

NEGATIVE DECLARATION DATE: September 23, 2021

REVISION DATE: _____

FINAL NEGATIVE DECLARATION DATE: _____

12.0 ATTACHMENTS

1. Amended Reclamation Plan, Buellflat Rock Quarry, CA Mine ID No. 91-42-0016, Sespe Consulting, Inc., January 31, 2020. Available at: <https://cosantabarbara.box.com/s/r06e7154qjrtfnfwzzttdgtg1meefxvi7>
2. Updated Air Quality Impact Analysis – Buellflat Reclamation Plan Revision Project, Sespe Consulting Inc., October 10, 2019. Available at: <https://cosantabarbara.box.com/s/rpp4rbgthjiuurhfa59tbfte37gfxfk>
3. Biological Assessment, Buellflat Rock Quarry Project, BioResource Consultants Inc., November 29, 2020. Available at: <https://cosantabarbara.box.com/s/dy1141legkap9lvjenlmf5qokqgtsn2>
4. Wetland and Waters Jurisdictional Delineation, Buellflat Rock Quarry Project, BioResource Consultants, Inc., July 17, 2020. Available at: <https://cosantabarbara.box.com/s/mord0172znaxut73vo7ac0doscfm082>
5. Geologic and Geotechnical Engineering Investigation Report and Grading Plan, Buellflat Quarry, JCR Consulting, April 12, 2017. Available at: <https://cosantabarbara.box.com/s/180qcnuipyvyr0nm63zas4g4cxo9xsf>
6. Response to Geotechnical Review Letter by GeoDynamics, Inc., Buellflat Quarry, October 14, 2019. Available at: <https://cosantabarbara.box.com/s/180qcnuipyvyr0nm63zas4g4cxo9xsf>
7. Cut Slope Inspection Recommendation Clarification, Buellflat Quarry, JCR Consulting, August 2, 2021. Available at: <https://cosantabarbara.box.com/s/aa40lnuo7gqvdl7mayo1vryiuvy0pv6m>
8. Hydraulic Analysis for the Buellflat Quarry, Chang Consultants, January 14, 2020. Available at: <https://cosantabarbara.box.com/s/feuzuzjrf47vzujzq3szzpg8s2ap4ejt>
9. County of Santa Barbara Buellflat Rock Co. Amended Reclamation Plan, Final Environmental Impact Report (00-EIR-05). Rincon Consultants, March 2021. Available at: <https://cosantabarbara.box.com/s/xt0lxb4tmtrimfxvd7m3w4uvcj36hxcd>