

Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Ozena Valley Ranch Mine, Case Nos. LU04-0055 and LU04-0072

The County of Ventura, Resource Management Agency, Planning Division ("RMA-Planning Division") currently is processing two applications for Major Modifications (Case Nos. LU04-0055 and LU04-0072) to the Ozena Valley Ranch Mine Conditional Use Permit (Case No. CUP 5170-1) ("the proposed project"). The RMA-Planning Division determined that the proposed project may have significant effects on the environment and, therefore, an Environmental Impact Report ("EIR") must be prepared for the proposed project. The purpose of this notice is to inform you of the proposed project and request your assistance in identifying any issues that should be addressed in the EIR. Information on the proposed project and instructions on how to provide commentary on the scope of the EIR are provided below.

Project Location: The proposed project site is located within the northern portion of the unincorporated area of Ventura County, within Lockwood Valley, approximately 1.2 miles east of the State Route ("SR") 33 and Lockwood Valley Road intersection. The street address for the proposed project site is 2710 Lockwood Valley Road, and the Assessor's Parcel Number ("APN") for the project site is 002-0-140-075. The project site is located at N1/2 NW1/4 S20 T7N, R23W, Reyes Peak, California Quadrangle [USGS 7.5-minute Series Topographic Map], and at approximately 34.69215° North, 119.34596° West. (Please see the attached map.)

Project Description (Summary): The proposed project consists of the: (1) continued use and expansion of the Ozena Valley Ranch Mine, which is an aggregate mine and processing facility; and, (2) introduction of aquaculture activities on the project site. The proposed mining and aquaculture activities are as follows.

Proposed Mining Activities

The proposed project includes the continuation of the following activities, which are currently permitted as part of Conditional Use Permit Case No. CUP 5170-1:

- The excavation of a nine-acre stockpond and processing of sand and rock for sale; and,
- The delivery of aggregate products via SR 33 north- and southbound, and via Lockwood Valley Road to Interstate 5. Production limitations will remain at 250,000 tons per year and will result in a daily average of 66 one-way trips, over a one-year period.¹

The proposed project also includes a request for approval of the following, new mining-related activities:

- The excavation of a second stockpond, 15.0 acres in size, 40 feet deep, with final side slope contours not to exceed 3:1 (horizontal to vertical). The excavation of the second stockpond would commence upon completion of the excavation of the first stockpond. This would result in the processing of approximately 750,000 cubic yards of sand and

¹ Pursuant to Conditional Use Permit Case No. CUP 5170-1, Condition No. 71 (Number of Truck Trips), the "average volume" of truck trips is calculated over a one-year period (i.e., 33 round-trips X 309 operating days = 10,197 round-trips maximum in one year). "One year" is defined as one calendar year.



rock for sale (i.e., approximately 1,125,000 tons over the proposed 10-year life of the permit);

- The importation of recyclable materials (i.e., concrete and asphalt from local sources only) for processing on-site into construction-grade aggregate;
- The importation of aggregate materials for processing on-site. The California Department of Transportation, Ventura County Public Works Agency (Transportation Department, Roadway Division), and other Ventura County agencies are the anticipated contributors of the imported aggregate materials; and,
- An increase in the daily maximum one-way truck trips to 200, while continuing to maintain the daily maximum of 100 one-way trips through the Ojai Valley.² Production limitations will remain at 250,000 tons per year and will result in a daily average of 66 one-way trips, with a daily limit of 100 one-way truck trips through Ojai.

The applicant also is requesting approval of a reclamation plan and financial assurances for the proposed project, pursuant to the requirements of the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act (Public Resources Code, Division 2, Chapter 9, Article 1, §2710 et seq; "SMARA").

Proposed Aquaculture Activities

The proposed project also includes the introduction of aquaculture operations on the project site as an end use to the mining operations. The aquaculture operations would include the raising for sale of trout, bass, catfish, and other California Department of Fish and Game-approved species in the stockponds. Aquaculture sales would commence upon the completion of excavation of the nine-acre pond and the initiation of excavation of the 15-acre pond. Upon completion of the excavation of the 15-acre pond, aquaculture sales would begin in the 15-acre pond and would continue in the nine-acre pond. If flooding events result in the deposition of materials into either of the ponds while the ponds are operating pursuant to the Conditional Use Permit, aquaculture sales would be curtailed and mining operations would be reinitiated. Once the ponds are excavated to their approved depth, aquaculture sales would resume.

The aquaculture operations also would include the raising of mosquito fish (*Gambusia affinis*) in two, 1,100-gallon above-grade, self-contained vessels. The vessels would be located south of, and across Lockwood Valley Road from, the mining operations, approximately 100 yards east of an existing residence that is located on the same lot as the mining operations. The raising and sale of mosquito fish would commence upon approval of the proposed project.

Employment and Days and Hours of Operation

The mining operations would continue to be operated by three employees who function as equipment operators, office personnel, and shop and truck maintenance workers. The proposed aquaculture operations would include four new employees. Therefore, the proposed project would require a total maximum of seven employees for the mining and aquaculture operations.

The proposed days and hours of operation of the mining and aquaculture activities are shown in Table 1 (below); there would be no change to the days and hours of operation that are currently permitted pursuant to Conditional Use Permit Case No. CUP 5170-1. The mining and aquaculture activities would operate up to a maximum of 309 days per year. The proposed project also includes the restrictions on truck trips that are shown in Table 2 (below).

² See Footnote 1, above.

Table 1 - Days and Hours of Operation

Activity	Days of the Week	Hours of Operation
Processing (e.g., aggregate processing, diesel generator operation, use of water truck, and stockpond excavation during daylight hours)	Monday - Saturday	3:00 AM to 5:00 PM
Equipment Fueling and Maintenance	Monday - Sunday	3:00 AM to 10:00 PM
Truck Activity (loading, entrance, and exit)	Monday - Saturday	4:30 AM to 5:00 PM

Table 2 - Truck Travel Restrictions

Truck Travel Restriction	Days of the Week	Hours of Prohibition*
Prohibition on Project-Related Travel on State Route 33 between the end of the freeway at Casitas Springs and the City of Ojai at the intersection of State Route 150	Monday - Friday	6:30 AM to 9:00 AM (SB only)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-school days at Nordhoff HS: 3:30 PM to 6:30 PM (NB only) • School days at Nordhoff HS: 2:30 PM to 6:30 PM (NB only)
	Saturday	No route restrictions

* "SB" = southbound truck trips; "NB" = northbound truck trips; "HS" = High School.

Potentially Significant Impacts for Analysis in the EIR: The RMA-Planning Division determined that the proposed project has the potential to create significant, adverse impacts related to the following, which must be analyzed as part of the EIR:

- Transportation/circulation, due to impacts related to the level of service and safety hazards from project-generated traffic along SR 33;
- Hydraulic hazards/flooding, due to development activities within proximity to the Cuyama River;
- Noise, due to the exposure of noise-sensitive receptors to project-generated noise;
- Biological resources, due to potential impacts to: endangered, threatened, or rare species; wetland habitat; wildlife migration corridors; and, locally important species/communities;
- Glare, due to project-generated lighting;
- Visual resources, due to the project's proximity to Lockwood Valley Road (an eligible scenic highway) and impacts to a scenic area (Lockwood Valley) and scenic features (e.g., Cuyama River);
- Archaeology, due to potential impacts to subsurface resources;
- Air Quality, due to dust generation, as well as equipment and vehicular air emissions; and,
- Climate change, due to equipment and vehicular air emissions, and energy consumption.

Public Comment: The purpose of this notice is to inform you of the proposed project and request your assistance in identifying any issues that should be addressed in the EIR. Comments on the scope of analysis of the EIR must be submitted in writing no later than 30 days after receipt of this Notice of Preparation. Please send your comments to:

Ventura County Resource Management Agency, Planning Division
 Attn.: Dan Klemann, M.A., Senior Planner
 800 South Victoria Avenue, L#1740
 Ventura, CA 93009

Alternatively, you may send your comments to Mr. Klemann via email at daniel.klemann@ventura.org, or fax at (805) 654-2509.

Scoping Meeting: Pursuant to the *State CEQA Guidelines* [California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Chapter 3, §15082(c)(1), §15206(b)(5), and §15380], the proposed project is of statewide, regional, or area-wide significance and, therefore, the RMA-Planning Division will be conducting a scoping meeting for the EIR. A separate notice indicating the date, time, and location of the scoping meeting will be prepared; if you would like to receive a copy of the notice for the scoping meeting, please submit a written request to Mr. Klemann using the contact information provided above.



Los Padres

National Forest

Matilija Dam

Lake Casitas

QAI

CALIFORNIA 33

CALIFORNIA 150

CALIFORNIA 150

CALIFORNIA 33

LU04-0055/LU04-0072
APN: 002-0-140-075
Location Map



Disclaimer: this map was created by the Ventura County Resource Management Agency, Mapping Services - GIS, which is designed and operated solely for the convenience of the County and related public agencies. The County does not warrant the accuracy of this map and no decision involving a risk of economic loss or physical injury should be made in reliance therein



Ventura County
 Resource Management Agency
 GIS Development & Mapping Services
 Map created on 04/08/2009

