

COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE

TRANSPORTATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT AGENCY

George A. Johnson · Agency Director

Planning Department

Ron Goldman · Planning Director

Notice of Completion and Availability for Review Draft Environmental Impact Report No. 475 Liberty Quarry Surface Mining Permit No. 213

The County of Riverside, as the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) lead agency, is issuing notification of the completion and availability for review of Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) No. 475 that has been completed for the proposed Liberty Quarry Surface Mining Permit (SMP) No. 213. The State Clearinghouse Number is 20077061104.

Project Description: Granite Construction Company (Granite) is requesting a **Surface Mining Permit (SMP No. 213)** for the 414-acre Liberty Quarry site located in southwestern Riverside County. Applications for a **Change of Zone (No. 7508)** from Rural Residential (R-R) to Mineral Resources and Related Manufacturing (M-R-A) for 110 acres in the center of the site and a **Noise Ordinance Exception (No. 00002)** are part of the proposed project.

Granite proposes to develop and reclaim a new rock quarry that would ultimately have a footprint of approximately 155 acres and an access road of approximately ten acres. Associated with the quarry will be an aggregate processing facility, two hot-mix asphalt plants, a ready mix concrete plant, a concrete/asphalt recycling facility, administration and employee buildings, a maintenance facility with diesel, gas, and propane tanks, water tanks, natural gas fueled engines for electric power generation, water and gas lines, settling ponds, truck scales, and truck and equipment parking areas. Within the 414-acre site, approximately 70 acres to the west and 180 acres to the east will remain undisturbed and placed into conservation easements to act as buffers to the adjacent properties and to maintain the existing ridges to block views of the project.

The Project will also include construction of off-site water and natural gas pipelines to connect to existing pipelines, an on-site asphalt paved entrance road of approximately 5,570 feet in length, and an additional lane to the existing southbound off-ramp for the Rainbow Valley overpass to handle all traffic entering the site from the north.

The proposed maximum aggregate production during the project life will be five (5) million tons per year. It is anticipated that it will take approximately 10 years for the project to reach this level of materials' production due to construction of facilities and demand. The estimated total volume of the proposed quarry is over 270 million tons. Granite is requesting a 75-year land use permit for the quarry. Certain reclamation activities will be ongoing throughout the operational life of the quarry. At the conclusion of aggregate mining and production, a final phase will commence to implement reclamation activities per the proposed Reclamation Plan within the SMP. The proposed post-mining land use, or future land use, will be open space habitat.

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Project Location: The project site is located in the southern end of the Santa Ana Mountains in the Southwest Plan Area of unincorporated Riverside County, one mile south of the City of Temecula to the west of Interstate 15 (I-15), just north of the San Diego County line. Note that approximately 2.5 acres and the site access are located in San Diego County, north of the Community of Rainbow.

Potentially Significant Environmental Impacts: DEIR No. 475, prepared and circulated for public review on the Liberty Quarry Surface Mining Permit No. 213, Change of Zone No. 7508, and Noise Ordinance Exception NO. 00002, assessed potentially significant impacts related to the following issues: Aesthetics and Light, Air Quality, Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Geology and Soils, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Hydrology and Water Quality, Land Use and Planning, Mineral Resources, Noise, Traffic/Transportation, Utilities and Service Systems, and Vibration from blasting.

The DEIR determined that there would be no adverse impact to Mineral Resources and less than significant impacts with implementation of mitigation measures, design considerations and/or compliance with standard regulations for the following issue areas: Aesthetics and Light, Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Geology and Soils, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Hydrology and Water Quality, Land Use and Planning, Noise, Utilities and Service Systems, and Vibration.

Significant and Unavoidable Environmental Impacts: DEIR No. 475 determined that the proposed project would result in significant and unavoidable impacts to Air Quality and Traffic/Transportation, which cannot be mitigated to below a level of significance. In addition, the DEIR determined that the proposed project would contribute to cumulatively considerable and unavoidable impacts to Air Quality (criteria pollutants and greenhouse gases), Biological Resources (wildlife movement), Traffic/Transportation (funding and timing of road improvements), and Utilities (water supply), which cannot be mitigated to below a level of significance. As a result of the potential significant and unavoidable impacts, adoption of a Statement of Overriding Considerations will be required in order for the project to be approved.

Listed Toxic Site: The applicant has certified that the project site is not a listed toxic site pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5.

Where to Review DEIR No. 475 for Liberty Quarry:

1. Hard copies and CDs of DEIR No. 475 for Liberty Quarry and its Technical Appendices are available for review at the Riverside County Planning Department offices at 4080 Lemon Street, 9th Floor, Riverside, California, 92502. (951) 955-6863
2. The documents and the surface mining permit application are available for review on the Riverside County Planning website:
http://www.tlma.co.riverside.ca.us/planning/content/temp/liberty_quarry.html.
3. In addition, copies of the documents and CDs are available at the following libraries for public review:

City of Riverside Main Library

3581 Mission Inn Avenue, Riverside, California, 92501
(951) 826-5201

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(760) 863-8277 · Fax (760) 863-7555

University of California at Riverside, Tomas Rivera Library
950 University Avenue, Riverside, CA 92521
UCR Campus (south of bell tower)
(951) 827-3220

Temecula Public Library
30600 Pauba Road, Temecula, CA 92592
(951) 693-8900

Grace Mellman Community Library (Temecula County Center Library)
41000 County Center Drive, Temecula, CA 92591
(951) 296-3893

Murrieta Public Library
Eight Town Square, Murrieta, CA 92562
(951) 304-BOOK

Fallbrook Branch of the San Diego County Libraries
124 S. Mission Rd., Fallbrook, CA, 92028
(760) 728-2373

When to Send Comments on DEIR No. 475 for Liberty Quarry:

The Draft EIR is available for a **60-day** public review and comment period from **July 20, 2009 through September 18, 2009**. All comments on the DEIR must be submitted in writing or via e-mail to David L. Jones, Chief Engineering Geologist, Riverside County Planning Department at the mailing or email addresses provided below, no later than 5:00 P.M. on **September 18, 2009** to be included in the Final EIR, which will be presented to the hearing body. Mr. Jones can be contacted by telephone at (951) 955-6863, by fax at (951) 955-3157 or by e-mail at libertyquarry@rctlma.org. Notification of the hearing will be provided at a later date. The project name (Liberty Quarry) and number (DEIR No. 475) should be noted on all correspondence. The comments should indicate the section(s) of concern, and if the writer would like to be notified of public hearings, a mailing address to send future project notifications.

Where to Send Comments on DEIR No. 475 for Liberty Quarry:

All comments should be sent no later than September 18, 2009 to:

Riverside County Planning Department
Attention: David L. Jones
4080 Lemon Street, 9th Floor
P.O. Box 1409
Riverside, CA 92502-1409; or

E-mail to the following e-mail address: libertyquarry@rctlma.org.

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