

ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST FORM

1. Project Title: Azusa Rock Revised Conditional Use Permit & Reclamation Plan

2. Lead Agency Name and Address:

City of Azusa Department of Economic and Community Development Planning Division

213 E. Foothill Boulevard

Azusa, CA 91702

3. Contact Person and Phone Number: Conal McNamra, (626) 812-5299

4. Project Location: Northerly terminus of Encanto Parkway and Fish Canyon Road in the City of Azusa with a US

Postal address of 3901 Fish Canyon Road, Duarte, CA 91010-1600

5. Project Sponsor's Name and Address:

Vulcan Materials Company – Western Division

3200 San Fernando Road

Los Angeles, CA 90065

6. General Plan Designation: Open Space                      7. Zoning: Open Space (OS) classification zone

8. Surrounding Land Uses and Environmental Setting: (Briefly describe the project's surroundings.)

Angeles National Forest to the north, a privately-owned equestrian center to the southwest, and the San Gabriel River and the site of the former San Gabriel Valley Gun Club to the southeast. Residential development occurs 1.25 miles east of the site, and the 0.6 miles southwest of the site.

The Azusa Rock site is adjacent to and northwesterly of the San Gabriel River, and contiguous to the Angeles National Forest. The site is located at the northerly terminus of Encanto Parkway at Fish Canyon Road, northeasterly of the city limits of Duarte. Figure 1 depicts the regional location of the Azusa Rock site; Figure 2 illustrates the vicinity setting.

The Azusa Rock site contains both natural and modified landforms, the latter of which resulted from historic mining activities, physical improvements and ancillary uses necessary for mining, and for voluntary restoration of portions of Fish Creek. For purposes of convenience, and not representing any official designations, the Azusa Rock facility is apportioned into three areas: the West Side, Fish Creek, and the East Side (refer to Figure 3).

A variety of diverse land uses are located adjacent to and near the Azusa Rock site. Adjacent land uses include the Angeles National Forest to the north, a privately-owned equestrian center to the southwest, and the San Gabriel River and the site of the former San Gabriel Valley Gun Club to the southeast. The property of the former gun club is owned by the Project Applicant. Residential subdivisions located near the site include the Mountain Cove community approximately 1.25 miles to the east in the City of Azusa and the Brookridge Road Neighborhood in the City of Duarte approximately 0.6 miles to the southwest.

Major arterials near Azusa Rock include San Gabriel Canyon Road (SR-39) located approximately 0.8 miles to the east, Foothill Boulevard / Huntington Drive (Historic Route 66) 1.75 miles to the south, and the Foothill Freeway (I-210) approximately 2.5 miles to the south. There are no railroads or major utilities which exist on or near the subject property.

9. Description of Project: (Describe the whole action involved, including but not limited to later phases of the project, and any secondary, support, or off-site features necessary for its implementation. Attach additional sheet(s) if necessary.)

The proposed project includes an update to the existing conditional use permit (CUP) and reclamation plan to allow for: 1) state-of-the-art reclamation program to reshape, revegetate, and naturalize the appearance of the benches and terraces of the east and west quarry faces including microbenching, recontouring and revegetation with native species; 2) acceleration of reclamation activities for the east portion of the site; 3) mining and reclamation on the westernmost 80-acres of the site in lieu of the easternmost 80-acre site; 4) inclusion of the 80-acre western portion of the site in the reclamation plan; 5) increase the capacity of an on-site detention basin from approximately 1.1 acres to approximately 1.45 acres (basin depth to remain at its current elevation); and 6) relocation of the existing hiking trail from the western 80-acre portion of the site to a location allowing for a comparable or better trail. The total acreage of site disturbance under the proposed revisions to the CUP and reclamation plan is identical to the currently permitted area (190 acres).

The Azusa Rock Revised Conditional Use Permit & Reclamation Plan would allow Vulcan Materials Company to modify its operations and reclamation approach. To extract mineral resources from the most westerly 80 acres of the 270-acre property, discontinue further mining on the easterly acreage of the site, and alter the reclamation and revegetation approach. Reclamation of the east side of the existing mine would commence immediately upon approval. With approval of the Application, mining will cease at the east side of the quarry, but excavation and surface fracturing will be necessary to reduce the existing high walls into micro-benches as addressed in the reclamation plan.

Mining operations will be initiated on the west side of the quarry beginning at the top of the hill near the northwest corner of the property, moving southeasterly to a grade at or near elevation 770 feet mean sea level (msl). The aggregate resource and base materials will be extracted by conventional surface mining methods. The mining cycle will include the following basic actions: 1) Loosening of the rock by dozer units and/or drilling and blasting; 2) Loading of loosened rock into haul trucks by track-mounted and/or rubber-tired loading equipment; and, 3) Transportation of the quarried rock by haul trucks to a discharge point for feed to the primary crusher.

The mining procedure will remove overburden and rock to a specific depth and grade, but not fully deplete the resource (the depth and extent of economically valuable material exceeds the limits of this Application). The overburden will be conveyed off-site and used as fill material at other previously mined properties in the immediate region. The mined rock will be conveyed to the off-site processing facility in the City of Irwindale. The mining process will take the rock to a specific depth and angle, at which point the reclamation contouring and shaping will proceed prior to initiation of revegetation. Rock mined from the west side of the quarry will be reduced in size by a primary crusher located on a bench on the west side of the quarry. The material will be transported via conveyor across Fish Canyon to a scalping/secondary crushing plant. Here the materials from the primary crusher will be separated by size and/or quality, further reduced in size, and stored short-term in surge piles before being transported via the overland conveyor system to the off-site central processing facility. This proposed activity is consistent with current operations. However, as future mining progresses, it will be necessary to relocate the primary crushing station closer to the operating area for operational efficiency and to allow reclamation activities to commence within the previously completed mining sector.

Mining equipment will remain within any given bench area until all materials at those areas have been extracted. At any given bench, mining begins at a point that is the furthest distance from the final slope and progresses inward, toward the final slope. Most excavation of the resource on benches will be performed with conventional mining equipment until the material in that area is fully extracted. Once excavated, the resource material will be transported to the crushing station and conveyor systems. As the benches approach the planned elevations and configuration for the final slope, specialized equipment will assume the role of the excavation tools, to sculpt the final few feet of material from the bench. The final excavation contour will be accomplished by cutting and fracturing of the rock with specialized equipment.

Material processing that occurs on-site is limited to primary in-field rock crushing, sorting and screening. This crushing activity reduces the size of the material for placement on the material conveyor. Currently, the rock crushing equipment is located on the westerly portion of the canyon midway up-slope. Following primary crushing, the material gravity-feeds onto the material conveyor at the bottom of the material surge pile area and is conveyed off-site to VMC's Reliance Processing Plant, in the City of Irwindale. No production stockpiles are maintained long term on-site. Mined material is placed directly onto the conveyor system for transport to the processing facility. Figure 4 identifies

the location of the overland material conveyor in relation to the Azusa Rock Quarry and the Reliance Quarry.

Mining will still continue until 2038 as permitted, but the reclamation timeline will be accelerated to improve the aesthetic appeal of the site. The method of operation and transport of materials would remain as it currently exists. The transport of material would continue to be via the existing overland conveyor in-lieu of on-road haul trucks. The project does not propose an increase to mining tons or an extended mining period. Should the City of Azusa City Council deny approval of the proposed revised Conditional Use Permit and Reclamation Plan, Vulcan Materials Company/Azusa Rock, Inc. will continue implementation of the existing permitted mining and reclamation program. Denial of this application will reassert the existing entitlement (1988 Reclamation Plan) and will not result in a termination of VMC's current, permitted mining operation. The project does not propose mining more tonnage or mining for an extended period beyond what is currently permitted. This request is limited in scope to a change in the plan to create a less visible configuration and to provide an improved reclamation design for the impacted slopes.

10. Other public agencies whose approval is required (e.g., permits, financing approval, or participation agreement):
- City of Azusa – Conditional Use Permit, Reclamation Plan, Project Development Agreement, Financial Assurances / Reclamation Bonding;
  - Office of Mining and Reclamation (OMR) – Reclamation Plan, Financial Assurances/Reclamation Bonding;
  - United States Army Corp of Engineers (USACOE) – License to Operate – Overland Conveyor;
  - State Water Resources Control Board – National Pollution Prevention Elimination Systems (NPPES) Storm Water Permit;
  - South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) – Permit to Operate Air Pollution Control System;
  - California Department of Fish & Game (CDFG) – Streambed Alteration Agreement

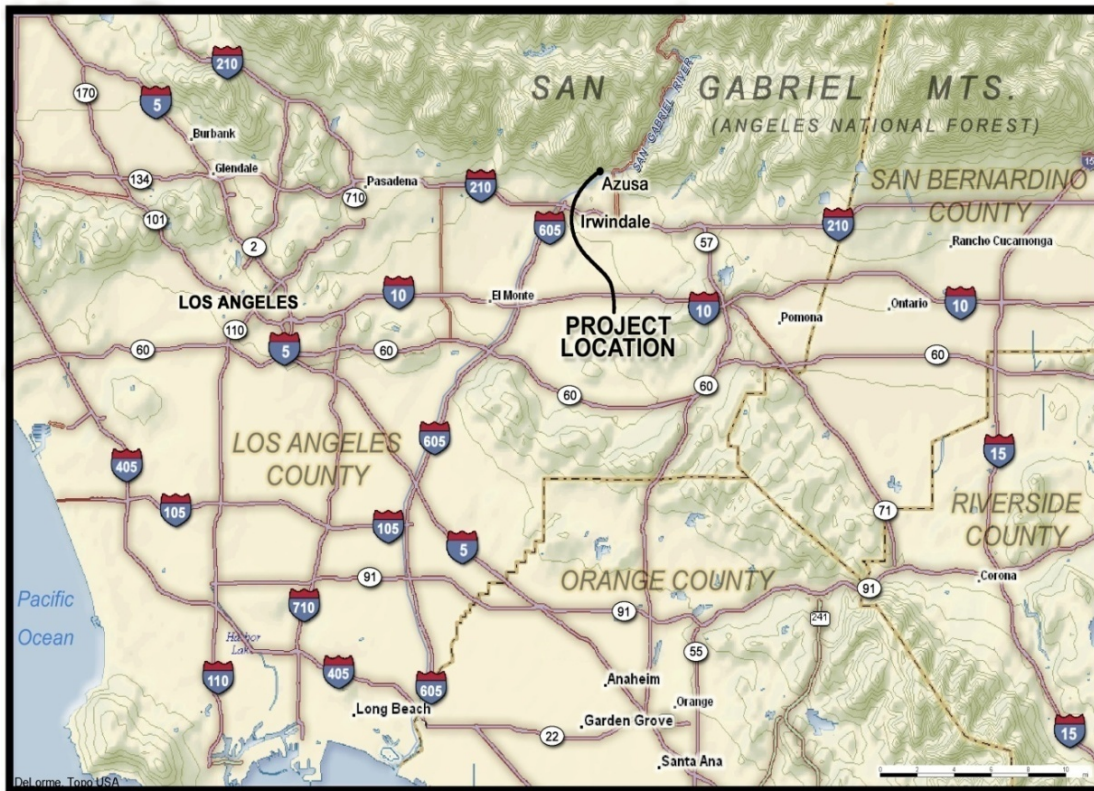


Figure 1 Regional Location of Azusa Rock Site

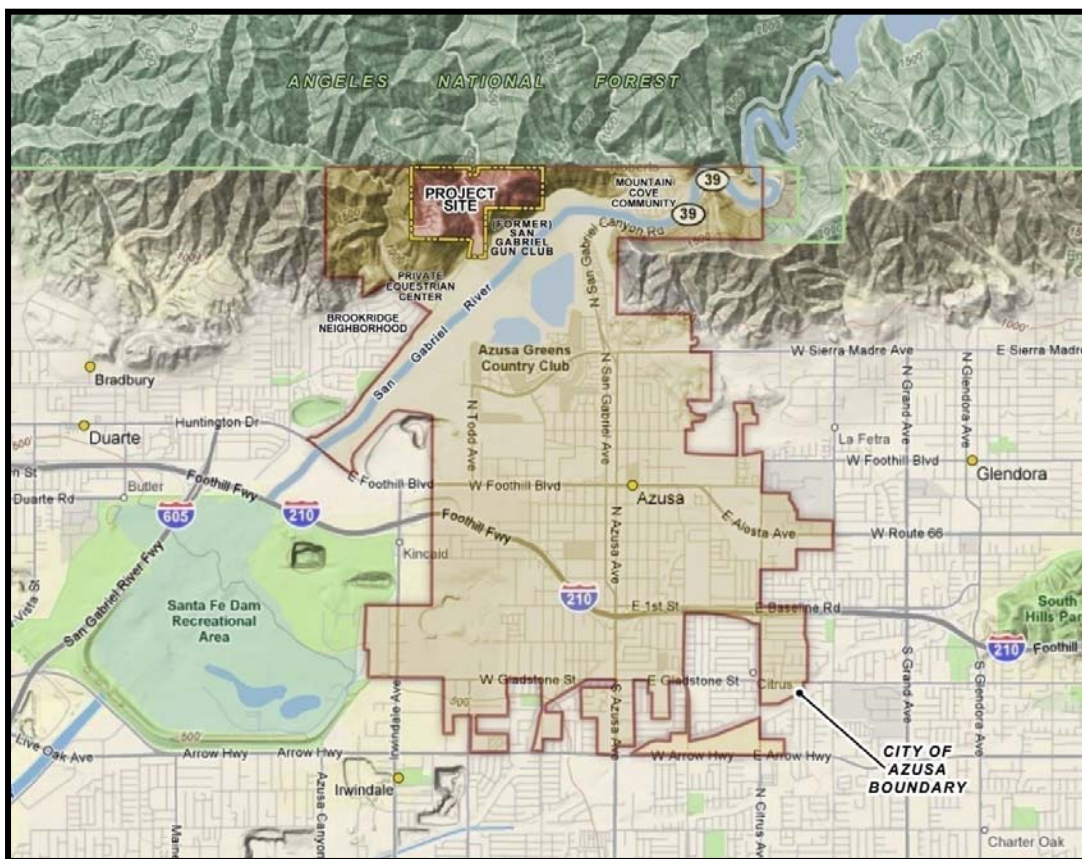


Figure 2 Project Vicinity Map



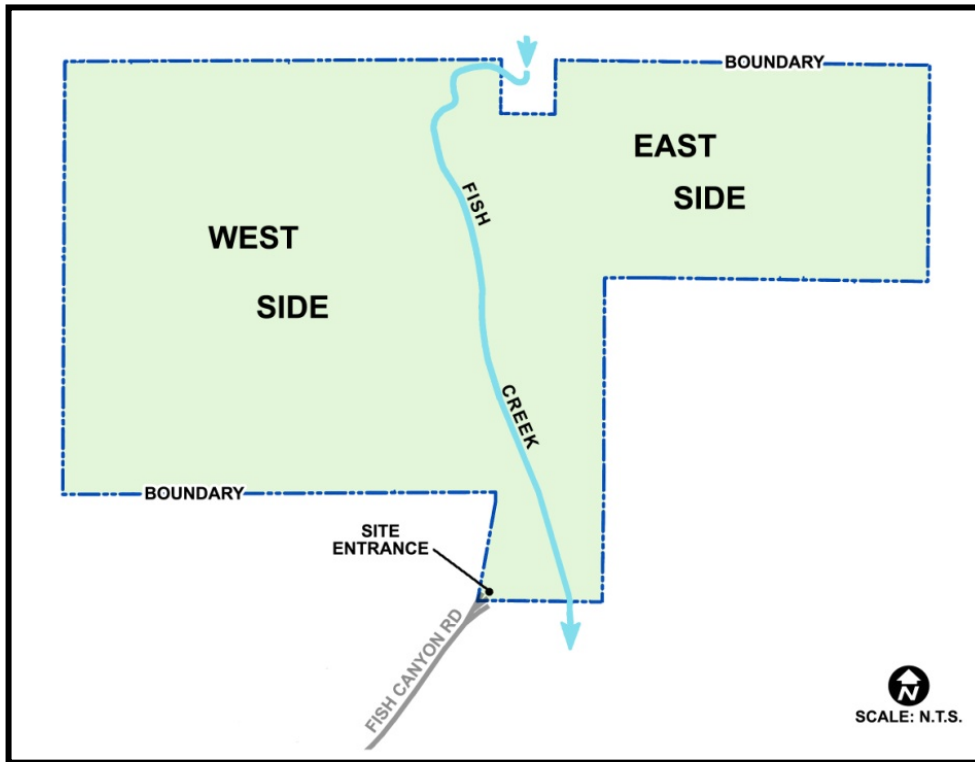


Figure 3 Azusa Rock East Side and West Side

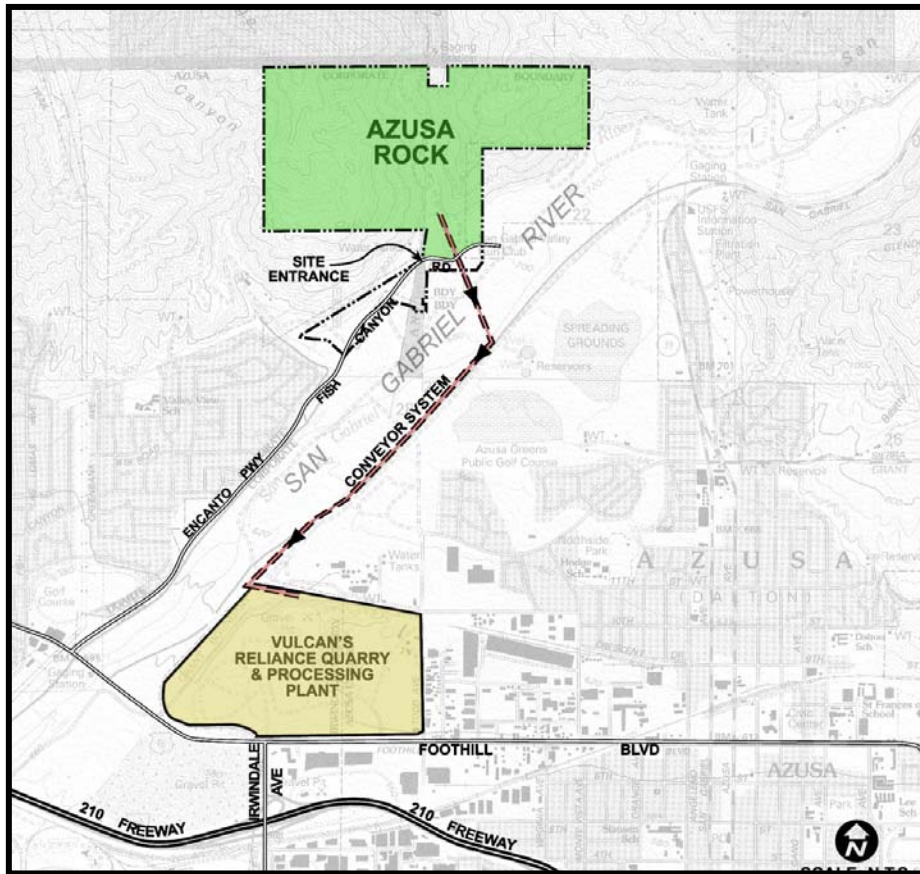


Figure 4 Material Conveyor System

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED:

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

- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Aesthetics                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture Resources                         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Air Quality              |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Biological Resources          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cultural Resources                 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Geology / Soils          |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hazards & Hazardous Materials | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hydrology / Water Quality          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Land Use / Planning      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mineral Resources                        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Noise                              | <input type="checkbox"/> Population / Housing                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public Services                          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Recreation                         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation / Traffic |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Utilities / Service Systems   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mandatory Findings of Significance |  |

DETERMINATION (To be completed by the Lead Agency):

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

- I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- I find that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.
- I find that the proposed project MAY have a "potentially significant" or "potentially significant unless mitigated" impact on the environment, but at least one effect 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.
- I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
For

## EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS:

- 1) A brief explanation is required for all answers except "No Impact" answers that are adequately supported by the information sources a lead agency cites in the parentheses following each question. A "No Impact" answer is adequately supported if the referenced information sources show that the impact simply does not apply to projects like the one involved (e.g. the project falls outside a fault rupture zone). A "No Impact" answer should be explained where it is based on project-specific factors as well as general standards (e.g. the project will not expose sensitive receptors to pollutants, based on a project-specific screening analysis).
- 2) All answers must take account of the whole action involved, including off-site as well as on-site, cumulative as well as project-level, indirect as well as direct, and construction as well as operational impacts.
- 3) Once the lead agency has determined that a particular physical impact may occur, then the checklist answers must indicate whether the impact is potentially significant, less than significant with mitigation, or less than significant. "Potentially Significant Impact" is appropriate if there is substantial evidence that an effect is significant. If there are one or more "Potentially Significant Impact" entries when the determination is made, an EIR is required.
- 4) "Negative Declaration: Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated" applies where the incorporation of mitigation measures has reduced an effect from "Potentially Significant Impact" to a "Less than Significant Impact." The lead agency must describe the mitigation measures, and briefly explain how they reduce the effect to a less than significant level (mitigation measures from Section XVII, "Earlier Analyses," may be cross-referenced).
- 5) Earlier analyses may be used where, pursuant to the tiering, program EIR, or other CEQA process, an effect has been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR or negative declaration. Section 15063(c)(3)(D). In this case, a brief discussion should identify the following:
  - a) Earlier Analyses Used. Identify and state where they are available for review.
  - b) Impacts Adequately Addressed. Identify which effects from the above checklist were within the scope of and adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and state whether such effects were addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis.
  - c) Mitigation Measures. For effects that are "Less than Significant with Mitigation Measures Incorporated," describe the mitigation measures which were incorporated or refined from the earlier document and the extent to which they address site-specific conditions for the project.
- 6) Lead agencies are encouraged to incorporate into the checklist references to information sources for potential impacts (e.g. general plans, zoning ordinances). Reference to a previously prepared or outside document should, where appropriate, include a reference to the page or pages where the statement is substantiated.
- 7) Supporting Information Sources. A source list should be attached, and other sources used or individuals contacted should be cited in the discussion.
- 8) This is only a suggested form, and lead agencies are free to use different formats; however, lead agencies should normally address the questions from this checklist that are relevant to a project's environmental effects in whatever format is selected.
- 9) The explanation of each issue should identify:
  - a) the significance criteria or threshold, if any, used to evaluate each question; and
  - b) the mitigation measure identified, if any, to reduce the impact to less than significance.

Issues:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
I. AESTHETICS. Would the project:				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Discussion:

a-d) The current Azusa Rock Quarry Reclamation Plan approved in 1988 requires the operator to mine and reclaim exactly as has been done thus far using the traditional “step benching methods.” The end result of this previously approved “step benching” method is a slope face that does not resemble the original pre-mining contours, that contains continuous benches approximately 40 feet in height, and stands in stark contrast to the surrounding unmined slopes; resulting in an artificial appearance. However, VMC has developed a proposed alternative reclamation approach that will result in a more naturalized visual appearance upon completion of the process. The proposed project would include state-of-the-art micro-benching techniques that, when completed, would result in reclaimed slopes with drainage contours similar in appearance to the original slope and vegetation that obscures the contouring necessary for slope stability. The micro-benching technique would create landforms that do not contrast as sharply as the step benching technique with surrounding, unmined slopes.

Potential long-term visual impacts of the existing (permitted) and proposed (amended) conditions of the Azusa Rock Quarry will be compared and analyzed within the EIR.



Issues:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<p>II. AGRICULTURE RESOURCES. In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Dept. of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. Would the project:</p> <p>a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?</p> <p>b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?</p> <p>c) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>

Discussion:

a-c) Quarry operations have been on-going within the San Gabriel Canyon vicinity since the mid-1800's and at the Azusa Rock site since the 1920's. Following annexation of the Azusa Rock site and surrounding area into the City in November 1956, the Azusa City Council adopted Resolution 3546 that approved a Special Use permit for the 270-acre site and vested the right to mine the site. Therefore since the site has been mined for ninety years, the proposed project would not convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to a non-agricultural use, nor would the project conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract, or involve other changes in the existing environment which could result in conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use. No impacts would result.

Issues:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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III. AIR QUALITY. Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:

- |  |                                     |                          |                          |                          |
|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is nonattainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)? | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| e) Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Discussion:

a-e) Vulcan proposes to mine the western portion of the Azusa Rock Quarry including 80 acres of land designated as "Future Mining" in the existing Reclamation Plan. The project will also forgo quarrying of the existing east side reserves and amend the reclamation plan to utilize micro benching to enhance the visual quality of the final reclaimed slopes.

The proposed project would result in a change in a new mining area and a change in reclamation activities both which could result in air quality impacts. An Air Quality and Climate Change Impact Assessment was prepared for the project and includes regulatory review, emission calculations, air dispersion modeling, potential mitigation strategies, and significance considerations for air quality and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions impacts associated with proposed changes to the quarrying and reclamation activities at the site. Potential impacts and any necessary mitigation measures will be discussed in detail in the EIR.

Issues:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES. Would the project:				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Discussion:

- a-f) The project site is located adjacent to and northwest of the San Gabriel River, is contiguous with the Angeles National Forest and includes a portion of Fish Creek. Biological reconnaissance surveys were conducted at the site in 2007 and 2008, and rare plant surveys, southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*) surveys, and least Bell's vireo (*Vireo pusillus bellii*) surveys were conducted during the spring/summer of 2008. The survey areas included the 80-acres on the west side of the quarry site, the previously mined slopes and the remaining mountainous areas located east of the mined slope, and the bottom of the canyon, which includes the disturbed quarry site and Fish Creek. The purpose of the reconnaissance survey was to identify the plant communities within each of the areas that were surveyed and to determine whether or not any threatened, endangered, or sensitive plant or wildlife species were present or have a potential to occur within the project site.

The project includes mining and reclamation on the westernmost 80-acres of the site in lieu of the easternmost 80-acre site. Because the use of the west side would be for mining of aggregate materials, most of the area will be disturbed. Impacts to biological resources are considered potentially significant. The results of the biological reconnaissance surveys, potential impacts to biological resources, and any recommended mitigation measures will be discussed in the EIR.

Issues:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
V. CULTURAL RESOURCES. Would the project:				
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in § 15064.5?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to § 15064.5?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Discussion:

- a-c): Since the project involves mining in an 80-acre undisturbed portion of the 270-acre site, potentially significant impacts to cultural resources could result. In February 2009, ECORP Consulting, Inc performed a site-specific cultural resource assessment for the 80-acre area to address potential impacts to cultural resource. The archaeological sensitivity of the project

area is believed to be low; however, the results of the assessment, potential impacts, and the requirement for any mitigation measures will be discussed in the EIR.

Issues:		Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
VI.	GEOLOGY AND SOILS. Would the project:				
a)	Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury or death involving:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
i)	Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ii)	Strong seismic ground shaking?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iii)	Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iv)	Landslides?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b)	Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c)	Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d)	Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18 1 B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e)	Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

## Discussion:

- a) The site is adjacent to and northwest of the San Gabriel River and south of and adjacent to the Angeles National Forest. The major natural drainage feature in the quarry site is Fish Creek (Fish Canyon), which passes north-south through the center of the 270-acre site. The site is located along the Sierra Madre fault zone. The Sierra Madre fault is a complex system comprising several subparallel branches. It extends from the San Fernando Valley region (Sylmar area) to approximately 1,500 feet south of the Site area and merges with the Cucamonga fault to the east, which extends to the San Jacinto/San Andreas fault system near San Bernardino. The central part of the Sierra Madre fault along the north side of the San Gabriel Valley has not ruptured the surface in historical times, but the westerly part of the fault was the source of the 1971 San Fernando earthquake. Although the fault is not identified as an active fault or an Earthquake Fault Zone (Alquist-Priolo Zone) by the California Geological Survey, there is ample geomorphic and stratigraphic evidence that the feature should be considered a seismic source capable of large surface ruptures and about a 7.5 magnitude earthquake (Rubin et al, 1998).
- i): There are no known exposed earthquake faults at the Site and therefore no evidence of potential direct impact on the Site by surface rupture. The risk of surface rupture will not be increased by mining or reclamation operations at the Site. No impact would result.
- ii-iv): A number of faults could affect the site indirectly by subjecting the site to strong ground motion which could cause landsliding or liquefaction. Under seismic shaking from a large (magnitude of 7 or more) nearby earthquake, the proposed final reclaimed slopes would be subject to failure potentials similar to the steep natural slopes in the surrounding area of the San Gabriel Mountains. Detailed discussions of potential impacts and any mitigation measures will be presented in the EIR.
- b) Unvegetated slopes may be a source of erosion that could cause adverse effects. To mitigate the potentially adverse effects of erosion, the revised conditional use permit and reclamation plan includes proposed hydroseeding of the microbenched hillsides with a mix of native plant species. If revegetation is adequate, the vegetation will decrease the potential for erosion relative to bare surfaces. Additionally, the locally flat surfaces created by this technique will act to decrease erosion as a soil layer is developed by the introduced vegetation. The revised conditional use and reclamation plan is not expected to result in substantial erosion or loss of topsoil. Potential impacts are considered less than significant.
- c) The low-lying area within the flood plain of the San Gabriel River, south of the site, is susceptible to liquefaction during an earthquake. Fish Canyon is also mapped to be susceptible to liquefaction. The mapped designations appear to be based on the assumption that these sediments are loose sands or silts and saturated with water. Although the materials in Fish Canyon are loose locally, they are primarily coarse-grained sand and gravel with local lenses of finer grained sands. Coarse materials such as those at the project site are not highly susceptible to liquefaction, though liquefaction could potentially occur locally in the finer grained lenses. In any case, the areas of potential liquefaction are small in size and no permanent man-made facilities are planned in these areas. Liquefaction occurring in an open space is unlikely to damage man-made structures. Potential impacts are considered less than significant.



- d) The site is not located on expansive soils as defined by Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), and no permanent structures will be left on the site when reclamation is complete. Accordingly, no substantial risk to life or property related to expansive soil or structure failure induced by seismic activity would be created. No impacts would result.
- e) The site will be left as open space without any sewage or water facilities at the completion of reclamation. Septic tanks or sewer connections are not proposed and therefore, no significant impact with regard to wastewater disposal would result.

Issues:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<b>VII. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS. Would the project:</b>				
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Issues:		Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
f)	For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
g)	Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
h)	Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
i)	Result in significantly adverse safety issues?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Discussion:

a-b) The proposed project includes an update to the existing CUP and reclamation plan. The amendment to the reclamation plan will include the creation of a naturalized landform (microbenched, recontoured and revegetated with native plant species) out of the west and east quarry faces, accelerating the time scale for beginning reclamation activities, and inclusion of the currently un-mined 80 acres (western portion of the site) in the reclamation plan. The total acreage of site disturbance under the proposed revisions to the CUP and reclamation plan is identical to the currently permitted area (190 acres), but mining and reclamation will occur on the westernmost 80 acres of the site in lieu of the easternmost 80 acres. Mining is still projected to continue until 2038, but the reclamation timeline will be accelerated to lessen the aesthetic impact of the reclaimed site.

The method of operation and transport of materials would remain as it currently exists. The transport of material would continue to be via the existing overland conveyor in-lieu of on-road haul trucks. The project does not propose an increase in the tonnage to be mined, or an extended mining period. The project does not include the routine transport, use or disposal of hazardous material. No increase in the rate of production proposed would require additional equipment.

c) The proposed project does not represent an increase in the rate of excavation at the mine site or in production at the plant. Excavation and processing activities do not use or generate hazardous materials or substances, therefore continued operations at the site would not exacerbate an existing condition. Also, the site is not located within ¼-mile of a school. No planned schools are known in the vicinity. The nearest school to the site is Valley View

Elementary located at 237 Mel Canyon Rd, Duarte, approximately one-mile southwest of the site. Therefore proposed updates to the existing CUP and reclamation plan would not emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within 1/4-mile of an existing or proposed school. No impacts would result.

- d) The site is not listed as a hazardous materials site compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would not create a significant hazard to the public or the environment. No impacts would result.
- e-f) The site is not located within an airport land use plan or within two miles of a public airport or public use airport. The nearest airport to the site is the El Monte Airport located at 4233 Santa Anita Avenue approximately eight miles southwest of the site. The proposed updates to the existing CUP and reclamation plan would not result in an airport safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area. No impacts would result.
- g) The method of operation and transport of materials would remain as it currently exists. The transport of material would continue to be via the existing overland conveyor in-lieu of on-road haul trucks, and no new access points are proposed. However new access roads will be required to service the western portion of the site. Potential impacts to the interference with the implementation of an emergency response or evacuation plan shall be discussed within the EIR.
- h) Since the proposed project includes a shift in mining location into an area that is relatively undisturbed and vegetated, the potential for wildland fires is greater; however impacts are not considered significant.
- i) Surface mining involves activities that can result in potential safety issues. Potential impacts will be discussed in the EIR.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Issues:				

VIII. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY.  
Would the project:

- a) During project construction, will it create or contribute runoff water that would violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements, including the terms of the City's municipal separate stormwater sewer system permit?
 

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Issues:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
b) After the project is completed, will it create or contribute runoff water that would violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements, including the terms of the City's municipal separate stormwater sewer system permit?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff from delivery areas; loading docks; other areas where materials are stored, vehicles or equipment are fueled or maintained, waste is handled, or hazardous materials are handled or delivered; other outdoor work areas; or other sources?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Discharge stormwater so that one or more beneficial uses of receiving waters or areas that provide water quality benefit are impaired? Beneficial uses include commercial and sportfishing; shellfish harvesting; provision of freshwater, estuarine, wetland, marine, wildlife or biological habitat; water contact or non-contact recreation; municipal and domestic supply; agricultural supply; and groundwater recharge.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Discharge stormwater so that significant harm is caused to the biological integrity of waterways or water bodies?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g) Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Issues:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
h) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
i) Significantly increase erosion, either on or off-site?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
j) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
k) Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned storm water drainage systems?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
l) Significantly alter the flow velocity or volume of stormwater runoff in a manner that results in environmental harm?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
m) Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
n) Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
o) Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures which would impede or redirect flood flows?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
p) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
q) Expose people or structures to inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Discussion:

- a-b) The site currently operates under an National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit issued by the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (LARWQCB) and is compliant with applicable water quality standards and discharge requirements. Though the site currently detains all storm water in an on-site detention basin, the NPDES permit allows for discharge if the quality of the water is equal to or better than the water quality of Fish Creek as measured by a suite of parameters including sediment load. Water runoff from the mined slopes prior to reclamation will continue to be detained in on-site basins.

The water runoff from the final mine configuration could substantially degrade water quality if bare or unvegetated slopes were a source of abnormal erosion and sediment discharge. To mitigate the potentially adverse effects of abnormal erosion of bare slopes, the project includes microbenching and a plan to revegetate by hydroseeding to prevent the adverse effects of eroding bare soil on surface water quality. After reclamation, water runoff will be allowed to flow directly into Fish Creek.

In summary, no potentially significant impacts on water resources as defined by CEQA are expected to result from the implementation of the amended conditional use permit and reclamation plan at the Azusa Rock Quarry. A Water Resources Impact Analysis was prepared for the proposed project, and concluded that site storm water detention capacity should be expanded to contain at least the 20-year/1-hour storm runoff from 160 acres to avoid potential impacts to water quality of the San Gabriel River. Therefore the project includes an increase in capacity of the existing on-site detention basin from approximately 1.1 acres to approximately 1.45 acres. Potential impacts to water quality will be further discussed in the EIR.

- d-e) All site runoff is currently contained in an on-site detention basin and isolated from Fish Creek. This drainage system will continue throughout the period of active mining and reclamation. Potential impacts to the impairment of receiving waters and the biological integrity of any waterways or water bodies shall be discussed in the EIR.
- c,f) The site currently operates under a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) general permit for discharges of storm water associated with industrial activities (Industrial Storm Water General Permit Order 97-03-DWQ) as issued by the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (LARWQCB) A Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) was developed for the Site and was most recently updated in February 2005. The SWPPP describes and dictates management practices to prevent contaminants from entering storm water discharge and prevent unauthorized non-storm water discharges. Accordingly, storm water discharges to any surface or groundwater shall not cause or contribute to exceeding any applicable water quality objectives or standards contained in a Statewide Water Quality Control Plan, the California Toxics Rule, or the applicable RWQCB's basin plan.

Though currently the site detains all storm water rather than discharging, the NPDES permit allows for discharge if the quality of the water to be discharged is equal to or better than the water quality of Fish Creek as measured by a suite of parameters including sediment load. Water runoff from the mined slopes prior to reclamation will continue to be detained in on-



site basins. The water runoff from the final mine configuration could substantially degrade water quality if bare or unvegetated slopes were a source of abnormal erosion and sediment discharge. To mitigate the potentially adverse effects of abnormal erosion of bare slopes, the plan includes microbenching and a plan to revegetate by hydroseeding to prevent the adverse effects of bare soil on surface water runoff. Potential impacts to water quality as a result of microbenching shall be discussed in the EIR.

- g) No groundwater is used during mining operations. Though current operations do not deplete groundwater in any way, use of the on-site settling basin to detain storm water can replenish the groundwater table via percolation. After mining is completed under the proposed plan amendment, the site will be revegetated and left as open space. Since groundwater is not used during mining operations, and since it will not be used during or after reclamation is completed; neither the groundwater supply, volume or the groundwater level will be depleted or lowered. The project will not result in a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level. However, potential impacts to groundwater quality with relation to the effects of mining activities within the western portion of the site shall be discussed within the EIR.
- h-j) All site runoff is currently contained in an on-site settling basin and is isolated from Fish Creek. This drainage system will continue throughout the period of active mining and reclamation; thus, site conditions during active mining and reclamation do not have the potential to cause or contribute to erosion or siltation, or to off-site flooding. However, the potential for on-site flooding contributing to erosion/siltation during mining and reclamation operations shall be discussed in the EIR.
- k-m) The Water Resource Impact Analysis prepared for the site identified that site storm water detention capacity should be expanded to contain at least the 20-year/1-hour storm runoff to avoid potentially affecting the San Gabriel River water quality during storm events for the duration of active site operations. Therefore the existing site storm water detention capacity would be increased from 9.8 acre feet to at least 12 acre feet. Potential impacts to storm water capacity, changes in flow velocity/volume and potential effects to water quality shall be discussed in the EIR.
- n) Areas located within a 100-year flood boundary are referred to as Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHAs) and are identified on the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Insurance Rate Maps. A 100-year flood is a flood level with a one percent chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year. The SFHA 100-year flood plan for the area is located along the San Gabriel River. The site location is unmapped, but a FEMA Flood Insurance Map exists for the eastern adjoining parcel, and it appears that the site property boundary is outside of the 100-year flood plain. Since no housing currently exists or is proposed on-site, the project would not place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area, and no significant impacts from flood events would result.
- o) The project does not include the construction of any new structures on-site. The southernmost area of the site contains temporary office buildings. A review of flood maps and the area's potential to redirect flood flows shall be discussed in the EIR.
- p) The San Gabriel River has three dams upstream of the site that could potentially impact the southernmost part of the site: these include: the San Gabriel Dam, Cogswell Dam, and Morris Dam. The Cogswell Dam is on the west fork of San Gabriel Canyon, approximately

15 miles upstream of the site; the San Gabriel Dam is approximately seven miles upstream of the site; and the Morris Dam is approximately one mile upstream from the site.

If a catastrophic failure of one or all of the dams were to occur, only the southernmost portion of the site would be affected due to its relatively low elevation (~750 feet above mean sea level). This elevation is higher than most of the geographic area of the nearby cities of Azusa and Duarte. Potential impacts shall be discussed within the EIR.

- q) A mudflow is a mixture of water and soil that flows down a hillside, forming a river of mud, and is typically caused by heavy rainfall and/or seismic events. During active mining there is minimal soil available on the bare rock surface to create a mudflow. Proposed revisions to the conditional use permit and reclamation plan would allow reclamation to progress at higher elevations in conjunction with mining at lower elevations, and ultimately reintroducing native vegetation to the reclaimed mine slopes and contouring slopes to encourage natural drainage patterns. These measures are expected to reduce the risk of mudflows at the site. Existing measures in place that protect site structures and personnel from rockfall will also protect from mudflows for the duration of operations at the site. Therefore, potential impacts associated with mudflows are considered less than significant.

Issues:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<b>IX. LAND USE AND PLANNING. Would the project:</b>				
a) Physically divide an established community?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**Discussion:**

- a): The project site is currently mined and there are no developed communities on the site. There are established communities located along the southern perimeter of the site (Azusa and Duarte). However, continued mining and reclamation of the site would not have the potential to physically divide these communities. Therefore, no impact would occur.

- b): To assess potential conflicts with applicable land use plans, policies and regulations, a detailed review has been conducted for the plans, policies and regulations for the jurisdictions surrounding the project site. Potential conflicts with goals and policies identified in these various plans and regulations will be discussed further in the EIR.
- c): The project site is not within the boundaries of a habitat conservation plan or a natural community conservation plan. Therefore, there would be no impact.

Issues:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
X. MINERAL RESOURCES. Would the project:				
a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Discussion:

- a-b) The State’s Guidelines for Classification and Designation of Mineral Lands help implement SMARA by providing the State Geologist with direction in carrying out mineral resource classification of lands in California that are threatened by uses that will be incompatible with, or will preclude quarrying. In addition, these guidelines describe how the State Mining and Geology Board (SMGB) may elect to designate mineral-bearing areas of statewide or regional significance.

Classification is the process of identifying lands containing significant mineral deposits. Designation is the formal recognition by the SMGB, after consultation with lead agencies and other interested parties, of areas containing mineral deposits of regional or statewide significance. The objective of classification and designation processes is to ensure, through appropriate lead agency policies and procedures, that mineral deposits of statewide or of regional significance are available when needed. Classification is completed by the State Geologist in accordance with the SMGB’s priority list, into Mineral Resource Zones (MRZ). Classification is based on geologic and economic factors without regard to existing land use and land ownership. Within the classifications, “MRZ-2” is defined as areas that contain identified mineral resources.

The California Department of Conservation Division of Mines and Geology has classified the Project area as MRZ-2 (source: Open File Report 94-14: Update of Mineral Land Classification of Portland Cement Concrete Aggregate in Ventura, Los Angeles, and Orange

Counties, California, Part II – Los Angeles County. Miller, R.V., 1994). Areas to be considered for designation by the SMBG contain one or more deposits believed to be of statewide or regional significance. Classification of a mineral deposit as MRZ-2 by the State Geologist will constitute adequate evidence that an area contains significant mineral deposits. Other data, such as the significance of the deposit to the State or the region and the imminence of any threatened land use changes that would be incompatible with mineral extraction are also considered in the designation of the site. The Project is classified MRZ-2 as shown on Plate 2 – Mineral Land Classification of the Azusa Rock, Inc. Fish Canyon Quarry Property for PCC Aggregate and Base Aggregate (OFR 94-14).

Existing and proposed project alterations will continue to supply aggregate and related construction materials to the San Fernando, San Gabriel, and Temescal Valley (Orange County production-consumption areas). Therefore, the proposed project would not result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state. Potential adverse impacts to significant mineral deposits would not result.

Issues:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XI. NOISE. Would the project result in:				
a) Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Issues:		Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
e)	For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f)	For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**Discussion:**

- a-d) A Noise Impact Analysis and vibration study was prepared for the proposed amendment to the existing CUP and reclamation plan to allow for shifting of mining operations into an 80-acre parcel west of the current mining operations. In turn, mining operations on the easternmost portion of the 270-acre parcel will cease and the reclamation plan for that portion of the parcel will be implemented. Potential impacts to surrounding land uses from noise and vibration that would derive from a gradual westward shift of mining and blasting required to fracture the hard rock found in the formation, would result. These potential impacts and any necessary mitigation measures will be discussed in detail in the EIR.
- e-f) The site is not located within an airport land use plan or within two miles of a public airport or public use airport. The nearest airport is the El Monte Airport located at 4233 Santa Anita Avenue in El Monte approximately eight miles southwest of the site. The proposed updates to the existing CUP and reclamation plan would not introduce new sensitive receptors to the area that would be affected by airport noise. No impacts would result.

Issues:		Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XII.	POPULATION AND HOUSING. Would the project:				
a)	Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of road or other infrastructure)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b)	Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c)	Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Discussion:

- a) The revised CUP and reclamation plan for Azusa Rock will have no impact on population growth either directly or indirectly. The proposed project does not include new housing or business that would induce population growth in the area. The proposed project would not include demolition of homes or the construction of new homes, and would not modify existing infrastructures. The Azusa Rock operations have historically employed 15 full-time on-site employees for its operations. The number of employees required to operate will not change upon implementation of the revised CUP and reclamation plan. No new public infrastructure (e.g. water, sewer, roads) is required that would promote population growth in the area. No impacts would result.
  
- b-c) The proposed project would occur on an existing mine site that currently does not have residential units on it, and would not require the displacement of existing people or housing, or require the construction of replacement housing elsewhere. No impacts would result.



	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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Issues:

XIII. PUBLIC SERVICES. Would the project:

a)	Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Fire protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Police protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Schools?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Parks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Other public facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

- a) The proposed project includes an update to the existing conditional use permit (CUP) and reclamation plan to allow for: 1) microbenching, recontouring, and revegetation with native plant species to create a naturalized landform along the west and east quarry faces; 2) acceleration of reclamation activities for the east portion of the site; 3) mining and reclamation on the westernmost 80 acres of the site in lieu of the easternmost 80 acres of the site; and 4) inclusion of the 80-acre western portion of the site in the reclamation plan. No increase in the rate of production is proposed. No new jobs will be created that would increase the City's population requiring additional public services. Therefore, no impact would result.

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Issues:					
XIV.	RECREATION. Would the project:				
a)	Increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b)	Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Discussion:

a-b) The proposed project includes an update to the existing conditional use permit (CUP) and reclamation plan to allow for: 1) microbenching, recontouring, and revegetation with native plant species to create a naturalized landform along the west and east quarry faces; 2) acceleration of reclamation activities for the east portion of the site; 3) mining and reclamation on the westernmost 80 acres of the site in lieu of the easternmost 80 acres of the site; and 4) inclusion of the 80-acre western portion of the site in the reclamation plan. No increase in the rate of production is proposed. No new jobs will be created that would increase the City’s population requiring additional recreational area.

A hiking trail occurs on the westerly 80-acre portion of the project site. The easement was granted by Azusa Rock, Inc. to the City of Duarte in 1998 and recorded in 1999. The easement is a specifically-described alignment 20-feet in width. As permitted by the easement grant, Azusa Rock retains the right to relocate the trail anywhere on the Azusa Rock property at the sole expense and discretion of Azusa Rock, subject to the reconstruction of a comparable or better trail for the City of Duarte. Upon completion of any relocation of the trail, the existing easement will terminate and a new easement will be recorded. Approval of the revised CUP and Reclamation Plan application will result in the relocation and construction of a new trail of comparable or better quality for continued use by trail enthusiasts. Potential impacts to recreation shall be discussed in the EIR.

Issues:		Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XV.	TRANSPORTATION / TRAFFIC. Would the project:				
a)	Cause an increase in traffic which is substantial in relation to the existing traffic load and capacity of the street system (i.e., result in a substantial increase in either the number of vehicle trips, the volume to capacity ratio on roads, or congestion at intersections)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b)	Exceed, either individually or cumulatively, a level of service standard established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c)	Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d)	Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e)	Result in inadequate emergency access?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f)	Result in inadequate parking capacity?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
g)	Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation (e.g., bus turnouts, bicycle racks)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Discussion:

a-b) The method of operation and transport of materials would remain as it currently exists. The transport of material would continue to be via the existing overland conveyor in-lieu of on-road haul trucks. The project does not propose an increase to mining tons or an extended mining period. Although no impacts from an increase in traffic or an increase in either the number of vehicle trips is anticipated, existing traffic related to on-site procedures shall be discussed in the EIR.

- c) The site is not located within an airport land use plan or within two miles of a public airport or public use airport. The nearest airport to the site is the El Monte Airport located at 4233 Santa Anita Avenue approximately eight miles southwest of the site. The proposed updates to the existing CUP and reclamation plan would not result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks. No impacts would result.
- d) The existing method of operation and transport of materials would continue as it currently exists. The transport of material would continue to be via the existing overland conveyor in-lieu of on-road haul trucks. The project does not include changes to existing access points or haul routes. However, new access roads will be required for the proposed project. Potential impacts shall be discussed in the EIR.
- e) The proposed project will not result in an increase in the rate of production currently permitted at the plant. The existing method of operation and transport of materials would continue. The transport of material would continue to be via the existing overland conveyor in-lieu of on-road haul trucks, and no new access points are proposed. Therefore, the proposed project would not interfere with existing emergency access points. No impacts would result.
- f) The proposed project would not require new jobs. No additional parking would be required to support new employees. No impacts from inadequate on-site parking would result.
- g) The proposed update to the existing CUP and reclamation plan would not conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation (e.g., bus turnouts, bicycle racks). Operations at the site would continue in the same manner as permitted under the existing CUP and reclamation plan. No impacts to alternative transportation would result.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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Issues:

XVI. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS.

Would the project:

- |    |   |                                     |                          |                          |                          |
|----|---|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| a) | Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b) | Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects? | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Issues:		Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
c)	Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d)	Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed? In making this determination, the City shall consider whether the project is subject to the water supply assessment requirements of Water Code Section 10910, et. seq. (SB 610), and the requirements of Government Code Section 664737 (SB 221).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e)	Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f)	Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g)	Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Discussion:**

a-c,e) A Water Resources Impact Analysis was prepared for the proposed update to the existing CUP and reclamation plan. The report identified that site storm water detention capacity should be expanded to contain a 20-year/1-hour storm runoff. Therefore, on-site storm water detention facilities will be increased. The project site does not currently generate wastewater and the proposed amendment to the CUP and Reclamation Plan would not result in a need for wastewater treatment. A detailed discussion of the Water Resources Impact Analysis findings and mitigation measures will be included in the EIR.

d) The proposed project will not result in an increase in the rate of production currently permitted at the plant or an increase in employees. Water is used on-site for dust control

during mining operations, and is obtained from on-site wells. Production levels would not increase and therefore the project would not result in an increase in the demand for or use of water supplies or resources, or require new or expanded entitlements. A less than significant impact is anticipated and findings will be presented in the EIR.

- f-g) The proposed project includes an update to the existing conditional use permit (CUP) and reclamation plan to allow for: 1) state-of-the-art reclamation program to reshape, revegetate, and naturalize the appearance of the benches and terraces of the east and west quarry faces including microbenching, recontouring and revegetation with native species; 2) acceleration of reclamation activities for the east portion of the site; 3) mining and reclamation on the westernmost 80-acres of the site in lieu of the easternmost 80-acre site; 4) inclusion of the 80-acre western portion of the site in the reclamation plan; 5) increase the capacity of an on-site detention basin from approximately 1.1 acres to approximately 1.45 acres (basin depth to remain at its current elevation); and 6) relocation of the existing hiking trail from the western 80-acre portion of the site to a location allowing for a comparable or better trail. The proposed project will not result in an increase in the rate of production currently permitted at the plant or an increase in employees. Therefore the project would not result in a change to solid waste disposal needs, impacts to a landfill. On-site mining operations will continue to comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste. Potential impacts are considered less than significant. Existing and continued solid waste disposal needs shall be discussed within the EIR.

Issues:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<b>XVII. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE</b>				
a) Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Does the project have the potential to achieve short-term environmental goals to the disadvantage of long-term environmental goals?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Issues:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
c) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? (“Cumulatively considerable” means that the incremental effects of a project are significant when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects.)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Discussion:**

- a) The project site is located adjacent to and northwest of the San Gabriel River, is contiguous with the Angeles National Forest and includes a portion of Fish Creek. Biological reconnaissance surveys were conducted at the site in 2007 and 2008, and rare plant surveys, southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*) surveys, and least Bell’s vireo (*Vireo pusillus bellii*) surveys were conducted during the spring/summer of 2008. The survey areas included the 80 acres on the west side of the quarry site, the previously mined slopes and the remaining mountainous areas located east of the mined slope, and the bottom of the canyon, which includes the disturbed quarry site and Fish Creek. The purpose of the reconnaissance survey was to identify the plant communities within each of the areas that were surveyed and to determine whether or not any threatened, endangered, or sensitive plant or wildlife species were present or have a potential to occur within the project site.

The project includes mining and reclamation on the westernmost 80 acres of the site in lieu of the easternmost 80-acre portion of the site. Because the proposed use of the west side is primarily for mining of aggregate materials, most of the area will be disturbed. The proposed project has the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of fish and/or wildlife species. Impacts to biological resources will be discussed in the EIR.

Since the project involves mining in an 80-acre undisturbed portion of the 270-acre site, potentially significant impacts to cultural resources could result. The archaeological sensitivity of the project area is believed to be low; however, the results of a previously conducted resource assessment, potential impacts, and the requirement for any mitigation measures will be discussed in the EIR.

- b) This Initial Study has identified potentially significant impacts to biological, cultural, air quality, water quality, noise and utility service systems. Impacts to these identified resources could also be cumulative. Potentially significant cumulative effects will be discussed in the EIR.

- c) Potentially significant impacts to air quality and noise could cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly. Potential impacts and any necessary mitigation measures relating to adverse effects on humans will be discussed in detail in the EIR.
- d) Potential environmental effects of the project to air and water quality, noise, and geological issues, will be reviewed in the EIR. An analysis will be provided regarding substantial adverse effects on human beings, both directly and indirectly.



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