Appendix A: Public Scoping Process

Appendix A-1: Notice of Completion (NOC)

Print Form

Appendix C

Notice of Completion & Environmental Document Transmittal

Mail to: State Clearinghouse, P.O. Box 3044, Sacramento, CA 95812-3044 (916) 445-0613
For Hand Delivery/Street Address: 1400 Tenth Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

SCH #

Project Title: Sentinel and Butterfield Quarries Expansion

Lead Agency: County of San Bernardino
Contact Person: Jeremy Krout
Mailing Address: 385 N. Arrowhead Avenue
Phone: 949-450-0171 ext. 314
City: San Bernardino
Zip: 92415-0182
County: San Bernardino

Project Location: County: San Bernardino
City/Nearest Community: Lucerne Valley
Cross Streets: at southern end of Crystal Creek Road, north of 3N16 and Claudia/Cloudy Haul Road
Zip Code: 92356
Longitude/Latitude (degrees, minutes and seconds): 34 ° 19 ′ 49.3 ″ N / 116 ° 56 ′ 25.5 ″ W
Total Acres: 77.3 disturbance acres
Assessor's Parcel No.: 446-121-04, -06, -17
Section: 23,24,25 Twp.: 3N Range: 1W Base: SBBM
Within 2 Miles: State Hwy #: _____ Waterways: _____
Airports: _____ Railways: _____ Schools: _____

Document Type:

CEQA:
- [x] NOP
- [ ] Early Cons
- [ ] Neg Dec
- [ ] Mit Neg Dec
- [ ] Draft EIR
- [ ] Supplement/Subsequent EIR (Prior SCH No.) _____
- Other: _____

NEPA:
- [x] NOI
- [ ] EA
- [ ] Draft EIS
- [ ] FONSI

Other:
- [x] Joint Document
- [ ] Final Document
- [ ] Other: _____

Local Action Type:

- [ ] General Plan Update
- [ ] General Plan Amendment
- [ ] General Plan Element
- [ ] Community Plan
- [ ] Specific Plan
- [ ] Master Plan
- [ ] Planned Unit Development
- [ ] Site Plan
- [ ] Rezone
- [ ] Prezone
- [x] Use Permit
- [ ] Land Division (Subdivision, etc.)
- [ ] Annexation
- [ ] Redevelopment
- [ ] Coastal Permit
- [x] Other: _____

Development Type:

- [ ] Residential: Units _____ Acres _____
- [ ] Office: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____
- [ ] Commercial: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____
- [ ] Industrial: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____
- [ ] Educational: _____
- [ ] Recreational: _____
- [ ] Water Facilities: Type _____ MGD _____
- [ ] Transportation: Type _____
- [x] Mining: Mineral Limestone
- [ ] Power: Type _____ MW _____
- [ ] Waste Treatment: Type _____ MGD _____
- [ ] Hazardous Waste: Type _____
- [ ] Other: _____

Project Issues Discussed in Document:

- [x] Aesthetic/Visual
- [x] Agricultural Land
- [x] Air Quality
- [x] Archeological/Historical
- [x] Biological Resources
- [ ] Coastal Zone
- [x] Drainage/Absorption
- [ ] Economic/Jobs
- [ ] Fiscal
- [ ] Flood Plain/Flooding
- [x] Forest Land/Fire Hazard
- [x] Geologic/Seismic
- [ ] Minerals
- [x] Noise
- [ ] Population/Housing Balance
- [ ] Public Services/Facilities
- [ ] Recreation/Parks
- [ ] Schools/Universities
- [ ] Septic Systems
- [ ] Sewer Capacity
- [x] Soil Erosion/Compaction/Grading
- [ ] Solid Waste
- [x] Toxic/Hazardous
- [ ] Traffic/Circulation
- [x] Vegetation
- [x] Water Quality
- [ ] Water Supply/Groundwater
- [ ] Wetland/Riparian
- [ ] Growth Inducement
- [ ] Land Use
- [x] Cumulative Effects
- [x] Other: Greenhouse Gases

Present Land Use/Zoning/General Plan Designation:

General Plan Designation of Resource Conservation, and Resource Conservation Zone District

Project Description: *(please use a separate page if necessary)*

Proposed Amended Plan of Operations and Reclamation Plan for expansion of the existing Butterfield and Sentinel Limestone Quarries. The proposed project includes quarry and overburden stockpile expansions, increased operational years and production, additional internal access roads and ancillary facility areas, and adjustments to existing disturbance and permitted boundaries. The total existing permitted operational area is approximately 137.5 acres. This Amended Plan will add approximately 77.3 acres for a total project area of approximately 214.8 acres .

Note: The State Clearinghouse will assign identification numbers for all new projects. If a SCH number already exists for a project (e.g. Notice of Preparation or previous draft document) please fill in.

Reviewing Agencies Checklist

Lead Agencies may recommend State Clearinghouse distribution by marking agencies below with and "**X**".
If you have already sent your document to the agency please denote that with an "**S**".

X Air Resources Board
_____ Boating & Waterways, Department of
_____ California Emergency Management Agency
_____ California Highway Patrol
S Caltrans District # _____
_____ Caltrans Division of Aeronautics
_____ Caltrans Planning
_____ Central Valley Flood Protection Board
_____ Coachella Valley Mtns. Conservancy
_____ Coastal Commission
_____ Colorado River Board
S Conservation, Department of
_____ Corrections, Department of
_____ Delta Protection Commission
_____ Education, Department of
_____ Energy Commission
S Fish & Game Region # _____
_____ Food & Agriculture, Department of
X Forestry and Fire Protection, Department of
_____ General Services, Department of
_____ Health Services, Department of
_____ Housing & Community Development
S Native American Heritage Commission

_____ Office of Historic Preservation
_____ Office of Public School Construction
_____ Parks & Recreation, Department of
_____ Pesticide Regulation, Department of
_____ Public Utilities Commission
S Regional WQCB # _____
X Resources Agency
_____ Resources Recycling and Recovery, Department of
_____ S.F. Bay Conservation & Development Comm.
_____ San Gabriel & Lower L.A. Rivers & Mtns. Conservancy
_____ San Joaquin River Conservancy
_____ Santa Monica Mtns. Conservancy
_____ State Lands Commission
_____ SWRCB: Clean Water Grants
X SWRCB: Water Quality
_____ SWRCB: Water Rights
_____ Tahoe Regional Planning Agency
_____ Toxic Substances Control, Department of
_____ Water Resources, Department of

S Other: SANBAG
S Other: USDA Natural Resources Conservation District

Local Public Review Period (to be filled in by lead agency)

Starting Date March 1, 2013 Ending Date April 1, 2013

Lead Agency (Complete if applicable):

Consulting Firm: Sespe Consulting, Inc.
Address: 5920 Friars Road, Suite 103
City/State/Zip: San Diego, CA 92108
Contact: Maya Rohr
Phone: (619) 894-8669

Applicant: Omya California, a division of Omya Inc.
Address: 7225 Crystal Creek Road
City/State/Zip: Lucerne Valley, CA 92356
Phone: _____

Signature of Lead Agency Representative: signature on file **Date:** 02/22/2013

Authority cited: Section 21083, Public Resources Code. Reference: Section 21161, Public Resources Code.

Appendix A-2: Notice of Preparation (NOP)

County of San Bernardino

NOTICE OF PREPARATION

FROM: San Bernardino County Land Use Services Department
385 N. Arrowhead Avenue, First Floor, San Bernardino, CA 92415-0182

TO: Interested Agencies, Organizations, and Individuals

SUBJECT: Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report and Environmental Impact Statement

The County of San Bernardino (County) will be the Lead Agency pursuant to the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and will prepare a joint Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service (Forest Service), San Bernardino National Forest (SBNF) for the Sentinel and Butterfield Quarries Expansion Project (Project). The project description, location, and the probable environmental effects are described below.

Project Title: Sentinel and Butterfield Quarries Expansion Project (Project)

Project Applicant: Omya California, a division of Omya Inc.

Project Description: Omya California (Omya) has submitted the following:

- A Mining and Land Reclamation Plan Conditional Use Permit application submitted to the County of San Bernardino; and
- An Amended Plan of Operations and Reclamation Plan submitted to the Forest Service.

Combined, these applications propose the expansion of the existing Sentinel and Butterfield Quarries. The existing permitted Sentinel and Butterfield limestone quarries are located on mining claims within the SBNF. Known limestone ore resources, within the proposed quarry expansions, will add an additional 20 years life to the Sentinel Quarry, add an additional 40 years life to the Butterfield Quarry, and will allow mining at both quarries to be extended until 2055. Depending on market demand, the combined Sentinel and Butterfield Quarries average ore production rates will be approximately 680,000 tons per year compared to the 3-year average between 2004 – 2006 of approximately 378,000 tons per year. Reclamation will occur concurrently with mining. The proposed expansion includes 48.7 acres of disturbance at the Sentinel Quarry and 28.8 acres of disturbance at the Butterfield Quarry, for a total of 77.3 acres. Quarry development and expansion will be phased. Disturbance proposed for the Project includes expansion of existing Sentinel and Butterfield Quarries, expansion of existing associated overburden placement sites, additional internal access roads and ancillary facility areas, and adjustments to existing disturbance boundaries. There are no new quarries, haul roads or overburden sites in this plan, only the phased expanded development and reclamation of the existing Sentinel and Butterfield Quarries.

The complete proposed Amended Plan of Operations and Reclamation Plan are available for review on the County's and SBNF's websites:

http://cms.sbcounty.gov/lus/Planning/Environmental/NoticesDeterminations/Desert.aspx
http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/fs-usda-pop.php/?project=32613

Questions about the County's review of the Proposed Project and approval processes may be directed to:

Jeremy Krout or
Channary Leng
Consultant to:
San Bernardino County
Land Use Services Department
385 N. Arrowhead Avenue
San Bernardino, California 92415
(949) 450-0171 ext. 314
Email: jkrout@rgpcorp.com or
channary@rgpcorp.com

Signature: _____ **Date:** 02/22/2013
Jeremy Krout, Consultant to San Bernardino County

Introduction

Implementation of the Proposed Project will require discretionary approvals from Federal, State, and local agencies. Therefore, the Proposed Project is subject to the environmental review requirements under CEQA and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). To ensure coordination between the CEQA and NEPA processes, and to avoid duplication of effort, a joint EIR/EIS is being prepared, as recommended under CEQA Guidelines Section 15222 and 40 CFR 1506.25. The County will be the CEQA Lead Agency and the Forest Service will be the NEPA Lead Agency for the EIR/EIS. As Lead Agency for the CEQA process, the County has issued this Notice of Preparation (NOP). The Forest Service has issued a separate Notice of Intent (NOI), as required by NEPA.

This NOP provides a description of the Proposed Project and solicits comments on the scope and content of the environmental document being prepared to analyze the environmental impacts of the Proposed Project. Comments are hereby solicited from Federal, State, and local agencies, and the general public. Comments received in response to this NOP will be reviewed and considered in determining the scope of the EIR/EIS. The County requests that agency comments regarding the scope and content of the environmental document also be pertinent to that agency's statutory responsibilities in connection with the Proposed Project. Where applicable, it is recommended that agencies make use of the EIR/EIS prepared by the County when considering its permitting or other approvals related to the Project.

Commenters are asked to include their name, telephone number, address, and e-mail address (if applicable) in the event it is necessary to further clarify the comments offered. Agencies submitting comments are asked to provide the name, telephone number, and e-mail address of the agency's contact person. Please write *"Omya Butterfield and Sentinel Quarries Project*" in the subject line. Due to CEQA-defined time limits, comments should be sent at the earliest possible date, but no later than April 1, 2013. Please direct comments and questions related to the EIR/EIS to:

Maya Rohr
Sespe Consulting, Inc.
5920 Friars Road, Suite 103
San Diego, CA 92108
Phone: 619.894.8669
FAX: 805.667.8104
Email: mrohr@sespeconsulting.com

Project Description

Setting. The Proposed Project site is located approximately 7.5 miles south of the community of Lucerne Valley and 5 miles north of Big Bear Lake within the SBNF in San Bernardino County, California and is accessed by the vested Crystal Creek Haul Road. The Proposed Project area is located within portions of Sections 23, 24, and 25 Township 3 North, Range 1 West, SBBM. The Butterfield and Sentinel Quarries are located entirely within portions of approximately 954 acres of unpatented placer claims controlled by Omya located on public land administered by the Forest Service. These claims include Crystal Creek 1, 2, 4, 13 and 14, Slope North and King 3.

Introduction. The proposed expansion includes 48.7 acres of disturbance at the Sentinel Quarry and 28.8 acres of disturbance at the Butterfield Quarry for a total of 77.3 acres. Disturbance proposed for

this project includes expansion of existing Sentinel and Butterfield Quarries, expansion of existing associated overburden placement sites, additional internal access roads and ancillary facility areas, and minor adjustments to existing disturbance boundaries. Reclamation for the inactive Cloudy and Claudia quarries and their associated overburden stockpiles, and haul roads on USFS lands, including reclamation of the Crystal Creek Haul Road, are covered in the 1994 approved Reclamation Plan and incorporated into the proposed Amended Plan of Operations and Reclamation Plan. There are no changes to these sites with the exception of extending the years of use of the Crystal Creek Haul Road by 10 years from years 2046 to 2055 followed by 10 years of reclamation. All other aspects of the existing operation and reclamation (including the processing plant in Lucerne Valley) are covered in approved plans and are unchanged. There are no new quarries, new haul roads or new overburden sites in this plan, only the phased expanded development and reclamation of existing Sentinel Quarry and Butterfield Quarry.

Both quarries have been mined by Omya since 1977**.** The Sentinel Quarry is currently permitted to operate through the year 2035, and the Butterfield Quarry through 2015. Known limestone resources, with the proposed quarry expansions, will add an additional 40 years of operations for Butterfield (2016 through 2055) and a proposed additional 20 years for the Sentinel Quarry (2036 through 2055). Depending on market demand, maximum ore production rates to the processing plant in Lucerne Valley will increase to approximately 680,000 tons of ore to the plant per year, compared to the 3-year average between 2004 – 2006 of approximately 378,000 tons per year.

Both the Sentinel and Butterfield Quarries are multi-bench open pit mines where five grades of ore are selectively mined. The ore is drilled and blasted, loaded into haul trucks, and hauled to a crusher located near the Sentinel Quarry (Sentinel crusher). The Sentinel resources are mined in 30-foot cuts with a 30-35 foot safety bench approximately every 60 feet of depth and will have up to 11 benches. The Butterfield deposit is mined in 25-foot cuts with a safety bench approximately every 50 feet and will have up to 8 benches. Bench height has been determined as a result of detailed studies of the geologic structure. Face angles for both quarries average 70 degrees. The highest level of the pit at the Sentinel Quarry is at an elevation of 7,600 feet above mean sea level (amsl) and mining will ultimately reach 7,000 feet amsl. The highest level of the pit at the Butterfield Quarry is 7,900 feet and mining will ultimately reach 7,650 feet amsl.

Project Phasing. Although mining is more or less continuous, the development of the quarries will be phased. Included in the Amended Plan of Operations and Reclamation Plan phased expansion is concurrent quarry development and reclamation of the mined portions of the quarries and completed portions of the overburden stockpiles. Once the final outer limit and bottom is reached, the quarries will be partially backfilled as the remainder of mining is completed. The proposed Amended Plan of Operations and Reclamation Plan would:

- Allow an increase in the placement of backfill within mined portions of the quarries;
- Minimize the disturbance of new ground through the phased incremental disturbance of new ground (as the phased mining progresses, overburden/waste rock can be placed in completed sections of the quarries, thus reducing the need to store overburden/waste rock on undisturbed ground or increase height of existing stockpiles.); and
- Implement concurrent reclamation of the quarries and overburden stockpiles. To achieve this, specific overburden stockpiles will be completed during the 40-year operational period and

revegetated as completed and the quarries will be partially backfilled as sections completed (see detail below).

The proposed expansion for the Butterfield Quarry includes four (4) 10-year mining phases starting in the year 2015. Phase 5 involves final reclamation, which is anticipated to take place between 2055 and 2064. The Butterfield Quarry will be mined during the first four phases, between 2015 and 2054, from east to west on several levels within the quarry and will eventually deepen to reach a final depth of 7,700 (western portion) to 7,650 (eastern portion) feet amsl. During mining of the western half of the Butterfield Quarry, concurrent backfilling of the eastern quarry area will occur. Ultimately, the eastern portion will be completely backfilled to approximate original contours. The overburden will be progressively placed in the eastern portion of the Butterfield Quarry, but only after those portions of the quarry have reached their final outer limit and the ore has been mined out.

The proposed expansion for the Sentinel Quarry includes four (4) additional mining phases or pushbacks starting in the year 2016 and described in 10-year intervals followed by a 10-year Phase 5 for final reclamation. The Sentinel Quarry will be progressively developed to the south, west, and east property lines, and eventually deepened to the footwall to reach the final depth of 7,000 feet amsl. Backfilling will start on the northern wall and gradually fill the quarry to approximately 7,300 feet on the quarry floor.

Reclamation. To minimize impacts to the surrounding environment, Omya proposes to reclaim the quarry sites in a manner that meets both Forest Service Minerals Regulations (36 CFR 228, Subpart A), under the jurisdiction of the Forest Service, and the California Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1975, as amended (SMARA), which is implemented by the County.

The Forest Service approved the previous Omya Umbrella Plan of Operations and Reclamation Plan in 1988. The SMARA Reclamation Plan (94M-02) was approved by the Forest Service and the County in 1994. The Forest Service approved the existing Plan of Operations and Reclamation Plan for Butterfield and Sentinel Quarries in 2002, following completion of an environmental assessment and evaluation of the Plan of Operations. The SMARA Reclamation Plan was amended and approved by the County in 2003.

No changes in the approved revegetation plans are proposed other than increased acres and timing changes. Timing schedules are revised for development and reclamation of the Sentinel and Butterfield quarries as detailed in the Amended Plan of Operations and Reclamation Plan. Reclamation will be monitored as required in the approved monitoring plan for 10 years, and the reclamation bond reviewed yearly and adjusted to reflect completed reclamation, new disturbance, and variations in the economy (inflation).

Concurrent reclamation starts with the initiation of mining and includes the following:

- Salvaging and stockpiling of grubbed organics, soils, growth media, seeds, and relocatable plants and cuttings for propagation and direct deposition and/or replanting to available reclamation areas during clearing of areas to be developed;
- Ongoing seed collection onsite and/or adjacent to the site and propagation of seeds, salvaged plants and cuttings at local nursery by a contracted revegetation contractor;

- Backfilling of the eastern half of the Butterfield Quarry and portions of the Sentinel Quarry, as feasible;
- Sloping and grading of completed quarry and stockpile slopes for safety, slope stability, and erosion control;
- Placement of darker materials, as available, on outside of more visible slopes and colorization, if shown successful for slopes not susceptible to raveling to reduce color contrast;
- Ripping of compacted areas prior to revegetation;
- Covering approximately 30% of equipment-accessible horizontal areas with salvaged soil, growth media and organics utilizing the island concept;
- Reclamation of onsite roads after reclamation of quarries and pads certified complete, as determined by the Forest Service, in order to allow access to all reclamation areas;
- Revegetation – hand seeding and direct seeding followed by imprinting, seedling planting, and hydroseeding will be utilized as deemed most effective;
- Irrigation may be conducted for two (2) years to maximize establishment; and
- Monitoring and remediation until success criteria achieved.

Final reclamation will take place within 10 years of terminating mining activities. All remaining equipment will be removed, stockpiles will either be removed or used during reclamation, and internal roads not needed for site access, reclamation, and revegetation and general site monitoring will be reclaimed. Final sloping of quarry walls, backfilled areas, and overburden stockpiles; erosion control; and revegetation of any unreclaimed areas and waste rock stockpiles will be conducted. Some roads may be left to provide access for revegetation and monitoring activities and for overall public safety. Ongoing maintenance of fencing, signs, and erosion control will be conducted. Roads not needed for site and quarry access will be ripped, covered with available growth media, and revegetated. Other onsite roads needed for quarry and pad access will be reclaimed after reclamation of the quarries and pads are certified complete, as determined by the Forest Service, in order to allow access to all reclamation areas.

Avoidance/Minimization and Environmental Protection Measures. The Amended Plan of Operations and Reclamation Plan includes the following avoidance/minimization and environmental protection measures:

1. Quitclaim, to the Forest Service, 300 acres of unpatented mining claims held within the SBNF, which are known to have occupied endangered species habitat agreed upon by the SBNF and consistent with the Carbonate Habitat Management Strategy (CHMS).
2. Design mine plan to deposit future overburden into existing overburden areas and completed quarries as much as feasible to avoid possible impacts to existing cushenbury oxytheca populations.
3. Submit additional reclamation bond to cover the new disturbance in the expansion areas prior to starting the development work.
4. Implement a Dust Management Plan (DMP) for the quarry expansion areas.
5. Implement an Employee Awareness Plan that will provide information, training, and protection measures on the following:

A. Mining within Critical Habitat for listed plant species in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and Forest Service.

B. Mining in proximity to an area of SBNF land segregated from mineral entry and location in cooperation with the United Sates Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and Forest Service (CHMS designated refugia).

C. Awareness and protection measures about bighorn sheep in cooperation with USFWS, California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG), and Forest Service.

D. Benefits of preserving heritage resources in cooperation with the Forest Service.

6. Continue maintaining the water guzzler for bighorn sheep near the north end of the Sentinel Quarry.
7. Continue support of CDFG bighorn sheep studies during the mining project.
8. Dispose of sediment from runoff control basins to pre-approved sites rather than side cast down slopes.
9. As areas become available after completion of mining, implement concurrent reclamation/revegetation of completed quarries and overburden stockpiles to reduce visual impacts through backfilling, recontouring and slope reduction, growth media and habitat log placement, revegetation with native plant species, and colorization as applicable.
10. Any unexpected or unforeseen events will result in immediate notification to the Forest Service. If conditions are encountered that vary significantly from the assumptions used in the mine design and environmental assessments, Omya will coordinate with the Forest Service to determine required actions.
11. Monitoring as described below is incorporated in the approved Plan of Operations:

    Forest Mine Administrator, Certified Mineral Examiner or other qualified specialists will document and assure the avoidance/minimization and environmental protection measures incorporated into the Plan of Operations and the Decision Notice are being followed and that they are effective in protecting the environment. Inspections will occur during the life of the project at least once a year to document the site conditions and to assure the Plan of Operations is being followed. If it is determined that a particular environmental protection measure is not adequately protecting surface resources, the Plan of Operations will be modified to correct the situation. Significant changes may require additional analysis and documentation in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act.

Government Agency Reviews and Permits

The County will be the CEQA Lead Agency and will consider the Amended Reclamation Plan based upon the environmental analysis disclosed in the EIR/EIS. The Forest Service will be the NEPA Lead Agency for approving the Project and will consider the Amended Plan of Operations based upon the environmental analysis disclosed in the EIR/EIS. The applicant's requested public agency actions include:

- County of San Bernardino approval of a Mining and Land Reclamation Plan Conditional Use Permit Application.
- U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, San Bernardino National Forest – Record of Decision on the Plan of Operations

- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service – Section 7 Consultation with the Forest Service through the Carbonate Habitat Management Strategy Plan

Potential Environmental Impacts

The Lead Agencies have determined that this project could result in significant environmental impacts and/or have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment. As such, preparation of a joint EIR/EIS is appropriate. The EIR/EIS will evaluate the environmental impacts of the Project, after having first established the environmental setting, or baseline, for the environmental analysis. In the Initial Study prepared for the Project, the following potentially significant impacts were identified for further evaluation, the results of which will be disclosed in the EIR/EIS. In each instance, the significance of potential Project impacts, cumulative impacts, and appropriate mitigation measures will be disclosed in the EIR/EIS.

- Aesthetics
- Air Quality
- Biological Resources
- Cumulative Impacts
- Geology and Soils Resources
- Greenhouse Gases
- Hydrology and Water Quality

In addition, the EIR/EIS will discuss the following areas even though the Initial Study concluded that there would be no impact or a less than significant impact associated with them:

- Agriculture and Forestry
- Cultural Resources
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- Noise

Scoping Meetings

The County and the Forest Service will host two Public Scoping meetings to provide the opportunity for the public, organizations and agencies to learn more about the Project and to identify the issues to be addressed during the EIR/EIS process. Public Scoping meetings will be held on March 11, 2013 at the Big Bear Discovery Center, 40971 North Shore Drive (Highway 38), Fawnskin, California 92333 beginning at 5 pm PST, and March 12, 2013 at the Lucerne Valley Community Center, 33187 Highway 247 East, Lucerne Valley, California 92356 beginning at 5 pm PST.

Attachments

Initial Study for the Sentinel and Butterfield Quarries Expansion Project.

The complete Amended Plan of Operation and Reclamation Plan is available on the County's and SBNF's websites at:

http://cms.sbcounty.gov/lus/Planning/Environmental/NoticesDeterminations/Desert.aspx
http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/fs-usda-pop.php/?project=32613

Appendix A-3: Joint Notice of Preparation (NOP) and Notice of Intent (NOI)

Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, San Bernardino National Forest, and San Bernardino County Land Use Services Department, California

Omya Sentinel and Butterfield Quarries Expansion Project

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA and San Bernardino County Land Use Services Department

ACTION: Joint Notice of Preparation and Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement / Environmental Impact Report.

SUMMARY: Omya California (Omya), a division of Omya Inc., has submitted the following applications:

- An Amended Plan of Operations and Reclamation Plan to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, San Bernardino National Forest (SBNF).
- A Mining and Land Reclamation Plan Conditional Use Permit application submitted to the County of San Bernardino (County).

Combined, these applications propose the expansion of the existing Sentinel and Butterfield Quarries. The existing permitted Sentinel and Butterfield limestone quarries are located on mining claims within the San Bernardino National Forest. Known limestone ore resources, within the proposed quarry expansions, will add an additional 20 years life to the Sentinel Quarry, add an additional 40 years life to the Butterfield Quarry, and will allow mining at both quarries to be extended until 2055. Depending on market demand, the combined Sentinel and Butterfield Quarries average ore production rates will be approximately 680,000 tons per year compared to the 3-year average between 2004 – 2006 of approximately 378,000 tons per year. Reclamation will occur concurrently with mining. The proposed expansion includes 48.7 acres of disturbance at the Sentinel Quarry and 28.8 acres of disturbance at the Butterfield Quarry, for a total of 77.3 acres. Quarry development and expansion will be phased. Disturbance proposed for the Proposed Project includes expansion of existing Sentinel and Butterfield Quarries, expansion of associated overburden placement sites, additional internal access roads and ancillary facility areas, and minor adjustments to existing disturbance boundaries. There are no new quarries, new haul roads or new overburden sites in this plan, only the phased expanded development and reclamation of the existing Sentinel and Butterfield Quarries.

Implementation of the Proposed Project will require discretionary approvals from Federal, State, and local agencies and, therefore, this project is subject to the environmental review requirements of both the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). To ensure coordination between the NEPA and CEQA processes, and to avoid duplication of effort, a joint Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Environmental Impact Report (EIR) has been prepared as recommended by CEQA Guidelines Section 15222 and 40 CFR 1506.25. The Forest Service is the NEPA Lead Agency and the County of San Bernardino will be the CEQA Lead Agency for the joint EIR/EIS. As Lead Agency for the NEPA process, the Forest Service will issue a Notice of Intent (NOI), as required

by NEPA, for the Project. The County will issue a separate Notice of Preparation (NOP), as required for CEQA for the Proposed Project.

Comments are being requested to help identify significant issues or concerns related to the proposed action, to determine the scope of the issues (including alternatives) that need to be analyzed and to eliminate from detailed study those issues that are not significant. Supporting documentation should be included with comments recommending that the EIR/EIS address specific environmental issues.

DATES: Comments concerning the scope of the analysis must be received by April 1, 2013. The draft EIR/EIS is expected October 2013 and the final EIR/EIS is expected February 2014.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments with the words "*Sentinel and Butterfield Quarries Expansion Project*" in the subject line to:

Maya Rohr
Senior Project Manager
Sespe Consulting
5920 Friars Road, Suite 103
San Diego, California 92108
mrohr@sespeconsulting.com

Public scoping meetings will be held on March 11, 2013 at the Big Bear Discovery Center, 40971 North Shore Drive (Highway 38), Fawnskin, California 92333 beginning at 5:00 pm PST and onMarch 12, 2013 at the Lucerne Valley Community Center, 33187 Highway 247 East, Lucerne Valley, California 92356 beginning at 5:00 pm PST.

It is important that reviewers provide their comments at such times and in such a way that they are useful to the Agency's preparation of the EIR/EIS. Therefore, comments should be provided prior to the close of the comment period and should clearly articulate the reviewer's concerns and contentions.

Commenters are asked to include their name, telephone number, address, and e-mail address (if applicable) in the event it is necessary to further clarify the comments offered. Agencies submitting comments are asked to provide the name, telephone number, and e-mail address of the agency's contact person. Please write "*Omya Butterfield and Sentinel Quarries Project*" in the subject line. Due to CEQA-defined time limits, comments should be sent at the earliest possible date, but no later than April 1, 2013.

Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be part of the public record for this proposed action. However, comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Maya Rohr, Senior Project Manager, Sespe Consulting at (619) 894-8669 or mrohr@sespeconsulting.com.

Individuals who use telecommunication devices for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1–800–877–8339 between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m., Eastern Time, Monday through Friday.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Omya California submitted an Amended Plan of Operations and Reclamation Plan for the proposed expansion of the existing Butterfield Limestone Quarry to the San Bernardino National Forest, on November 1, 2010. The project was scoped as an Environmental Assessment (EA), and through the analysis of the comments received the Forest Service Responsible Official determined that an EIS would be prepared. At that time, the project was expanded to include additional expansion at the Sentinel Quarry as well.

Both quarries have been mined by Omya since 1977**.** The Sentinel Quarry is currently permitted to operate through the year 2035, and the Butterfield Quarry through 2015. Known limestone resources, with the proposed quarry expansions, will add an additional 40 years of operations for Butterfield (2016 through 2055) and a proposed additional 20 years for the Sentinel Quarry (2036 through 2055). Depending on market demand, average ore production rates to the processing plant in Lucerne Valley will increase to approximately 680,000 tons of ore to the plant per year compared to the 3-year average between 2004 – 2006 of approximately 378,000 tons per year.

The previously approved State Mining and Reclamation Act (SMARA) Reclamation Plans (2003) include a site specific approved revegetation plan, including growth media salvage, organics placement, seeding and revegetation, seed collection and propagation, irrigation, site cleanup, public safety, rock and fill slope stability, drainage and erosion controls, monitoring and maintenance plan and bond release criteria.

Purpose and Need for Action

Omya submitted an amended Plan of Operations and Reclamation Plan to the Forest Service, and a Mining and Land Reclamation Plan Conditional Use Permit application to the County. These submittals describe the proposed expansion of the existing Sentinel and Butterfield Quarries. The Forest Service is analyzing the surface use of National Forest System lands in connection with operations authorized by the United States mining laws (30 U.S.C. 21-54). The United States mining laws confer a statutory right to enter upon the public lands to search for minerals, and require that these activities shall be conducted so as to minimize adverse environmental impacts on National Forest System surface resources (36 CFR 228.8). The responsibility for managing mineral resources is in the Secretary of the Interior.

Within the United States, productive deposits of white, high purity limestone are found in only a few areas. The Omya deposits are one of these sources of high calcium limestone that can be used as whiting. Whiting is used in the form of nontoxic fillers and extenders in a large number of products ranging from paper products to environmental cleanup, carpet backing, plastics, PVC, paint, paper and other building products. Limestone mining provides numerous environmental benefits including fewer trees harvested for paper making, less petroleum products utilized and less greenhouse gases produced. Limestone can also be used as a

substitute for other components in industrial processes and the manufacture of consumer products.

Proposed Action

Setting. The project site is located approximately 7.5 miles south of the community of Lucerne Valley and 5 miles north of Big Bear Lake within the SBNF in San Bernardino County, California and is accessed by the vested Crystal Creek Haul Road. The project area is within portions of Sections 23, 24, and 25 Township 3 North, Range 1 West, SBBM. The Butterfield and Sentinel Quarries are located entirely within portions of approximately 954 acres of unpatented placer claims controlled by Omya located on public land administered by the Forest Service. These claims include Crystal Creek 1, 2, 4, 13 and 14, Slope North and King 3.

Introduction. The proposed expansion includes 48.7 acres of disturbance at the Sentinel Quarry and 28.8 acres of disturbance at the Butterfield Quarry for a total of 77.3 acres. Disturbance proposed for this project includes expansion of existing Sentinel and Butterfield Quarries, expansion of associated overburden placement sites, additional internal access roads and ancillary facility areas, and minor adjustments to existing disturbance boundaries. Reclamation for the inactive Cloudy and Claudia quarries and their associated overburden stockpiles, and haul roads on Forest Service lands, including reclamation of the Crystal Creek Haul Road, are covered in the 1994 approved Reclamation Plan and incorporated into the proposed Amended Plan. There are no changes to these sites with the exception of extending the years of use of the Crystal Creek Haul Road by 10 years from years 2046 to 2055 followed by 10 years of reclamation. All other aspects of the existing operation and reclamation (including the processing plant in Lucerne Valley) are covered in approved plans and are unchanged. There are no new quarries, new haul roads or new overburden sites in this plan, only the phased expanded development and reclamation of existing Sentinel Quarry and Butterfield Quarry.

Both the Sentinel and Butterfield Quarries are multi-bench open pit mines where five grades of ore are selectively mined. The ore is drilled and blasted, loaded into haul trucks, and hauled to a crusher located near the Sentinel Quarry (Sentinel crusher). The Sentinel resources are mined in 30-foot cuts with a 30-35 foot safety bench approximately every 60 feet of depth and will have up to 11 benches. The Butterfield deposit is mined in 25 foot cuts with a safety bench approximately every 50 feet and will have up to 8 benches. Bench height has been determined as a result of detailed studies of the geologic structure. Face angles for both quarries average 70 degrees. The highest level of the pit at the Sentinel Quarry is at an elevation of 7,600 feet above mean sea level (amsl) and mining will ultimately reach 7,000 feet amsl. The highest level of the pit at the Butterfield Quarry is 7,900 feet and mining will ultimately reach 7,650 feet amsl.

Project Phasing. Although mining is more or less continuous, the development of the quarries will be phased. Included in the Amended Plan of Operations and Reclamation Plan phased expansion plan, is concurrent quarry development and reclamation of the mined portions of the quarries and completed portions of the overburden stockpiles. Once the final outer limit and bottom is reached, the quarries will be partially backfilled as the remainder of mining is completed. The proposed Amended Plan of Operations and Reclamation Plan would:

- Allow an increase in the placement of backfill within mined portions of the quarries;

- Minize the disturbance of new ground through the phased incremental disturbance of new ground (as the phased mining progresses, overburden/waste rock can be placed in completed sections of the quarries, thus reducing the need to store overburden/waste rock on undisturbed ground or increase height of existing stockpiles.); and
- Implement concurrent reclamation of the quarry. To achieve this, specific overburden stockpiles will be completed during the 40-year operational period and revegetated as completed and the quarries will be partially backfilled as sections completed (see detail below).

The proposed expansion for the Butterfield Quarry includes four (4) 10-year mining phases starting in the year 2015. Phase 5 involves reclamation, which is anticipated to take place between year 2055 and 2064. The Butterfield Quarry will be mined during the first four phases from east to west on several levels within the the quarry and will eventually deepen to reach a final depth of 7,700 (western portion) to 7,650 (eastern portion) feet amsl. During mining of the western half of the Butterfield Quarry, concurrent backfilling of the eastern quarry area will occur. Ultimately the eastern portion will be completely backfilled to approximate original contours. The overburden will be progressively placed in the eastern portion of the Butterfield Quarry, but only after those portions of the quarry have reached their final outer limit and the ore has been mined out.

The proposed expansion for the Sentinel Quarry includes four (4) additional mining phases starting in the year 2016 and described in 10-year intervals followed by a 10-year Phase 5 for final reclamation. The Sentinel Quarry will be progressively developed (pushed back) to the south, west, and east property lines, and eventually deepened to the footwall to reach the final depth of 7,000 feet amsl. Backfilling will start on the northern wall and gradually fill the quarry to approximately 7,300 feet on the quarry floor.

Reclamation. To minimize impacts to the surrounding environment, Omya proposes to reclaim the quarry sites in a manner that meets both Forest Service Minerals Regulations (36 CFR 228, Subpart A), under the jurisdiction of the Forest Service, and the California Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1975, as amended (SMARA), which is implemented by the County.

The Forest Service approved the previous Omya Umbrella Plan of Operations and Reclamation Plan in 1988. The SMARA Reclamation Plan (94M-02) was approved by the Forest Service and the County in 1994. The Forest Service approved the existing Plan of Operations and Reclamation Plan for Butterfield and Sentinel Quarries in 2002, following completion of an environmental assessment and evaluation of the Plan of Operations. The SMARA Reclamation Plan was amended and approved by the County in 2003.

No changes in the approved revegetation plans are proposed other than increased acres and timing changes. Timing schedules are revised for development and reclamation of the Sentinel and Butterfield quarries as detailed in the Amended Plan of Operations and Reclamation Plan. Reclamation will be monitored as required in the approved monitoring plan for 10 years, and the reclamation bond reviewed yearly and adjusted to reflect completed reclamation, new disturbance, and variations in the economy (inflation).

Concurrent reclamation starts with the initiation of mining and includes the following:

- Salvaging and stockpiling of grubbed organics, soils, growth media, seeds, and relocatable plants and cuttings for propagation and direct deposition and/or replanting to available reclamation areas during clearing of areas to be developed;
- Ongoing seed collection onsite and/or adjacent to the site and propagation of seeds, salvaged plants and cuttings at local nursery by a contracted revegetation contractor;
- Backfilling of the eastern half of the Butterfield Quarry and portions of the Sentinel Quarry, as feasible;
- Sloping and grading of completed quarry and stockpile slopes for safety, slope stability, and erosion control;
- Placement of darker materials, as available, on outside of more visible slopes and colorization, if shown successful for slopes not susceptible to raveling to reduce color contrast;
- Ripping of compacted areas prior to revegetation;
- Covering approximately 30% of equipment-accessible horizontal areas with salvaged soil, growth media and organics utilizing the island concept;
- Reclamation of onsite roads after reclamation of quarries and pads certified complete, as determined by the Forest Service, in order to allow access to all reclamation areas;
- Revegetation – hand seeding and direct seeding followed by imprinting, seedling planting, and hydroseeding will be utilized as deemed most effective;
- Irrigation may be conducted for two (2) years to maximize establishment; and
- Monitoring and remediation until success criteria achieved.

Final reclamation will take place within 10 years of terminating mining activities. All remaining equipment will be removed, stockpiles will either be removed or used during reclamation, and internal roads not needed for site access, reclamation, and revegetation and general site monitoring will be reclaimed. Final sloping of quarry walls, backfilled areas, and overburden stockpiles; erosion control; and revegetation of any unreclaimed areas and waste rock stockpiles will be conducted. Some roads may be left to provide access for revegetation and monitoring activities and for overall public safety. Ongoing maintenance of fencing, signs, and erosion control will be conducted. Roads not needed for site and quarry access will be ripped, covered with available growth media, and revegetated. Other onsite roads needed for quarry and pad access will be reclaimed after reclamation of quarries and pads are certified complete, as determined by the Forest Service, in order to allow access to all reclamation areas.

Avoidance/Minimization and Environmental Protection Measures. The Amended Plan of Operations and Reclamation Plan include avoidance/minimization and environmental protection measures, including:

1. Quit claim to the SBNF 300 acres of unpatented mining claims held within the SBNF which are known to have occupied endangered species habitat agreed upon by the Forest Service and consistent with the Carbonate Habitat Management Strategy (CHMS).

2. Design the mine plan to deposit future overburden into existing overburden areas and

completed quarries as much as feasible to avoid possible impacts to existing cushenbury oxytheca populations.

3. Submit additional reclamation bond to cover the new disturbance in the expansion areas prior to starting the development work.

4. Implement a Dust Management Plan (DMP) for the quarry expansion areas.

5. Implement an Employee Awareness Plan that will provide information, training, and protection measures on the following:
   A. Mining within Critical Habitat for listed plant species in cooperation with United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and Forest Service.
   B. Mining in proximity to an area of SBNF land segregated from mineral entry and location in cooperation with BLM and Forest Service (CHMS designated refugia).
   C. Awareness and protection measures about bighorn sheep in cooperation with USFWS, California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG), and Forest Service.
   D. Benefits of preserving heritage resources in cooperation with the Forest Service.

6. Continue maintaining the water guzzler for bighorn sheep near the north end of the Sentinel Quarry.

7. Continue support of CDFG bighorn sheep studies during the mining project.

8. Dispose of sediment from runoff control basins to pre-approved sites rather than side cast down slopes.

9. As areas become available, implement concurrent reclamation/revegetation of completed quarries and overburden stockpiles to reduce visual impacts through backfilling, recontouring and slope reduction, growth media and habitat log placement, revegetation with native plant species, and colorization as applicable.

10. Any unexpected or unforeseen events will result in immediate notification to the Forest Service. If conditions are encountered that vary significantly from the assumptions used in the mine plan and environmental assessments, Omya will coordinate with the Forest Service to determine required actions.

11. Monitoring as described below is incorporated to be part of the approved Plan of Operations:

    Forest Mine Administrator, Certified Mineral Examiner or other qualified specialists will document and assure the avoidance/minimization and environmental protection measures incorporated into the Plan of Operations and the Decision Notice are being followed and that they are effective in protecting the environment. Inspections will occur during the life of the project at least once a year to document the site conditions and to assure the Plan of Operations is being followed. If it is determined that a particular environmental protection measure is not adequately protecting surface resources, the Plan of Operations

will be modified to correct the situation. Significant changes may require additional analysis and documentation in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act.

Lead and Cooperating Agencies

The Forest Service, as lead agency under NEPA, and County of San Bernardino, as the lead state agency under CEQA, will prepare this joint EIR/EIS. The EIR/EIS will analyze and disclose the potential effects of the proposed limestone quarry expansion. The Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District has agreed to participate as a cooperating agency and to provide expertise regarding the proposed actions' relationship to the relevant objectives of regional, State and local land use plans, policies and controls.

Nature of Decision To Be Made

The Forest Service Responsible Official will decide whether to approve the amended Plan of Operation following the environmental analysis under NEPA. The Forest Service does not have the authority to remove the proponent's ability to mine their claim on National Forest System lands.

The County will decide whether to approve the Mining and Land Reclamation Plan Conditional Use Permit following the environmental analysis under CEQA.

Scoping Process

This joint NOP/NOI initiates the scoping process, which guides the development of the EIR/EIS.

The Initial Study and the complete Amended Plan of Operation and Reclamation Plan may be found at one or both of the following loctions:

- San Bernardino National Forest website at:
  http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/fs-usda-pop.php/?project=32613 and/or,
- County of San Bernardino website at:
  http://cms.sbcounty.gov/lus/Planning/Environmental/NoticesDeterminations/Desert.aspx

Public Scoping meetings will be held on March 11, 2013 at the Big Bear Discovery Center, 40971 North Shore Drive (Highway 38), Fawnskin, California 92333 beginning at 5 pm PST, and March 12 at the Lucerne Valley Community Center, 33187 Highway 247 East, Lucerne Valley, California 92356 beginning at 5 pm PST.

Appendix A-4: CEQA Notice of Preparation (NOP)

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
Governor's Office of Planning and Research
State Clearinghouse and Planning Unit

Edmund G. Brown Jr.
Governor

Ken Alex
Director

Notice of Preparation

February 25, 2013

To: Reviewing Agencies

Re: Santinel and Butterfield Quarries Expansion
SCH# 2013021057

Attached for your review and comment is the Notice of Preparation (NOP) for the Santinel and Butterfield Quarries Expansion draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

Responsible agencies must transmit their comments on the scope and content of the NOP, focusing on specific information related to their own statutory responsibility, within 30 days of receipt of the NOP from the Lead Agency. This is a courtesy notice provided by the State Clearinghouse with a reminder for you to comment in a timely manner. We encourage other agencies to also respond to this notice and express their concerns early in the environmental review process.

Please direct your comments to:

Jeremy Krout
City of San Bernardino
385 N. Arrowhead Avenue
San Bernardino, CA 92415-0182

with a copy to the State Clearinghouse in the Office of Planning and Research. Please refer to the SCH number noted above in all correspondence concerning this project.

If you have any questions about the environmental document review process, please call the State Clearinghouse at (916) 445-0613.

Sincerely,

Scott Morgan
Director, State Clearinghouse

Attachments
cc: Lead Agency

1400 TENTH STREET P.O. BOX 3044 SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95812-3044
TEL (916) 445-0613 FAX (916) 323-3018 www.opr.ca.gov

Document Details Report
State Clearinghouse Data Base

SCH# 2013021057
Project Title Santinel and Butterfield Quarries Expansion
Lead Agency San Bernardino, City of

Type NOE Notice of Exemption

Description Proposed Amended Plan of Operations and Reclamation Plan for expansion of the existing Butterfield and Sentinel Limestone Quarries. The proposd project includes quarry and overburden stockpile expansion, increased operational years and production, additional internal access roads and ancillary facility areas, and adjustments to existing disturbance and permitted boundaries. The total existing permitted operational area is approxiamtely 137.5 acres. This Amended Plan will add approximately 77.3 acres for a total project area of approximately 214.8 acres.

Filing Agency Contact

Name Jeremy Krout
Agency City of San Bernardino
Phone 949 450 0171 x.314 **Fax**
email
Address 385 N. Arrowhead Avenue
City San Bernardino **State** CA **Zip** 92415-0182

Project Location

County San Bernardino
City
Region
Cross Streets at Southern End of Crystal Creek Rd, North of 3N16 and Claudia/Cloudy Haul Rd
Lat / Long 34° 19' 49.3" N / 116° 56' 25.5" W
Parcel No. 446-121-04, -06, -17
Township 7N **Range** 1W **Section** 23,24, **Base** 25

Exempt Status
- ☐ Ministerial
- ☐ Declared Emergency
- ☐ Emergency Project
- ☐ Categorical Exemption
- ☐ Statutory Exemption

Type, Section or Code Number

Reasons for Exemption

Date Received 02/25/2013

NOP Distribution List

County: San Bernardino SCH# 2013021057

Resources Agency

- [x] **Resources Agency**
  Nadell Gayou
- [ ] **Dept. of Boating & Waterways**
  Nicole Wong
- [ ] **California Coastal Commission**
  Elizabeth A. Fuchs
- [ ] **Colorado River Board**
  Gerald R. Zimmerman
- [x] **Dept. of Conservation**
  Elizabeth Carpenter
- [ ] **California Energy Commission**
  Eric Knight
- [ ] **Cal Fire**
  Dan Foster
- [ ] **Central Valley Flood Protection Board**
  James Herota
- [ ] **Office of Historic Preservation**
  Ron Parsons
- [x] **Dept of Parks & Recreation**
  Environmental Stewardship Section
- [x] **California Department of Resources, Recycling & Recovery**
  Sue O'Leary
- [ ] **S.F. Bay Conservation & Dev't. Comm.**
  Steve McAdam
- [x] **Dept. of Water Resources** Resources Agency
  Nadell Gayou

Fish and Game

- [ ] **Depart. of Fish & Wildlife**
  Scott Flint
  Environmental Services Division
- [ ] **Fish & Wildlife Region 1**
  Donald Koch
- [ ] **Fish & Wildlife Region 1E**
  Laurie Harnsberger
- [ ] **Fish & Wildlife Region 2**
  Jeff Drongesen
- [ ] **Fish & Wildlife Region 3**
  Charles Armor
- [ ] **Fish & Wildlife Region 4**
  Julie Vance
- [ ] **Fish & Wildlife Region 5**
  Leslie Newton-Reed
  Habitat Conservation Program
- [x] **Fish & Wildlife Region 6**
  Gabrina Gatchel
  Habitat Conservation Program
- [ ] **Fish & Wildlife Region 6 I/M**
  Brad Henderson
  Inyo/Mono, Habitat Conservation Program
- [ ] **Dept. of Fish & Wildlife M**
  George Isaac
  Marine Region

Other Departments

- [ ] **Food & Agriculture**
  Sandra Schubert
  Dept. of Food and Agriculture
- [ ] **Depart. of General Services**
  Public School Construction
- [ ] **Dept. of General Services**
  Anna Garbeff
  Environmental Services Section
- [ ] **Dept. of Public Health**
  Jeffery Worth
  Dept. of Health/Drinking Water
- [ ] **Delta Stewardship Council**
  Kevan Samsam

Independent Commissions,Boards

- [ ] **Delta Protection Commission**
  Michael Machado
- [ ] **Cal EMA (Emergency Management Agency)**
  Dennis Castrillo
- [x] **Native American Heritage Comm.**
  Debbie Treadway
- [ ] **Public Utilities Commission**
  Leo Wong
- [ ] **Santa Monica Bay Restoration**
  Guangyu Wang
- [x] **State Lands Commission**
  Jennifer Deleong
- [ ] **Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA)**
  Cherry Jacques

Business, Trans & Housing

- [ ] **Caltrans - Division of Aeronautics**
  Philip Crimmins
- [ ] **Caltrans - Planning**
  Terri Pencovic
- [x] **California Highway Patrol**
  Suzann Ikeuchi
  Office of Special Projects
- [ ] **Housing & Community Development**
  CEQA Coordinator
  Housing Policy Division

Dept. of Transportation

- [ ] **Caltrans, District 1**
  Rex Jackman
- [ ] **Caltrans, District 2**
  Marcelino Gonzalez
- [ ] **Caltrans, District 3**
  Gary Arnold
- [ ] **Caltrans, District 4**
  Erik Alm
- [ ] **Caltrans, District 5**
  David Murray
- [ ] **Caltrans, District 6**
  Michael Navarro
- [ ] **Caltrans, District 7**
  Dianna Watson
- [x] **Caltrans, District 8**
  Dan Kopulsky
- [ ] **Caltrans, District 9**
  Gayle Rosander
- [ ] **Caltrans, District 10**
  Tom Dumas
- [ ] **Caltrans, District 11**
  Jacob Armstrong
- [ ] **Caltrans, District 12**
  Marlon Regisford

Cal EPA

Air Resources Board

- [ ] Airport/Energy Projects
  Jim Lerner
- [ ] Transportation Projects
  Douglas Ito
- [x] Industrial Projects
  Mike Tollstrup
- [ ] **State Water Resources Control Board**
  Regional Programs Unit
  Division of Financial Assistance
- [ ] **State Water Resources Control Board**
  Student Intern, 401 Water Quality Certification Unit
  Division of Water Quality
- [ ] **State Water Resouces Control Board**
  Phil Crader
  Division of Water Rights
- [ ] **Dept. of Toxic Substances Control**
  CEQA Tracking Center
- [ ] **Department of Pesticide Regulation**
  CEQA Coordinator

Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB)

- [ ] **RWQCB 1**
  Cathleen Hudson
  North Coast Region (1)
- [ ] **RWQCB 2**
  Environmental Document Coordinator
  San Francisco Bay Region (2)
- [ ] **RWQCB 3**
  Central Coast Region (3)
- [ ] **RWQCB 4**
  Teresa Rodgers
  Los Angeles Region (4)
- [ ] **RWQCB 5S**
  Central Valley Region (5)
- [ ] **RWQCB 5F**
  Central Valley Region (5)
  Fresno Branch Office
- [ ] **RWQCB 5R**
  Central Valley Region (5)
  Redding Branch Office
- [ ] **RWQCB 6**
  Lahontan Region (6)
- [ ] **RWQCB 6V**
  Lahontan Region (6)
  Victorville Branch Office
- [x] **RWQCB 7**
  Colorado River Basin Region (7)
- [ ] **RWQCB 8**
  Santa Ana Region (8)
- [ ] **RWQCB 9**
  San Diego Region (9)

- [ ] **Other** _____
  _____
  _____

- [ ] _____
  Conservancy

Last Updated 01/08/2013

Print Form

Appendix C

Notice of Completion & Environmental Document Transmittal

2013021057

SCH #

Mail to: State Clearinghouse, P.O. Box 3044, Sacramento, CA 95812-3044 (916) 445-0613
For Hand Delivery/Street Address: 1400 Tenth Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

Project Title: Sentinel and Butterfield Quarries Expansion

Lead Agency: County of San Bernardino
Contact Person: Jeremy Krout
Mailing Address: 385 N. Arrowhead Avenue
Phone: 949-450-0171 ext. 314
City: San Bernardino
Zip: 92415-0182
County: San Bernardino

Project Location: County: San Bernardino
City/Nearest Community: Lucerne Valley
Cross Streets: at southern end of Crystal Creek Road, north of 3N16 and Claudia/Cloudy Haul Road
Zip Code: 92356
Longitude/Latitude (degrees, minutes and seconds): 34 ° 19 ′ 49.3 ″ N / 116 ° 56 ′ 25.5 ″ W
Total Acres: 77.3 disturbance acre
Assessor's Parcel No.: 446-121-04, -06, -17
Section: 23,24,25 Twp.: 3N Range: 1W Base: SBBM
Within 2 Miles: State Hwy #: Waterways:
Airports: Railways: Schools:

Document Type:

CEQA:
- [x] NOP
- [ ] Early Cons
- [ ] Neg Dec
- [ ] Mit Neg Dec
- [ ] Draft EIR
- [ ] Supplement/Subsequent EIR (Prior SCH No.)
- Other:

NEPA:
- [x] NOI
- [ ] EA
- [ ] Draft EIS
- [ ] FONSI

Other:
- [x] Joint Document
- [ ] Final Document
- [ ] Other: Amended Reclamation Plan

Local Action Type:

- [ ] General Plan Update
- [ ] General Plan Amendment
- [ ] General Plan Element
- [ ] Community Plan
- [ ] Specific Plan
- [ ] Master Plan
- [ ] Planned Unit Development
- [ ] Site Plan
- [ ] Rezone
- [ ] Prezone
- [x] Use Permit
- [ ] Land Division (Subdivision, etc.)
- [ ] Annexation
- [ ] Redevelopment
- [ ] Coastal Permit
- [x] Other:

RECEIVED
FEB 25 2013
STATE CLEARING HOUSE

Development Type:

- [ ] Residential: Units Acres
- [ ] Office: Sq.ft. Acres Employees
- [ ] Commercial: Sq.ft. Acres Employees
- [ ] Industrial: Sq.ft. Acres Employees
- [ ] Educational:
- [ ] Recreational:
- [ ] Water Facilities: Type MGD
- [ ] Transportation: Type
- [x] Mining: Mineral Limestone
- [ ] Power: Type MW
- [ ] Waste Treatment: Type MGD
- [ ] Hazardous Waste: Type
- [ ] Other:

Project Issues Discussed in Document:

- [x] Aesthetic/Visual
- [x] Agricultural Land
- [x] Air Quality
- [x] Archeological/Historical
- [x] Biological Resources
- [ ] Coastal Zone
- [x] Drainage/Absorption
- [ ] Economic/Jobs
- [ ] Fiscal
- [ ] Flood Plain/Flooding
- [x] Forest Land/Fire Hazard
- [x] Geologic/Seismic
- [ ] Minerals
- [x] Noise
- [ ] Population/Housing Balance
- [ ] Public Services/Facilities
- [ ] Recreation/Parks
- [ ] Schools/Universities
- [ ] Septic Systems
- [ ] Sewer Capacity
- [x] Soil Erosion/Compaction/Grading
- [ ] Solid Waste
- [x] Toxic/Hazardous
- [ ] Traffic/Circulation
- [x] Vegetation
- [x] Water Quality
- [ ] Water Supply/Groundwater
- [ ] Wetland/Riparian
- [ ] Growth Inducement
- [ ] Land Use
- [x] Cumulative Effects
- [x] Other: Greenhouse Gases

Present Land Use/Zoning/General Plan Designation:

General Plan Designation of Resource Conservation, and Resource Conservation Zone District

Project Description: *(please use a separate page if necessary)*

Proposed Amended Plan of Operations and Reclamation Plan for expansion of the existing Butterfield and Sentinel Limestone Quarries. The proposed project includes quarry and overburden stockpile expansions, increased operational years and production, additional internal access roads and ancillary facility areas, and adjustments to existing disturbance and permitted boundaries. The total existing permitted operational area is approximately 137.5 acres. This Amended Plan will add approximately 77.3 acres for a total project area of approximately 214.8 acres .

Note: The State Clearinghouse will assign identification numbers for all new projects. If a SCH number already exists for a project (e.g. Notice of Preparation or previous draft document) please fill in.

Appendix A-5: Notice of Intent (NOI) – Federal Register

review with the Regional Ecosystem Office for the specific proposed thinning treatments and resultant stand conditions may be required.

The project Interdisciplinary Team developed Resource Protection Measures common to all action alternatives to minimize or eliminate potential environmental effects while achieving the desired condition. Development was guided by Forest Plan direction as well as other applicable law, regulation and policy, project-specific objectives and resource concerns identified by resource specialists. These measures complement the project design criteria developed as part of the proposed action, including species and age class retention preferences, microsite thinning and fuels treatment modifications in suitable habitat for late-successional species and within Riparian Reserves and cultural resource protections. Best management practices for maintaining, protecting and monitoring water quality and soils will also be utilized.

Responsible Official

J. Sharon Heywood, Forest Supervisor, Shasta-Trinity National Forest.

Nature of Decision To Be Made

The Forest Supervisor will decide whether to implement the proposed action, take an alternative action that meets the purpose and need, or take no action.

Permits or Licenses Required

A permit would be required from the State of California prior to burning piles. The appropriate regulatory agencies will be consulted regarding national or state required permits associated with roads used during project implementation. All required permits will be obtained prior to implementation.

Scoping Process

The project is included in the Shasta-Trinity National Forest's quarterly schedule of proposed actions (SOPA). Detailed information on the proposed action, including maps, that will aid in the informing comments will be available on the Forest Web site at *http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=31312.* Scoping notice will be published in the Redding Record Searchlight and the Mount Shasta Herald.

This notice of intent initiates the scoping process, which guides the development of issues (cause-effect relationships that highlight effects or unintended consequences), alternatives and analysis for the environmental impact statement. It is important that reviewers provide their comments at such times and in such a manner that they are useful to identifying issues, developing alternatives, conducting resource analysis and preparing the environmental impact statement. Therefore, comments should be provided prior to the close of the 30-day comment period and should clearly articulate the reviewer's concerns.

Please include the following information with your comments: Your name, address and telephone number, the project name: Elk Late-Successional Reserve Enhancement project and site-specific comments about the proposed action, along with supporting information you believe will help identify issues, develop alternatives or predict environmental effects of the proposal. The most useful comments provide new information or describe unwanted environmental effects potentially caused by the proposed action. If you reference scientific literature in your comments, you must provide a copy of the entire cited reference and include rationale as to how you feel it is pertinent to the Elk Late-Successional Reserve Enhancement project.

A public information meeting will be held on March 5, 2013 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the McCloud Ranger Station conference room, located at 2019 Forest Road in McCloud, California. At this meeting, members of the project Interdisciplinary Team will present information on the purpose and need, existing conditions and the developed proposed action to meet the desired conditions in the project area. Written comments may be submitted at this meeting in addition to submitting them via mail and electronically as described in the **ADDRESSES** section above. Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses of those who comment, will become part of the public record for this proposed action.

Dated: February 14, 2013.

J. Sharon Heywood,

Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 2013–04642 Filed 2–27–13; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–11–P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

San Bernardino National Forest; California; Omya Sentinel and Butterfield Quarry Expansion Project

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement and environmental impact report.

SUMMARY: Omya California (Omya), a division of Omya Inc., has submitted the following applications:

- An Amended Plan of Operations and Reclamation Plan to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, San Bernardino National Forest (SBNF); and
- A Mining and Land Reclamation Plan Conditional Use Permit application submitted to the County of San Bernardino (County).

Combined, these applications propose the expansion of the existing Sentinel and Butterfield Quarries. The existing permitted Sentinel and Butterfield limestone quarries are located on mining claims within the SBNF. Known limestone ore resources, within the proposed quarry expansions, will add an additional 20 years life to the Sentinel Quarry, add an additional 40 years life to the Butterfield Quarry, and will allow mining at both quarries to be extended until 2055. Depending on market demand, the combined Sentinel and Butterfield Quarries average ore production rates will be approximately 680,000 tons per year compared to the 3-year average between 2004–2006 of approximately 378,000 tons per year. Reclamation will occur concurrently with mining. The proposed expansion includes 48.7 acres of disturbance at the Sentinel Quarry and 28.8 acres of disturbance at the Butterfield Quarry, for a total of 77.3 acres. Quarry development and expansion will be phased. Disturbance proposed for the project includes expansion of existing Sentinel and Butterfield Quarries, expansion of associated overburden placement sites, additional internal access roads and ancillary facility areas, and minor adjustments to existing disturbance boundaries. There are no new quarries, haul roads or overburden sites in this plan, only the phased expanded development and reclamation of the existing Sentinel and Butterfield Quarries.

Implementation of the Proposed Project will require discretionary approvals from Federal, State, and local agencies and, therefore, this project is subject to the environmental review requirements of both the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). To ensure coordination between the NEPA and CEQA processes, and to avoid duplication of effort, a joint Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is being prepared as recommended by

CEQA Guidelines Section 15222 and 40 CFR 1506.25. The Forest Service is the NEPA Lead Agency and the County will be the CEQA Lead Agency for the joint EIR/EIS. As Lead Agency for the NEPA process, the Forest Service issues this Notice of Intent (NOI), as required by NEPA, for the Project. The County will issue a separate Notice of Preparation (NOP), as required for CEQA for the Proposed Project.

Comments are being requested to help identify significant issues or concerns related to the proposed action, to determine the scope of the issues (including alternatives) that need to be analyzed and to eliminate from detailed study those issues that are not significant. Supporting documentation should be included with comments recommending that the EIR/EIS address specific environmental issues.

DATES: Comments concerning the scope of the analysis must be received by April 1, 2013. The draft EIR/EIS is expected October 2013 and the final EIR/EIS is expected February 2014.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments to Maya Rohr, Omya Sentinel and Butterfield—Quarries Expansion Project, Sespe Consulting, 5920 Friars Road, Suite 103, San Diego, CA 92108. Comments may also be sent via email to *mrohr@sespeconsulting.com*.

Public Scoping meetings will be held on March 11, 2013 at the Big Bear Discovery Center, 40971 North Shore Drive (Highway 38), Fawnskin, California 92333 beginning at 5 p.m. PST, and March 12, 2013 at the Lucerne Valley Community Center, 33187 Highway 247 East, Lucerne Valley, California 92356 beginning at 5 p.m. PST.

It is important that reviewers provide their comments at such times and in such a way that they are useful to the Agency's preparation of the EIR/EIS. Therefore, comments should be provided prior to the close of the comment period and should clearly articulate the reviewer's concerns and contentions.

Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be part of the public record for this proposed action. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered, however.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Maya Rohr, Senior Project Manager, Sespe Consulting at (619) 894–8669 or *mrohr@sespeconsulting.com*.

Individuals who use telecommunication devices for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1–800–877–8339 between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m., Eastern Time, Monday through Friday.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Omya California submitted the Amended Plan of Operations and Reclamation Plan for the proposed expansion of the existing Butterfield Limestone Quarry to the San Bernardino National Forest, on November 1, 2010. The project was scoped as an Environmental Assessment (EA), and through the analysis of the comments received, the Responsible Official determined that an EIS would be prepared. At that time, the project was expanded to include additional expansion at the Sentinel Quarry as well.

The project site is located approximately 7.5 miles south of the community of Lucerne Valley and 5 miles north of Big Bear Lake within the SBNF in San Bernardino County, California, and is accessed by the vested Crystal Creek Haul Road. The project area is within portions of Sections 23, 24, and 25 Township 3 North, Range 1 West, SBBM. The Butterfield and Sentinel Quarries are located entirely within portions of approximately 954 acres of unpatented placer claims controlled by Omya located on public land administered by the Forest Service. These claims include Crystal Creek 1, 2, 4, 13 and 14, Slope North and King 3.

Both quarries have been mined by Omya since 1977. The Sentinel Quarry is currently permitted to operate through the year 2035, and the Butterfield Quarry through 2015. Known limestone resources, with the proposed quarry expansions, will add an additional 40 years of operations for Butterfield (2016 through 2055) and a proposed additional 20 years for the Sentinel Quarry (2036 through 2055). Depending on market demand, average ore production rates to the processing plant in Lucerne Valley will increase to approximately 680,000 tons of ore to the plant per year, compared to the 3-year average between 2004–2006 of approximately 378,000 tons per year.

The previously approved State Mining and Reclamation Act (SMARA) Reclamation Plans (2003) include a site specific approved revegetation plan, including growth media salvage, organics placement, seeding and revegetation, seed collection and propagation, irrigation, site cleanup, public safety, rock and fill slope stability, drainage and erosion controls, monitoring and maintenance plan and bond release criteria.

Purpose and Need for Action

Omya submitted an amended Plan of Operations and Reclamation Plan to the Forest Service, and a Conditional Use Permit application and Reclamation Plan to the County. These submittals describe the proposed expansion of the existing Sentinel and Butterfield Quarries. The Forest Service is analyzing the surface use of National Forest System lands in connection with operations authorized by the United States mining laws (30 U.S.C. 21–54). The United States mining laws confer a statutory right to enter upon the public lands to search for minerals, and require that these activities shall be conducted so as to minimize adverse environmental impacts on National Forest System surface resources (36 CFR 228.8). The responsibility for managing mineral resources is in the Secretary of the Interior.

Within the United States, productive deposits of white, high purity limestone are found in only a few areas. The Omya deposits are one of these sources of high calcium limestone that can be used as whiting. Whiting is used in the form of nontoxic fillers and extenders in a large number of products ranging from paper products to environmental cleanup, carpet backing, plastics, PVC, paint, paper and other building products. Limestone mining provides numerous environmental benefits including fewer trees harvested for paper making, less petroleum products utilized and less greenhouse gases produced. Limestone can also be used as a substitute for other components in industrial processes and the manufacture of consumer products.

Proposed Action

The proposed expansion includes 48.7 acres of disturbance at the Sentinel Quarry and 28.8 acres of disturbance at the Butterfield Quarry for a total of 77.3 acres. Disturbance proposed for this project includes expansion of existing Sentinel and Butterfield Quarries, expansion of associated overburden placement sites, haul road and ancillary facility areas, and minor adjustments to existing disturbance boundaries. Reclamation for the inactive Cloudy and Claudia quarries, overburden stockpiles, and haul roads on Forest Service lands, including reclamation of the Crystal Creek Haul Road, are covered in the 1994 approved Reclamation Plan and incorporated into the proposed Amended Plan. There are no changes to these sites with the exception of extending the years of use of the Crystal Creek Haul Road by 10 years from 2046 to 2055 followed by 10 years of reclamation. There are no new quarries, haul roads or overburden sites in this plan, only the phased expanded development and reclamation of existing Sentinel Quarry and Butterfield Quarry.

Both the Sentinel and Butterfield Quarries are multi-bench open pit mines where five grades of ore are selectively mined. The ore is drilled and blasted, loaded into haul trucks, and hauled to a crusher located near the Sentinel Quarry (Sentinel crusher). The Sentinel resources are mined in 30-foot cuts with a 30–35 foot safety bench approximately every 60 feet of depth and will have up to 11 benches. The Butterfield deposit is mined in 25 foot cuts with a safety bench approximately every 50 feet and will have up to 8 benches. Bench height has been determined as a result of detailed studies of the geologic structure. Face angles for both quarries average 70 degrees. The highest level of the pit at the Sentinel Quarry is at an elevation of 7,600 feet above mean sea level (amsl) and mining will ultimately reach 7,000 feet amsl. The highest level of the pit at the Butterfield Quarry is 7,900 feet and mining will ultimately reach 7,650 feet amsl.

Project Phasing. Although mining is more or less continuous, the development of the quarries will be phased. The proposed expansion for both quarries includes four (4) 10-year mining phases or pushbacks starting in the year 2016 for the Sentinel Quarry and 2015 for the Butterfield Quarry. The Sentinel quarry will be progressively developed to the south, west, and east property line, and eventually deepened to the footwall to reach the final depth of 7,000 feet amsl. Backfilling will start on the northern wall and gradually filling the quarry to approximate original contours. The Butterfield quarry will be mined during the first four phases from east to west on several levels within the quarry and will eventually deepen to reach a final depth of 7,700 (western portion) to 7,650 (eastern portion) feet amsl. During mining of the western half of the Butterfield Quarry, concurrent backfilling of the eastern quarry area will occur. Ultimately the eastern portion will be completely backfilled to approximate original contours. The overburden will be progressively placed in the eastern portion of the Butterfield Quarry, but only after those portions of the quarry have reached their final outer limit and the ore has been mined out. Phase 5 involves reclamation.

Reclamation. To minimize impacts to the surrounding environment, Omya proposes to reclaim the quarry sites in a manner that meets both Forest Service Minerals Regulations (36 CFR part 228, Subpart A), under the jurisdiction of the Forest Service, and the California Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1975, as amended (SMARA), which is implemented by the County.

The Forest Service approved the previous Omya Umbrella Plan of Operations and Reclamation Plan in 1988. The SMARA Reclamation Plan (94M–02) was approved by the Forest Service and the County in 1994. The Forest Service approved the existing Plan of Operations and Reclamation Plan for Butterfield and Sentinel Quarries in 2002, following completion of an environmental assessment and evaluation of the Plan of Operations. The SMARA Reclamation Plan was amended and approved by the County in 2003.

No changes in the approved revegetation plans are proposed other than increased acres and timing changes. Timing schedules are revised for the development and reclamation of the Sentinel and Butterfield quarries as detailed in the Amended Plan of Operations and Reclamation Plan. Reclamation costs for the quarry sites have been revised. Reclamation will be monitored as required in the approved monitoring plan for 10 years, and the bond reviewed yearly and adjusted to reflect completed reclamation, new disturbance, and variations in the economy (inflation).

Final reclamation will take place within 10 years of terminating mining activities. All remaining equipment will be removed, stockpiles will either be removed or used during reclamation, and internal roads not needed for site access, reclamation, and revegetation and general site monitoring will be reclaimed. Final sloping of quarry walls, backfilled areas, and overburden stockpiles; erosion control; and revegetation of any unreclaimed areas and waste rock stockpiles will be conducted. Some haul roads may be left onsite for use in the revegetation and monitoring activities and for overall site public safety. Ongoing maintenance of fencing, signs, and erosion control will be conducted. Roads not needed for site and quarry access will be ripped, covered with available growth media, and revegetated. Other onsite roads needed for quarry and pad access will be reclaimed after reclamation of quarries and pads are certified complete, as determined by the Forest Service, in order to allow access to all reclamation areas.

Avoidance/Minimization and Environmental Protection Measures. The Amended Plan of Operations includes avoidance/minimization and environmental protection measures, including:

1. Quit claim to the SBNF 300 acres of unpatented mining claims held within the SBNF which are known to have occupied endangered species habitat agreed upon by the Forest Service and consistent with the 2003 Carbonate Habitat Management Strategy (CHMS).

2. Design the mine plan to deposit future overburden into existing overburden areas and completed quarries as much as feasible to avoid possible impacts to existing cushenbury oxytheca populations.

3. Submit additional reclamation bond to cover the new disturbance in the expansion areas prior to starting the development work.

4. Implement a Dust Management Plan (DMP) for the quarry expansion areas.

5. Implement an Employee Awareness Plan that will provide information, training, and protection measures on the following:

A. Mining within Critical Habitat for listed plant species in cooperation with United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and Forest Service.

B. Mining in proximity to an area of Forest Service land segregated from mineral entry and location in cooperation with BLM and Forest Service (CHMS designated refugia).

C. Awareness and protection measures about bighorn sheep in cooperation with USFWS, California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG), and Forest Service.

D. Benefits of preserving heritage resources in cooperation with the Forest Service.

6. Continue maintaining the water guzzler for bighorn sheep near the north end of the Sentinel Quarry.

7. Continue support of CDFG bighorn sheep studies during the mining project.

8. Dispose of sediment from runoff control basins to pre-approved sites rather than side cast down slopes.

9. As areas become available after the completion of mining, implement concurrent reclamation/revegetation of completed quarries and overburden stockpiles to reduce visual impacts through backfilling, recontouring and slope reduction, growth media and habitat log placement, revegetation with native plant species, and colorization as applicable.

10. Any unexpected or unforeseen events will result in immediate notification to the Forest Service. If conditions are encountered that vary significantly from the assumptions used in the mine design and environmental assessments, Omya will coordinate with the Forest Service to determine required actions.

11. Monitoring as described below is incorporated to be part of the approved Plan of Operations: Forest Mine Administrator, Certified Mineral

Examiner or other qualified specialists will document and assure the avoidance/minimization and environmental protection measures incorporated into the Plan of Operations and the Decision are being followed and that they are effective in protecting the environment. Inspections will occur during the life of the project at least once a year to document the site conditions and to assure the Plan of Operations is being followed. If it is determined that a particular environmental protection measure is not adequately protecting surface resources, the Plan of Operations will be modified to correct the situation. Significant changes may require additional analysis and documentation in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act.

Lead and Cooperating Agencies

The Forest Service, as lead agency under NEPA, and County of San Bernardino, as the lead state agency under CEQA, will be preparing a joint EIR/EIS. This EIR/EIS will analyze and disclose the potential effects of the proposed limestone quarry expansion. The Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District has agreed to participate as a cooperating agency and to provide expertise regarding the proposed actions' relationship to the relevant objectives of regional, State and local land use plans, policies and controls.

Responsible Official

The Responsible Official under NEPA for the Omya Sentinel and Butterfield Quarry Expansion project is the San Bernardino National Forest Supervisor, Jody Noiron.

Nature of Decision To Be Made

The Responsible Official will decide whether to approve the Amended Plan of Operations and Reclamation Plan following the environmental analysis. The Forest Service does not have the authority to remove the proponent's ability to mine their claim on National Forest System lands. The Responsible Official will also decide if an amendment to the San Bernardino National Forest Land Management Plan is required.

The County will decide whether to approve the Mining and Land Reclamation Plan Conditional Use Permit following the environmental analysis.

Scoping Process

This notice of intent initiates the scoping process, which guides the development of the EIR/EIS. The complete amended Plan of Operation and Reclamation Plan is available on the San Bernardino National Forest Web site at: *http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/fs-usda-pop.php/?project=32613.*

Public Scoping meetings will be held on March 11, 2013 at the Big Bear Discovery Center, 40971 North Shore Drive (Highway 38), Fawnskin, California 92333 beginning at 5 p.m. PST, and March 12, 2013 at the Lucerne Valley Community Center, 33187 Highway 247 East, Lucerne Valley, California 92356 beginning at 5 p.m. PST.

It is important that reviewers provide their comments at such times and in such manner that they are useful to the agency's preparation of the EIR/EIS. Therefore, comments should be provided prior to the close of the comment period and should clearly articulate the reviewer's concerns and contentions.

Dated: February 21, 2013.

Jody Noiron,

Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 2013–04648 Filed 2–27–13; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–11–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

U.S. Census Bureau

Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; Age Search Service

AGENCY: U.S. Census Bureau, Commerce.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104–13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)).

DATES: To ensure consideration, written comments must be submitted on or before April 29, 2013.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Jennifer Jessup, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 6616, 14th and Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20230 (or via the Internet at *jjessup@doc.gov*).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument(s) and instructions should be directed to Cleo Henderson, U.S. Census Bureau, National Processing Center, Jeffersonville, Indiana 47132; phone: (812) 218–3434; or: *cleo.henderson@census.gov*.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

I. Abstract

Age Search is a service provided by the U.S. Census Bureau for persons who need official transcripts of personal data as proof of age for pensions, retirement plans, medicare, and social security. The transcripts are also used as proof of citizenship to obtain passports or to provide evidence of family relationship for rights of inheritance. The Age Search forms are used by the public in order to provide the Census Bureau with the necessary information to conduct a search of historical population decennial census records in order to provide the requested transcript. The Age Search service is self-supporting and is funded by the fees collected from the individuals requesting the service.

II. Method of Collection

The Form BC–600, Application for Search of Census Records, is a public use form that is submitted by applicants requesting information from the decennial census records. Applicants are requested to enclose the appropriate fee by check or money order with the completed and signed Form BC–600 and return by mail to the U.S. Census Bureau, Post Office Box 1545, Jeffersonville, Indiana 47131. The Form BC–649 (L), which is called a ''Not Found'', advises the applicant that the search for information from the census records was unsuccessful. The BC–658 (L) is sent to the applicant when insufficient information has been received on which to base a search of the census records. These two forms request additional information from the applicant to aid in the search of census records.

The BC–600 will be updated to add the 2010 Decennial Census to the list of searchable censuses. The form will also be updated to inform applicants that checks are now being processed by electronic transfer of funds.

III. Data

OMB Control Number: 0607–0117.

Form Numbers: BC–600, BC–649(L), BC–658(L).

Type of Review: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Affected Public: Individuals or households.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 3,479 Total.

BC–600 2,799.

BC–649(L) 654.

Appendix A-6: Extension of Notice of Preparation (NOP) Comment Period

County of San Bernardino

EXTENSION OF NOTICE OF PREPARATION COMMENT PERIOD

FROM: San Bernardino County Land Use Services Department
385 N. Arrowhead Avenue, First Floor, San Bernardino, CA 92415-0182

TO: Interested Agencies, Organizations, and Individuals

SUBJECT: Notice of Preparation and Notice of Intent Comment Period Extended for the Omya Sentinel and Butterfield Quarries Expansion Project.

The County of San Bernardino (County) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service (Forest Service), San Bernardino National Forest (SBNF) are extending the Notice of Preparation and Notice of Intent public review and comment period for the Butterfield and Sentinel Quarries Expansion Project (Project). Comments are due by June 7, 2013.

The County's website was updated to include the original joint Notice of Preparation/Notice of Intent, Initial Study, proposed Amended Plan of Operations and Reclamation Plan along with associated technical studies.

The SBNF's website was updated to include the Notice of Intent, joint Notice of Preparation/Notice of Intent, the proposed Amended Plan of Operations and Reclamation Plan and the technical studies associated with the project. All documents can be downloaded at the following websites:

http://cms.sbcounty.gov/lus/Planning/Environmental/NoticesDeterminations/Desert.aspx

and

http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/fs-usda-pop.php/?project=32613

Project Title: Sentinel and Butterfield Quarries Expansion Project (Project)

Project Applicant: Omya California, a division of Omya Inc.

Project Description: Omya California (Omya) has submitted the following:

- A Mining and Land Reclamation Plan Conditional Use Permit application submitted to the County of San Bernardino; and
- An Amended Plan of Operations and Reclamation Plan submitted to the Forest Service.

Combined, these applications propose the expansion of the existing Sentinel and Butterfield Quarries. The existing permitted Sentinel and Butterfield limestone quarries are located on mining claims within the SBNF. Known limestone ore resources, within the proposed quarry expansions, will add an additional 20 years life to the Sentinel Quarry, add an additional 40 years life to the Butterfield Quarry, and will allow mining at both quarries to be extended until 2055. Depending on market demand, the combined Sentinel and Butterfield Quarries average ore production rates will be approximately 680,000 tons per year compared to the 3-year average between 2004 – 2006 of approximately 378,000 tons per year. Reclamation will occur concurrently with mining. The proposed expansion includes 48.7 acres of

disturbance at the Sentinel Quarry and 28.8 acres of disturbance at the Butterfield Quarry, for a total of 77.3 acres. Quarry development and expansion will be phased. Disturbance proposed for the Project includes expansion of existing Sentinel and Butterfield Quarries, expansion of existing associated overburden placement sites, additional internal access roads and ancillary facility areas, and minor adjustments to existing disturbance boundaries. There are no new quarries, haul roads or overburden sites in this plan, only the phased expanded development and reclamation of the existing Sentinel and Butterfield Quarries.

Contact Information

Questions about the County's review of the Proposed Project and approval processes may be directed to:

Channary Leng, Consultant Planner
County of San Bernardino
Land Use Services Department
385 N. Arrowhead Avenue
San Bernardino, California 92415
(949) 450-0171 ext. 314
Email: channary@rgpcorp.com

For comments and questions related to the EIR/EIS, please contact:

Maya Rohr
Sespe Consulting, Inc.
5920 Friars Road, Suite 103
San Diego, CA 92108
Phone: 619.894.8669
FAX: 805.667.8104
Email: mrohr@sespeconsulting.com

Signature: _____ **Date:** 05/03/2013
Channary Leng, Consultant to San Bernardino County

Appendix A-7: Scoping Report

(June 2013)

SESPE
CONSULTING, INC.
468 Poli Street, Suite 2E, Ventura, CA 93001

BUTTERFIELD AND SENTINEL QUARRIES EXPANSION PROJECT SCOPING REPORT

Omya California

7225 Crystal Creek Road
Lucerne Valley, CA 92356

June 2013

Prepared for: United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service
San Bernardino National Forest
602 S Tippecanoe Avenue
San Bernardino, CA 92408

County of San Bernardino Land Use Services Department
Planning Division
385 N. Arrowhead Avenue
San Bernardino, CA 92415

Prepared by: Sespe Consulting, Inc.
468 Poli Street, Suite 2E
Ventura, California 93001
(805) 275-1515

SESPE CONSULTING, INC.
468 Poli Street, Suite 2E, Ventura, CA 93001

BUTTERFIELD AND SENTINEL QUARRIES EXPANSION PROJECT
SCOPING REPORT

Omya California
7225 Crystal Creek Road
Lucerne Valley, CA 92356

June 2013

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.0 OVERVIEW OF NEPA/CEQA SCOPING PROCESS 1
1.1 Introduction 1
1.2 Summary of CEQA/NEPA Scoping Processes 1
2.0 SUMMARY OF SCOPING COMMENTS 4
2.1 Biological Processes 4
2.2 Air Quality 5
2.3 Water Resources 5
2.4 Other Comments 6
2.5 Issues Outside the Scope of the EIR/EIS 7
3.0 SUMMARY OF FUTURE STEPS IN THE PLANNING PROCESS 8

APPENDICES

1. USFS Notice of Intent
2. County of San Bernardino Notice of Preparation
3. Joint NOP/NOI
4. Scoping Meeting Materials
5. List of Commenters and Written Comments

SESPE CONSULTING, INC.
468 Poli Street, Suite 2E, Ventura, CA 93001

BUTTERFIELD AND SENTINEL QUARRIES EXPANSION PROJECT SCOPING REPORT

1.0 OVERVIEW OF NEPA/CEQA SCOPING PROCESS

1.1 Introduction

Omya California (Omya), a division of Omya Inc., has requested approval from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service (USFS) and the County of San Bernardino (County) to expand the existing Sentinel and Butterfield Quarries. Accordingly, Omya has submitted the following applications:

- An Amended Plan of Operations and Reclamation Plan to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, San Bernardino National Forest (SBNF).
- A Mining and Land Reclamation Plan Conditional Use Permit application submitted to the County of San Bernardino.

The existing permitted Sentinel and Butterfield limestone quarries are located on mining claims within the San Bernardino National Forest. Known limestone ore resources within the proposed quarry expansions will add an additional 20 years life to the Sentinel Quarry, an additional 40 years life to the Butterfield Quarry, and will allow mining at both quarries to be extended until 2055. Depending on market demand, the combined Sentinel and Butterfield Quarries average ore production rates will be approximately 680,000 tons per year compared to the 3-year average between 2004 – 2006 of approximately 378,000 tons per year. Reclamation will occur concurrently with mining. The proposed expansion includes 48.7 acres of disturbance at the Sentinel Quarry and 28.8 acres of disturbance at the Butterfield Quarry, for a total of 77.3 acres. Quarry development and expansion will be phased. Disturbance proposed for the project includes expansion of existing Sentinel and Butterfield Quarries, expansion of associated overburden placement sites, additional internal access roads and ancillary facility areas, and minor adjustments to existing disturbance boundaries. There are no new quarries, new haul roads or new overburden sites in this plan, only the phased expanded development and reclamation of the existing Sentinel and Butterfield Quarries.

1.2 Summary of CEQA/NEPA Scoping Processes

Implementation of the Proposed Project will require discretionary approvals from Federal, State, and local agencies; therefore, this project is subject to the environmental review requirements of both the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). To ensure coordination between the NEPA and CEQA processes, and to avoid duplication of effort, a joint

EIR/EIS will be prepared as recommended by CEQA Guidelines Section 15222 and by 40 CFR 1506.25. The Forest Service is the NEPA Lead Agency and the County of San Bernardino is the CEQA Lead Agency for the joint EIR/EIS.

This report documents the NEPA/CEQA scoping process for the Proposed Project. Specifically, the report describes the scoping activities and summarizes the written and verbal comments received during the process. The USFS and County will use the Scoping Report as an information source in determining the range of issues, alternatives and mitigation measures to be addressed in the joint EIR/EIS.

The USFS published a Notice of Intent (NOI) in the Federal Register on February 28, 2013. The County distributed the Notice of Preparation (NOP) and Initial Study to the California State Clearinghouse on February 22, 2013, and posted the NOP with the County Clerk. A joint NOP/NOI was mailed to the agencies, organizations and individuals on the USFS and County mailing lists.

Two extensions to the comment period were provided. The first one extended the comment period to April 16, 2013 and the second one to June 7, 2013.

The joint NOP/NOI was also published in the following local newspapers:

- Lucerne Valley Reader,
- Big Bear Grizzly, and
- San Bernardino County Sun.

Copies of the notices are provided in Appendices 1 – 3.

The Initial Study and the complete Amended Plan of Operation and Reclamation Plan were posted at the following locations:

- San Bernardino National Forest website at: http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/fs-usda-pop.php/?project=32613 and/or,
- County of San Bernardino website at: http://cms.sbcounty.gov/lus/Planning/Environmental/NoticesDeterminations/Desert.aspx

The following two public scoping meetings were held:

- March 11, 2013 at the Big Bear Discovery Center, 40971 North Shore Drive (Highway 38), Fawnskin, California 92333 beginning at 5 pm PST, and
- March 12 at the Lucerne Valley Community Center, 33187 Highway 247 East, Lucerne Valley, California 92356 beginning at 5 pm PST.

The scoping meetings provided the public and government agencies the opportunity to receive information on the CEQA/NEPA process and the Proposed Project and to provide verbal and written comments. Approximately 6 people attended the meeting in Big Bear and 7 people attended the meeting in Lucerne Valley. The sign in sheets and materials associated with the scoping meetings are included in Appendix 4. Thirteen letters/emails were received, eight from governmental agencies and five from organizations or individuals. Table 1 provides the list of commenters and their affiliations.

Table 1
Commenters and Affiliations

Commenter	Affiliation	Date
Alan J. De Salvio	Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District	March 5, 2013
Annesley Ignatius	County of San Bernardino, Department of Public Works	March 7, 2013
Jeff Brandt	California Department of Fish and Wildlife	April 16, 2013
Jeanne Geselbracht	United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region IX	March 26, 2013
Ian MacMillan	South Coast Air Quality Management District	March 28, 2013
Daniel Kopulsky	California Department of Transportation, District 8	April 15, 2013
Tom Browne	Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board	June 7, 2013
Dave Singleton	Native American Heritage Commission	February 26, 201
Chuck Bell	Lucerne Valley Economic Development Association	March 12, 2013
Ed LaRue	Desert Tortoise Council, Ecosystems Advisory Committee	March 20, 2013
Ileene Anderson	Center for Biological Diversity	June 4, 2013
Steve Loe	Biological Consultant	April 15, 2013
Richard Wright	Resident of Big Bear	March 18, 2013

2.0 SUMMARY OF SCOPING COMMENTS

This section provides a brief summary of the written and verbal comments received during the scoping period and the public meetings. In order to fully identify the issues raised, copies of the letters/emails are provided in Appendix 5. These comments will be incorporated into the EIR/EIS Administrative Record for the Proposed Project.

2.1 Biological Resources

Several commenters expressed concerns regarding potential impacts to biological resources. The following is a summary of the key concerns:

- The need to conduct a survey of desert tortoises.
- The need to update the outdated studies provided on the web pages.
- Surveys and studies should be conducted within one year of submittal.
- Work closely with the appropriate agencies and ensure the studies are reviewed and approved by these agencies (i.e.; USFS, USFWS, CDFW).
- Conduct adequate surveys (e.g.: more than one season or late in the season).
- Follow applicable protocols and guidelines referenced in comments.
- List all petitioned, listed, threatened, endangered, and/or sensitive species and habitats.
- Conduct surveys (include maps) and bio assessments for the identified species/habitats.
- Address the lead agency obligations under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act.
- Identify migratory wildlife and potential impacts.
- Identify non-jurisdictional riparian and wetland habitats.
- Identify the carbonate habitat and describe the details of the Carbonate Habitat Management Strategy (CHMS).
- Discuss the consistency/compliance that the project has had and will have with the CHMS.
- Assess the effectiveness of the CHMS.
- Reliance on CHMS mitigation strategy is not adequate since CHMS was never “jumpstarted”.
- Do not defer mitigation measures.
- Discuss whether there is a need for an Incidental Take Permit.
- Unavoidable impacts to ephemeral, intermittent and perennial streams must be compensated with the creation of a restoration in-kind habitat with a minimum 3:1 replacement to impact ratio (potentially 5:1 ratio).
- Supportive of 300 acre quick claim but it must address recent survey results and appropriate replacement ratios.
- Conduct a thorough jurisdictional delineation (JD) and reference “A Review of Stream Processes and Forms in Dryland Watersheds.”
- Address potential impacts on Big Horn Sheep, mule deer and other native mammals and reptiles.
- Address potential impacts on Golden Eagle, Spotted Owl and other raptors and avian species.

- Prepare a raven protection plan.
- Map cryptobiotic soils.
- If necessary, provide off-site compensation for unavoidable impacts through acquisition and protection of habitats.
- Address potential concerns with domestic dogs.
- Contact the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB).
- Host a site visit for the CDFW staff.

2.2 Air Quality

Several commenters expressed concerns regarding potential impacts to air quality. The following is a summary of the key concerns:

- Ensure that the CEQA guidelines are followed.
- Address all phases of the project (construction and operations).
- Include stationary, area, fugitive, and vehicular sources.
- Include direct and indirect sources.
- Quantify PM 2.5 per the AQMD recommended methods.
- Address regional and local impacts.
- Compare localized impacts to the SCAQMD Localized Significance Thresholds (LST).
- If project generates emissions from heavy duty trucks, conduct a health risk assessment (HRA).
- If there are significant impacts, use all feasible mitigation measures.
- Describe the existing air quality and the NAAQS.
- Conduct model for comparison to the NAAQS.
- Discuss consistency with the Federal Conformity requirements – General Conformity de-minimis thresholds and provide a General Conformity Determination made between the lead agency and the MDAQMD.
- Describe any required air permits.
- Address all Wilderness Areas (class I and II), Nitrogen deposition and visibility impacts.
- Conduct air quality monitoring.
- Calculate emissions for Hazardous Air Pollutant (HAPs).
- Address contributions to GHG and mitigation measures.
- Describe the air quality baseline.
- Consider using chemical suppressants to control dust on the roads in order to conserve water.

2.3 Water Resources

Several commenters expressed concerns regarding potential impacts to water resources. The following is a summary of the key concerns:

- Note that the Proposed Project crosses regional water board boundaries and is within areas of the Lahontan Water Board and Colorado Water Board.
- Describe all existing water resources in the project vicinity and the cumulative impact area.
- Describe the baseline for groundwater and surface water in regards to quantity and quality.
- Address groundwater adjudication.
- Describe and assess drainage patterns for pre-mining, current operations, proposed operations and post-closure.
- Include hydrologic and topographic maps.
- Address erosion potential/concerns.
- Address sedimentation concerns.
- Identify 25 year and 100 year flood plain issues.
- Discuss water quality standards.
- Describe any water resources permitting requirements.
- Conduct a full delineation of surface water resources.
- Consult with USACE and Water Boards when performing the necessary JD to ensure that the full extent of both State and Federal jurisdictional areas are accurately documented.
- Identify impacts to the Waters of the US/State.
- The Proposed Project overlays several named and unnamed ephemeral stream beds.
- Update and describe the project's Stormwater Pollution and Prevention Plan (SWPP).
- Identify all beneficial uses.
- Evaluate surface water discharge/diversion.
- Identify the potential for hazardous material releases.
- Describe all sources of water required for the project.
- Discuss the potential impact on local wells.
- Conduct water quality monitoring.

2.4 Other Comments

The following concerns were also identified by one or more commenters:

- Evaluate alternatives per CEQA/NEPA requirements.
- Evaluate cumulative impacts per CEQA/NEPA requirements.
- Consider Environmental Justice issues.
- Conduct Native American Tribal consultations.
- Describe nearby land use.
- Describe pollution prevention techniques.
- Describe current compliance with SMARA and the Reclamation Plan and future requirements.
- Compare the Reclamation Plan requirements with the mitigations identified for CEQA.
- Update the Revegetation Plan in the Reclamation Plan.

- Address visual impacts and unnatural appearance of the benches in the quarry.
- Consider the concern that some commenters had with the reclamation at Cloudy and Claudia quarries.

2.5 Issues Outside the Scope of the EIR/EIS

The comments received are considered within the scope of the EIR/EIS; however, evaluation of several comments will be limited by other laws or regulations that have jurisdiction over the project.

3.0 SUMMARY OF FUTURE STEPS IN THE PLANNING PROCESS

Issues associated with the Proposed Project were identified through the scoping period. These issues will be evaluated by a team of interdisciplinary resource specialists and addressed in the EIR/EIS. Based on the studies conducted, data collected and public comments, project alternatives (including the Proposed Project and no action/no project) will be developed. Potential impacts that could result from implementing the Proposed Project or other alternatives will be analyzed and measures to mitigate impacts will be identified.

The next formal public comment period will be for the Draft EIR/EIS. It is anticipated that this will be in the fall of 2013. Upon completion of the Draft EIR/EIS, USFS will publish a Notice of Availability in the Federal Register and the County will file a Notice of Completion with the California State Clearinghouse, followed by a 45-day comment period. In addition, notices will be sent to the agency's mailing lists and posted in the local newspapers. Copies of the Draft EIR/EIS will be distributed to other regulatory agencies, elected officials and/or other interested organizations or individuals. The document will be made available on both the USFS and County websites for the project. Two public meetings will be held, one in Big Bear and one in Lucerne Valley.

After the public comment period on the Draft EIR/EIS, the USFS and County will respond to comments and prepare a Final EIR/EIS and a Mitigation, Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP). Copies of the Final EIR/EIS and MMRP will be provided to other regulatory agencies, elected officials and/or other interested organization or individuals. The documents will also be posted on the USFS and County websites.

USFS and the County will resolve valid protests and prepare the Record of Decision, Notice of Determination, Findings of Fact and Statement of Overrriding Considerations (if necessary). This will be followed by a 30-day public protest period and statute of limitations on court challenges.

APPENDIX 1

USFS NOTICE OF INTENT

review with the Regional Ecosystem Office for the specific proposed thinning treatments and resultant stand conditions may be required.

The project Interdisciplinary Team developed Resource Protection Measures common to all action alternatives to minimize or eliminate potential environmental effects while achieving the desired condition. Development was guided by Forest Plan direction as well as other applicable law, regulation and policy, project-specific objectives and resource concerns identified by resource specialists. These measures complement the project design criteria developed as part of the proposed action, including species and age class retention preferences, microsite thinning and fuels treatment modifications in suitable habitat for late-successional species and within Riparian Reserves and cultural resource protections. Best management practices for maintaining, protecting and monitoring water quality and soils will also be utilized.

Responsible Official

J. Sharon Heywood, Forest Supervisor, Shasta-Trinity National Forest.

Nature of Decision To Be Made

The Forest Supervisor will decide whether to implement the proposed action, take an alternative action that meets the purpose and need, or take no action.

Permits or Licenses Required

A permit would be required from the State of California prior to burning piles. The appropriate regulatory agencies will be consulted regarding national or state required permits associated with roads used during project implementation. All required permits will be obtained prior to implementation.

Scoping Process

The project is included in the Shasta-Trinity National Forest's quarterly schedule of proposed actions (SOPA). Detailed information on the proposed action, including maps, that will aid in the informing comments will be available on the Forest Web site at *http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=31312.* Scoping notice will be published in the Redding Record Searchlight and the Mount Shasta Herald.

This notice of intent initiates the scoping process, which guides the development of issues (cause-effect relationships that highlight effects or unintended consequences), alternatives and analysis for the environmental impact statement. It is important that reviewers provide their comments at such times and in such a manner that they are useful to identifying issues, developing alternatives, conducting resource analysis and preparing the environmental impact statement. Therefore, comments should be provided prior to the close of the 30-day comment period and should clearly articulate the reviewer's concerns.

Please include the following information with your comments: Your name, address and telephone number, the project name: Elk Late-Successional Reserve Enhancement project and site-specific comments about the proposed action, along with supporting information you believe will help identify issues, develop alternatives or predict environmental effects of the proposal. The most useful comments provide new information or describe unwanted environmental effects potentially caused by the proposed action. If you reference scientific literature in your comments, you must provide a copy of the entire cited reference and include rationale as to how you feel it is pertinent to the Elk Late-Successional Reserve Enhancement project.

A public information meeting will be held on March 5, 2013 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the McCloud Ranger Station conference room, located at 2019 Forest Road in McCloud, California. At this meeting, members of the project Interdisciplinary Team will present information on the purpose and need, existing conditions and the developed proposed action to meet the desired conditions in the project area. Written comments may be submitted at this meeting in addition to submitting them via mail and electronically as described in the **ADDRESSES** section above. Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses of those who comment, will become part of the public record for this proposed action.

Dated: February 14, 2013.

J. Sharon Heywood,

Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 2013–04642 Filed 2–27–13; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–11–P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

San Bernardino National Forest; California; Omya Sentinel and Butterfield Quarry Expansion Project

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement and environmental impact report.

SUMMARY: Omya California (Omya), a division of Omya Inc., has submitted the following applications:

- An Amended Plan of Operations and Reclamation Plan to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, San Bernardino National Forest (SBNF); and
- A Mining and Land Reclamation Plan Conditional Use Permit application submitted to the County of San Bernardino (County).

Combined, these applications propose the expansion of the existing Sentinel and Butterfield Quarries. The existing permitted Sentinel and Butterfield limestone quarries are located on mining claims within the SBNF. Known limestone ore resources, within the proposed quarry expansions, will add an additional 20 years life to the Sentinel Quarry, add an additional 40 years life to the Butterfield Quarry, and will allow mining at both quarries to be extended until 2055. Depending on market demand, the combined Sentinel and Butterfield Quarries average ore production rates will be approximately 680,000 tons per year compared to the 3-year average between 2004–2006 of approximately 378,000 tons per year. Reclamation will occur concurrently with mining. The proposed expansion includes 48.7 acres of disturbance at the Sentinel Quarry and 28.8 acres of disturbance at the Butterfield Quarry, for a total of 77.3 acres. Quarry development and expansion will be phased. Disturbance proposed for the project includes expansion of existing Sentinel and Butterfield Quarries, expansion of associated overburden placement sites, additional internal access roads and ancillary facility areas, and minor adjustments to existing disturbance boundaries. There are no new quarries, haul roads or overburden sites in this plan, only the phased expanded development and reclamation of the existing Sentinel and Butterfield Quarries.

Implementation of the Proposed Project will require discretionary approvals from Federal, State, and local agencies and, therefore, this project is subject to the environmental review requirements of both the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). To ensure coordination between the NEPA and CEQA processes, and to avoid duplication of effort, a joint Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is being prepared as recommended by

CEQA Guidelines Section 15222 and 40 CFR 1506.25. The Forest Service is the NEPA Lead Agency and the County will be the CEQA Lead Agency for the joint EIR/EIS. As Lead Agency for the NEPA process, the Forest Service issues this Notice of Intent (NOI), as required by NEPA, for the Project. The County will issue a separate Notice of Preparation (NOP), as required for CEQA for the Proposed Project.

Comments are being requested to help identify significant issues or concerns related to the proposed action, to determine the scope of the issues (including alternatives) that need to be analyzed and to eliminate from detailed study those issues that are not significant. Supporting documentation should be included with comments recommending that the EIR/EIS address specific environmental issues.

DATES: Comments concerning the scope of the analysis must be received by April 1, 2013. The draft EIR/EIS is expected October 2013 and the final EIR/EIS is expected February 2014.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments to Maya Rohr, Omya Sentinel and Butterfield—Quarries Expansion Project, Sespe Consulting, 5920 Friars Road, Suite 103, San Diego, CA 92108. Comments may also be sent via email to *mrohr@sespeconsulting.com*.

Public Scoping meetings will be held on March 11, 2013 at the Big Bear Discovery Center, 40971 North Shore Drive (Highway 38), Fawnskin, California 92333 beginning at 5 p.m. PST, and March 12, 2013 at the Lucerne Valley Community Center, 33187 Highway 247 East, Lucerne Valley, California 92356 beginning at 5 p.m. PST.

It is important that reviewers provide their comments at such times and in such a way that they are useful to the Agency's preparation of the EIR/EIS. Therefore, comments should be provided prior to the close of the comment period and should clearly articulate the reviewer's concerns and contentions.

Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be part of the public record for this proposed action. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered, however.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Maya Rohr, Senior Project Manager, Sespe Consulting at (619) 894–8669 or *mrohr@sespeconsulting.com*.

Individuals who use telecommunication devices for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1–800–877–8339 between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m., Eastern Time, Monday through Friday.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Omya California submitted the Amended Plan of Operations and Reclamation Plan for the proposed expansion of the existing Butterfield Limestone Quarry to the San Bernardino National Forest, on November 1, 2010. The project was scoped as an Environmental Assessment (EA), and through the analysis of the comments received, the Responsible Official determined that an EIS would be prepared. At that time, the project was expanded to include additional expansion at the Sentinel Quarry as well.

The project site is located approximately 7.5 miles south of the community of Lucerne Valley and 5 miles north of Big Bear Lake within the SBNF in San Bernardino County, California, and is accessed by the vested Crystal Creek Haul Road. The project area is within portions of Sections 23, 24, and 25 Township 3 North, Range 1 West, SBBM. The Butterfield and Sentinel Quarries are located entirely within portions of approximately 954 acres of unpatented placer claims controlled by Omya located on public land administered by the Forest Service. These claims include Crystal Creek 1, 2, 4, 13 and 14, Slope North and King 3.

Both quarries have been mined by Omya since 1977. The Sentinel Quarry is currently permitted to operate through the year 2035, and the Butterfield Quarry through 2015. Known limestone resources, with the proposed quarry expansions, will add an additional 40 years of operations for Butterfield (2016 through 2055) and a proposed additional 20 years for the Sentinel Quarry (2036 through 2055). Depending on market demand, average ore production rates to the processing plant in Lucerne Valley will increase to approximately 680,000 tons of ore to the plant per year, compared to the 3-year average between 2004–2006 of approximately 378,000 tons per year.

The previously approved State Mining and Reclamation Act (SMARA) Reclamation Plans (2003) include a site specific approved revegetation plan, including growth media salvage, organics placement, seeding and revegetation, seed collection and propagation, irrigation, site cleanup, public safety, rock and fill slope stability, drainage and erosion controls, monitoring and maintenance plan and bond release criteria.

Purpose and Need for Action

Omya submitted an amended Plan of Operations and Reclamation Plan to the Forest Service, and a Conditional Use Permit application and Reclamation Plan to the County. These submittals describe the proposed expansion of the existing Sentinel and Butterfield Quarries. The Forest Service is analyzing the surface use of National Forest System lands in connection with operations authorized by the United States mining laws (30 U.S.C. 21–54). The United States mining laws confer a statutory right to enter upon the public lands to search for minerals, and require that these activities shall be conducted so as to minimize adverse environmental impacts on National Forest System surface resources (36 CFR 228.8). The responsibility for managing mineral resources is in the Secretary of the Interior.

Within the United States, productive deposits of white, high purity limestone are found in only a few areas. The Omya deposits are one of these sources of high calcium limestone that can be used as whiting. Whiting is used in the form of nontoxic fillers and extenders in a large number of products ranging from paper products to environmental cleanup, carpet backing, plastics, PVC, paint, paper and other building products. Limestone mining provides numerous environmental benefits including fewer trees harvested for paper making, less petroleum products utilized and less greenhouse gases produced. Limestone can also be used as a substitute for other components in industrial processes and the manufacture of consumer products.

Proposed Action

The proposed expansion includes 48.7 acres of disturbance at the Sentinel Quarry and 28.8 acres of disturbance at the Butterfield Quarry for a total of 77.3 acres. Disturbance proposed for this project includes expansion of existing Sentinel and Butterfield Quarries, expansion of associated overburden placement sites, haul road and ancillary facility areas, and minor adjustments to existing disturbance boundaries. Reclamation for the inactive Cloudy and Claudia quarries, overburden stockpiles, and haul roads on Forest Service lands, including reclamation of the Crystal Creek Haul Road, are covered in the 1994 approved Reclamation Plan and incorporated into the proposed Amended Plan. There are no changes to these sites with the exception of extending the years of use of the Crystal Creek Haul Road by 10 years from 2046 to 2055 followed by 10 years of reclamation. There are no new quarries, haul roads or overburden sites in this plan, only the phased expanded development and reclamation of existing Sentinel Quarry and Butterfield Quarry.

Both the Sentinel and Butterfield Quarries are multi-bench open pit mines where five grades of ore are selectively mined. The ore is drilled and blasted, loaded into haul trucks, and hauled to a crusher located near the Sentinel Quarry (Sentinel crusher). The Sentinel resources are mined in 30-foot cuts with a 30–35 foot safety bench approximately every 60 feet of depth and will have up to 11 benches. The Butterfield deposit is mined in 25 foot cuts with a safety bench approximately every 50 feet and will have up to 8 benches. Bench height has been determined as a result of detailed studies of the geologic structure. Face angles for both quarries average 70 degrees. The highest level of the pit at the Sentinel Quarry is at an elevation of 7,600 feet above mean sea level (amsl) and mining will ultimately reach 7,000 feet amsl. The highest level of the pit at the Butterfield Quarry is 7,900 feet and mining will ultimately reach 7,650 feet amsl.

Project Phasing. Although mining is more or less continuous, the development of the quarries will be phased. The proposed expansion for both quarries includes four (4) 10-year mining phases or pushbacks starting in the year 2016 for the Sentinel Quarry and 2015 for the Butterfield Quarry. The Sentinel quarry will be progressively developed to the south, west, and east property line, and eventually deepened to the footwall to reach the final depth of 7,000 feet amsl. Backfilling will start on the northern wall and gradually filling the quarry to approximate original contours. The Butterfield quarry will be mined during the first four phases from east to west on several levels within the quarry and will eventually deepen to reach a final depth of 7,700 (western portion) to 7,650 (eastern portion) feet amsl. During mining of the western half of the Butterfield Quarry, concurrent backfilling of the eastern quarry area will occur. Ultimately the eastern portion will be completely backfilled to approximate original contours. The overburden will be progressively placed in the eastern portion of the Butterfield Quarry, but only after those portions of the quarry have reached their final outer limit and the ore has been mined out. Phase 5 involves reclamation.

Reclamation. To minimize impacts to the surrounding environment, Omya proposes to reclaim the quarry sites in a manner that meets both Forest Service Minerals Regulations (36 CFR part 228, Subpart A), under the jurisdiction of the Forest Service, and the California Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1975, as amended (SMARA), which is implemented by the County.

The Forest Service approved the previous Omya Umbrella Plan of Operations and Reclamation Plan in 1988. The SMARA Reclamation Plan (94M–02) was approved by the Forest Service and the County in 1994. The Forest Service approved the existing Plan of Operations and Reclamation Plan for Butterfield and Sentinel Quarries in 2002, following completion of an environmental assessment and evaluation of the Plan of Operations. The SMARA Reclamation Plan was amended and approved by the County in 2003.

No changes in the approved revegetation plans are proposed other than increased acres and timing changes. Timing schedules are revised for the development and reclamation of the Sentinel and Butterfield quarries as detailed in the Amended Plan of Operations and Reclamation Plan. Reclamation costs for the quarry sites have been revised. Reclamation will be monitored as required in the approved monitoring plan for 10 years, and the bond reviewed yearly and adjusted to reflect completed reclamation, new disturbance, and variations in the economy (inflation).

Final reclamation will take place within 10 years of terminating mining activities. All remaining equipment will be removed, stockpiles will either be removed or used during reclamation, and internal roads not needed for site access, reclamation, and revegetation and general site monitoring will be reclaimed. Final sloping of quarry walls, backfilled areas, and overburden stockpiles; erosion control; and revegetation of any unreclaimed areas and waste rock stockpiles will be conducted. Some haul roads may be left onsite for use in the revegetation and monitoring activities and for overall site public safety. Ongoing maintenance of fencing, signs, and erosion control will be conducted. Roads not needed for site and quarry access will be ripped, covered with available growth media, and revegetated. Other onsite roads needed for quarry and pad access will be reclaimed after reclamation of quarries and pads are certified complete, as determined by the Forest Service, in order to allow access to all reclamation areas.

Avoidance/Minimization and Environmental Protection Measures. The Amended Plan of Operations includes avoidance/minimization and environmental protection measures, including:

1. Quit claim to the SBNF 300 acres of unpatented mining claims held within the SBNF which are known to have occupied endangered species habitat agreed upon by the Forest Service and consistent with the 2003 Carbonate Habitat Management Strategy (CHMS).

2. Design the mine plan to deposit future overburden into existing overburden areas and completed quarries as much as feasible to avoid possible impacts to existing cushenbury oxytheca populations.

3. Submit additional reclamation bond to cover the new disturbance in the expansion areas prior to starting the development work.

4. Implement a Dust Management Plan (DMP) for the quarry expansion areas.

5. Implement an Employee Awareness Plan that will provide information, training, and protection measures on the following:

A. Mining within Critical Habitat for listed plant species in cooperation with United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and Forest Service.

B. Mining in proximity to an area of Forest Service land segregated from mineral entry and location in cooperation with BLM and Forest Service (CHMS designated refugia).

C. Awareness and protection measures about bighorn sheep in cooperation with USFWS, California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG), and Forest Service.

D. Benefits of preserving heritage resources in cooperation with the Forest Service.

6. Continue maintaining the water guzzler for bighorn sheep near the north end of the Sentinel Quarry.

7. Continue support of CDFG bighorn sheep studies during the mining project.

8. Dispose of sediment from runoff control basins to pre-approved sites rather than side cast down slopes.

9. As areas become available after the completion of mining, implement concurrent reclamation/revegetation of completed quarries and overburden stockpiles to reduce visual impacts through backfilling, recontouring and slope reduction, growth media and habitat log placement, revegetation with native plant species, and colorization as applicable.

10. Any unexpected or unforeseen events will result in immediate notification to the Forest Service. If conditions are encountered that vary significantly from the assumptions used in the mine design and environmental assessments, Omya will coordinate with the Forest Service to determine required actions.

11. Monitoring as described below is incorporated to be part of the approved Plan of Operations: Forest Mine Administrator, Certified Mineral

Examiner or other qualified specialists will document and assure the avoidance/minimization and environmental protection measures incorporated into the Plan of Operations and the Decision are being followed and that they are effective in protecting the environment. Inspections will occur during the life of the project at least once a year to document the site conditions and to assure the Plan of Operations is being followed. If it is determined that a particular environmental protection measure is not adequately protecting surface resources, the Plan of Operations will be modified to correct the situation. Significant changes may require additional analysis and documentation in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act.

Lead and Cooperating Agencies

The Forest Service, as lead agency under NEPA, and County of San Bernardino, as the lead state agency under CEQA, will be preparing a joint EIR/EIS. This EIR/EIS will analyze and disclose the potential effects of the proposed limestone quarry expansion. The Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District has agreed to participate as a cooperating agency and to provide expertise regarding the proposed actions' relationship to the relevant objectives of regional, State and local land use plans, policies and controls.

Responsible Official

The Responsible Official under NEPA for the Omya Sentinel and Butterfield Quarry Expansion project is the San Bernardino National Forest Supervisor, Jody Noiron.

Nature of Decision To Be Made

The Responsible Official will decide whether to approve the Amended Plan of Operations and Reclamation Plan following the environmental analysis. The Forest Service does not have the authority to remove the proponent's ability to mine their claim on National Forest System lands. The Responsible Official will also decide if an amendment to the San Bernardino National Forest Land Management Plan is required.

The County will decide whether to approve the Mining and Land Reclamation Plan Conditional Use Permit following the environmental analysis.

Scoping Process

This notice of intent initiates the scoping process, which guides the development of the EIR/EIS. The complete amended Plan of Operation and Reclamation Plan is available on the San Bernardino National Forest Web site at: *http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/fs-usda-pop.php/?project=32613.*

Public Scoping meetings will be held on March 11, 2013 at the Big Bear Discovery Center, 40971 North Shore Drive (Highway 38), Fawnskin, California 92333 beginning at 5 p.m. PST, and March 12, 2013 at the Lucerne Valley Community Center, 33187 Highway 247 East, Lucerne Valley, California 92356 beginning at 5 p.m. PST.

It is important that reviewers provide their comments at such times and in such manner that they are useful to the agency's preparation of the EIR/EIS. Therefore, comments should be provided prior to the close of the comment period and should clearly articulate the reviewer's concerns and contentions.

Dated: February 21, 2013.

Jody Noiron,

Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 2013–04648 Filed 2–27–13; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–11–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

U.S. Census Bureau

Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; Age Search Service

AGENCY: U.S. Census Bureau, Commerce.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104–13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)).

DATES: To ensure consideration, written comments must be submitted on or before April 29, 2013.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Jennifer Jessup, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 6616, 14th and Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20230 (or via the Internet at *jjessup@doc.gov*).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument(s) and instructions should be directed to Cleo Henderson, U.S. Census Bureau, National Processing Center, Jeffersonville, Indiana 47132; phone: (812) 218–3434; or: *cleo.henderson@census.gov.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

I. Abstract

Age Search is a service provided by the U.S. Census Bureau for persons who need official transcripts of personal data as proof of age for pensions, retirement plans, medicare, and social security. The transcripts are also used as proof of citizenship to obtain passports or to provide evidence of family relationship for rights of inheritance. The Age Search forms are used by the public in order to provide the Census Bureau with the necessary information to conduct a search of historical population decennial census records in order to provide the requested transcript. The Age Search service is self-supporting and is funded by the fees collected from the individuals requesting the service.

II. Method of Collection

The Form BC–600, Application for Search of Census Records, is a public use form that is submitted by applicants requesting information from the decennial census records. Applicants are requested to enclose the appropriate fee by check or money order with the completed and signed Form BC–600 and return by mail to the U.S. Census Bureau, Post Office Box 1545, Jeffersonville, Indiana 47131. The Form BC–649 (L), which is called a "Not Found", advises the applicant that the search for information from the census records was unsuccessful. The BC–658 (L) is sent to the applicant when insufficient information has been received on which to base a search of the census records. These two forms request additional information from the applicant to aid in the search of census records.

The BC–600 will be updated to add the 2010 Decennial Census to the list of searchable censuses. The form will also be updated to inform applicants that checks are now being processed by electronic transfer of funds.

III. Data

OMB Control Number: 0607–0117.

Form Numbers: BC–600, BC–649(L), BC–658(L).

Type of Review: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Affected Public: Individuals or households.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 3,479 Total.

BC–600 2,799.
BC–649(L) 654.

APPENDIX 2

COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO NOTICE OF PREPARATION

County of San Bernardino

NOTICE OF PREPARATION

FROM: San Bernardino County Land Use Services Department
385 N. Arrowhead Avenue, First Floor, San Bernardino, CA 92415-0182

TO: Interested Agencies, Organizations, and Individuals

SUBJECT: Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report and Environmental Impact Statement

The County of San Bernardino (County) will be the Lead Agency pursuant to the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and will prepare a joint Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service (Forest Service), San Bernardino National Forest (SBNF) for the Sentinel and Butterfield Quarries Expansion Project (Project). The project description, location, and the probable environmental effects are described below.

Project Title: Sentinel and Butterfield Quarries Expansion Project (Project)

Project Applicant: Omya California, a division of Omya Inc.

Project Description: Omya California (Omya) has submitted the following:

- A Mining and Land Reclamation Plan Conditional Use Permit application submitted to the County of San Bernardino; and
- An Amended Plan of Operations and Reclamation Plan submitted to the Forest Service.

Combined, these applications propose the expansion of the existing Sentinel and Butterfield Quarries. The existing permitted Sentinel and Butterfield limestone quarries are located on mining claims within the SBNF. Known limestone ore resources, within the proposed quarry expansions, will add an additional 20 years life to the Sentinel Quarry, add an additional 40 years life to the Butterfield Quarry, and will allow mining at both quarries to be extended until 2055. Depending on market demand, the combined Sentinel and Butterfield Quarries average ore production rates will be approximately 680,000 tons per year compared to the 3-year average between 2004 – 2006 of approximately 378,000 tons per year. Reclamation will occur concurrently with mining. The proposed expansion includes 48.7 acres of disturbance at the Sentinel Quarry and 28.8 acres of disturbance at the Butterfield Quarry, for a total of 77.3 acres. Quarry development and expansion will be phased. Disturbance proposed for the Project includes expansion of existing Sentinel and Butterfield Quarries, expansion of existing associated overburden placement sites, additional internal access roads and ancillary facility areas, and adjustments to existing disturbance boundaries. There are no new quarries, haul roads or overburden sites in this plan, only the phased expanded development and reclamation of the existing Sentinel and Butterfield Quarries.

The complete proposed Amended Plan of Operations and Reclamation Plan are available for review on the County's and SBNF's websites:

http://cms.sbcounty.gov/lus/Planning/Environmental/NoticesDeterminations/Desert.aspx
http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/fs-usda-pop.php/?project=32613

Questions about the County's review of the Proposed Project and approval processes may be directed to:

Jeremy Krout or
Channary Leng
Consultant to:
San Bernardino County
Land Use Services Department
385 N. Arrowhead Avenue
San Bernardino, California 92415
(949) 450-0171 ext. 314
Email: jkrout@rgpcorp.com or
channary@rgpcorp.com

Signature: Jeremy Krout **Date:** 02/22/2013
Jeremy Krout, Consultant to San Bernardino County

Introduction

Implementation of the Proposed Project will require discretionary approvals from Federal, State, and local agencies. Therefore, the Proposed Project is subject to the environmental review requirements under CEQA and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). To ensure coordination between the CEQA and NEPA processes, and to avoid duplication of effort, a joint EIR/EIS is being prepared, as recommended under CEQA Guidelines Section 15222 and 40 CFR 1506.25. The County will be the CEQA Lead Agency and the Forest Service will be the NEPA Lead Agency for the EIR/EIS. As Lead Agency for the CEQA process, the County has issued this Notice of Preparation (NOP). The Forest Service has issued a separate Notice of Intent (NOI), as required by NEPA.

This NOP provides a description of the Proposed Project and solicits comments on the scope and content of the environmental document being prepared to analyze the environmental impacts of the Proposed Project. Comments are hereby solicited from Federal, State, and local agencies, and the general public. Comments received in response to this NOP will be reviewed and considered in determining the scope of the EIR/EIS. The County requests that agency comments regarding the scope and content of the environmental document also be pertinent to that agency's statutory responsibilities in connection with the Proposed Project. Where applicable, it is recommended that agencies make use of the EIR/EIS prepared by the County when considering its permitting or other approvals related to the Project.

Commenters are asked to include their name, telephone number, address, and e-mail address (if applicable) in the event it is necessary to further clarify the comments offered. Agencies submitting comments are asked to provide the name, telephone number, and e-mail address of the agency's contact person. Please write *"Omya Butterfield and Sentinel Quarries Project"* in the subject line. Due to CEQA-defined time limits, comments should be sent at the earliest possible date, but no later than April 1, 2013. Please direct comments and questions related to the EIR/EIS to:

Maya Rohr
Sespe Consulting, Inc.
5920 Friars Road, Suite 103
San Diego, CA 92108
Phone: 619.894.8669
FAX: 805.667.8104
Email: mrohr@sespeconsulting.com

Project Description

Setting. The Proposed Project site is located approximately 7.5 miles south of the community of Lucerne Valley and 5 miles north of Big Bear Lake within the SBNF in San Bernardino County, California and is accessed by the vested Crystal Creek Haul Road. The Proposed Project area is located within portions of Sections 23, 24, and 25 Township 3 North, Range 1 West, SBBM. The Butterfield and Sentinel Quarries are located entirely within portions of approximately 954 acres of unpatented placer claims controlled by Omya located on public land administered by the Forest Service. These claims include Crystal Creek 1, 2, 4, 13 and 14, Slope North and King 3.

Introduction. The proposed expansion includes 48.7 acres of disturbance at the Sentinel Quarry and 28.8 acres of disturbance at the Butterfield Quarry for a total of 77.3 acres. Disturbance proposed for

this project includes expansion of existing Sentinel and Butterfield Quarries, expansion of existing associated overburden placement sites, additional internal access roads and ancillary facility areas, and minor adjustments to existing disturbance boundaries. Reclamation for the inactive Cloudy and Claudia quarries and their associated overburden stockpiles, and haul roads on USFS lands, including reclamation of the Crystal Creek Haul Road, are covered in the 1994 approved Reclamation Plan and incorporated into the proposed Amended Plan of Operations and Reclamation Plan. There are no changes to these sites with the exception of extending the years of use of the Crystal Creek Haul Road by 10 years from years 2046 to 2055 followed by 10 years of reclamation. All other aspects of the existing operation and reclamation (including the processing plant in Lucerne Valley) are covered in approved plans and are unchanged. There are no new quarries, new haul roads or new overburden sites in this plan, only the phased expanded development and reclamation of existing Sentinel Quarry and Butterfield Quarry.

Both quarries have been mined by Omya since 1977. The Sentinel Quarry is currently permitted to operate through the year 2035, and the Butterfield Quarry through 2015. Known limestone resources, with the proposed quarry expansions, will add an additional 40 years of operations for Butterfield (2016 through 2055) and a proposed additional 20 years for the Sentinel Quarry (2036 through 2055). Depending on market demand, maximum ore production rates to the processing plant in Lucerne Valley will increase to approximately 680,000 tons of ore to the plant per year, compared to the 3-year average between 2004 – 2006 of approximately 378,000 tons per year.

Both the Sentinel and Butterfield Quarries are multi-bench open pit mines where five grades of ore are selectively mined. The ore is drilled and blasted, loaded into haul trucks, and hauled to a crusher located near the Sentinel Quarry (Sentinel crusher). The Sentinel resources are mined in 30-foot cuts with a 30-35 foot safety bench approximately every 60 feet of depth and will have up to 11 benches. The Butterfield deposit is mined in 25-foot cuts with a safety bench approximately every 50 feet and will have up to 8 benches. Bench height has been determined as a result of detailed studies of the geologic structure. Face angles for both quarries average 70 degrees. The highest level of the pit at the Sentinel Quarry is at an elevation of 7,600 feet above mean sea level (amsl) and mining will ultimately reach 7,000 feet amsl. The highest level of the pit at the Butterfield Quarry is 7,900 feet and mining will ultimately reach 7,650 feet amsl.

Project Phasing. Although mining is more or less continuous, the development of the quarries will be phased. Included in the Amended Plan of Operations and Reclamation Plan phased expansion is concurrent quarry development and reclamation of the mined portions of the quarries and completed portions of the overburden stockpiles. Once the final outer limit and bottom is reached, the quarries will be partially backfilled as the remainder of mining is completed. The proposed Amended Plan of Operations and Reclamation Plan would:

- Allow an increase in the placement of backfill within mined portions of the quarries;
- Minimize the disturbance of new ground through the phased incremental disturbance of new ground (as the phased mining progresses, overburden/waste rock can be placed in completed sections of the quarries, thus reducing the need to store overburden/waste rock on undisturbed ground or increase height of existing stockpiles.); and
- Implement concurrent reclamation of the quarries and overburden stockpiles. To achieve this, specific overburden stockpiles will be completed during the 40-year operational period and

revegetated as completed and the quarries will be partially backfilled as sections completed (see detail below).

The proposed expansion for the Butterfield Quarry includes four (4) 10-year mining phases starting in the year 2015. Phase 5 involves final reclamation, which is anticipated to take place between 2055 and 2064. The Butterfield Quarry will be mined during the first four phases, between 2015 and 2054, from east to west on several levels within the quarry and will eventually deepen to reach a final depth of 7,700 (western portion) to 7,650 (eastern portion) feet amsl. During mining of the western half of the Butterfield Quarry, concurrent backfilling of the eastern quarry area will occur. Ultimately, the eastern portion will be completely backfilled to approximate original contours. The overburden will be progressively placed in the eastern portion of the Butterfield Quarry, but only after those portions of the quarry have reached their final outer limit and the ore has been mined out.

The proposed expansion for the Sentinel Quarry includes four (4) additional mining phases or pushbacks starting in the year 2016 and described in 10-year intervals followed by a 10-year Phase 5 for final reclamation. The Sentinel Quarry will be progressively developed to the south, west, and east property lines, and eventually deepened to the footwall to reach the final depth of 7,000 feet amsl. Backfilling will start on the northern wall and gradually fill the quarry to approximately 7,300 feet on the quarry floor.

Reclamation. To minimize impacts to the surrounding environment, Omya proposes to reclaim the quarry sites in a manner that meets both Forest Service Minerals Regulations (36 CFR 228, Subpart A), under the jurisdiction of the Forest Service, and the California Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1975, as amended (SMARA), which is implemented by the County.

The Forest Service approved the previous Omya Umbrella Plan of Operations and Reclamation Plan in 1988. The SMARA Reclamation Plan (94M-02) was approved by the Forest Service and the County in 1994. The Forest Service approved the existing Plan of Operations and Reclamation Plan for Butterfield and Sentinel Quarries in 2002, following completion of an environmental assessment and evaluation of the Plan of Operations. The SMARA Reclamation Plan was amended and approved by the County in 2003.

No changes in the approved revegetation plans are proposed other than increased acres and timing changes. Timing schedules are revised for development and reclamation of the Sentinel and Butterfield quarries as detailed in the Amended Plan of Operations and Reclamation Plan. Reclamation will be monitored as required in the approved monitoring plan for 10 years, and the reclamation bond reviewed yearly and adjusted to reflect completed reclamation, new disturbance, and variations in the economy (inflation).

Concurrent reclamation starts with the initiation of mining and includes the following:

- Salvaging and stockpiling of grubbed organics, soils, growth media, seeds, and relocatable plants and cuttings for propagation and direct deposition and/or replanting to available reclamation areas during clearing of areas to be developed;
- Ongoing seed collection onsite and/or adjacent to the site and propagation of seeds, salvaged plants and cuttings at local nursery by a contracted revegetation contractor;

- Backfilling of the eastern half of the Butterfield Quarry and portions of the Sentinel Quarry, as feasible;
- Sloping and grading of completed quarry and stockpile slopes for safety, slope stability, and erosion control;
- Placement of darker materials, as available, on outside of more visible slopes and colorization, if shown successful for slopes not susceptible to raveling to reduce color contrast;
- Ripping of compacted areas prior to revegetation;
- Covering approximately 30% of equipment-accessible horizontal areas with salvaged soil, growth media and organics utilizing the island concept;
- Reclamation of onsite roads after reclamation of quarries and pads certified complete, as determined by the Forest Service, in order to allow access to all reclamation areas;
- Revegetation – hand seeding and direct seeding followed by imprinting, seedling planting, and hydroseeding will be utilized as deemed most effective;
- Irrigation may be conducted for two (2) years to maximize establishment; and
- Monitoring and remediation until success criteria achieved.

Final reclamation will take place within 10 years of terminating mining activities. All remaining equipment will be removed, stockpiles will either be removed or used during reclamation, and internal roads not needed for site access, reclamation, and revegetation and general site monitoring will be reclaimed. Final sloping of quarry walls, backfilled areas, and overburden stockpiles; erosion control; and revegetation of any unreclaimed areas and waste rock stockpiles will be conducted. Some roads may be left to provide access for revegetation and monitoring activities and for overall public safety. Ongoing maintenance of fencing, signs, and erosion control will be conducted. Roads not needed for site and quarry access will be ripped, covered with available growth media, and revegetated. Other onsite roads needed for quarry and pad access will be reclaimed after reclamation of the quarries and pads are certified complete, as determined by the Forest Service, in order to allow access to all reclamation areas.

Avoidance/Minimization and Environmental Protection Measures. The Amended Plan of Operations and Reclamation Plan includes the following avoidance/minimization and environmental protection measures:

1. Quitclaim, to the Forest Service, 300 acres of unpatented mining claims held within the SBNF, which are known to have occupied endangered species habitat agreed upon by the SBNF and consistent with the Carbonate Habitat Management Strategy (CHMS).
2. Design mine plan to deposit future overburden into existing overburden areas and completed quarries as much as feasible to avoid possible impacts to existing cushenbury oxytheca populations.
3. Submit additional reclamation bond to cover the new disturbance in the expansion areas prior to starting the development work.
4. Implement a Dust Management Plan (DMP) for the quarry expansion areas.
5. Implement an Employee Awareness Plan that will provide information, training, and protection measures on the following:

A. Mining within Critical Habitat for listed plant species in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and Forest Service.

B. Mining in proximity to an area of SBNF land segregated from mineral entry and location in cooperation with the United Sates Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and Forest Service (CHMS designated refugia).

C. Awareness and protection measures about bighorn sheep in cooperation with USFWS, California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG), and Forest Service.

D. Benefits of preserving heritage resources in cooperation with the Forest Service.

6. Continue maintaining the water guzzler for bighorn sheep near the north end of the Sentinel Quarry.
7. Continue support of CDFG bighorn sheep studies during the mining project.
8. Dispose of sediment from runoff control basins to pre-approved sites rather than side cast down slopes.
9. As areas become available after completion of mining, implement concurrent reclamation/revegetation of completed quarries and overburden stockpiles to reduce visual impacts through backfilling, recontouring and slope reduction, growth media and habitat log placement, revegetation with native plant species, and colorization as applicable.
10. Any unexpected or unforeseen events will result in immediate notification to the Forest Service. If conditions are encountered that vary significantly from the assumptions used in the mine design and environmental assessments, Omya will coordinate with the Forest Service to determine required actions.
11. Monitoring as described below is incorporated in the approved Plan of Operations:

    Forest Mine Administrator, Certified Mineral Examiner or other qualified specialists will document and assure the avoidance/minimization and environmental protection measures incorporated into the Plan of Operations and the Decision Notice are being followed and that they are effective in protecting the environment. Inspections will occur during the life of the project at least once a year to document the site conditions and to assure the Plan of Operations is being followed. If it is determined that a particular environmental protection measure is not adequately protecting surface resources, the Plan of Operations will be modified to correct the situation. Significant changes may require additional analysis and documentation in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act.

Government Agency Reviews and Permits

The County will be the CEQA Lead Agency and will consider the Amended Reclamation Plan based upon the environmental analysis disclosed in the EIR/EIS. The Forest Service will be the NEPA Lead Agency for approving the Project and will consider the Amended Plan of Operations based upon the environmental analysis disclosed in the EIR/EIS. The applicant's requested public agency actions include:

- County of San Bernardino approval of a Mining and Land Reclamation Plan Conditional Use Permit Application.
- U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, San Bernardino National Forest – Record of Decision on the Plan of Operations

- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service – Section 7 Consultation with the Forest Service through the Carbonate Habitat Management Strategy Plan

Potential Environmental Impacts

The Lead Agencies have determined that this project could result in significant environmental impacts and/or have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment. As such, preparation of a joint EIR/EIS is appropriate. The EIR/EIS will evaluate the environmental impacts of the Project, after having first established the environmental setting, or baseline, for the environmental analysis. In the Initial Study prepared for the Project, the following potentially significant impacts were identified for further evaluation, the results of which will be disclosed in the EIR/EIS. In each instance, the significance of potential Project impacts, cumulative impacts, and appropriate mitigation measures will be disclosed in the EIR/EIS.

- Aesthetics
- Air Quality
- Biological Resources
- Cumulative Impacts
- Geology and Soils Resources
- Greenhouse Gases
- Hydrology and Water Quality

In addition, the EIR/EIS will discuss the following areas even though the Initial Study concluded that there would be no impact or a less than significant impact associated with them:

- Agriculture and Forestry
- Cultural Resources
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- Noise

Scoping Meetings

The County and the Forest Service will host two Public Scoping meetings to provide the opportunity for the public, organizations and agencies to learn more about the Project and to identify the issues to be addressed during the EIR/EIS process. Public Scoping meetings will be held on March 11, 2013 at the Big Bear Discovery Center, 40971 North Shore Drive (Highway 38), Fawnskin, California 92333 beginning at 5 pm PST, and March 12, 2013 at the Lucerne Valley Community Center, 33187 Highway 247 East, Lucerne Valley, California 92356 beginning at 5 pm PST.

Attachments

Initial Study for the Sentinel and Butterfield Quarries Expansion Project.

The complete Amended Plan of Operation and Reclamation Plan is available on the County's and SBNF's websites at:

http://cms.sbcounty.gov/lus/Planning/Environmental/NoticesDeterminations/Desert.aspx
http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/fs-usda-pop.php/?project=32613

Maya Rohr

From: Channary Leng <channary@rgpcorp.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2013 2:59 PM
To: Jeff.Brandt@wildlife.ca.gov
Cc: Maya Rohr; Rahhal, Terri; Suitt, Steven; Marty Derus (marty@lilburncorp.com)
Subject: Request for Extended Deadline for NOP Comment Period on the Omya Sentinel & Butterfield Quarries Project

Hello Jeff,

Per our phone conversation, this is to confirm that you requested an extension to public review and comment period for the joint NOP/NOI that was released for the Omya Sentinel & Butterfield Quarries project (SCH# 2013021057). We will be awaiting your comment letter, which you indicated should arrive to us by no later than **Tuesday, April 16th**.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate in contacting me at 949-450-0171 ext. 314. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Channary Leng

Channary Leng

RGP

RGP Planning & Development Services
8921 Research Drive • Irvine, CA 92618
www.rgpcorp.com
channary@rgpcorp.com
Office (949) 450-0171 x314
Cell (714) 277-0606
Fax (949) 450-0182

Confidentiality Notice: This communication and all attached documents and/or files are privileged and confidential, and are intended for the sole use of the addressee(s). Please be advised that any disclosure, copying, or distribution is strictly prohibited without prior permission. If you have received this communication in error, please delete it and contact me at channary@rgpcorp.com or telephone (949) 450-0171.

No virus found in this message.
Checked by AVG - www.avg.com
Version: 2012.0.2240 / Virus Database: 2641/5705 - Release Date: 03/26/13

County of San Bernardino

EXTENSION OF NOTICE OF PREPARATION COMMENT PERIOD

FROM: San Bernardino County Land Use Services Department
385 N. Arrowhead Avenue, First Floor, San Bernardino, CA 92415-0182

TO: Interested Agencies, Organizations, and Individuals

SUBJECT: Notice of Preparation and Notice of Intent Comment Period Extended for the Omya Sentinel and Butterfield Quarries Expansion Project.

The County of San Bernardino (County) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service (Forest Service), San Bernardino National Forest (SBNF) are extending the Notice of Preparation and Notice of Intent public review and comment period for the Butterfield and Sentinel Quarries Expansion Project (Project). Comments are due by June 7, 2013.

The County's website was updated to include the original joint Notice of Preparation/Notice of Intent, Initial Study, proposed Amended Plan of Operations and Reclamation Plan along with associated technical studies.

The SBNF's website was updated to include the Notice of Intent, joint Notice of Preparation/Notice of Intent, the proposed Amended Plan of Operations and Reclamation Plan and the technical studies associated with the project. All documents can be downloaded at the following websites:

http://cms.sbcounty.gov/lus/Planning/Environmental/NoticesDeterminations/Desert.aspx

and

http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/fs-usda-pop.php/?project=32613

Project Title: Sentinel and Butterfield Quarries Expansion Project (Project)

Project Applicant: Omya California, a division of Omya Inc.

Project Description: Omya California (Omya) has submitted the following:

- A Mining and Land Reclamation Plan Conditional Use Permit application submitted to the County of San Bernardino; and
- An Amended Plan of Operations and Reclamation Plan submitted to the Forest Service.

Combined, these applications propose the expansion of the existing Sentinel and Butterfield Quarries. The existing permitted Sentinel and Butterfield limestone quarries are located on mining claims within the SBNF. Known limestone ore resources, within the proposed quarry expansions, will add an additional 20 years life to the Sentinel Quarry, add an additional 40 years life to the Butterfield Quarry, and will allow mining at both quarries to be extended until 2055. Depending on market demand, the combined Sentinel and Butterfield Quarries average ore production rates will be approximately 680,000 tons per year compared to the 3-year average between 2004 – 2006 of approximately 378,000 tons per year. Reclamation will occur concurrently with mining. The proposed expansion includes 48.7 acres of

disturbance at the Sentinel Quarry and 28.8 acres of disturbance at the Butterfield Quarry, for a total of 77.3 acres. Quarry development and expansion will be phased. Disturbance proposed for the Project includes expansion of existing Sentinel and Butterfield Quarries, expansion of existing associated overburden placement sites, additional internal access roads and ancillary facility areas, and minor adjustments to existing disturbance boundaries. There are no new quarries, haul roads or overburden sites in this plan, only the phased expanded development and reclamation of the existing Sentinel and Butterfield Quarries.

Contact Information

Questions about the County's review of the Proposed Project and approval processes may be directed to:

Channary Leng, Consultant Planner
County of San Bernardino
Land Use Services Department
385 N. Arrowhead Avenue
San Bernardino, California 92415
(949) 450-0171 ext. 314
Email: channary@rgpcorp.com

For comments and questions related to the EIR/EIS, please contact:

Maya Rohr
Sespe Consulting, Inc.
5920 Friars Road, Suite 103
San Diego, CA 92108
Phone: 619.894.8669
FAX: 805.667.8104
Email: mrohr@sespeconsulting.com

Signature: _____ **Date:** 05/03/2013
Channary Leng, Consultant to San Bernardino County

APPENDIX 3

JOINT NOP/NOI

Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, San Bernardino National Forest, and San Bernardino County Land Use Services Department, California

Omya Sentinel and Butterfield Quarries Expansion Project

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA and San Bernardino County Land Use Services Department

ACTION: Joint Notice of Preparation and Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement / Environmental Impact Report.

SUMMARY: Omya California (Omya), a division of Omya Inc., has submitted the following applications:

- An Amended Plan of Operations and Reclamation Plan to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, San Bernardino National Forest (SBNF).
- A Mining and Land Reclamation Plan Conditional Use Permit application submitted to the County of San Bernardino (County).

Combined, these applications propose the expansion of the existing Sentinel and Butterfield Quarries. The existing permitted Sentinel and Butterfield limestone quarries are located on mining claims within the San Bernardino National Forest. Known limestone ore resources, within the proposed quarry expansions, will add an additional 20 years life to the Sentinel Quarry, add an additional 40 years life to the Butterfield Quarry, and will allow mining at both quarries to be extended until 2055. Depending on market demand, the combined Sentinel and Butterfield Quarries average ore production rates will be approximately 680,000 tons per year compared to the 3-year average between 2004 – 2006 of approximately 378,000 tons per year. Reclamation will occur concurrently with mining. The proposed expansion includes 48.7 acres of disturbance at the Sentinel Quarry and 28.8 acres of disturbance at the Butterfield Quarry, for a total of 77.3 acres. Quarry development and expansion will be phased. Disturbance proposed for the Proposed Project includes expansion of existing Sentinel and Butterfield Quarries, expansion of associated overburden placement sites, additional internal access roads and ancillary facility areas, and minor adjustments to existing disturbance boundaries. There are no new quarries, new haul roads or new overburden sites in this plan, only the phased expanded development and reclamation of the existing Sentinel and Butterfield Quarries.

Implementation of the Proposed Project will require discretionary approvals from Federal, State, and local agencies and, therefore, this project is subject to the environmental review requirements of both the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). To ensure coordination between the NEPA and CEQA processes, and to avoid duplication of effort, a joint Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Environmental Impact Report (EIR) has been prepared as recommended by CEQA Guidelines Section 15222 and 40 CFR 1506.25. The Forest Service is the NEPA Lead Agency and the County of San Bernardino will be the CEQA Lead Agency for the joint EIR/EIS. As Lead Agency for the NEPA process, the Forest Service will issue a Notice of Intent (NOI), as required

by NEPA, for the Project. The County will issue a separate Notice of Preparation (NOP), as required for CEQA for the Proposed Project.

Comments are being requested to help identify significant issues or concerns related to the proposed action, to determine the scope of the issues (including alternatives) that need to be analyzed and to eliminate from detailed study those issues that are not significant. Supporting documentation should be included with comments recommending that the EIR/EIS address specific environmental issues.

DATES: Comments concerning the scope of the analysis must be received by April 1, 2013. The draft EIR/EIS is expected October 2013 and the final EIR/EIS is expected February 2014.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments with the words "*Sentinel and Butterfield Quarries Expansion Project*" in the subject line to:

Maya Rohr
Senior Project Manager
Sespe Consulting
5920 Friars Road, Suite 103
San Diego, California 92108
mrohr@sespeconsulting.com

Public scoping meetings will be held on March 11, 2013 at the Big Bear Discovery Center, 40971 North Shore Drive (Highway 38), Fawnskin, California 92333 beginning at 5:00 pm PST and onMarch 12, 2013 at the Lucerne Valley Community Center, 33187 Highway 247 East, Lucerne Valley, California 92356 beginning at 5:00 pm PST.

It is important that reviewers provide their comments at such times and in such a way that they are useful to the Agency's preparation of the EIR/EIS. Therefore, comments should be provided prior to the close of the comment period and should clearly articulate the reviewer's concerns and contentions.

Commenters are asked to include their name, telephone number, address, and e-mail address (if applicable) in the event it is necessary to further clarify the comments offered. Agencies submitting comments are asked to provide the name, telephone number, and e-mail address of the agency's contact person. Please write "*Omya Butterfield and Sentinel Quarries Project*" in the subject line. Due to CEQA-defined time limits, comments should be sent at the earliest possible date, but no later than April 1, 2013.

Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be part of the public record for this proposed action. However, comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Maya Rohr, Senior Project Manager, Sespe Consulting at (619) 894-8669 or mrohr@sespeconsulting.com.

Individuals who use telecommunication devices for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1–800–877–8339 between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m., Eastern Time, Monday through Friday.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Omya California submitted an Amended Plan of Operations and Reclamation Plan for the proposed expansion of the existing Butterfield Limestone Quarry to the San Bernardino National Forest, on November 1, 2010. The project was scoped as an Environmental Assessment (EA), and through the analysis of the comments received the Forest Service Responsible Official determined that an EIS would be prepared. At that time, the project was expanded to include additional expansion at the Sentinel Quarry as well.

Both quarries have been mined by Omya since 1977. The Sentinel Quarry is currently permitted to operate through the year 2035, and the Butterfield Quarry through 2015. Known limestone resources, with the proposed quarry expansions, will add an additional 40 years of operations for Butterfield (2016 through 2055) and a proposed additional 20 years for the Sentinel Quarry (2036 through 2055). Depending on market demand, average ore production rates to the processing plant in Lucerne Valley will increase to approximately 680,000 tons of ore to the plant per year compared to the 3-year average between 2004 – 2006 of approximately 378,000 tons per year.

The previously approved State Mining and Reclamation Act (SMARA) Reclamation Plans (2003) include a site specific approved revegetation plan, including growth media salvage, organics placement, seeding and revegetation, seed collection and propagation, irrigation, site cleanup, public safety, rock and fill slope stability, drainage and erosion controls, monitoring and maintenance plan and bond release criteria.

Purpose and Need for Action

Omya submitted an amended Plan of Operations and Reclamation Plan to the Forest Service, and a Mining and Land Reclamation Plan Conditional Use Permit application to the County. These submittals describe the proposed expansion of the existing Sentinel and Butterfield Quarries. The Forest Service is analyzing the surface use of National Forest System lands in connection with operations authorized by the United States mining laws (30 U.S.C. 21-54). The United States mining laws confer a statutory right to enter upon the public lands to search for minerals, and require that these activities shall be conducted so as to minimize adverse environmental impacts on National Forest System surface resources (36 CFR 228.8). The responsibility for managing mineral resources is in the Secretary of the Interior.

Within the United States, productive deposits of white, high purity limestone are found in only a few areas. The Omya deposits are one of these sources of high calcium limestone that can be used as whiting. Whiting is used in the form of nontoxic fillers and extenders in a large number of products ranging from paper products to environmental cleanup, carpet backing, plastics, PVC, paint, paper and other building products. Limestone mining provides numerous environmental benefits including fewer trees harvested for paper making, less petroleum products utilized and less greenhouse gases produced. Limestone can also be used as a

substitute for other components in industrial processes and the manufacture of consumer products.

Proposed Action

Setting. The project site is located approximately 7.5 miles south of the community of Lucerne Valley and 5 miles north of Big Bear Lake within the SBNF in San Bernardino County, California and is accessed by the vested Crystal Creek Haul Road. The project area is within portions of Sections 23, 24, and 25 Township 3 North, Range 1 West, SBBM. The Butterfield and Sentinel Quarries are located entirely within portions of approximately 954 acres of unpatented placer claims controlled by Omya located on public land administered by the Forest Service. These claims include Crystal Creek 1, 2, 4, 13 and 14, Slope North and King 3.

Introduction. The proposed expansion includes 48.7 acres of disturbance at the Sentinel Quarry and 28.8 acres of disturbance at the Butterfield Quarry for a total of 77.3 acres. Disturbance proposed for this project includes expansion of existing Sentinel and Butterfield Quarries, expansion of associated overburden placement sites, additional internal access roads and ancillary facility areas, and minor adjustments to existing disturbance boundaries. Reclamation for the inactive Cloudy and Claudia quarries and their associated overburden stockpiles, and haul roads on Forest Service lands, including reclamation of the Crystal Creek Haul Road, are covered in the 1994 approved Reclamation Plan and incorporated into the proposed Amended Plan. There are no changes to these sites with the exception of extending the years of use of the Crystal Creek Haul Road by 10 years from years 2046 to 2055 followed by 10 years of reclamation. All other aspects of the existing operation and reclamation (including the processing plant in Lucerne Valley) are covered in approved plans and are unchanged. There are no new quarries, new haul roads or new overburden sites in this plan, only the phased expanded development and reclamation of existing Sentinel Quarry and Butterfield Quarry.

Both the Sentinel and Butterfield Quarries are multi-bench open pit mines where five grades of ore are selectively mined. The ore is drilled and blasted, loaded into haul trucks, and hauled to a crusher located near the Sentinel Quarry (Sentinel crusher). The Sentinel resources are mined in 30-foot cuts with a 30-35 foot safety bench approximately every 60 feet of depth and will have up to 11 benches. The Butterfield deposit is mined in 25 foot cuts with a safety bench approximately every 50 feet and will have up to 8 benches. Bench height has been determined as a result of detailed studies of the geologic structure. Face angles for both quarries average 70 degrees. The highest level of the pit at the Sentinel Quarry is at an elevation of 7,600 feet above mean sea level (amsl) and mining will ultimately reach 7,000 feet amsl. The highest level of the pit at the Butterfield Quarry is 7,900 feet and mining will ultimately reach 7,650 feet amsl.

Project Phasing. Although mining is more or less continuous, the development of the quarries will be phased. Included in the Amended Plan of Operations and Reclamation Plan phased expansion plan, is concurrent quarry development and reclamation of the mined portions of the quarries and completed portions of the overburden stockpiles. Once the final outer limit and bottom is reached, the quarries will be partially backfilled as the remainder of mining is completed. The proposed Amended Plan of Operations and Reclamation Plan would:

- Allow an increase in the placement of backfill within mined portions of the quarries;

- Minize the disturbance of new ground through the phased incremental disturbance of new ground (as the phased mining progresses, overburden/waste rock can be placed in completed sections of the quarries, thus reducing the need to store overburden/waste rock on undisturbed ground or increase height of existing stockpiles.); and
- Implement concurrent reclamation of the quarry. To achieve this, specific overburden stockpiles will be completed during the 40-year operational period and revegetated as completed and the quarries will be partially backfilled as sections completed (see detail below).

The proposed expansion for the Butterfield Quarry includes four (4) 10-year mining phases starting in the year 2015. Phase 5 involves reclamation, which is anticipated to take place between year 2055 and 2064. The Butterfield Quarry will be mined during the first four phases from east to west on several levels within the the quarry and will eventually deepen to reach a final depth of 7,700 (western portion) to 7,650 (eastern portion) feet amsl. During mining of the western half of the Butterfield Quarry, concurrent backfilling of the eastern quarry area will occur. Ultimately the eastern portion will be completely backfilled to approximate original contours. The overburden will be progressively placed in the eastern portion of the Butterfield Quarry, but only after those portions of the quarry have reached their final outer limit and the ore has been mined out.

The proposed expansion for the Sentinel Quarry includes four (4) additional mining phases starting in the year 2016 and described in 10-year intervals followed by a 10-year Phase 5 for final reclamation. The Sentinel Quarry will be progressively developed (pushed back) to the south, west, and east property lines, and eventually deepened to the footwall to reach the final depth of 7,000 feet amsl. Backfilling will start on the northern wall and gradually fill the quarry to approximately 7,300 feet on the quarry floor.

Reclamation. To minimize impacts to the surrounding environment, Omya proposes to reclaim the quarry sites in a manner that meets both Forest Service Minerals Regulations (36 CFR 228, Subpart A), under the jurisdiction of the Forest Service, and the California Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1975, as amended (SMARA), which is implemented by the County.

The Forest Service approved the previous Omya Umbrella Plan of Operations and Reclamation Plan in 1988. The SMARA Reclamation Plan (94M-02) was approved by the Forest Service and the County in 1994. The Forest Service approved the existing Plan of Operations and Reclamation Plan for Butterfield and Sentinel Quarries in 2002, following completion of an environmental assessment and evaluation of the Plan of Operations. The SMARA Reclamation Plan was amended and approved by the County in 2003.

No changes in the approved revegetation plans are proposed other than increased acres and timing changes. Timing schedules are revised for development and reclamation of the Sentinel and Butterfield quarries as detailed in the Amended Plan of Operations and Reclamation Plan. Reclamation will be monitored as required in the approved monitoring plan for 10 years, and the reclamation bond reviewed yearly and adjusted to reflect completed reclamation, new disturbance, and variations in the economy (inflation).

Concurrent reclamation starts with the initiation of mining and includes the following:

- Salvaging and stockpiling of grubbed organics, soils, growth media, seeds, and relocatable plants and cuttings for propagation and direct deposition and/or replanting to available reclamation areas during clearing of areas to be developed;
- Ongoing seed collection onsite and/or adjacent to the site and propagation of seeds, salvaged plants and cuttings at local nursery by a contracted revegetation contractor;
- Backfilling of the eastern half of the Butterfield Quarry and portions of the Sentinel Quarry, as feasible;
- Sloping and grading of completed quarry and stockpile slopes for safety, slope stability, and erosion control;
- Placement of darker materials, as available, on outside of more visible slopes and colorization, if shown successful for slopes not susceptible to raveling to reduce color contrast;
- Ripping of compacted areas prior to revegetation;
- Covering approximately 30% of equipment-accessible horizontal areas with salvaged soil, growth media and organics utilizing the island concept;
- Reclamation of onsite roads after reclamation of quarries and pads certified complete, as determined by the Forest Service, in order to allow access to all reclamation areas;
- Revegetation – hand seeding and direct seeding followed by imprinting, seedling planting, and hydroseeding will be utilized as deemed most effective;
- Irrigation may be conducted for two (2) years to maximize establishment; and
- Monitoring and remediation until success criteria achieved.

Final reclamation will take place within 10 years of terminating mining activities. All remaining equipment will be removed, stockpiles will either be removed or used during reclamation, and internal roads not needed for site access, reclamation, and revegetation and general site monitoring will be reclaimed. Final sloping of quarry walls, backfilled areas, and overburden stockpiles; erosion control; and revegetation of any unreclaimed areas and waste rock stockpiles will be conducted. Some roads may be left to provide access for revegetation and monitoring activities and for overall public safety. Ongoing maintenance of fencing, signs, and erosion control will be conducted. Roads not needed for site and quarry access will be ripped, covered with available growth media, and revegetated. Other onsite roads needed for quarry and pad access will be reclaimed after reclamation of quarries and pads are certified complete, as determined by the Forest Service, in order to allow access to all reclamation areas.

Avoidance/Minimization and Environmental Protection Measures. The Amended Plan of Operations and Reclamation Plan include avoidance/minimization and environmental protection measures, including:

1. Quit claim to the SBNF 300 acres of unpatented mining claims held within the SBNF which are known to have occupied endangered species habitat agreed upon by the Forest Service and consistent with the Carbonate Habitat Management Strategy (CHMS).

2. Design the mine plan to deposit future overburden into existing overburden areas and

completed quarries as much as feasible to avoid possible impacts to existing cushenbury oxytheca populations.

3. Submit additional reclamation bond to cover the new disturbance in the expansion areas prior to starting the development work.

4. Implement a Dust Management Plan (DMP) for the quarry expansion areas.

5. Implement an Employee Awareness Plan that will provide information, training, and protection measures on the following:
   A. Mining within Critical Habitat for listed plant species in cooperation with United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and Forest Service.
   B. Mining in proximity to an area of SBNF land segregated from mineral entry and location in cooperation with BLM and Forest Service (CHMS designated refugia).
   C. Awareness and protection measures about bighorn sheep in cooperation with USFWS, California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG), and Forest Service.
   D. Benefits of preserving heritage resources in cooperation with the Forest Service.

6. Continue maintaining the water guzzler for bighorn sheep near the north end of the Sentinel Quarry.

7. Continue support of CDFG bighorn sheep studies during the mining project.

8. Dispose of sediment from runoff control basins to pre-approved sites rather than side cast down slopes.

9. As areas become available, implement concurrent reclamation/revegetation of completed quarries and overburden stockpiles to reduce visual impacts through backfilling, recontouring and slope reduction, growth media and habitat log placement, revegetation with native plant species, and colorization as applicable.

10. Any unexpected or unforeseen events will result in immediate notification to the Forest Service. If conditions are encountered that vary significantly from the assumptions used in the mine plan and environmental assessments, Omya will coordinate with the Forest Service to determine required actions.

11. Monitoring as described below is incorporated to be part of the approved Plan of Operations:

    Forest Mine Administrator, Certified Mineral Examiner or other qualified specialists will document and assure the avoidance/minimization and environmental protection measures incorporated into the Plan of Operations and the Decision Notice are being followed and that they are effective in protecting the environment. Inspections will occur during the life of the project at least once a year to document the site conditions and to assure the Plan of Operations is being followed. If it is determined that a particular environmental protection measure is not adequately protecting surface resources, the Plan of Operations

will be modified to correct the situation. Significant changes may require additional analysis and documentation in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act.

Lead and Cooperating Agencies

The Forest Service, as lead agency under NEPA, and County of San Bernardino, as the lead state agency under CEQA, will prepare this joint EIR/EIS. The EIR/EIS will analyze and disclose the potential effects of the proposed limestone quarry expansion. The Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District has agreed to participate as a cooperating agency and to provide expertise regarding the proposed actions' relationship to the relevant objectives of regional, State and local land use plans, policies and controls.

Nature of Decision To Be Made

The Forest Service Responsible Official will decide whether to approve the amended Plan of Operation following the environmental analysis under NEPA. The Forest Service does not have the authority to remove the proponent's ability to mine their claim on National Forest System lands.

The County will decide whether to approve the Mining and Land Reclamation Plan Conditional Use Permit following the environmental analysis under CEQA.

Scoping Process

This joint NOP/NOI initiates the scoping process, which guides the development of the EIR/EIS.

The Initial Study and the complete Amended Plan of Operation and Reclamation Plan may be found at one or both of the following loctions:

- San Bernardino National Forest website at: http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/fs-usda-pop.php/?project=32613 and/or,
- County of San Bernardino website at: http://cms.sbcounty.gov/lus/Planning/Environmental/NoticesDeterminations/Desert.aspx

Public Scoping meetings will be held on March 11, 2013 at the Big Bear Discovery Center, 40971 North Shore Drive (Highway 38), Fawnskin, California 92333 beginning at 5 pm PST, and March 12 at the Lucerne Valley Community Center, 33187 Highway 247 East, Lucerne Valley, California 92356 beginning at 5 pm PST.

APPENDIX 4

SCOPING MEETING MATERIALS

SIGN IN SHEET

OMYA BUTTERERFIELD AND SENTINEAL QUARRIES EXPANSION PROJECT

CEQA/NEPA SCOPING MEETING

~~LUCERNE VALLEY COMMUNITY CENTER~~ Big Bear Discovery Center

~~LUCERNE VALLEY, CA~~

MARCH ~~12~~ 11, 2013

NAME	AFFILIATION	ADDRESS	EMAIL
1 David Heldreth	Big Bear Grizzly	42007 Foxfarm Rd Big Bear CA 92315	dheldreth.grizzly@gmail.com
2 Sandy Steers	Friends of Fawnskin	PO Box 422 Fawnskin 92333	friendsoffawnskin@gmail.com
3 Danny Bogner		P.O. Box 1432 Sugarloaf, 92386	bogshotrods@charternet
4 David Rib	Mitsubishi Cement	5808 Hwy 18 Lucerne Valley CA 92356	drib@mitsubishicement.com
5 Jeremy Noble	SBMG, SOFA	1565 Malabar Way BBC 92314	etaure@gmail.com
6 Joe Stone	Local Owner	22462 Canaveras Mission Viejo 92691	Jeannie7@cox.net
7			
8			

SIGN IN SHEET

OMYA BUTTERERFIELD AND SENTINEAL QUARRIES EXPANSION PROJECT

CEQA/NEPA SCOPING MEETING

~~BIG BEAR DISCOVERY CENTER~~ Lucerne Valley Community Center

~~BIG BEAR LAKE, CA~~

MARCH ~~11~~, 2013

12

NAME	AFFILIATION	ADDRESS	EMAIL
1 Barbara Veale		PO Box 1179	
2 [illegible]		P.O. Box 2186	ZachTipton@GMail.com
3 Chuck Bell	LUEDA		chucbe sisp.net
4 Linda Gommel	Lucerne Valley Mkt + Hardware	PO Box 749 LV 92356	lustore@sisp.net
5 [illegible]	LUEDA Mitsubishi	32600 Spanish	
6 [illegible]	"	"	
7 Jeff Shaffer	Specialty Minerals	6565 Meridian Rd. Lucerne Valley	Jeff.Shaffer@mineralstech.com
8			
9			
10			
11			
12			
13			

WE APPRECIATE YOUR PARTICIPATION

Omya Sentinel and Butterfield Quarries Expansion Project
Scoping Meeting Comment Form
March 11 and 12, 2013

The Forest Service and the County of San Bernardino request your participation in the planning process for the proposed Omya Sentinel and Butterfield Quarries Expansion Project. Your comments will assist us in addressing your comments regarding this Proposed Project.

You may submit your comments at the scoping meeting or, if you prefer, you can mail, FAX, or email your comments to Sespe Consulting, Inc. attention Maya Rohr, Environmental Consultant.

Note: This form is formatted so that you can mail it with postage affixed on the other side.

Mail: Sespe Consulting, Inc.
5920 Friars Road, Suite 103
San Diego, CA 92108

Telephone: (619) 894-8669
Fax: (805) 667-8104
E-mail: mrohr@sespeconsulting.com

For your convenience, two specific questions are listed to help organize your comments.

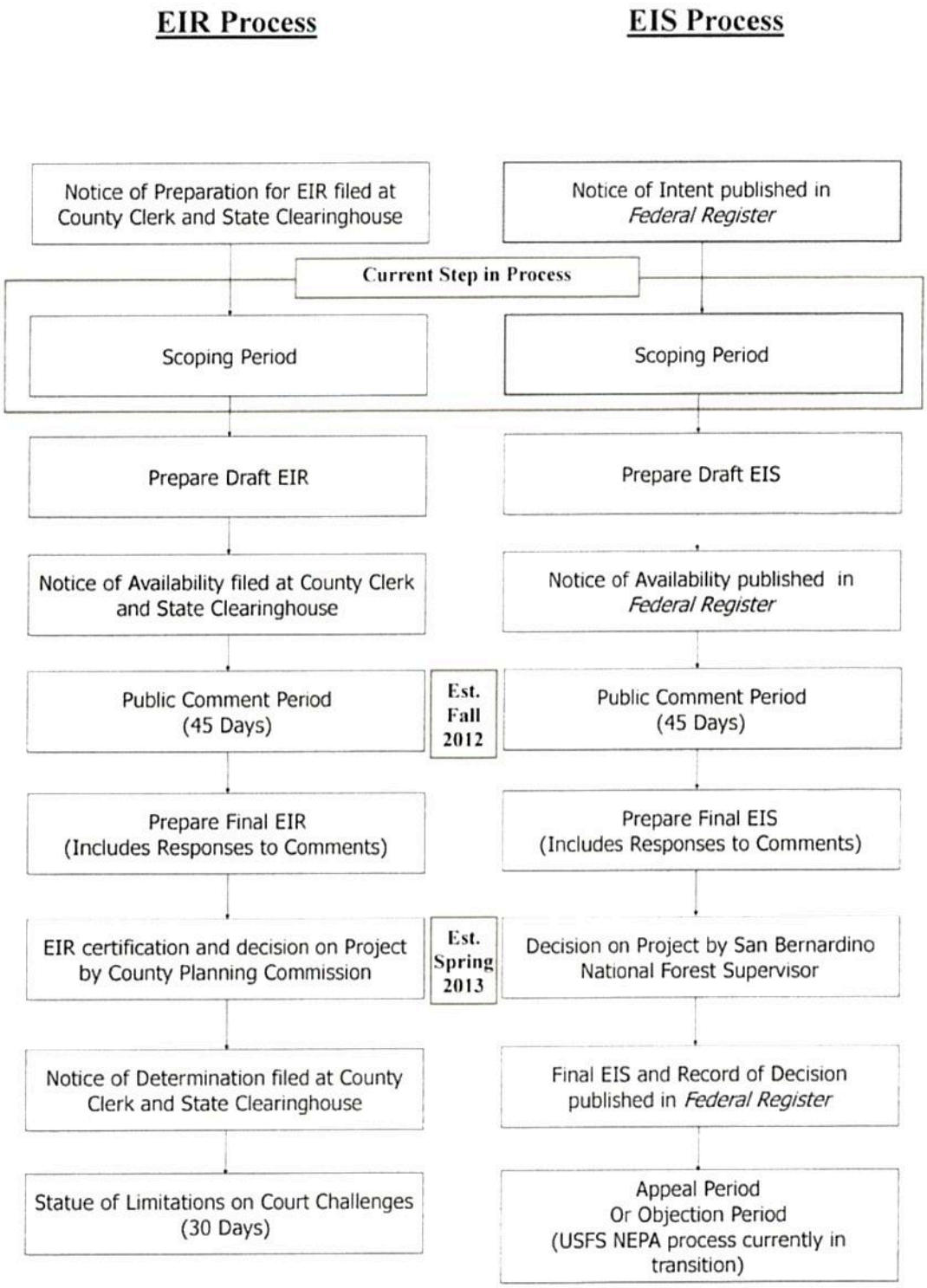
1. What specific environmental impact issues would you like to see addressed in the EIR/EIS?

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

2. What specific suggestions do you have to avoid or reduce one or more environmental impacts of this project?

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

The Environmental Impact Report/ Environmental Impact Statement Process



APPENDIX 5

LIST OF COMMENTERS AND WRITTEN COMMENTS

Commenters and Affiliations

Commenter	Affiliation	Date
Alan J. De Salvio	Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District	March 5, 2013
Annesley Ignatius	County of San Bernardino, Department of Public Works	March 7, 2013
Jeff Brandt	California Department of Fish and Wildlife	April 16, 2013
Jeanne Geselbracht	United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region IX	March 26, 2013
Ian MacMillan	South Coast Air Quality Management District	March 28, 2013
Daniel Kopulsky	California Department of Transportation, District 8	April 15, 2013
Tom Browne	Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board	June 7, 2013
Dave Singleton	Native American Heritage Commission	February 26, 201
Chuck Bell	Lucerne Valley Economic Development Association	March 12, 2013
Ed LaRue	Desert Tortoise Council, Ecosystems Advisory Committee	March 20, 2013
Ileene Anderson	Center for Biological Diversity	June 4, 2013
Steve Loe	Biological Consultant	April 15, 2013
Richard Wright	Resident of Big Bear	March 18, 2013

Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District
14306 Park Avenue, Victorville, CA 92392-2310
760.245.1661 • fax 760.245.2699
Visit our web site: http://www.mdaqmd.ca.gov
Eldon Heaston, Executive Director

March 5, 2013

Maya Rohr, Senior Project Manager
Sespe Consulting
5920 Friars Road, Suite 103
San Diego, CA 92108

RE: Sentinel and Butterfield Quarries Expansion Project

Dear Ms. Rohr:

The Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District (District) has reviewed the Omya Sentinel and Butterfield Quarries Expansion Project. This action proposes the expansion of the existing Sentinel and Butterfield Quarries. Known limestone ore resources within the proposed quarry expansions will add an additional 20 years life to the Sentinel Quarry, add an additional 40 years life to the Butterfield Quarry, and will allow mining at both quarries to be extended until 2055. Depending on market demand, combined quarry production rate will be approximately 680,000 tons per year compared to the three year average between 2004 - 2006 of approximately 378,000 tons per year. Reclamation will occur concurrently with mining. Disturbance at Sentinel and Butterfield Quarry will total 77.3 acres. Proposed disturbance includes expansion of associated overburden placement sites, additional internal access roads and ancillary facility areas, and minor disturbances boundaries. There are no new quarries, new haul roads or new overburden sites in the plan.

We have reviewed the project and, based on the information available to us at this time, we have no comments.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this planning document. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact me at (760) 245-1661, extension 6726, or Tracy Walters at extension 6122.

Sincerely,

Alan J. De Salvio
Supervising Air Quality Engineer

AJD/tw

Omya Sentinel Butterfield Expansion

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

FLOOD CONTROL • LAND DEVELOPMENT & CONSTRUCTION • OPERATIONS
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT • SURVEYOR • TRANSPORTATION

COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO

825 East Third Street • San Bernardino, CA 92415-0835 • (909) 387-8104
Fax (909) 387-8130

GERRY NEWCOMBE
Director of Public Works

March 7, 2013

File: 10(ENV)-4.01

Ms. Maya Rohr
Senior Project Manager
Sespe Consulting
5920 Friars Road, Suite 103
San Diego, California 92108

RE: FOREST SERVICE, USDA AND SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY LAND USE SERVICES DEPARTMENT JOINT NOTICE OF PREPARATION AND INTENT TO PREPARE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT/REPORT (EIS/EIR) FOR SENTINEL AND BUTTERFIELD QUARRIES EXPANSION PROJECT

Dear Ms. Rohr:

Thank you for providing the County of San Bernardino Department of Public Works (Department) the opportunity to comment on the above-referenced project. We received this request on March 1, 2013.

Following Department review of the subject document, we request that a copy of the Draft EIS/EIR and any technical studies be forwarded when they become available. At that time, the Department will comment on the proposed project and its possible impacts on existing and/or future Flood Control District facilities or County roads.

Should you have questions or require additional information, please contact Erma Hurse by phone at (909) 387-1864 or by email at Erma.Hurse@dpw.sbcounty.gov.

Sincerely,

ANNESLEY IGNATIUS, P.E.
Deputy Director – Land Development & Construction

ARI:EJH:nh/CEQA Comments_Sespe Consulting_Sentinal and Butterfield Quarries Expansion

GREGORY C. DEVEREAUX
Chief Executive Officer

Board of Supervisors
ROBERT A. LOVINGOOD, First District
JAMES RAMOS, Third District
JAN DE RUTHERFORD, Second District
GARY C. OVITT, Fourth District
JOSIE GONZALES, Fifth District

Maya Rohr

From:	Jeff Brandt <Jeff.Brandt@wildlife.ca.gov>
Sent:	Tuesday, April 16, 2013 6:18 PM
To:	Terri Rahhal; Maya Rohr
Cc:	Beth Hendrickson; state.clearinghouse@opr.ca.gov; Channary Leng; Jeff Brandt; Jeff Villepique; Robin Maloney-Rames
Subject:	CDFW comments on NOP for a draft EIR/EIS (SCH# 2013021057) for the Sentinel and Butterfield Quarries Expansion Project (Omya Inc.)

Good afternoon Ms. Rahal and Ms. Rohr.

The Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the Omya Sentinel and Butterfield Quarry Expansion Project (Project) [State Clearinghouse No. 2013021057]. The Department is responding to the DEIA as a Trustee Agency for fish and wildlife resources (California Fish and Game Code Sections 711.7 and 1802, and the California Environmental Quality Act [CEQA] Guidelines Section 15386), and as a Responsible Agency regarding any discretionary actions (CEQA Guidelines Section 15381), such as the issuance of a Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement (California Fish and Game Code Sections 1600 *et seq.*) and/or a California Endangered Species Act (CESA) Permit for Incidental Take of Endangered, Threatened, and/or Candidate species (California Fish and Game Code Sections 2080 and 2080.1).

Project Description

The Project is located approximately 7.5 miles south of the community of Lucerne and 5 miles north of Big Bear Lake within the San Bernardino National Forest, in the County of San Bernardino, California. The Project is accessed by the Crystal Creek haul road. Omya California, a division of Omya Inc. (Omya), proposes the phased expansion of 48.7 acres at the Sentinel Quarry and 28.8 acres at the Butterfield Quarry. The total proposed expansion is 77.3 acres. The Project will expand existing mining operations from 137.5 acres to 214.8 acres. The Project will also extend the period of mining or the "life" of the quarries by 20 years at the Sentinel Quarry, and by 40 years at the Butterfield Quarry. Both quarries will be extended through 2055.

Biological Resources and Impacts

Most of the biological information provided in the NOP was out dated. The CEQA document should contain sufficient, specific, and current biological information on the existing habitat and species at the Project site; measures to minimize and avoid sensitive biological resources; and mitigation measures to offset the loss of native flora and fauna and State waters. The CEQA document should not defer impact analysis and mitigation measures to future regulatory discretionary actions, such as a Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement.

Sensitive species have been identified on the Project site and species specific surveys should be conducted using methods approved by the Department, or the DEIR should assume the presence of the species throughout the project site. Surveys should be conducted with one year of submission of the CEQA document. To assist with review, an accompanying map showing the areas of impact should be included in the subsequent CEQA document. Additional maps detailing the location of sensitive species should also be included in the subsequent CEQA document.

Carbonate Habitat Management Strategy Plan

Compliance with approved habitat plans, such as the Carbonate Habitat Management Strategy Plan (CHMS), is discussed in CEQA. Specifically, Section 15125(d) of the CEQA Guidelines requires that the CEQA document discuss any inconsistencies between a proposed Project and applicable general plans and regional plans, including habitat conservation plans and natural community conservation plans. An assessment of the effects to the CHMS as a result of this Project is necessary to address CEQA requirements.

California Endangered Species Act

If the project is not processed through the CHMS for covered species, then the project is subject to the Federal Endangered Species Act (FESA) and/or CESA for threatened, endangered, and/or candidate species. A CESA Incidental Take Permit (ITP) must be obtained if the project has the potential to result in take of species of plants or animals listed under CESA, either during construction or over the life of the project. The Department's CESA ITP states that a project must fully minimize and mitigate impacts to State-listed resources. Cushenberry oxytheca (Oxytheca parishii var. goodmaniana), a federally listed plant has been identified onsite. To preclude take of other sensitive plant species associated with carbonate soils, the Department recommends current special status surveys using the Department's 2009 Protocols for Surveying and Evaluating Impacts to Special Status Native Plant Populations and Natural Communities.

Lake and Streambed Alteration Program

A Notification of Lake or Streambed Alteration is required by the Department, should the site contain jurisdictional waters. The Department is responsible for assessing and evaluating impacts to jurisdictional waters; typically accomplished through reviewing jurisdictional delineation (JD) reports, supporting information, and conducting site visits. Following review of a JD, the Department may request changes to the JD. The Department may also recommend that additional project avoidance and/or minimization measures be incorporated, or request additional mitigation for project-related impacts to jurisdictional areas.

The Department recommends submitting a notification early in the project planning process, since modification of the proposed project may be required to avoid or reduce impacts to fish and wildlife resources. To obtain a Lake or Streambed Alteration notification package, please go to http://www.dfg.ca.gov/habcon/1600/forms.html.

A JD was not included with the CEQA document. The Department recommends that the entirety of the project site be assessed for the potential presence of Department jurisdictional areas. If Department jurisdictional areas are present, a JD needs to be prepared. To assist in the preparation of the JD, please reference *A Review of Stream Processes and Forms in Dryland Watersheds* available at: https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=25779

The Department opposes the elimination of ephemeral, intermittent, and perennial streams, channels lakes, and their associated habitats. The Department recommends avoiding stream and riparian habitat to the greatest extent possible. Any unavoidable impacts need to be compensated with the creation and/or restoration of in-kind habitat either on-site or off-site at a minimum 3:1 replacement-to impact ratio, depending on the impacts and proposed mitigation. Additional mitigation requirements

through the Department's Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement process may be required, depending on the quality of habitat impacted, proposed mitigation, project design, and other factors.

The following information will be required for the processing of a Notification of Lake or Streambed Alteration and the Department recommends incorporating this information into the CEQA document tc avoid subsequent documentation and project delays:

1) Delineation of lakes, streams, and associated habitat that will be temporarily and/or permanently impacted by the proposed project (include an estimate of impact to each habitat type);
2) Discussion of avoidance and minimization measures to reduce project impacts; and,
3) Discussion of potential mitigation measures (per section 15370 of the CEQA Guidelines) required to reduce the project impacts to a level of insignificance.

In the absence of specific mitigation measures in the CEQA document, the Department believes that cannot fulfill its obligations as a Trustee and Responsible Agency for fish and wildlife resources. Permit negotiations conducted after and outside of the CEQA process are not CEQA-compliant because they deprive the public and agencies of their right to know what project impacts are and how they are being mitigated (CEQA Guidelines Section 15002).

Environmental Impacts

The Project is proposed within sensitive habitat. The phased nature of the project may lead to significant temporal impacts, and direct impacts to species such as big horn sheep, raptors, and plant associated with carbonate soils. A thorough consideration and discussion of the environmental impacts associated with project activities, and the phased approach to development and reclamation should be developed as described under CEQA Guidelines Sections 15126 and 15126.2.

Cumulative Impacts

The Project is proposed in the San Bernardino National Forest. The regional scarcity of biological resources may increase the cumulative significance of Project activities. Cumulative effects analysis should be developed as described under CEQA Guidelines Section 15130. Please include all potential direct and indirect project related impacts to riparian areas, wetlands, vernal pools, alluvial fan habitats, wildlife corridors or wildlife movement areas, aquatic habitats, sensitive species and othe sensitive habitats, open lands, open space, and adjacent natural habitats in the cumulative effects analysis.

Alternatives Analysis

The CEQA document should analyze a range of fully considered and evaluated alternatives to the Project (CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.6). The analysis should include a range of alternatives which avoid or otherwise minimize impacts to sensitive biological resources. The Department considers Rare Natural Communities as threatened habitats, having both local and regional significance. Thus, these communities should be fully avoided and otherwise protected from Project-related impacts. The CEQA document should include an evaluation of specific alternative locations with lower resource sensitivity where appropriate. Off-site compensation for unavoidable impacts through acquisition and protection of high-quality habitat should be addressed.

Please note that the Department generally does not support the use of relocation, salvage, and/or transplantation as mitigation for impacts to rare, threatened, or endangered species. Department studies have shown that these efforts are experimental in nature and largely unsuccessful.

Big Horn Sheep, Mule Deer and Raptors

Immediately foreseeable impacts to be addressed in the DEIR, include impacts to approximately 77.3 acres of habitat as a result of the removal of native vegetation and soil within the footprint of the quarries. The project area is used by bighorn sheep, mule deer and other native mammal, reptile, raptors and other avian species for foraging, movement between habitats, bedding, escape terrain, and other important activities. Actions to prevent and mitigate losses to these important forage resources and habitat components should be addressed.

Disturbance to bighorn sheep should be addressed, as well as the potential loss of individuals to mortality related to blasting, vehicle collision, or other mining activities, or as a consequence of decreased access to forage. Procedures to minimize and avoid disturbance and loss of individuals should be evaluated. Consequences of loss of individuals should address population-level impacts tc the persistence of this small population.

Domestic sheep were found in the project area in 2007 and domestic dogs in 2008, posing risks of disease and predation, respectively, to bighorn sheep. The movement of both domestic species is facilitated by haul roads, necessitating steps to mitigate risk. The loss of habitat and disturbance from mining activity may cause bighorn sheep to move from the area, potentially increasing the risk of contact with domestic animals and concomitant risk for disease and predation.

The expanded quarries may present barriers to movement of bighorn sheep both for within-range movement and for immigration and emigration, and the consequences should be evaluated. The topography of the quarries (slopes, bench height) should be assessed relative to the permeability for movement of bighorn sheep, deer, fox, bobcat, etc. Design of high-walls should address the ability of bighorn sheep and other species to traverse slopes, such as by planning for non-vertical slopes and benches with ramps between levels.

In addition to impacts to habitat and wildlife, limits to access by recreational hunters to the project areas should be addressed.

Department Recommendations

The Department has the following concerns about the Project, and requests that these concerns be addressed in the CEQA document:

1. The DEIR should quantify impacts to habitats and species as per the informational requirements of CEQA. An accompanying map showing the areas of impact should also be included.

2. The DEIR should include current (completed within the 12 month period prior to circulation of the CEQA document) biological surveys for fauna and flora. The Department recommends that the Lead Agency contact the Department's California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) in Sacramento, (916) 327-5960, to obtain current information on any previously reported sensitive species and habitat, including Significant Natural Areas identified under

Chapter 12 of the California Fish and Game Code. If sensitive species may occur within the project area, species specific surveys, conducted at the appropriate time of year and time of day, should be included with the CEQA document. Acceptable species specific surveys have been developed by the Department, and by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and are accessible through each agencies websites. The Department recommends that assessments for rare plants and rare plant natural communities follow the Department's 2009 Protocols for Surveying and Evaluating Impacts to Special Status Native Plant Populations and Natural Communities. The guidance document is available at: http://www.dfg.ca.gov/biogeodata/cnddb/pdfs/protocols_for_surveying_and_evaluating_impacts.pdf

3. The CEQA document should provide an analysis of the Projects effects on the CHMS. The CEQA document should include a discussion of how the project will affect plan assembly; how the Project will affect the goals and objectives of the CMHS; the applicable policies and procedures that pertain to the Project; a discussion of survey requirements; and a list of proposed mitigation measures required. A copy of any documents required by the CHMS should be included with the CEQA document.

4. The analysis in the DEIR document should satisfy the requirements of the Department's Lake and Streambed Alteration Program and CESA (if deemed necessary).

5. A CESA ITP must be obtained if the Project has the potential to result in "take" (California Fish and Game Code Section 86 defines "take" as "hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill, or attempt to hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill") of State-listed CESA species, either through construction or over the life of the Project. CESA ITPs are issued to conserve, protect, enhance, and restore State-listed CESA species and their habitats. The Department encourages early consultation, as significant modification to the proposed project and mitigation measures may be required in order to obtain a CESA ITP. Revisions to the California Fish and Game Code, effective January 1998, require that the Department issue a separate CEQA document for the issuance of a CESA ITP unless the Project CEQA document addresses all Project impacts to listed species and specifies a mitigation monitoring and reporting program that will meet the requirements of a CESA permit.
6. The DEIR should provide a thorough analysis of direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts and identify specific measures to offset such impacts.

7. The DEIR should analyze a range of fully considered and evaluated alternatives to the Project (CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.6).

8. The Department recommends the project proponent host a site visit with Department staff to provide guidance on avoiding impacts to big horn sheep, mule deer, and raptors.

9. To avoid confusion between the mine site "reclamation" required by the Forest Service Mineral Regulations and the California Surface Mining and Reclamation Act (SMARA) and "mitigation" required under CEQA and other programs, the Department requests the DEIR include a thorough analysis and comparison of the reclamation for the mining and the mitigation for the environmental impacts. The Department also recommends updating the revegetation plan within the approved SMARA reclamation plan

In summary, the Department requests that the DEIR document include current information regarding biological resources, adequately address whether the project will impact State-listed species, provide a thorough analysis of cumulative impacts, provide a thorough JD, and provide an alternatives analysis. If you should have any questions pertaining to these comments, please contact Jeff Brandt at (909) 987-7161.

Sincerely,

Jeff Brandt
Senior Environmental Scientist
CA Department of Fish and Wildlife
Inland Deserts Region
(909) 987-7161
3602 Inland Empire Blvd., Suite C-220
Ontario, CA 91764

cc: State Clearinghouse, Sacramento

>>> Channary Leng <channary@rgpcorp.com> 3/26/2013 2:58 PM >>>
Hello Jeff,

Per our phone conversation, this is to confirm that you requested an extension to public review and comment period for the joint NOP/NOI that was released for the Omya Sentinel & Butterfield Quarries project (SCH# 2013021057). We will be awaiting your comment letter, which you indicated should arrive to us by no later than **Tuesday, April 16th**.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate in contacting me at 949-450-0171 ext. 314. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Channary Leng

Channary Leng

RGP Planning & Development Services
8921 Research Drive . Irvine, CA 92618
www.rgpcorp.com
channary@rgpcorp.com
Office (949) 450-0171 x314
Cell (714) 277-0606
Fax (949) 450-0182

Confidentiality Notice: This communication and all attached documents and/or files are privileged and confidential, and are intended for the sole use of the addressee(s). Please be advised that any disclosure, copying, or distribution is strictly prohibited without prior permission. If you have received this communication in error, please delete it and contact me at channary@rgpcorp.com or telephone (949) 450-0171.

No virus found in this message.
Checked by AVG - www.avg.com
Version: 2012.0.2241 / Virus Database: 3162/5748 - Release Date: 04/16/13

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION IX
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

March 26, 2013

Jody Noiron
San Bernardino National Forest
602 S. Tippecanoe Avenue
San Bernardino, California 92408

Subject: Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Omya Butterfield and Sentinel Quarries Project

Dear Ms. Noiron:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has received the above referenced document. We appreciate the opportunity to provide our recommendations on the scope of the upcoming EIS. Our comments are provided pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) NEPA Implementation Regulations at 40 CFR 1500-1508, and our NEPA review authority under Section 309 of the Clean Air Act.

The scope of subjects that should be included in the EIS is described in the enclosed detailed comments. Topics include project purpose and need, alternatives and mitigation, water resources, air quality, climate change, vegetation and wildlife, reclamation and closure, cumulative impacts, environmental justice, tribal consultation, pollution prevention, and land use. Our detailed comments are enclosed.

We appreciate the opportunity to review this scoping notice and look forward to working with you on this project. Please send a copy of the Draft EIS to this office when it is officially filed with our Washington D.C. office. If you have any questions, please contact me at 415-972-3853 or Geselbracht.jeanne@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

Jeanne Geselbracht
Environmental Review Office

006261

cc: Maya Rohr, Sespe Consulting

Omya Butterfield and Sentinel Quarries Project
EPA Scoping Comments, March 2013

Purpose and Need

EPA recommends the EIS include a clear description of the proposed project's purpose and need. The EIS should not simply state what the project will be or how it will look. The EIS needs to adequately identify and describe the underlying need(s) for the project and the associated objectives or outcomes. Clear descriptions of project needs and objectives set the stage for thorough consideration of a range of alternatives and their effectiveness in meeting the needs and objectives of the project.

Alternatives Analysis

The EIS should rigorously explore and objectively evaluate all reasonable alternatives, including reasonable alternatives not within the jurisdiction of your agency. 40 CFR 1502.14. The EIS should provide a clear discussion of the reasons for the elimination of alternatives which were not evaluated in detail. The document should discuss potential environmental impacts of the alternatives in comparative form, thus sharply defining the issues among the options for decision makers and the public. 40 CFR 1502.14. Reasonable alternatives could include, but are not necessarily limited to, alternative quarry sites, alternative designs for quarry facilities (e.g., waste rock piles, roads, conveyors, stockpiles, etc.), alternative closure designs, smaller project, and different timelines.

In accordance with 40 CFR 1502.24, agencies are required to insure the professional integrity, including scientific integrity, of the discussions and analyses in the EIS. Any methodologies used should be identified, and the scientific and other sources relied upon for conclusions in the statement should be explicitly referenced.

Mitigation

The EIS should thoroughly identify and describe appropriate mitigation measures associated with the project, specifying which ones are committed to by the mine operator and required by the Forest Service or State or local agencies. The discussion should address how each measure would specifically mitigate the targeted impact, provide substantial detail on the means of implementing each mitigation measure, identify who would be responsible for implementing it, indicate whether it is enforceable, and describe its anticipated effectiveness. For some impacts, there may be several appropriate and effective measures. Conversely, some measures may turn out to be less effective than anticipated; therefore, implementation and effectiveness monitoring should be conducted and contingency measures should be considered. We recommend the EIS describe the implementation and effectiveness monitoring that would be conducted and contingency measures that would be applied if initial mitigation measures fail.

Water Resources

1. The EIS should describe all existing water resources in the project vicinity and the cumulative impact area. Describe baseline groundwater and surface water quality and quantity in the project area, specifying any changes that could be attributed to past exploration or mining activities. Discuss groundwater adjudication in the project vicinity.

2. The EIS should completely describe the pre-mining, current, and projected drainage patterns in the project area, including post-closure drainage patterns. Include hydrologic and topographic maps of the project area and cumulative impact area. This discussion should address potential effects of the project on erosion potential and sedimentation. Identify any components of the proposed project that would fall within 25- and 100-year flood

plains. Discuss the potential for flash floods to transport sediment or contaminants from disturbed areas at the mine to any surface waters.

3. The EIS should describe the applicable state-adopted, EPA-approved water quality standards, including beneficial uses, and discuss each alternative's compliance with these standards. The EIS should describe and discuss the permits that would be required by state and federal agencies for water resources related to the project.

4. The EIS should discuss the applicability of California's Industrial Activities Stormwater General Permit to this project. The EIS should include a storm water pollution prevention plan and discuss specific mitigation measures that may be necessary. Discuss whether an individual National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit would be required for any phase of the project. If an NPDES permit would be required, the EIS should describe how the project would meet permitting requirements for discharges to surface waters.

5. The EIS should describe all surface water discharges from the site, including storm water and mine drainage.
   - Discuss the potential for contamination of precipitation that contacts waste rock, stockpiles, roads, or other mine facilities. Describe mitigation measures to prevent this contamination.
   - Describe the designs of the run-on/run-off channels, collection and sedimentation ponds, and any necessary treatment or disposal of these solutions and sediments. Depict these facilities on a map.
   - Describe flow velocities of all discharges to surface waters and discuss whether these discharges could adversely affect these waters.

6. Discuss how accidental releases of hazardous materials would be handled. Identify the potential impacts of failure of the solution containment systems, methods for discovering such failures, and the degree to which impacts would be reversible. Describe the quarry's petroleum-contaminated soil management plan.

7. The EIS should discuss all direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts to surface water and groundwater quality and quantity from the proposed project and alternatives both during operations and after closure. The EIS should describe all potential project discharges, seepage, diversions, groundwater pumping, and the potential effects of pumping or diversions on water rights.

8. The EIS should identify all sources of water needed for the project, and describe the potential environmental impacts associated with using these sources. The EIS should describe all other water use in the vicinity. Identify direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts to surface water flow, water supply wells, wetlands, springs and seeps, vegetation, wildlife, and other groundwater-dependent resources as a result of groundwater pumping associated with the proposed project. (See "Vegetation and Wildlife," below). Describe post-closure groundwater elevation recovery.

9. The EIS should describe procedures for water quality and quantity monitoring and reporting as well as monitoring the functioning of the run-on/run-off channels, sedimentation ponds, and other mitigation measures at the mine. Describe all surface water monitoring locations, groundwater monitoring wells, and points of compliance on the site. Monitoring frequencies, screening intervals, and parameters to be monitored should be discussed.

10. The EIS should describe in detail the proposed facility design and operation, as well as maintenance and monitoring activities to ensure integrity of facilities throughout project operations, closure, and post-closure.

Waters of the U.S.

1. The Forest Service should coordinate with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to determine whether the proposed project requires a Clean Water Act Section 404 permit. Section 404 regulates the discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States, including wetlands and other "special aquatic sites." The EIS should describe all waters of the U.S. that could be affected by the project, including past impacts. The discussion should include acreages and channel lengths, habitat types, values, and functions of these waters. All required Federal and State permits for work potentially affecting wetlands or waters of the U.S. should be identified. The EIS should address opportunities for improving the quality and quantity of these resources through appropriate facilities design if they exist in the study area.

2. If a permit is required, EPA will review the project for compliance with Federal Guidelines for Specification of Disposal Sites for Dredged or Fill Materials (40 CFR 230), promulgated pursuant to Section 404(b)(1) of the Clean Water Act ("404(b)(1) Guidelines"). Pursuant to 40 CFR 230, any permitted discharge into waters of the U.S. must be the least environmentally damaging practicable alternative available to achieve the project purpose. The EIS should include an evaluation of the project alternatives in this context in order to demonstrate the project's compliance with the 404(b)(1) Guidelines. If, under the proposed project, dredged or fill material would be discharged into waters of the U.S., the EIS should describe the potential environmental impacts and discuss alternatives to avoid or minimize those discharges.

3. If a discharge is permitted, required mitigation for impacts to waters of the U.S. should be identified and committed to in the EIS for evaluation by the public and decision-makers. Mitigation should be implemented in advance of the impacts to avoid habitat losses due to the lag time between the occurrence of the impact and successful mitigation. The discussion should include the following information:

- Acreage and habitat type of waters of the U.S. that would be created or restored;
- Water sources to maintain the mitigation area;
- The revegetation plans including the numbers and age of each species to be planted;
- Maintenance and monitoring plans, including performance standards to determine mitigation success;
- The size and location of mitigation zones;
- The parties that would be ultimately responsible for the plan's success; and
- Contingency plans that would be implemented if the original plan fails.

Air Quality

1. The EIS should describe existing air quality in the project vicinity. The EIS should also discuss the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) applicable to air quality in the project area.

2. The EIS should estimate project emissions from all facilities, roads, construction, and blasting related to the quarry's operations, including any off-site processing and support activities, such as vehicle traffic and delivery trucks for fuels, maintenance supplies, and other materials, as well as cumulative emissions from other sources in the project area.

3. We understand that the Forest Service will be closely coordinating with the Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District (MDAQMD), a cooperating agency on this project, regarding regulatory requirements and controls. The EIS should demonstrate that the direct and indirect emissions from all phases of the project conform to the approved State Implementation Plan (SIP) and do not cause or contribute to violations of the NAAQS. Modeling should be conducted to determine concentrations of criteria air pollutants for an accurate comparison with the NAAQS, as well as emissions in tons per year for purposes of demonstrating whether the

project would exceed general conformity *de minimis* thresholds. EPA encourages the Forest Service to work with the MDAQMD in developing the Draft General Conformity Determination for the project and to identify additional mitigation measures that would be necessary. We also recommend that the Draft General Conformity Determination be included in the Final EIS, either as a detailed summary or as an appendix.

4. The EIS should identify all air permits and/or permit modifications that would be needed for the proposed project and discuss how the project would meet permitting requirements.

5. The EIS should identify all Class I Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) areas located within 100 kilometers of the proposed project site. Class I areas even farther away could potentially be affected as well. Potential impacts to Class I PSD areas, including visibility impacts, should be discussed.

6. The EIS should discuss mitigation measures to minimize air pollutant emissions from the quarry. Appropriate measures exist that could be used to control PM10 (particulate matter smaller than 10 microns) emissions, as well as diesel particulate matter (DPM) and other criteria pollutants, from fugitive sources at the quarry. In addition to road watering or other dust palliatives, we recommend the following emissions reduction measures.

- Use particle traps and other appropriate controls to reduce emissions of DPM and other air pollutants. Traps control approximately 80 percent of DPM, and specialized catalytic converters (oxidation catalysts) control approximately 20 percent of DPM, 40 percent of carbon monoxide emissions, and 50 percent of hydrocarbon emissions;
- Minimize project-related trips of workers and equipment, including trucks and heavy equipment;
- Lease or buy newer, cleaner equipment (1996 or newer model);
- Employ periodic, unscheduled inspections to ensure that construction equipment is properly maintained at all times and does not unnecessarily idle, is tuned to manufacturer's specifications, and is not modified to increase horsepower except in accordance with established specifications.

7. The EIS should discuss whether and how air quality monitoring would be implemented to ensure project compliance with all applicable air quality standards and permits.

8. The EIS should estimate emissions of hazardous air pollutants (HAPs) from the proposed project, and the potential direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts of those emissions for each alternative. The analysis should include HAPs emissions from any off-site facilities and transport vehicles associated with the proposed project, such as employee transport, haul trucks, and delivery trucks for fuels, maintenance supplies, and other materials.

Climate Change

EPA recommends that the EIS identify the cumulative contributions to greenhouse gas emissions that will result from implementation of the proposed project. In addition, we recommend the EIS discuss the potential impacts of climate change on the project. The EIS should also identify any specific mitigation measures needed to (1) protect the project from the effects of climate change (e.g., changes to storm magnitude or frequency), (2) reduce the project's adverse air quality effects, and/or (3) promote pollution prevention and environmental stewardship.

Any sustainable design and operation measures that can be identified as reducing greenhouse gases should be identified in the EIS with an estimate of the greenhouse gas emissions reductions that would result if measures were implemented. The EIS should indicate whether these measures would be required in the Plan of

Operations. Attention should be paid to explaining the quality of each greenhouse gas mitigation measure – including its permanence, verifiability and enforceability. We offer the following potential measures for the Forest Service's consideration:

- Incorporate alternative energy components into the project such as on site distributed generation systems, solar thermal hot water heating, etc.;
- Incorporate recovery and reuse, leak detection, pollution control devices, maintenance of equipment, product substitution and reduction in quantity used or generated;
- Include use of alternative modes of materials transport (e.g., conveyors) and alternative transportation fuels, biodiesel, electric vehicles, ethanol, etc. during construction and operation if applicable;
- Commit to using high efficiency diesel particulate filters on new and existing diesel engines to provide nearly 99.9% reductions of black carbon emissions.

Vegetation and Wildlife

1. We recommend that the Forest Service work closely with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to determine potential impacts of the project on plant and wildlife species, especially species classified rare, threatened, or endangered on either state or federal lists. The EIS should include the following information:

- Identify all petitioned and listed threatened and endangered species and critical habitat, as well as sensitive species, that might occur within the project area;
- Identify which species or critical habitat could potentially be directly, indirectly, or cumulatively affected by each alternative;
- Discuss how surveys were conducted for each species, the findings of each survey, and all follow-up surveys and monitoring that would be conducted before, during, and/or after mining occurs;
- Include the biological assessment by reference or as an appendix, if one is prepared;
- Discuss how and when the Forest Service intends to meet its obligations under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act; and
- If a biological opinion is prepared by the USFWS, it should be summarized or included as an appendix in the Final EIS to demonstrate that the preferred alternative is consistent with the biological opinion.

2. The EIS should discuss the mitigation measures that would be taken to prevent exposure of migratory waterfowl and other wildlife to any toxic solutions or spills, and discuss the effectiveness of these measures. Describe maintenance requirements and monitoring to ensure their effectiveness.

3. The EIS should identify non-jurisdictional wetland and riparian habitat as well as other unique or important habitat areas, such as carbonate habitat, which could be affected by the project. The EIS should describe their functions and values and the acreages likely to be affected; address opportunities for improving the quality and quantity of these areas in designing facilities; and discuss avoidance, minimization, and mitigation of losses or modification of habitat and plant and animal species composition. Mitigation should be implemented in advance of the impacts to avoid habitat losses due to the lag time between the occurrence of the impact and successful mitigation. The EIS should discuss the Carbonate Habitat Management Strategy and describe the project's consistency with the strategy. We recommend that the EIS include a detailed mitigation plan, and include the following information:

- Acreage and habitat type that would be created or restored;
- Water sources to maintain the mitigation area, if needed;
- The revegetation plans including the numbers and age of each species to be planted;

- Maintenance and monitoring plans, including performance standards to determine mitigation success;
- The size and location of mitigation zones;
- The parties that would be ultimately responsible for the plan's success; and
- Contingency plans that would be enacted if the original plan fails.

Quarry Closure and Reclamation

1. The EIS should discuss the following components of the reclamation plan:

- A detailed account of measures taken to decommission mine operations and stabilize and revegetate slopes, waste rock, roads and other areas;
- Identification (including estimated acreage) of the areas targeted for reclamation, and description of the intended degree of treatment in each area;
- Estimation of any irrigation requirements;
- Timing of reclamation relative to mining operations and duration of reclamation treatment;
- Standards for determining and means of assuring successful reclamation; and
- Means of assuring that all maintenance required for reclaimed areas would continue after operations cease or while operations are suspended.

2. The EIS should describe the availability, properties, and sources of growth medium, discuss how growth medium will be applied to disturbed areas, and identify any additional measures (e.g., amendments) that may be needed to ensure successful reclamation and revegetation of the project site.

3. We recommend that revegetation be accomplished with only native species indigenous to the area in order to restore the ecosystem to as natural a state as possible after mine closure. We also recommend that revegetation success be monitored and enforced for at least five years following revegetation efforts. First or second year success in meeting the revegetation standards is not necessarily indicative of long-term success.

4. We recommend that the EIS discuss provisions that would be made for post-operation surveillance to ensure that site closure and stabilization have been effective. Describe the mitigation actions that would be taken should destabilization or contamination be detected, and identify who would be responsible for these actions.

5. EPA recommends that the EIS identify the bond amounts for closure and reclamation of proposed project facilities and discuss how the Forest Service can modify the bond during the course of operations if reclamation needs change during operations.

Environmental Justice

Executive Order 12898 on Environmental Justice addresses disproportionate adverse impacts of federal actions on minority and low-income populations. The EIS should identify minority and low-income populations, and address whether the alternatives would cause any disproportionate adverse impact, such as displacement, changes in existing resources or access, or community disruption. The document should also explore potential mitigation measures for any adverse environmental justice effects. The EIS should describe the measures taken by the Forest Service to: (1) fully analyze the environmental effects of the proposed Federal action on minority communities and low-income populations; and (2) present opportunities for affected communities to provide input into the NEPA process. The EIS should state whether the analysis meets requirements of your agency's environmental justice strategy.

Government-to-Government Consultation

The EIS should discuss the Forest Service's consultation with all Native American tribal governments that could be potentially affected by the proposed project or may have resources (e.g., traditional cultural properties, groundwater resources) that could be affected. The principals for interactions with tribal governments are outlined in an April 29, 1994, presidential memorandum and Executive Order 13175, dated November 6, 2000. It is important that formal government-to-government consultation take place early in the scoping phase of the project to ensure that all issues are adequately addressed in the Draft EIS.

Land Use

The EIS should describe any special uses that comprise on-going activities in the project vicinity and discuss how these activities could potentially be affected by the proposed project. The EIS should describe the nearby natural conservation areas, wilderness areas, or other specially designated areas, and discuss how they could be affected by the proposed project.

Pollution Prevention

Pursuant to the Pollution Prevention Act of 1990,

> "Pollution should be prevented or reduced at the source whenever feasible; pollution that cannot be prevented should be recycled in an environmentally safe manner, whenever feasible; pollution that cannot be prevented or recycled should be treated in an environmentally safe manner whenever feasible; and disposal or other release into the environment should be employed only as a last resort and should be conducted in an environmentally safe manner."

There are significant opportunities for industry to reduce or prevent pollution at the source through cost-effective changes in production, operation, and raw materials use. Such changes offer mining companies substantial savings in reduced raw material, pollution control, and liability costs as well as help protect the environment and reduce risks to worker health and safety. We recommend that the Forest Service and the project proponent actively pursue pollution prevention techniques to prevent or reduce pollution at the proposed mine.

Cumulative Impacts

According to the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations implementing NEPA, a cumulative impact is "...the impact on the environment which results from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of what agency (Federal or non-Federal) or person undertakes such other actions. Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time." [40 CFR § 1508.7].

Cumulative impacts analyses are important as they assess the threats to resources as a whole. Understanding cumulative impacts can illuminate opportunities for minimizing those threats. The EIS should describe the potential cumulative impacts associated with the proposed project and alternatives in light of other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions. The EIS should describe the methodology used to assess cumulative impacts. Guidance on how to analyze cumulative impacts has been published by the CEQ [1] and EPA.[2] In

---

[1] Considering Cumulative Effects Under the National Environmental Policy Act, Council on Environmental Quality, January 1997. http://ceq.eh.doe.gov/nepa/ccenepa/ccenepa.htm

addition, you may also wish to refer to http://www.dot.ca.gov/ser/cumulative_guidance/purpose.htm. This cumulative impact guidance was prepared by the California Department of Transportation, the Federal Highway Administration, and EPA Region 9 for transportation projects in California. However, the principles and the 8-step process in this guidance can be applied to other types of projects, both within and outside of California. We recommend the principles and steps in this guidance to other agencies as a systematic way to analyze cumulative impacts for their projects. We have the following recommendations for structuring cumulative impacts analyses:

- The description of the affected environment should focus on each affected resource or ecosystem. Determination of the affected environment should not be based on a predetermined geographic area, but rather on perception of meaningful impacts and natural boundaries.
- Focus on resources of concern, i.e., those resources that are at risk and/or are significantly affected by the proposed project, before mitigation. Identify which resources are analyzed, which ones are not, and why;
- Identify all other on-going, planned, and reasonably foreseeable projects in the study area, not just mining projects, which may contribute to cumulative impacts. Where studies exist on the environmental impacts of these other projects, use these studies as a source for quantifying cumulative impacts;
- Include appropriate baselines for the resources of concern with an explanation as to why those baselines were selected; and
- When cumulative impacts occur, the EIS should discuss appropriate mitigation measures, clearly indicating who will be responsible for mitigation measures and how mitigation implementation will be ensured.

---

[2] Consideration of Cumulative Impacts in EPA Review of NEPA Documents, U.S.EPA, May 1999. http://www.epa.gov/compliance/resources/policies/nepa/index.html

Note: NOT project air district (Mojave AQMD is)

South Coast
Air Quality Management District
21865 Copley Drive, Diamond Bar, CA 91765-4178
(909) 396-2000 • www.aqmd.gov

March 28, 2013

Maya Rohr
Senior Project Manager
Sespe Consulting
5920 Friars Road, Suite 103
San Diego, CA 92108

Notice of Preparation of a CEQA Document for the
Omya Sentinel and Butterfield Quarries Expansion Project

The South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the above-mentioned document. The SCAQMD's comments are recommendations regarding the analysis of potential air quality impacts from the proposed project that should be included in the draft CEQA document. Please send the SCAQMD a copy of the Draft EIR upon its completion. Note that copies of the Draft EIR that are submitted to the State Clearinghouse are not forwarded to the SCAQMD. Please forward a copy of the Draft EIR directly to SCAQMD at the address in our letterhead. **In addition, please send with the draft EIR all appendices or technical documents related to the air quality and greenhouse gas analyses and electronic versions of all air quality modeling and health risk assessment files. These include original emission calculation spreadsheets and modeling files (not Adobe PDF files). Without all files and supporting air quality documentation, the SCAQMD will be unable to complete its review of the air quality analysis in a timely manner. Any delays in providing all supporting air quality documentation will require additional time for review beyond the end of the comment period.**

Air Quality Analysis

The SCAQMD adopted its California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Air Quality Handbook in 1993 to assist other public agencies with the preparation of air quality analyses. The SCAQMD recommends that the Lead Agency use this Handbook as guidance when preparing its air quality analysis. Copies of the Handbook are available from the SCAQMD's Subscription Services Department by calling (909) 396-3720. The lead agency may wish to consider using land use emissions estimating software such as the recently released CalEEMod. This model is available on the SCAQMD Website at: http://www.aqmd.gov/ceqa/models.html.

The Lead Agency should identify any potential adverse air quality impacts that could occur from all phases of the project and all air pollutant sources related to the project. Air quality impacts from both construction (including demolition, if any) and operations should be calculated. Construction-related air quality impacts typically include, but are not limited to, emissions from the use of heavy-duty equipment from grading, earth-loading/unloading, paving, architectural coatings, off-road mobile sources (e.g., heavy-duty construction equipment) and on-road mobile sources (e.g., construction worker vehicle trips, material transport trips). Operation-related air quality impacts may include, but are not limited to, emissions from stationary sources (e.g., boilers), area sources (e.g., solvents and coatings), and vehicular trips (e.g., on- and off-road tailpipe emissions and entrained dust). Air quality impacts from indirect sources, that is, sources that generate or attract vehicular trips should be included in the analysis.

The SCAQMD has developed a methodology for calculating PM2.5 emissions from construction and operational activities and processes. In connection with developing PM2.5 calculation methodologies, the SCAQMD has also developed both regional and localized significance thresholds. The SCAQMD requests that the lead agency quantify PM2.5 emissions and compare the results to the recommended PM2.5 significance thresholds. Guidance for calculating PM2.5 emissions and PM2.5 significance thresholds can be found at the following internet address: http://www.aqmd.gov/ceqa/handbook/PM2_5/PM2_5.html.

In addition to analyzing regional air quality impacts the SCAQMD recommends calculating localized air quality impacts and comparing the results to localized significance thresholds (LSTs). LST's can be used in addition to the recommended regional significance thresholds as a second indication of air quality impacts when preparing a CEQA document. Therefore, when preparing the air quality analysis for the proposed project, it is recommended that the lead agency perform a localized significance analysis by either using the LSTs developed by the SCAQMD or performing dispersion modeling as necessary. Guidance for performing a localized air quality analysis can be found at http://www.aqmd.gov/ceqa/handbook/LST/LST.html.

In the event that the proposed project generates or attracts vehicular trips, especially heavy-duty diesel-fueled vehicles, it is recommended that the lead agency perform a mobile source health risk assessment. Guidance for performing a mobile source health risk assessment ("Health Risk Assessment Guidance for Analyzing Cancer Risk from Mobile Source Diesel Idling Emissions for CEQA Air Quality Analysis") can be found on the SCAQMD's CEQA web pages at the following internet address: http://www.aqmd.gov/ceqa/handbook/mobile_toxic/mobile_toxic.html. An analysis of all toxic air contaminant impacts due to the decommissioning or use of equipment potentially generating such air pollutants should also be included.

Mitigation Measures

In the event that the project generates significant adverse air quality impacts, CEQA requires that all feasible mitigation measures that go beyond what is required by law be utilized during project construction and operation to minimize or eliminate significant adverse air quality impacts. To assist the Lead Agency with identifying possible mitigation measures for the project, please refer to Chapter 11 of the SCAQMD CEQA Air Quality Handbook for sample air quality mitigation measures. Additional mitigation measures can be found on the SCAQMD's CEQA web pages at the following internet address: www.aqmd.gov/ceqa/handbook/mitigation/MM_intro.html Additionally, SCAQMD's Rule 403 – Fugitive Dust, and the Implementation Handbook contain numerous measures for controlling construction-related emissions that should be considered for use as CEQA mitigation if not otherwise required. Other measures to reduce air quality impacts from land use projects can be found in the SCAQMD's Guidance Document for Addressing Air Quality Issues in General Plans and Local Planning. This document can be found at the following internet address: http://www.aqmd.gov/prdas/aqguide/aqguide.html. In addition, guidance on siting incompatible land uses can be found in the California Air Resources Board's Air Quality and Land Use Handbook: A Community Perspective, which can be found at the following internet address: http://www.arb.ca.gov/ch/handbook.pdf. CARB's Land Use Handbook is a general reference guide for evaluating and reducing air pollution impacts associated with new projects that go through the land use decision-making process. Pursuant to state CEQA Guidelines §15126.4 (a)(1)(D), any impacts resulting from mitigation measures must also be discussed.

Data Sources

SCAQMD rules and relevant air quality reports and data are available by calling the SCAQMD's Public Information Center at (909) 396-2039. Much of the information available through the Public Information Center is also available via the SCAQMD's World Wide Web Homepage (http://www.aqmd.gov).

The SCAQMD staff is available to work with the Lead Agency to ensure that project-related emissions are accurately identified, categorized, and evaluated. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please call Ian MacMillan, Program Supervisor, CEQA Section, at (909) 396-3244.

Sincerely,

Ian V. MacMillan

Ian MacMillan
Program Supervisor, CEQA Inter-Governmental Review
Planning, Rule Development & Area Sources

IM
SBC130305-02
Control Number

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
DISTRICT 8
PLANNING
464 WEST 4th STREET, 6th Floor MS 725
SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92401-1400
PHONE (909) 383-4557
FAX (909) 383-6890
TTY (909) 383-6300

Flex your power!
Be energy efficient!

April 15, 2013

Jeremy Krout
County of San Bernardino
385 N. Arrowhead Ave.
San Bernardino, CA 92415-0182

Sentinel and Butterfield Quarries Expansion, 08-SBd-18-PM 65.752

Dear Mr. Krout,

We have completed our review for the Notice of Preparation for the Sentinel and Butterfield Quarries Expansion project. The project is located at southern end of Crystal Creek Road, north of 3N16 and Claudia/Cloudy Haul Road. The proposed project is for the expansion of the existing Butterfield and Sentinel Limestone Quarries.

As the owner and operator of the State Highway System (SHS), it is our responsibility to coordinate and consult with local jurisdictions when proposed development may impact our facilities. As the responsible agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), it is also our responsibility to make recommendations to offset associated impacts with the proposed project. Although the project is under the jurisdiction of the County of San Bernardino to the Project's potential impact to State facilities it is also subject to the policies and regulations that govern the SHS.

We do not anticipate this project will generate any additional traffic to the SHS. We therefore have no comments at this time.

If this development proposal is later modified in any way, please forward copies of revised plans as necessary so that we may reevaluate all proposed changes for potential impacts to the SHS.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Milele Robertson at (909) 383-6908 or myself at (909) 383-4557 for assistance.

Sincerely,

DANIEL KOPULSKY
Office Chief
Community and Regional Planning

CALIFORNIA
Water Boards

Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board

June 7, 2013

File: Environmental Doc Review
San Bernardino County

Channary Leng, Consultant Planner
County of San Bernardino
Land Use Services Department
385 N. Arrowhead Ave.
San Bernardino, CA 92415

COMMENTS ON NOTICE OF PREPARATION / NOTICE OF INTENT, INITIAL STUDY, SENTINEL AND BUTTERFIELD QUARRIES EXPANSION PROJECT, SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY AND US DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (FOREST SERVICE), SAN BERNARDINO NATIONAL FOREST, SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY

California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Lahontan Region (Water Board) staff received Notice of Preparation/Notice of Intent (NOP/NOI), Initial Study (IS), for the Sentinel and Butterfield Quarries Expansion Project (Project) on May 10, 2013. The IS was prepared by the County of San Bernardino in compliance with provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and is the lead agency. Pursuant to CEQA guidelines, California Code of Regulations (CCR), title 14, section 15096, responsible agencies must specify the scope and content of the environmental information germane to their statutory responsibilities. Water Board staff, acting as a responsible agency, has reviewed the above-referenced document in context as to how well the proposed project protects water quality, and ultimately, the beneficial use of waters of the State. Please note that this Project crosses regional board boundaries and, in fact, is within areas of the Lahontan Water Board and the Colorado River Water Board. As such, the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) will be the lead Water Board permitting authority for this Project. Nonetheless, we hope the agencies will consider our comments and value our position with respect to protecting and maintaining water quality in the Lahontan Region.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Project is an expansion of the Sentinel and Butterfield Quarries in the San Bernardino National Forest; both quarries lie approximately 7.8 miles south of Lucerne Valley. The Project site owner is Omya California, a division of Omya International. The Sentinel and Butterfield Quarries are rich in chemical grade limestone, which is useful in cement, cosmetics, and pharmaceuticals. The proposed expansion will add 20 years of life to the Sentinel Quarry, and 40 years of life to the Butterfield Quarry. Depending on market demand for limestone, the combined output of the Sentinel and Butterfield quarries will be approximately 680,000 tons per year. The proposed Project includes an expansion of 48.7 acre at the Sentinel Quarry and an expansion of 28.8 acre at the Butterfield Quarry. Quarry expansion and development will be phased. The Project includes expansion of existing overburden placement sites, additional internal access roads and ancillary facility areas,

and minor adjustments to existing disturbance boundaries. There are no new quarries, overburden sites, or haul roads as part of this Project.

AUTHORITY

State law assigns responsibility for protection of water quality in the Lahontan region to the Water Board. The *Water Quality Control Plan for the Lahontan Region* (Basin Plan) contains policies that the Water Board uses with other laws and regulations to protect water quality within the region. All surface waters are considered waters of the State, which include, but are not limited to, drainages, streams, washes, ponds, pools, or wetlands, and may be permanent or intermittent. All waters of the State are protected under California law. Additional protection is provided for waters of the U.S., under the Federal Clean Water Act (CWA).

The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) and the Lahontan Water Board regulates discharges in order to protect water quality and, ultimately, the beneficial uses of waters of the State. The Basin Plan provides guidance regarding water quality and how the Water Board may regulate activities that have the potential to affect water quality within the region. The Basin Plan includes prohibitions, water quality standards, and policies for implementation of standards. The Basin Plan can be accessed via the Water Board's web site at
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan/water_issues/programs/basin_plan/references.shtml.

PERMITS

A number of activities associated with Project implementation may require permits issued by either the State Water Board or Lahontan Water Board because they appear to impact waters of the State. The Project proponent is urged to consult with either the State Water Board or Lahontan Water Board prior to project implementation. The required permits may include:

- Land disturbance of more than 1 acre may require a CWA, section 402(p) stormwater permits, including a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Construction Stormwater Permit and/or General Industrial Stormwater Permit, both obtained from the State Water Board, or an individual stormwater permit obtained from the Water Board;

- Streambed alteration and/or discharge of fill material to a surface water may require a CWA, section 401 water quality certification (WQC) for impacts to federal waters (waters of the U.S.), **or** dredge and fill Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) for impacts to non-federal waters, both issued by the Lahontan Water Board;

- Discharge of low threat wastes to a surface water including, but not limited to, diverted stream flows, construction and/or dredge spoils dewatering, and well construction and hydrostatic testing discharge, may be subject to discharge and monitoring requirements under either NPDES General Permit, Limited Threat Discharges to Surface Waters, Board Order R6T-2008-0023, issued by the Water Board; and

- Discharge of low threat wastes to land, including clear water discharges, small dewatering projects, and inert wastes, may be subject to discharge and monitoring requirements under General Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges to Land with a Low Threat to Water Quality, WQO-2003-0003-DWQ, issued by the Water Board.

We request that the CEQA Document list the permits that may be required, as outlined above, and identify the specific activities that may trigger these permitting actions in the appropriate sections of the CEQA Document. Information regarding these permits, including application forms, can be downloaded from our web site at http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan/.

POTENTIAL IMPACTS TO WATERS OF THE STATE

All surface waters are waters of the State. Some waters of the State are "isolated" from waters of the U.S. Determinations of the jurisdictional extent of the waters of the U.S. are made by the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). Projects that have the potential to impact surface waters will require the appropriate jurisdictional determinations from the USACE. We request that the Project proponent consult with the USACE and the Water Board when performing the necessary jurisdictional determinations for surface waters within the Project area to ensure that the full extent of both state and federal jurisdictional areas are accurately documented. Please note that the Water Board may find waters of the State to be greater in extent than the USACE jurisdictional limits, especially in cases where the USACE's use of ordinary high water mark does not extend to the full reach of waters at the site.

In areas where USACE does not take jurisdiction, the Water Board generally delineates waters of the State based on distinct geomorphic flow indicators with or without clearly definable bed and bank features. Clearly definable bed and bank features are not the only consideration. In particular, presence or absence of "blue-line" streams on maps is not a reliable indicator of jurisdiction. Many small, ephemeral drainages that are not represented as blue-line features on topographic maps and lack riparian vegetation may still be considered waters of the State and subject to Water Board jurisdiction.

Please keep in mind that when delineating waters of the State, the presence or absence of traditionally "riparian vegetation" is typically **not** a reliable indicator of riparian zones in arid regions of California. In these areas, often times the upland and riparian zones have similar vegetative communities with only subtle differences in plant density or species distribution serving as key indicators of riparian functions. The practice of channelizing, straightening, and lining streambeds changes a stream's hydrology by decreasing water storage capacity and increasing water flow velocity, which in turn leads to increases in the severity of peak discharges. These hydrologic changes tend to exacerbate flooding, erosion, scouring, sedimentation and, ultimately, near-total loss of natural functions and values, thereby resulting in the increased need for engineered solutions to re-establish the disrupted flow patterns.

The Project overlays several named and unnamed ephemeral stream beds. A full delineation of surface water resources, including springs and wetlands, will be required in the final environmental document. Based on our review of the IS, the environmental document needs to identify and quantify impacts to the following watersheds:

Holcomb Creek, Furnace Canyon, Crystal Creek, and Wild Rose Canyon. The environmental document must discuss the minimization of disturbances to these watersheds and mitigation of impacts.

If impacts to waters of the State are unavoidable, then we request that the project be designed such that it would maintain existing hydrologic features and patterns to the maximum extent feasible. All unavoidable impacts to surface waters must be mitigated to ensure that no net loss of function and value will occur as a result of project implementation.

Beneficial Uses

Within the Lahontan Region, the surface waters located within the vicinity of the Project site are within the Upper Mojave Hydrologic Unit (628.20), and includes the watershed of Holcomb Creek, as well as minor surface waters and minor wetlands. Beneficial uses, either past, present, or future, associated with these surface waters include municipal and domestic supply (MUN), agricultural supply (AGR), groundwater recharge (GWR), freshwater replenishment (FRSH), hydropower generation (POW), water contact recreation (REC-1), non-contact water recreation (REC-2), commercial and sport fishing (COMM), warm freshwater habitat (WARM), cold freshwater habitat (COLD), and wildlife habitat (WILD), rare, threatened, or endangered species (RARE), water quality enhancement (WQE), and flood peak attenuation/flood water storage (FLD). The Hydrological Technical Study by SLR Environmental Solutions should be revised to include all beneficial uses.

The Project potentially affects the watersheds of East Fork Dry Canyon, Crystal Creek, and Furnace Canyon; these watersheds are part of the Lucerne Hydrologic Unit (701.00) in the Colorado River Region. The Hydrological Technical Study discusses groundwater conditions and water supply of the Mojave Water Agency, the goals and beneficial uses of Lahontan Basin Plan, and the goals and beneficial uses of the Colorado River Basin Plan. However, the Technical Study prepared for this Project does not distinguish which regions these watersheds flow within. In Figure 4, Watershed Map Based on Currently Permitted Area, a blue line is shown as the "Regional Watershed Divide." We request that the Project proponent revise this figure to distinguish the Lahontan Region from the Colorado River Region, so that the appropriate Basin Plans and their specific requirements and prohibitions are clearly identified as they can potentially affect this Project.

STORMWATER POLLUTION PREVENTION

The IS included a copy of Omya's (previously Pluess-Staufer, California) General Permit for Discharges of Stormwater Associated with Industrial Activities (General Permit), granted under the State Water Board, Water Quality Order No. 97-03-DWQ. This General Permit requires the operator to implement and maintain a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP), and to implement appropriate best management practices (BMPs) for the protection of water quality. Included as an appendix to the IS was the cover page from a 1996 revision of the SWPPP, but no other contents. Section 3.1 of the Hydrology Technical Study includes some discussion of threats to water quality from stormwater discharges and mitigation measures that will be taken, but this section lacks sufficient detail. We recommend the Project proponent comply with all General Permit requirements including preparation of a revised site-specific SWPPP and implementation of appropriate BMPs.

CLOSING

Please note that obtaining a permit and conducting monitoring does not constitute adequate mitigation. Development and implementation of acceptable mitigation is required. The environmental document must specifically describe the BMPs and other mitigation measures used to mitigate project impacts.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the IS. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact me at (760) 241-7391 (tbrowne@waterboards.ca.gov) or Patrice Copeland, Senior Engineering Geologist, at (760) 241-7404 (pcopeland@waterboards.ca.gov).

Tom Browne, PhD, PE
Water Resource Control Engineer

cc: State Clearinghouse
Paul Amato, Wetlands Regulatory Office (WTR-8), USEPA, Region 9
(via email, Amato.Paul@epamail.epa.gov)
Shannon Pankratz, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
(via email, Shannon.L.Pankratz@usace.army.mil)
Juan Torres, California Department of Fish and Wildlife
(via email, juan.torres@wildlife.ca.gov)
Jay Mirpour, Colorado River Waterboard
(via email jmirpour@waterboards.ca.gov)
Bill Orme, State Water Board
(via email bill.orme@waterboards.ca.gov)

TB\rc\U:\CEQA reviews\OMYA Butterfield Sentinel\final IS Sentinel Butterfield quarries teb Jun13.doc

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
DISTRICT 8
PLANNING
464 WEST 4th STREET, 6th Floor MS 725
SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92401-1400
PHONE (909) 383-4557
FAX (909) 383-6890
TTY (909) 383-6300

Flex your power!
Be energy efficient!

April 15, 2013

Jeremy Krout
County of San Bernardino
385 N. Arrowhead Ave.
San Bernardino, CA 92415-0182

Sentinel and Butterfield Quarries Expansion, 08-SBd-18-PM 65.752

Dear Mr. Krout,

We have completed our review for the Notice of Preparation for the Sentinel and Butterfield Quarries Expansion project. The project is located at southern end of Crystal Creek Road, north of 3N16 and Claudia/Cloudy Haul Road. The proposed project is for the expansion of the existing Butterfield and Sentinel Limestone Quarries.

As the owner and operator of the State Highway System (SHS), it is our responsibility to coordinate and consult with local jurisdictions when proposed development may impact our facilities. As the responsible agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), it is also our responsibility to make recommendations to offset associated impacts with the proposed project. Although the project is under the jurisdiction of the County of San Bernardino to the Project's potential impact to State facilities it is also subject to the policies and regulations that govern the SHS.

We do not anticipate this project will generate any additional traffic to the SHS. We therefore have no comments at this time.

If this development proposal is later modified in any way, please forward copies of revised plans as necessary so that we may reevaluate all proposed changes for potential impacts to the SHS.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Milele Robertson at (909) 383-6908 or myself at (909) 383-4557 for assistance.

Sincerely,

DANIEL KOPULSKY
Office Chief
Community and Regional Planning

STATE OF CALIFORNIA Arnold Schwarzenegger, *Governor*

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION
915 CAPITOL MALL, ROOM 364
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
(916) 653-6251
ds_nahc@pacbell.net
www.nahc.ca.gov
(916) 657-5390 - Fax

2013 MAR -4 AM 9:23

February 26, 2013

Mr. Jeremy C. Krout, Planner

County of San Bernardino Land Use Services Department
385 Arrowhead Avenue
San Bernardino, CA 92415-0184

RE: SCH# 20013021057 CEQA Notice of Preparation (NOP) – **Sentinel and Butterfield Quarries Expansion Project** – draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR); located 7.5 miles miles south of the Lucerne Valley and five miles north of Big Bear Lake withing the San Bernardino National Forest; San Bernardino County , California

Dear Mr. Krout:

The Native American Heritage Commission has reviewed the Notice of Preparation (NOP) regarding the above referenced project. . In the 1985 Appellate Court decision (170 Cal App 3rd 604), the court held that the NAHC has jurisdiction and special expertise, as a state agency, over affected Native American resources impacted by proposed projects, including archaeological places of religious significance to Native Americans, and to Native American burial sites.

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) states that any project that causes a substantial adverse change in the significance of an historical resources, which includes archeological resources, is a significant effect requiring the preparation of an EIR (CEQA guidelines 15064(b)). To adequately comply with this provision and mitigate project-related impacts on archaeological resources, the Commission recommends the following actions be required:

- ✓ Contact the appropriate Information Center for a record search to determine:
  - If a part or all of the area of project effect (APE) has been previously surveyed for cultural resources, which we know that it has.
  - The NAHC recommends that known cultural resources recorded on or adjacent to the APE be listed in the draft Environmental Impact Report.
- ✓ If an additional archaeological inventory survey is required, the final stage is the preparation of a professional report detailing the findings and recommendations of the records search and field survey. We suggest that this be coordinated with the NAHC, if possible.
  - The final report containing site forms, site significance, and mitigation measurers should be submitted immediately to the planning department. All information regarding site locations, Native American human remains, and associated funerary objects should be in a separate confidential addendum, and not be made available for pubic disclosure pursuant to California Government Code Section 6254.10.
- ✓ Contact has been made to the the Native American Heritage Commission for:
  - A Sacred Lands File Check, and cultural resources have been identified to your agency.
  - A list of appropriate Native American Contacts for consultation concerning the project site has been provided and is attached to this letter.
  - Lack of surface evidence of archeological resources does not preclude their subsurface existence once ground-breaking activity begins. If that occurs, the NAHC suggests that inadvertent discoveries be coordinated with the NAHC;

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION
915 CAPITOL MALL, ROOM 364
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
(916) 653-6251
ds_nahc@pacbell.net
www.nahc.ca.gov
(916) 657-5390 - Fax

Lead agencies should include in their mitigation plan provisions for the identification and evaluation of accidentally discovered archeological resources, per California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) §15064.5(f). In areas of identified archaeological sensitivity, a certified archaeologist and a culturally affiliated Native American, with knowledge in cultural resources, should monitor all ground-disturbing activities.

- Lead agencies should include in their mitigation plan provisions for the disposition of recovered artifacts, in consultation with culturally affiliated Native Americans.
- Lead agencies should include provisions for discovery of Native American human remains in their mitigation plan. Health and Safety Code §7050.5, CEQA §15064.5(e), and Public Resources Code §5097.98 mandates the process to be followed in the event of an accidental discovery of any human remains in a location other than a dedicated cemetery.

Sincerely,

Dave Singleton
Program Analyst
(916) 653-6251

CC: State Clearinghouse

Attachment: Tribal Contacts

Native American Contacts
San Bernardino County
February 27, 2013

Ramona Band of Cahuilla Mission Indians
Joseph Hamilton, Chairman
P.O. Box 391670 Cahuilla
Anza , CA 92539
admin@ramonatribe.com
(951) 763-4105
(951) 763-4325 Fax

Morongo Band of Mission Indians
Michael Contreras, Cultural Heritage Prog.
12700 Pumarra Road Cahuilla
Banning , CA 92220 Serrano
(951) 201-1866 - cell
mcontreras@morongo-nsn.gov
(951) 922-0105 Fax

San Manuel Band of Mission Indians
Carla Rodriguez, Chairwoman
26569 Community Center Drive Serrano
Highland , CA 92346
(909) 864-8933
(909) 864-3724 - FAX
(909) 864-3370 Fax

San Manuel Band of Mission Indians
Daniel McCarthy, M.S.., Director-CRM Dept.
26569 Community Center. Drive Serrano
Highland , CA 92346
(909) 864-8933, Ext 3248
dmccarthy@sanmanuel-nsn.gov
(909) 862-5152 Fax

Gabrieleno/Tongva San Gabriel Band of Mission
Anthony Morales, Chairperson
PO Box 693 Gabrielino Tongva
San Gabriel , CA 91778
GTTribalcouncil@aol.com
(626) 286-1632
(626) 286-1758 - Home
(626) 286-1262 -FAX

Serrano Nation of Mission Indians
Goldie Walker, Chairwoman
P.O. Box 343 Serrano
Patton , CA 92369

(909) 528-9027 or
(909) 528-9032

Gabrielino Tongva Nation
Sam Dunlap, Cultural Resources Director
P.O. Box 86908 Gabrielino Tongva
Los Angeles , CA 90086
samdunlap@earthlink.net

(909) 262-9351 - cell

Ernest H. Siva
Morongo Band of Mission Indians Tribal Elder
9570 Mias Canyon Road Serrano
Banning , CA 92220 Cahuilla
siva@dishmail.net
(951) 849-4676

This list is current only as of the date of this document.

Distribution of this list does not relieve any person of the statutory responsibility as defined in Section 7050.5 of the Health and Safety Code, Section 5097.94 of the Public Resources Code and Section 5097.98 of the Public Resources Code.

This list is only applicable for contacting local Native Americans with regard to cultural resources for the proposed SCH#2013021057; CEQA Notice of Preparation (NOP); draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the Santinel and Butterfield Quarry Expansion Project; located at the southern end of Crystal Creek Road; San Bernardino County, California.

Native American Contacts
San Bernardino County
February 27, 2013

SOBOBA BAND OF LUISENO INDIANS
Joseph Ontiveros, Cultural Resource Department
P.O. BOX 487 Luiseno
San Jacinto , CA 92581
jontiveros@soboba-nsn.gov
(951) 663-5279
(951) 654-5544, ext 4137

This list is current only as of the date of this document.

Distribution of this list does not relieve any person of the statutory responsibility as defined in Section 7050.5 of the Health and Safety Code, Section 5097.94 of the Public Resources Code and Section 5097.98 of the Public Resources Code.

This list is only applicable for contacting local Native Americans with regard to cultural resources for the proposed SCH#2013021057; CEQA Notice of Preparation (NOP); draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the Santinel and Butterfield Quarry Expansion Project; located at the southern end of Crystal Creek Road; San Bernardino County, California.

Project supported by L.U. Econ. Dev. Assoc.

Chuck Bell, P/20 3/12/13

WE APPRECIATE YOUR PARTICIPATION

Omya Sentinel and Butterfield Quarries Expansion Project
Scoping Meeting Comment Form
March 11 and 12, 2013

The Forest Service and the County of San Bernardino request your participation in the planning process for the proposed Omya Sentinel and Butterfield Quarries Expansion Project. Your comments will assist us in addressing your comments regarding this Proposed Project.

You may submit your comments at the scoping meeting or, if you prefer, you can mail, FAX, or email your comments to Sespe Consulting, Inc. attention Maya Rohr, Environmental Consultant.

Note: This form is formatted so that you can mail it with postage affixed on the other side.

Mail: Sespe Consulting, Inc.
5920 Friars Road, Suite 103
San Diego, CA 92108

Telephone: (619) 894-8669
Fax: (805) 667-8104
E-mail: mrohr@sespeconsulting.com

For your convenience, two specific questions are listed to help organize your comments.

1. What specific environmental impact issues would you like to see addressed in the EIR/EIS?

Likely covered.

2. What specific suggestions do you have to avoid or reduce one or more environmental impacts of this project?

Same comment

Maya Rohr Desert Tortise

From:	Ed LaRue <ed.larue@verizon.net>
Sent:	Wednesday, March 20, 2013 3:20 PM
To:	Maya Rohr; Robin Eliason
Cc:	Becky Jones; Bruce Palmer; Dan Pearson; Glenn Stewart; Heidi McMaster; Joe Probst; Kristin Berry; Maggie Fusari; Mari (Schroeder) Quillman; Mike Bailey; Pete Woodman; Tracy Bailey
Subject:	Omya Sentinel and Butterfield Quarries Expansion Project
Attachments:	Omya Sentinel and Butterfield Quarries.March 2013.pdf

Dear Ms. Rohr and Ms. Eliason,

Please find attached our comment letter for the intent to prepare an EIR/EIS for the proposed Omya Sentinel and Butterfield Quarries Expansion Project. As you will see, our main concern is that northern and northeastern portions of the site and the entire White Knob haul road are at or below 5,000 feet elevation within the range of the federally- and state-listed threatened desert tortoise. As such, all areas at or below 5,000 feet elevation, zone of influence areas, and the as-of-yet unidentified action area should be surveyed for desert tortoises and their sign in accordance with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 2010 survey protocol. These surveys should be performed *before* issuance of the draft EIR/EIS as part of the baseline information analyzed in that document to see if the proposed expansion "may affect" the desert tortoise. We appreciate the opportunity to provide this input, and, as an affected interest, look forward to reviewing the draft EIR/EIS when available.

Regards,

Ed LaRue

****
Edward L. LaRue, Jr., M.S.
Desert Tortoise Council, Ecosystems Advisory Committee
P.O. Box 1568
Ridgecrest, California 93556
ed.larue@verizon.net
Office: (760) 249-4948
Cell: (760) 964-0012
****

No virus found in this message.
Checked by AVG - www.avg.com
Version: 2012.0.2240 / Virus Database: 2641/5691 - Release Date: 03/20/13

DESERT TORTOISE COUNCIL
P.O. Box 1568
Ridgecrest, California 93556
www.desertitortoise.org

Via email only

Date: 20 March 2013

Maya Rohr
Sespe Consulting
5920 Friars Road, Suite 103
San Diego, CA 92108
mrohr@sespeconsulting.com

Robin Eliason, District Wildlife Biologist
San Bernardino National Forest
P.O. Box 290
Fawnskin, CA 92333-0290
reliason@fs.fed.us

From: Desert Tortoise Council

RE: Joint notice of preparation and notice of intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report for Omya Sentinel and Butterfield Quarries Expansion Project

Dear Ms. Rohr and Ms. Eliason,

The Desert Tortoise Council (Council) is a private, non-profit organization comprised of hundreds of professionals and laypersons who share a common concern for wild desert tortoises and a commitment to advancing the public's understanding of this species. Established in 1976 to promote conservation of tortoises in the deserts of the southwestern United States and Mexico, the Council regularly provides information to individuals, organizations and regulatory agencies on matters potentially affecting the desert tortoise within its historical range.

The Council received the notice for the proposed project from the U.S. Forest Service on 15 March 2013, and we understand from the Federal Register notice that we have until 1 April 2013 to provide comments. As our name implies, we are most concerned about the potential impacts of the mine on the federally- and state-listed, threatened desert tortoise (*Gopherus agassizii*). Your web page is well organized and supplies a wealth of information, including about a dozen appendices to the proposed plan of operations, several of which were reviewed by our board in support of the comments given herein.

Unless there are other materials available that are not included in the appendices, we assume that you have followed the recommendation of Scott D. White Bioservices (2007; herein "consultant") that a focused desert tortoise survey is not required for your proposed project. The following excerpts are taken from page 5 of the consultant's 2007 report:

"...habitat on the quarry property is not suitable, and there is no potential for occurrence of desert tortoise ... Although reliable sources have reported tortoises up to 7,300 feet elevation ... desert tortoise populations generally do not occur above about 4000 feet. Habitat on the site is very steep, and much of it is made up of bedrock outcrops, talus, or actively eroding sandy soil which would not permit burrowing. We did not carry out formal desert tortoise surveys for the project, but we observed no tortoise sign (e.g., burrows, palates [sic, "pallets"], *scat, live tortoises, or tortoise remains) during our field surveys. Because tortoise habitat is very poor, the site is above the normal elevational range, and because they have not been observed on the site or reported in the area, we conclude that desert tortoises are absent."*

Although in the West Mojave Desert tortoises are mostly found between about 1,000 and 3,500 feet elevation, they have also been found as low as 500 feet and as high as 6,500 feet elevation. Whereas the consultant's generalization is more or less accurate, the proponent is still obligated to avoid take of desert tortoises or, if take is likely to occur in spite of protective measures, to obtain federal and state incidental take permits.

We note in the consultant's report that the northern portions of the project boundary and – particularly – all of the "Existing White Knob Haul Road" occur at and below about 5,000 feet elevation. In Lucerne Valley where tortoises are largely extirpated from urbanizing areas, they are still found both to the north and south in foothill areas. There is some likelihood that they may occur on the northernmost portions of the mine site and even higher likelihood that they may occur along the haul road.

The latest guidance from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) in their 2010 survey protocol is that areas up to 5,000 feet elevation, including low hills and rolling mountains, should be surveyed. The northeastern areas within the project boundary and the entire White Knob haul road are within the elevational range requiring formal desert tortoise surveys. Additionally, the USFWS 2010 survey protocol recommends that zone of influence transects and the "action area" be included within focused tortoise surveys. Since both the mine site and haul road are likely to generate dust that would blow well outside the project footprint including areas at or below 5,000 feet elevation, the "action area" for this project is likely much larger than the direct impact footprint.

Given this information, the Council understands that focused, protocol-level surveys are needed for those portions of the mine site at and below 5,000 feet elevation; zone of influence surveys along the entire length of the haul road between the southern project boundary and the pavement; and within the action area, which should be determined with technical assistance from the USFWS Ventura Field Office. Alternatively, the proponent should receive written confirmation from USFWS that surveys are unnecessary.

We expect that the results of these studies, which would need to be performed in the April-May or September-October time frames to be in compliance with USFWS 2010 survey protocol, will be published as baseline information in the Draft EIS/EIR. Further, if these surveys reveal that tortoises do occur within or adjacent to either the mine footprint or the haul road, we assume the U.S. Forest Service will recommend a "may affect" determination to the USFWS and that formal consultation would be appropriate for the project.

As an "affected interest," the Council looks forward to reviewing the Draft EIS/EIR when available to ensure that appropriate surveys, as identified herein, have been performed and that incidental take authorization, if required, has been acquired.

Thank you for your consideration.

Desert Tortoise Council
Ecosystems Advisory Committee
Edward L. LaRue, Jr.

CENTER *for* BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Because life is good.

protecting and restoring natural ecosystems and imperiled species through science, education, policy, and environmental law

VIA EMAIL and USPS

6/4/2013

Maya Rohr
Sespe Consulting, Inc.
5920 Friars Road, Suite 103
San Diego, CA 92108
mrohr@sespeconsulting.com

RE: Scoping Comments on the Notice of Preparation and Notice of Intent for the Omya Sentinel and Butterfield Quarries Expansion Project

Dear Ms. Rohr,

Please accept the following comments on the Notice of Intent ("NOI") to prepare a joint the joint Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Environmental Impact Report (EIR) (EIS/R) for the Proposed Omya Sentinel and Butterfield Quarries Expansion Project in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as amended, and the California Environmental Quality Act, on the potential impacts of the Proposed Omya Sentinel and Butterfield Quarries Expansion Project ("Omya expansion") on behalf of the Center for Biological Diversity (the "Center"). This project is proposed partially on Forest Service (FS) lands that are rich in important biological resources, including potentially occupied habitat for the federally protected plants including the endangered Cushenbury buckwheat (*Eriogonum ovalifolium* var. *vineum*), Cushenbury oxytheca (*Acanthoscyphus parishii* var. *goodmaniana*), and the federally threatened Parish's daisy (*Erigeron parishii*) among other sensitive resources.

The Center is a non-profit environmental organization dedicated to the protection of native species and their habitats through science, policy, and environmental law. The Center has over 350,000 members and supporters throughout California and the western United States, including within the vicinity of the project.

In addition to compliance with the FS Land Management Plan, the EIS/R must also demonstrate:

1) Consistency with the Carbonate Habitat Management Strategy
2) Protection of air quality;
3) Protection of adjacent wilderness and sensitive resources;
4) Protection of visual quality;
5) Protection of water quantity and quality and
6) Green house gases.

Additionally, other resources and issues are of concern to us and need to be addressed in detail as follow below:

Ileene Anderson, Biologist
8033 Sunset Boulevard, #447 • Los Angeles, CA 90046-2401
tel: (323) 654.5943 *fax:* (323) 650.4620 *email:* ianderson@biologicaldiversity.org
www.BiologicalDiversity.org

Biological Resources

Based on the proposed project description, it appears that this expansion is proposed on an ecologically functional high desert landscape that hosts a suite of rare species. Careful documentation of the current site resources is imperative in order to analyze how best to site the project to avoid and minimize impacts and then to mitigate any unavoidable impacts.

Biological Surveys and Mapping

The Center requests that thorough, seasonal surveys be performed for sensitive plant species and vegetation communities, and animal species under the direction and supervision of the FS, County and resource agencies such as the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. Full disclosure of survey methods and results to the public and other agencies without limitations imposed by the applicant must be implemented to assure full NEPA/CEQA/ESA compliance.

Confidentiality agreements should not be allowed for the surveys in support of the proposed project. Surveys for the plants and plant communities should follow California Native Plant Society (CNPS) and California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) floristic survey guidelines[1] and should be documented as recommended by CNPS[2] and California Botanical Society policy guidelines. A full floral inventory of all species encountered needs to be documented and included in the EIS/R. Surveys for animals should include an evaluation of the California Wildlife Habitat Relationship System's (CWHR) Habitat Classification Scheme. All rare species (plants or animals) need to be documented with a California Natural Diversity Data Base form and submitted to the California Department of Fish and Game using the CNDDB Form[3] as per the State's instructions[4].

The Center requests that the vegetation maps be at a large enough scale to be useful for evaluating the impacts. Vegetation/wash habitat mapping should be at such a scale to provide an accurate accounting of wash areas and adjacent habitat types that will be directly or indirectly affected by the proposed activities. A half-acre minimum mapping unit size is recommended, such as has been used for other development projects. Habitat classification should follow CNPS' Manual of California Vegetation (Sawyer et. al. 2009).

Adequate surveys must be implemented, not just a single season of surveys, in order to evaluate the existing on-site conditions. Due to unpredictable precipitation, desert organisms have evolved to survive in these harsh conditions and if surveys are performed at inappropriate times or year or in particularly dry years many plants that are in fact on-site may not be apparent during surveys (ex. annual and herbaceous perennial plants). This project site will require late season surveys to evaluate the potential occurrence of rare plants that germinate and grow after summer monsoons. These late season surveys should occur in late August through early October, to ensure that these unique plant species are adequately surveyed.

---

1 http://www.cnps.org/cnps/rareplants/inventory/guidelines.php and http://www.dfg.ca.gov/biogeodata/cnddb/pdfs/Protocols_for_Surveying_and_Evaluating_Impacts.pdf

2 http://www.cnps.org/cnps/archive/collecting.php

3 http://www.dfg.ca.gov/biogeodata/cnddb/pdfs/CNDDB_FieldSurveyForm.pdf

4 http://www.dfg.ca.gov/biogeodata/cnddb/submitting_data_to_cnddb.asp

Impact Analysis

The EIS/R must evaluate all direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts to sensitive habitats, including impacts associated with the establishment of unpermitted recreational activities, the introduction of non-native plants, the introduction of lighting, noise, and the loss and disruption of essential habitat due to edge effects.

A number of rare resources are known to in the vicinity of the proposed project including but not limited to:

Common Name	*Scientific Name*	*State/Federal/Other Status*
Cushenbury oxytheca	*Acanthoscyphus parishii* var. *goodmaniana*	E/_/1B.1
Cooper's hawk	*Accipiter cooperii*	_/WL/_
Golden eagle	*Aquila chrysaetos*	BGE/FP/_
Cushenbury milk-vetch	*Astragalus albens*	E/_/1B.1
San Bernardino milk-vetch	*Astragalus bernardinus*	_/_/1B.2
burrowing owl	*Athene cunicularia*	_/SSC/_
Parish's brittlescale	*Atriplex parishii*	_/_/1B.1
pinyon rock-cress	*Boechera dispar*	_/_/2.3
Parish's rock-cress	*Boechera parishii*	_/_/1B.2
Shockley's rock-cress	*Boechera shockleyi*	_/_/2.2
Palmer's mariposa-lily	*Calochortus palmeri* var. *palmeri*	_/_/1B.2
alkali mariposa-lily	*Calochortus striatus*	_/_/1B.2
white pygmy-poppy	*Canbya candida*	_/_/4.2
pallid San Diego pocket mouse	*Chaetodipus fallax pallidus*	_/SSC/_
Townsend's big-eared bat	*Corynorhinus townsendii*	_/SSC/_
purple-nerve cymopterus	*Cymopterus multinervatus*	_/_/2.2
Parish's daisy	*Erigeron parishii*	T/_/1B.1
vanishing wild buckwheat	*Eriogonum evanidum*	_/_/1B.1
Cushenbury buckwheat	*Eriogonum ovalifolium var. vineum*	E/_/1B.1
western mastiff bat	*Eumops perotis californicus*	_/SSC/_
prairie falcon	*Falco mexicanus*	_/WL/_
desert tortoise	*Gopherus agassizii*	T/T/_
silver-haired bat	*Lasionycteris noctivagans*	
hillside wheat grass	*Leymus salinus ssp. mojavensis*	_/_/2.3
long-eared myotis	*Myotis evotis*	
fringed myotis	*Myotis thysanodes*	
long-legged myotis	*Myotis volans*	
Yuma myotis	*Myotis yumanensis*	
San Bernardino ragwort	*Packera bernardina*	_/_/1B.2
Parish's phacelia	*Phacelia parishii*	_/_/1B.1
coast horned lizard	*Phrynosoma blainvillii*	_/SSC/_
Parish's popcorn-flower	*Plagiobothrys parishii*	_/_/1B.1
desert monkey grasshopper	*Psychomastax deserticola*	
Parish's alkali grass	*Puccinellia parishii*	_/_/1B.1
Latimer's woodland-gilia	*Saltugilia latimeri*	_/_/1B.2
Salt Spring checkerbloom	*Sidalcea neomexicana*	_/_/1B.1
Spotted owl	*Strix occidentalis*	_/SSC/_
Badger	*Taxidea taxus*	_/SP/_
Le Conte's thrasher	*Toxostoma lecontei*	_/SSC/_
Desert kit fox	*Vulpes velox*	_/SP/_
Mohave ground squirrel	*Xerospermophilus mohavensis*	_/T/_
Federal:		

E – Federally listed, endangered species likely to become extinct with the foreseeable future
T - Federally listed, threatened: species likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future
BGE – protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Act

State

E - State listed as endangered
T = State listed as threatened
FP = State fully protected species (no take permits can be given)
SP = Protected furbearing mammals (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, section 460)
SSC = California Species of Special Concern Species of concern to CDFW because of declining population levels, limited ranges, and/or continuing threats have made them vulnerable to extinction.

California Plant List

List 1B - Rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere
List 2 - Rare, threatened, or endangered in California but more common elsewhere
List 3 - Plants which need more information
List 4 - Limited distribution – a watch list
0.1 - Seriously threatened in California (high degree/immediacy of threat)
0.2 - Fairly threatened in California (moderate degree/immediacy of threat)
0.3 - Not very threatened in California (low degree/immediacy of threats or no current threats known)

While all of these species have been identified as occurring in the vicinity of the proposed Omya expansion area, the EIS/R must adequately address the impacts and propose effective ways to avoid, minimize and mitigate the impacts to them.

Carbonate Endemic Plants

A suite of rare and federally protected plant species occur on the limestone and dolomite substrates that are the focus of the expansion areas. The EIS/R must identify the number and locations of these rare plant occurrences and identify options to avoid them. If avoidance is impossible, then minimizing impacts should be thoroughly addressed. While we are supportive of the proposed "Quit claim to the SBNF 300 acres of unpatented mining claims held within the SBNF which are known to have occupied endangered species habitat" (NOI/P at pg. 6), the EIR/S must still include recent surveys for rare plant presence/absence, analysis of impacts, impact avoidance and minimization measures. Impacts to federally designated critical habitat should also be identified and addressed. Unfortunately, reliance upon mitigation strategies included in the Carbonate Habitat Management Strategy (CHMS) is not adequate, because the CHMS was never "jumpstarted" through initial acquisitions and set-asides required by that plan. Therefore robust mitigation ratios of 5:1 should be included for this proposed mine expansion. Ultimately, any impact to these carbonate endemic plants and their habitat results in further elimination of ecologically functional habitat for these species. Reclamation and revegetation, while important, still results in a net loss of habitat for these species that are already edging closer to extinction.

Avoidance of the rare plants located within the proposed expansion area is preferable because of the general lack of success in transplanting rare plants[5]. If transplantation is to be a part of the mitigation strategy, a detailed plan must be included *as part of the EIS/R* on the methodology for determination of appropriate conservation areas where plants may be transplanted, when/how plant are to be transplanted and identification of success criteria for transplantation. Monitoring of the transplanted plants needs to occur for a time period that is realistic to evaluate long-term success of the plants.

---

5 Fiedler 1991

Desert Tortoise

While the Omya expansion area appears to not be in desert tortoise habitat, we still have concerns about indirect, downslope impacts to this species which continues to decline throughout its range despite being under federal and state Endangered Species Acts protection for decades as threatened[6]. The DEIS/R must first look at ways to avoid impacts to the desert tortoise, for example, by identifying and analyzing alternative sites that will not affect desert tortoise occupied habitat. The DEIS/R must also look at ways to minimize any impacts that it finds are unavoidable, for example, limiting access roads to the project. Acquisition of lands that will be managed in perpetuity for conservation must be included as part of the strategy to mitigate impacts to all sensitive species, and mitigation lands should be high-quality habitat and, at minimum 5:1 mitigation should be provided of all acres of desert tortoise habitat impacted.

An aggressive raven prevention plan also needs to be developed as part of the EIS/R, and be made available for public review as part of the EIS/R and followed during project development and implementation.

Other Rare Species

The diversity of rare species found in the vicinity of the proposed project site is impressive and suggests that the site has great ecological value. The EIS/R must clearly address a proposal for avoiding, minimizing and mitigating the impacts to all of the rare species that utilize the site for part or all of their lifecycle.

The proposed expansion area is likely a foraging areas for a suite of rare species including but not limited to the desert bighorn sheep and golden eagles. Golden eagles have been documented to successfully nest in the adjacent mountains. Unfortunately, golden eagles in the western United States are declining. Other industrial development in the deserts of California and elsewhere are impacting foraging habitat for this iconic species. The EIS/R must incorporate all guidance on golden eagles, evaluate impacts to them as requirements by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service[7], and evaluate the need for a 'take" permit under the Bald and Golden Eagle Act.

A spotted owl territory has been documented to occur in the vicinity of the proposed project and updated surveys for this Forest Service sensitive species need to be done, and potential impacts to this species evaluated from both direct impacts to foraging habitat and indirect impacts.

Under California Code of Regulations, Title 14, section 460, fur bearing mammals including the desert kit fox and the badger are not allowed to be "taken". The EIS/R must identify potential impacts to these state protected species.

Acquisition of lands that will be managed in perpetuity for conservation must be included as part of the strategy to avoid, minimize and mitigate impacts to these species as well.

The DEIS/R should also map and evaluate the number of acres of cryptobiotic soils that will be impacted. These biotically active soil crusts are key components especially in desert

---

6 http://www.fws.gov/nevada/desert_tortoise/dt_reports.html
7 http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/baldeagle.htm

ecosystems where they provide a variety of services, including but not limited to soil stabilization, water retention, and seed germination sites.

Water Resources

The project appears to impact on-site drainages. The EIS/R must clarify the impacts to the jurisdictional Waters of U.S. and the Water of the State of California, and avoid, minimize and mitigate any impacts.

Air Quality

Activities associated with mining often create dust and PM10 emissions that are harmful to human and wildlife health. The Mojave Air Quality Management region is already out of compliance for PM10 levels set by the Clean Air Act. The DEIS/R needs to fully evaluate additional impacts to air quality in this polluted air basin and provide clear and effective mitigation measures to minimize hazardous dust from escaping the expansion site. Analyses should also include the effect of dust on adjacent open space including the reduction in biomass from dust coating surfaces of photosynthetic organism (primarily plants, but also cryptobiotic soils, which provide soil stabilization).

Green House Gases

The proposed project will also increase greenhouse gas emissions and those emissions should be quantified and off-set. This would include equipment, car and truck trips associated with the operations that require the use of gas. Similarly, such activities will also impact air quality and traffic in the area and these impacts should be disclosed, minimized and mitigated as well.

Other Issues

The stated objectives of the project must not unreasonably constrain the range of feasible alternatives evaluated in the EIS/R. The EIS/R must establish an independent set of objectives that does not unreasonably limit the EIS/R's analysis of feasible alternatives including alternative sites. At a minimum, alternatives including the no-action alternative, an environmentally preferred alternative and alternative mining scenarios including phasing based on successfully meeting restoration (not reclamation or revegetation) criteria.

Cumulative Impacts

Numerous industrial projects are being built and proposed in the project vicinity, along with a significant military base expansion to the northeast of the proposed Omya mine expansion. A thorough analysis of the cumulative impacts from all of these projects on the resources needs to be included.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments. Please add us to the distribution list for the EIS/R and all notices associated with the project.

Sincerely,

Ileene Anderson
Biologist/Public Lands Desert Director
8033 Sunset Blvd., #447
Los Angeles, CA 90046
ianderson@biologicaldiversity.org
323-654-5943

cc: via email
Channary Leng, Consultant to San Bernardino County, channary@rgpcorp.com
Thomas Hall, FS, thall@fs.fed.us
Brian Croft, USFWS, brian_croft@fws.gov
Kevin Hunting, CDFG, khunting@dfg.ca.gov
Kathleen Goforth, EPA, goforth.kathleen@epa.gov

To: Maya Rohr
Cc: Eliason, Scott -FS
Subject: FW: Omya Sentinel & Butterfield Quarries Expansion

FYI

From: Steve Loe [mailto:steveloe01@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, April 15, 2013 10:23 AM
To: Hall, Thomas B -FS; Jeff Brandt; Robin Maloney-Rames; Jeff Villepique
Subject: Omya Sentinel & Butterfield Quarries Expansion

Tom:

I am concerned that the biological evaluation available on the website is pretty old. I would like to see an update by biologists to include Fish and Game and recent mine observations.

I would like to see the Biological Evaluation/Assessment for the proposal and Forest Service biologists concurrence with the updated report.

I would appreciate the ability to comment again after I have seen these documents and Forest evaluation.

Please include me on the mailing list for this and any new or updated mining proposals on the Forest that could affect wildlife and habitat.

Thanks,

Steve Loe
Biological Consultant
Certified Wildlife Biologist, TWS
909-809-4726

This electronic message contains information generated by the USDA solely for the intended recipients. Any unauthorized interception of this message or the use or disclosure of the information it contains may violate the law and subject the violator to civil or criminal penalties. If you believe you have received this message in error, please notify the sender and delete the email immediately.

No virus found in this message.
Checked by AVG - www.avg.com
Version: 2012.0.2240 / Virus Database: 2641/5746 - Release Date: 04/15/13

March 18, 2013

Maya Rohr, Sentinel and Butterfield Quarries Expansion Project
% Sespe Consulting
5920 Friars Road
Suite 103
San Diego, CA 92110

Re: Sentinel & Butterfield Quarries Expansion Project

Where's the reclamation? (see photos)

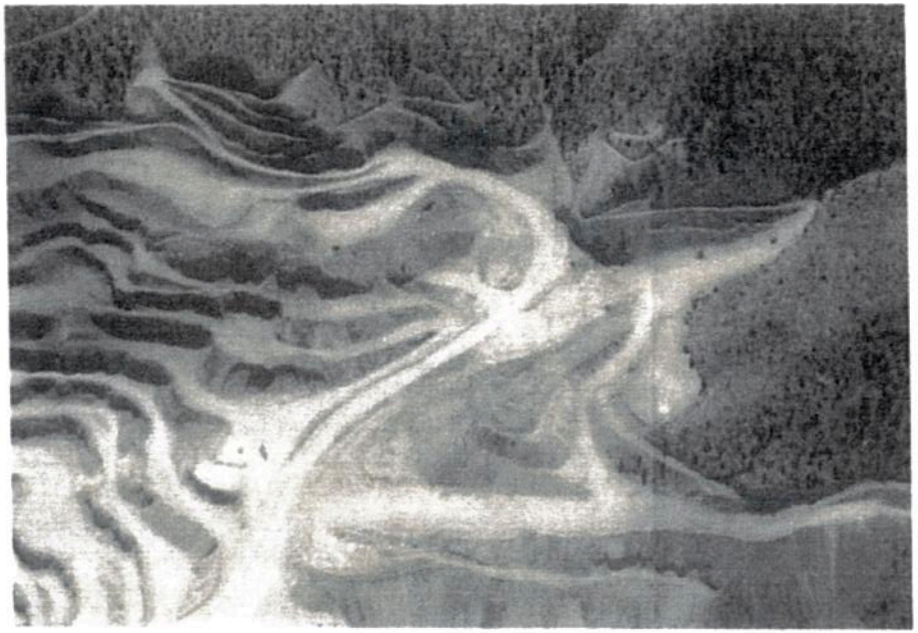
It's obvious Omya has not complied with the 50% reclamation requirement of it's forest contract.

Let's hold up any further expansion until they do!

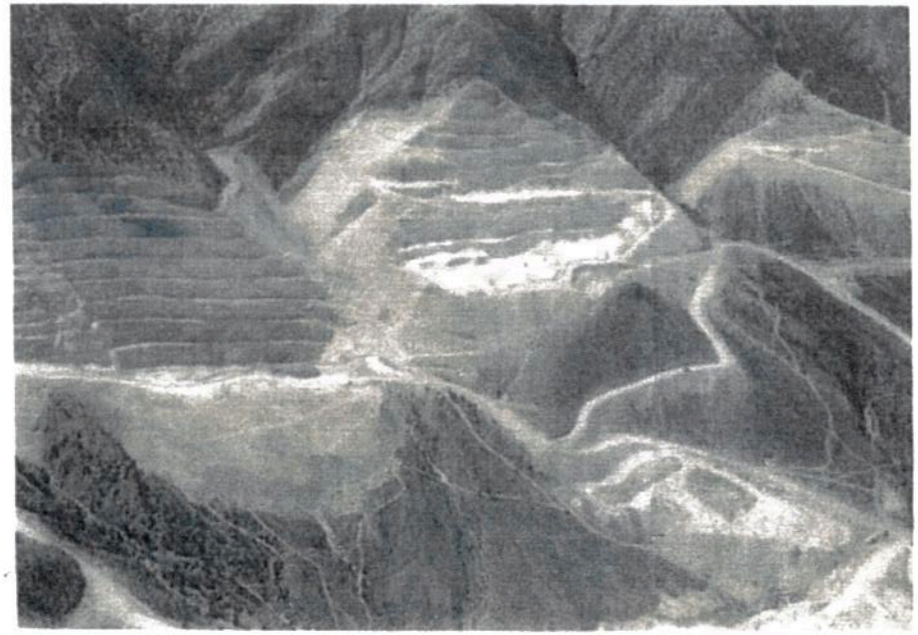
Disgusted Big Bear resident.

Richard Wright
bigbearcooker@aol.com

copy: Dave Heldreth, Big Bear Grizzly



CAN BE SEEN FROM HOLCOMB VALLEY



[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible] CA

[illegible]

[illegible]

Maya Rahn Sentinel - Battlefield
Guardians Experience Project
% Susie Lemmel Tang
5922 Friars Rd
Suite 115
San Diego, CA 92110

92108107728

Appendix A-8: Notice of Availability (NOA) – Federal Register (2018)

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (EIR)/ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (EIS)
OMYA CALIFORNIA'S BUTTERFIELD SENTINEL QUARRY EXPANSION PROJECT
(SCH #2013021057)

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service (Forest Service), together with the County of San Bernardino (County), California, have prepared a Joint Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) for Omya California's (Omya) proposed Butterfield Sentinel Quarry Expansion Project (Project). The Project is the expansion of Omya's Butterfield and Sentinel Limestone Quarries. The quarries are located approximately 7.5 miles south of the community of Lucerne Valley and 5.0 miles north of Big Bear Lake within the San Bernardino National Forest (SBNF) in San Bernardino County, California. The existing Butterfield-Sentinel quarries as well as the Project expansions are and would continue to be entirely within portions of approximately 954-acres of unpatented placer claims controlled by Omya but located on public land administered by the Forest Service. The Forest Service and the County have prepared the Draft EIR/EIS to evaluate potential impacts associated with the Project and Project Alternatives. Omya is proposing to develop known limestone ore resources which would add an additional 40-years life to the Butterfield quarry and an additional 20-years life to the Sentinel quarry. The Project includes expansion of existing Butterfield and Sentinel quarries, expansion of associated overburden placement sites, additional internal access roads and ancillary facility areas. The Project does not include any new quarries, new haul roads or new overburden sites. The proposed expansion would include 30.6-acres of new disturbance at the Butterfield Quarry, and 64.3-acres of new disturbance at the Sentinel Quarry area. The total area of disturbance associated with the Project would be 94.9-acres. Quarry development and expansion would be phased and reclamation would occur concurrently. The Draft EIR/EIS for the Butterfield Sentinel Quarry Expansion Project is available for public review and comment.

The Forest Service, as the lead agency under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and the County of San Bernardino, as the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), jointly prepared the Draft EIR/EIS to analyze the site-specific impacts of the Project on aesthetics; air quality; agriculture and forestry; biological resources; cultural resources; geology and soils; greenhouse gases and climate change; hazards and hazardous materials; hydrology and water quality; noise; recreation; and cumulative impacts.

This document has been prepared to meet the state requirements of CEQA and the federal requirements of NEPA. The Draft EIR/EIS is being circulated to the public, and to interested agencies in accordance with CEQA and NEPA, to provide a meaningful opportunity for the public and affected agencies to review and comment on the document. As identified therein, key potentially significant impacts from the proposed action would include: 1) Aesthetics; 2) Air Quality; 3) Biological Resources; 4) Geology and Soils; 5) Greenhouse Gases; 6) Hydrology and Water Quality; and 7) Cumulative Impacts.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) published a Notice of Availability (NOA) for the Draft EIR/EIS in the Federal Register on July 13th, 2018. **The public comment period will end after 45-days from the posting date of this public notice in the Federal Register.** Comments can be sent by mail to Maya Rohr at Sespe Consulting, Inc. at 1565 Hotel Circle South, Suite 370, San Diego, CA 92108, or by email to mrohr@sespeconsulting.com. Please include "Butterfield Sentinel Quarry Expansion Project" in the

subject line. Written comments submitted electronically are strongly encouraged. Paper copies and compact discs of the Draft EIR/EIS are available upon request, and can be reviewed at the locations listed below. All written public comments received during the comment period will be used to prepare the final environmental documents. Further details on the proposed Butterfield Sentinel Quarry Expansion Project, including the full Draft EIR/EIS and the supporting appendices, can be found at:

- https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=32613, or
- http://cms.sbcounty.gov/lus/Planning/Environmental/Desert.aspx.

Forest Service Contact: Tasha Hernandez, SBNF Environmental Coordinator, (909) 382-2905, e-mail: thernandez@fs.fed.us.

County Contact: Reuben Arceo, Contract Planner, San Bernardino County Land Use Services Division, (909) 387-4374, email: reuben.arceo@lus.sbcounty.gov.

The Draft EIR/EIS is available for review at the following locations:

San Bernardino National Forest
Forest Headquarters
602 S. Tippecanoe Avenue
San Bernardino, CA 92408

San Bernardino National Forest
Big Bear Discovery Center
40971 North Shore Drive, Highway 38
Fawnskin, CA 92333

San Bernardino County
Land Use Services Department
Planning Division
385 North Arrowhead Avenue
San Bernardino, CA 92415-0182

San Bernardino County
Land Use Services Department
Planning Division
15900 Smoke Tree Street
Hesperia, CA 92345

Hazardous Waste Sites: Pursuant Section 15087(c)(6) of the Guidelines for California Environmental Quality Act, the Forest Service and County acknowledges the non-existence of hazardous waste sites within the Project area reviewed by this EIR/EIS.

This Project is subject to comment and predecisional administrative review pursuant to Forest Service Regulations at 36 CFR 218. Only those who submit timely Project-specific written comments during a public comment period are eligible to file an objection during the objection filing period. Individuals or representatives of an entity submitting comments must sign the comments or verify identity upon request. Comments on this proposal will be accepted for 45 days following publication of this Notice of Availability (NOA) in the Federal Register, which is the exclusive means for calculating the comment period. This also coincides with the posting of the NOA in the San Bernardino County Sun. It is the commenter's responsibility to ensure timely receipt of comments.

The proposed action also includes a Project-specific Forest Plan amendment to reduce the Scenic Integrity Objectives in the Project area. The review process under 36 CFR 218, not the review process for Forest Plans (36 CFR 219), applies to this amendment.