SMMC
Agenda Item 11(b)
02/25/08

Los Angeles County
Department of Regional Planning

Planning for the Challenges Ahead

Bruce W. McClendon FAICP
Director of Planning

NOTICE OF PREPARATION

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DATE: April 9, 2007

PROJECT TITLE: **Sakaida & Sons Surface Mine Project**
Surface Mining Permit No. 01-154
Oak Tree Permit No. ROAKT200700010

PROJECT APPLICANT(S): **Ted Sakaida**
P.O. Box 7412
Van Nuys, CA 91409
(818) 881-5257

The County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning is the lead agency and will prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the project identified below. In compliance with Section 15082 of the CEQA Guidelines, the County of Los Angeles is sending this Notice of Preparation (NOP) to each responsible and federal agency and interested parties involved in approving the project and to trustee agencies responsible for natural resources affected by the project. Within 30 days after receiving the NOP, each agency shall provide the County of Los Angeles with specific written details about the scope and content of the environmental information related to that agency's area of statutory responsibility.

The purpose of this NOP is to solicit the views of your agency as to the scope and content of the environmental information germane to your agency's statutory authority with respect to the proposed project. Your agency may need to use the EIR prepared by our agency when considering approval of applicable permits for the project.

PROJECT LOCATION AND EXISTING CONDITIONS: The project site is located in unincorporated Los Angeles County, adjacent to and west of the Angeles National Forest, approximately 2.5 miles north of the Foothill Freeway (Interstate 210) and approximately 4 miles northeast of the City of San Fernando (see Figure 1). The site is bordered to the north by open space and the Pacoima Dam and Reservoir; to the east by the Angeles National Forest; and to the south and west by open space. A recreational hiking trail known as the Pacoima Canyon Trail (or Rim of the Valley Trail) traverses the project site in an east to west direction. The only access to the site is from Hubbard Street via Interstate 210 Freeway to Gavina Avenue (east) and then north along Pacoima Canyon Road.

The proposed project site is located in mountainous terrain characterized by slight to steep slopes with elevations ranging from approximately 1,500 feet to 2,200 feet (see Figure 2). The site is undeveloped except for a hiking trail and an abandoned dirt access road that begins from Pacoima Canyon Road (the only access to the site) on the western edge of the project site leading eastward along the northern side of the site. The Pacoima wash and numerous tributaries traverse the project site, flowing in an east to west direction. Vegetation on the site consists of chaparral, coastal sage scrub, riparian habitat, oak trees, and Davidson's bush-mallow that are potential habitat for the California gnatcatcher and slender-horned spineflower.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The project applicant proposes to construct and operate a mining operation and processing area (referred to as the mining area) on approximately 25 acres of the 73-acre project site. The processing area will consist of a scale house, an office trailer, generators to supply electricity, two water tanks, two above-ground fuel tanks, a crusher plant, a screening plant, two portable restrooms, and two stockpile areas. Other proposed improvements include a detention pond, an access road, and a truck loading area (see Figure 3). The onsite access road will be paved or improved with a gravel road-base material to reduce fugitive dust emissions from onsite and offsite aggregate transport. This access road will be approximately one mile long with two 10-foot wide lanes (one entry and one exit lane).

The applicant proposes to mine approximately 3,000,000 cubic yards of aggregate material (sand and gravel), fill-material, and limited amounts of base material over a period of seven years at a maximum annual rate of approximately 428,571 cubic yards. Bulldozers would be used to excavate raw material and front-end loaders would haul mined material to feeders. Electrically-powered feeders and conveyors would deliver excavated material to the processing screens, crushers, and eventually to separated storage stockpiles for offsite transport. Prior to departing the site for product delivery, truck beds would be covered and the exteriors would be washed down to control sand, grit or gravel that could become airborne during transport

The excavated aggregate resources would be transported from the project site to various destinations within the San Fernando Valley including City and County material yards, various building supply yards, asphalt and cement batch plants, and construction sites. The expected haul route for transporting materials from the site would be along Gavina Avenue to Interstate-210 via Harding Street / McClay Street. A school and approximately 103 homes are located adjacent to the haul route. Based on expected market demands, project truck traffic would be distributed evenly on Interstate-210 for the north- and south-bound with the majority of the material being transported to locations in the San Fernando Valley, north and south of the site, while the remainder (approximately 10 percent) would be transported to central parts of Los Angeles County. Approximately 115 trucks would be used to transport aggregate material offsite of which 25 would be owned and operated by the applicant and the remaining 90 would be independently owned and operated. As envisioned, approximately 5 to 10 owner-operated trucks would be stored onsite at any given time while the remaining trucks would be stored at other project sites or the applicant's storage yard in Sylmar. Based on the estimated daily maximum throughput, the project would generate an average of 115 (one-way) truck trips per day. Two 10,000 gallon water tanks would be located onsite and filled by water delivery trucks. Based on the water needs of the project (estimated to be approximately 3,000 – 5,000 gallons per day), no more than five water truck deliveries would be required per week. The source of water for operations would be obtained from a metered City of Los Angeles fire hydrant. The applicant is also considering using reclaimed water for project operations. One truck visit per week would be expected from both the commercial bottled water provider and the commercially-serviced restroom provider.

Facility operations would occur Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. In total the facility would operate approximately 2,500 to 3,000 hours per year depending upon market conditions. Most of the mobile equipment will be diesel-powered or hydraulically operated wheel and track mounted machines. Stationary equipment will be powered by electricity from the proposed generators. The mining operation and processing plant will utilize the following equipment and facilities:

- Two to four front-end loaders
- Two bulldozers
- Waterline and sprinkler systems (for dust suppression, reclamation and landscaping purposes)

- Two processing and conveyer systems (including crushers)
- Generators (maximum of seven rated at 250 HP)
- Self contained portable processing plant
- Ancillary facilities including: water supply trucks (owned by the applicant) and tanks; processing plants and equipment; a scale-house; two above-ground fuel tanks; an administration office; and portable restrooms (commercially serviced).

The applicant would implement a Reclamation Plan in consultation with Los Angeles County Departments of Public Works and Regional Planning and the California Department of Conservation Office of Mine Reclamation (OMR). The Plan must be developed in accordance with the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act (SMARA) and the County Mining Ordinance. The applicant would be required to post a financial assurance with the County to ensure reclamation is completed in accordance with the approved plan.

Generally, as aggregate resources within the existing disturbed areas are removed, a tier of benches would be created at the mining area. Finished slopes would begin at a finished floor elevation of approximately 1,625 feet, up to finished top-of-slope elevations ranging between 1,800 feet to a maximum of approximately 1,935 feet. The floor of the mining area would be maintained with slopes no steeper than 10:1 (horizontal:vertical). The finished slopes of the mining area would be no steeper than a ratio of 1.5:1 (horizontal:vertical) and would contain terraces (benches) at no greater than 30-foot intervals in elevation. The benches would alternate between 8-feet (at 25 foot intervals) and 20-feet wide (at 100 foot intervals). Down drains would be installed on the finished slopes to convey runoff from the slopes with energy dissipaters (e.g. rip rap) at the outlets in the adjacent ravine, where runoff would be directed. The final proposed contours of the site would be designed to approximate natural slopes and landforms of the project site and are depicted in Figure 4.

All final manufactured slopes will meet both of the following criteria:

- Have a slope stability safety factor of at least 1.5 for gross stability, and
- Have a slope angle ratio of no steeper than 1.5:1 (i.e., 1.5 feet horizontal rise to 1 foot vertical run).

The slope stability safety factor of 1.5 is designed to ensure the long-term gross stability of a slope based on the assumption that no maintenance is performed on the slope once the Mining and Reclamation Plan is fully implemented. The minimum slope angle ratio of 1.5:1 is designed to minimize the long-term erosion potential of manufactured slopes. To provide for adequate drainage and erosion control, the site would be reclaimed to the above specified finished slopes.

Reclamation will start on mined-out area of 5 acres before new mining can take place on the next 5 acres of the project site. Final Reclamation would occur within two years of the end of mining activities. The finest material and topsoil collected during operational phases would be stored for sale as topsoil and/or fill material, while a portion will also be employed in the reclamation of finished mine surfaces. At the time of final reclamation, all mining production and processing equipment, facilities, and support structures will be removed. With the exception of a small area (approximately 3 to 5 acres), all reclaimed areas will be re-vegetated with native vegetation. The small area will ultimately be used for nursery stock storage as the "end-use" for the project site. The main access road, generators, water storage tanks, and sprinkler system would remain to facilitate the maintenance of the nursery stock on the leveled areas. Water usage during operation of the nursery would vary depending on the type and amount of vegetation that can be supported on the reclaimed, leveled areas of the project site. However, no more

STAFF USE ONLY

PROJECT NUMBER: *01-154*
CASES: *SMP*
ROAKT200700010

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*** * * * INITIAL STUDY * * * ***

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF REGIONAL PLANNING

GENERAL INFORMATION

I.A. Map Date: *October, 2006* Staff Member: *Christina D. Tran*
Thomas Guide: *482 F-1* USGS Quad: *San Fernando*
Location: *South of Pacoima Dam and east of Pacoima Canyon Road, Sylmar*

Description of Project: *Application for a Surface Mining Permit to construct and operate a mining operation and processing area on 24.8 acres of a 73-acre project site comprised of two parcels. Approximately 3,000,000 cubic yards of material will be mined over a period of seven years at a maximum of 428,571 cubic yards per year. The mined materials will be exported to various customers in San Fernando Valley via Hubbard Street through residential areas and the I- 210. The proposed processing area will have a scale house, an office trailer, generators, two water tanks, two above-ground fuel tanks, a crusher plant, a screening plant, two portable restrooms, and two stockpile areas. Other proposed improvements include a detention pond, an access road, and a truck loading area. The processing plant would be removed and the reclaimed areas would be re-vegetated and used for nursery stock storage. The project will utilize portable sanitary facilities for sewage disposal and onsite water storage tanks for dust suppression. Operating hours will be five days a week from 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. with a maximum of 27 employees including approximately 20 truck drivers. Application also includes an Oak Tree Permit to remove five oak trees.*

Gross Acres: *73 acres of which 24.8 acres is the proposed mining area*

Environmental Setting: *Project site is undeveloped except for an abandoned dirt road with topography ranging from gentle to steep slopes. The site contains several drainage courses and biological resources including chaparral, coastal sage scrub, riparian habitat, oak trees, and potentially California gnatcatcher, slender-horned spineflower, and Davidson's bush-mallow. Surrounding land uses consist of the Angeles National Forest adjacent to the east, Pacoima Dam to the north, vacant land, and residential development to the far west and south.*

Zoning: *A-2-2 (heavy Agriculture, 2 acre minimum lot size)*

General Plan: *Non-urban*

Community/Area wide Plan: *N/A*