

PUBLIC REVIEW DRAFT  
INITIAL STUDY

FOR

Use Permit and Reclamation Plan  
UP 17;9-1 – Pilgrim Rock Quarry

June 2020

*Prepared by:*  
Amador County  
Planning Department  
810 Court Street  
Jackson, CA 95642  
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**Project Description:**

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Project Title:	<b>UP-17;9-1 Pilgrim Rock Quarry and Reclamation Plan</b>
Lead Agency Name and Address:	<b>Amador County Planning Department 810 Court Street, Jackson, Ca 95642</b>
Contact Person/Phone Number:	<b>Ruslan Bratan, Planner I 209-233-6380</b>
Project Location:	<b>200 Highway 16, Plymouth, CA 95669 Western parcel 320 acres (APN 001-130-008) Eastern parcel 40.5 Acres (APN 001-140-041)</b>
Project Sponsor's Name and Address:	<b>R. A. Home Investments, LLC 1101 Fulton Avenue, Suite 204 Sacramento, California 95825</b>
General Plan Designation(s):	<b>Agricultural General (AG)</b>
Zoning:	<b>Single Family Residential &amp; Agricultural (R1A)</b>

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**Background and Description of Project:**

Description of project:

This Initial Study was prepared in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines to review the request for a Use Permit and Reclamation Plan on two contiguous parcels to establish an open pit quarry. This environmental review document provides an assessment of the potential impacts caused by the Use Permit and Reclamation Plan for a hard rock aggregate quarry in an "R1A," Single Family Residential and Agricultural District on approximately 360.50 combined acres, with operations occurring on approximately 135 acres and anticipated production level of about two (2) million tons per year, to be extracted over approximately 40 years. Material will be blasted and subsequently excavated with track-mounted excavator, tractors, and loaders that will load large mining trucks. Fixed and temporary processing equipment are anticipated to consist of primary and secondary crushers and various electrically powered conveyor systems. The mining trucks will move the rocks to an on-site processing facility where it will be screened to produce aggregate mixtures for rip rap, asphalt concrete, sands, and road base materials, among other uses. There will be no permanent buildings at the quarry; however, a temporary construction trailer for office and staff use, and portable restrooms will be installed. Reclamation would occur concurrently with each mining phase to return the site to a usable condition that would be suitable for agricultural end use.

**Project Components**

**Overview**

1. Initial work to begin the mining operation ("construction").
  2. Mining and processing in the quarry ("operation").
  3. Reclamation activities that would be performed during each of these project elements are described below.
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## **1. Construction**

Activities would include:

- Clearing and leveling of the aggregate processing area.
- Construction of a gravel haul road between the aggregate processing area and the quarry pit.
- Improvements to the access road, including widening and paving, between SR 16 and the processing area. Improvements to the intersection of SR 16 and the private road.
- Widening Highway 16, constructing acceleration/deceleration lanes, and constructing a refuge lanes.
- Installation of utilities (electrical connection to PG&E lines, and water connection to the existing on-site well).
- Installation of a prefabricated/portable mine office building.
- Installation of aggregate processing equipment.

## **2. Operation**

Mining operations in the quarry would include stripping overburden (vegetation and topsoil) and transporting it to a stockpile area.

- Preparation of exposed rock for blasting by drilling a series of evenly spaced holes up to 30 feet deep.
- Blasting up to twice per week between the hours of 11:30 AM and 2:30 PM and on weekdays only. Proposed blasting days will be up to 80 blasts per year.
- Excavation of blasted material, loading on mine trucks and hauling material to the processing site.
- Application of water to exposed areas and haul roads as needed for dust control, a minimum of twice per day during dry weather.
- Grading, replacing topsoil, and revegetating areas where mining is complete. Typical equipment used for the mining operation would include bulldozers, rock drill rigs, excavators, front-end loaders, and off-road dump trucks and water trucks.

Operations in the processing area would include:

- Loading material from stockpiles to hoppers/conveyors for size classification and/or crushing. Some large material may be loaded on delivery trucks without classification.
- Classification of material by size using vibratory screens and/or rotary trommels, and conveyors.
- As needed, some rock may be reduced in size by a primary and/or a secondary rock crusher, followed by further size classification.
- Processing rock transferred to stockpiles by a conveyor. Material too fine to be saleable will be transported to the topsoil stockpile area by truck. Loading material from stockpiles onto customers' delivery trucks. Dust will be controlled for all material size classification, crushing operation, and conveyor transfer processes using sufficient water to eliminate visible emissions. Application of water to exposed areas and unpaved haul roads as needed for dust control, a minimum of twice per day during dry weather.

All aggregate processing equipment (conveyors, crushers, and classifiers) would be electrically powered. Other equipment used in the processing area would include front-end loaders, excavators, and water trucks powered by Tier 4 diesels. Two possible processing area locations are being considered.

**Option 1** (see Figure 2 of the attached Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Study) would locate the processing area near the western project site boundary and would require an unpaved haul road between the processing area and the start of the quarry pit.

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**Option 2** (see Figure 32 of the attached Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Study) would locate the processing area near the western end of the quarry pit and would require extending the paved access road from the western property line to the processing area.

The mine would operate from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday through Saturday.

### **3. Reclamation Goals**

The proposed project requires the approval of a Reclamation Plan for the Pilgrim Rock Quarry, pursuant to the state Surface Mining and Reclamation Act (SMARA) (Pub. Resources Code § 2710 et seq.) and the County surface mining ordinance (County Code Chapter 7.36), in order to authorize and specify reclamation of the Quarry site. Reclamation plans are developed to meet various performance standards for the protection of wildlife habitat, revegetation, recontouring, and erosion control, as well as to eliminate or reduce residual public health and safety hazards and minimize environmental impacts. Reclamation of disturbed portions of the Pilgrim Rock Quarry would be phased with mining activities and operations. The Quarry Reclamation Plan is intended to stabilize the post-extraction landform, provide visual integration with the natural landscape, and establish a productive vegetative cover. Reclamation of the Pilgrim Rock Quarry site would include:

- 1) removal of all manmade structures including all plant and conveyor equipment;
- 2) grading to achieve final landforms;
- 3) topsoil distribution; and
- 4) revegetation and monitoring.

All of the aforementioned activities together would achieve the goals of the Reclamation Plan and leave the site suitable for the designated land uses, which cattle grazing agriculture land. Cattle grazing will not commence until after a 2-year monitoring period has been completed following final reclamation of a phase. Fencing will be established to separate cattle from the mining/reclamation operation.

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### **Regional and local Setting**

The subject property is located directly south of State Highway 16, approximately 5.5 miles southeast of the community of Rancho Murieta, Sacramento County and approximately 8.5 miles northwest of Ione, Amador County. It is surrounded by a mix of Single Family Residential & Agricultural and Bureau of Land Management zoned lands to the west, northeast, and southwest. Additionally there are Special Use zoned lands to the north and south. Adjoining parcel sizes range from 20 to 480 acres. The project parcels themselves, are accessed through a deeded easement from Moriah Heights Road.

Surrounding land uses and setting:

The 480 acre parcel to the north contains the Moriah Heights Seventh Day Adventist Reform Movement Church, the Whispering Pines Christian School, and the Moriah Heights Mobile Village. Additionally, the 145 acre parcel to the northeast contains the South Arkansas mine currently in idle status.

### **Existing Site Character**

Site topography is characterized by gently rolling terrain throughout the central, southern, eastern, and northern portions of the property. The western portion of the property is characterized by several drainages which drain to the northwest while the eastern portion of the project generally drains to the southwest. Presently, both the parcels are relatively undeveloped except for several unimproved ranch roads traversing the property and gated to prevent uncontrolled use. Nearly the entire site is undeveloped and densely covered by brush and isolated areas of oak and pine trees. Within the site,

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previously disturbed areas, including old mine shafts and mine tailings, are primarily concentrated in the southern and southwestern portions of the site, and not within the proposed phases of the proposed development.

Other public agencies whose approval is required (e.g., permits, financing approval, or participation agreement.)

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**Amador County Air Pollution Control District (Air District)** - The Air District would approve authority to construct and permit to operate permits.

**Department of Mining and Reclamation** - The Surface Mining and Reclamation Act (SMARA) requires DMR to review and comment on the Quarry Reclamation Plan

**Regional Water Quality Control Board** - Approval is required from the Regional Water Quality Control Board of the Waste Discharge Requirements and the Notice of Intent to Comply for the Quarry.

**California State Water Resources Quality Control Board** - The State Board would approve the Water Quality Management Plan (WQMP) and Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP)

**California Department of Fish and Wildlife** - CDFW would act as a trustee agency.

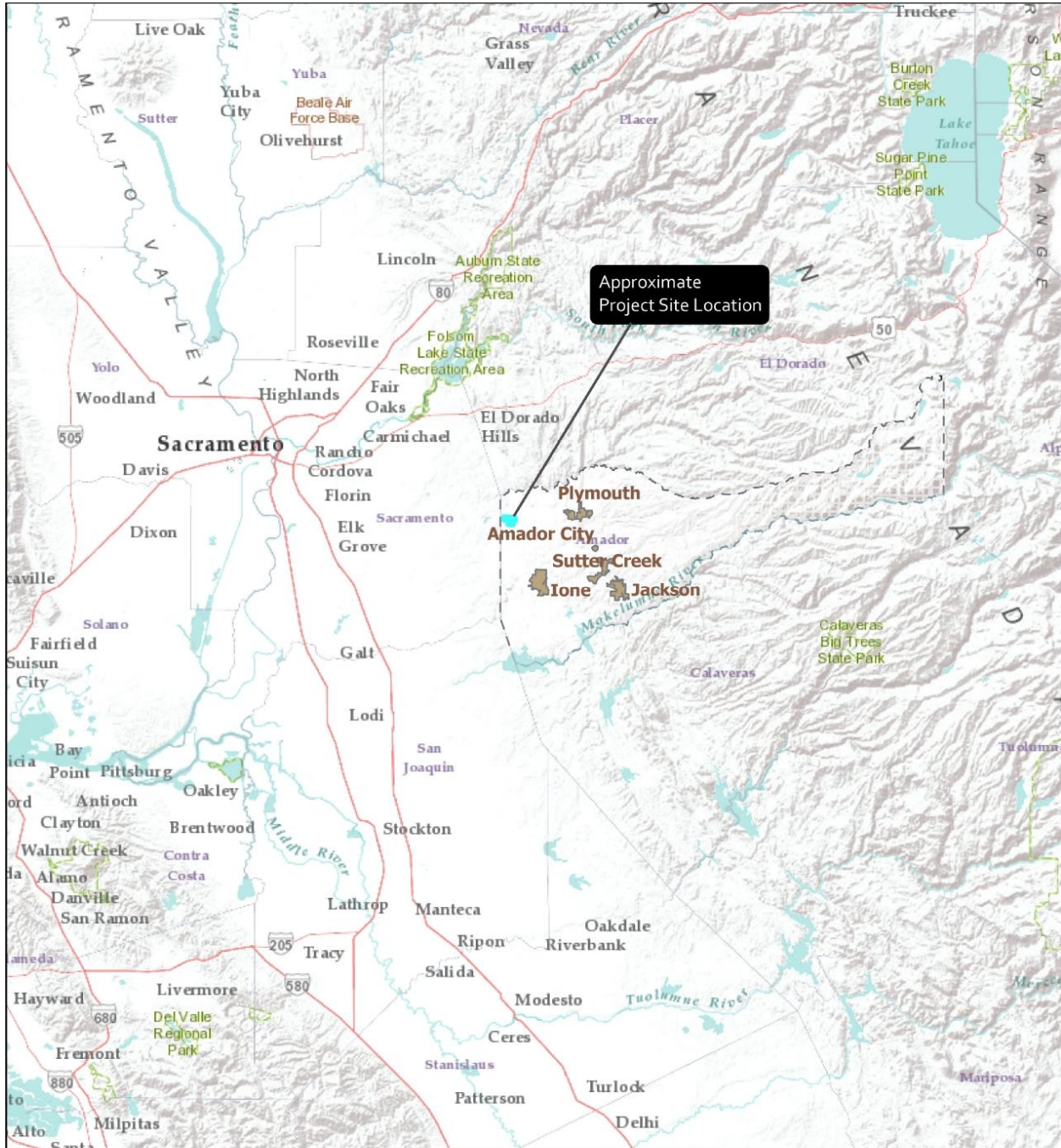
**United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)** – Permits may be required from this federal agency.

**United States Fish & Wildlife Service (USFW)** – Permits may be required from this federal agency.

**Caltrans** – Encroachment permit for new access onto State Highway 16.

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**FIGURE 1: PROJECT REGIONAL LOCATION**



**Legend**

City Limits

- Plymouth
- Amador City
- Ione
- Jackson
- Sutter Creek

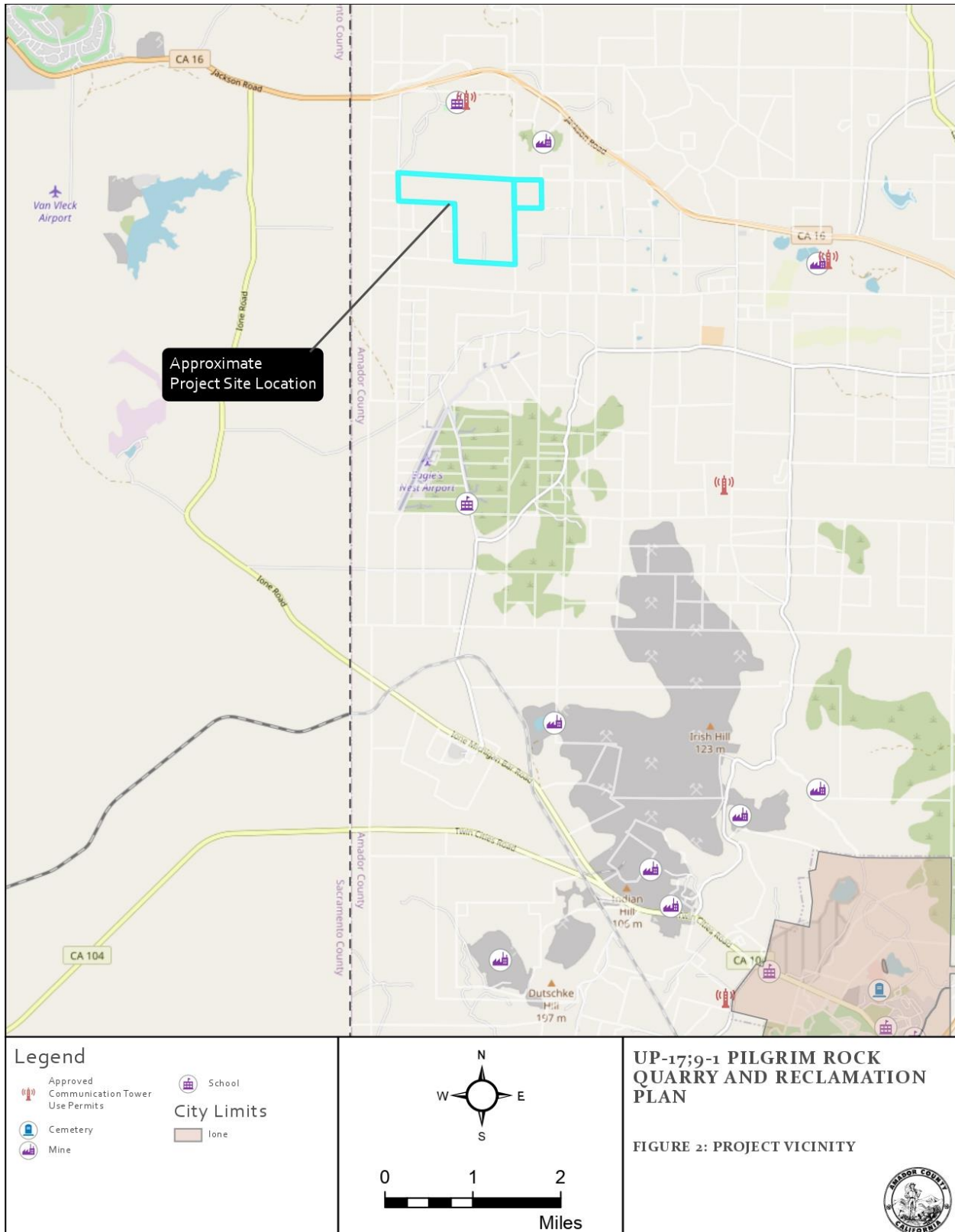
Miles

**UP-17;9-1 PILGRIM ROCK QUARRY AND RECLAMATION PLAN**

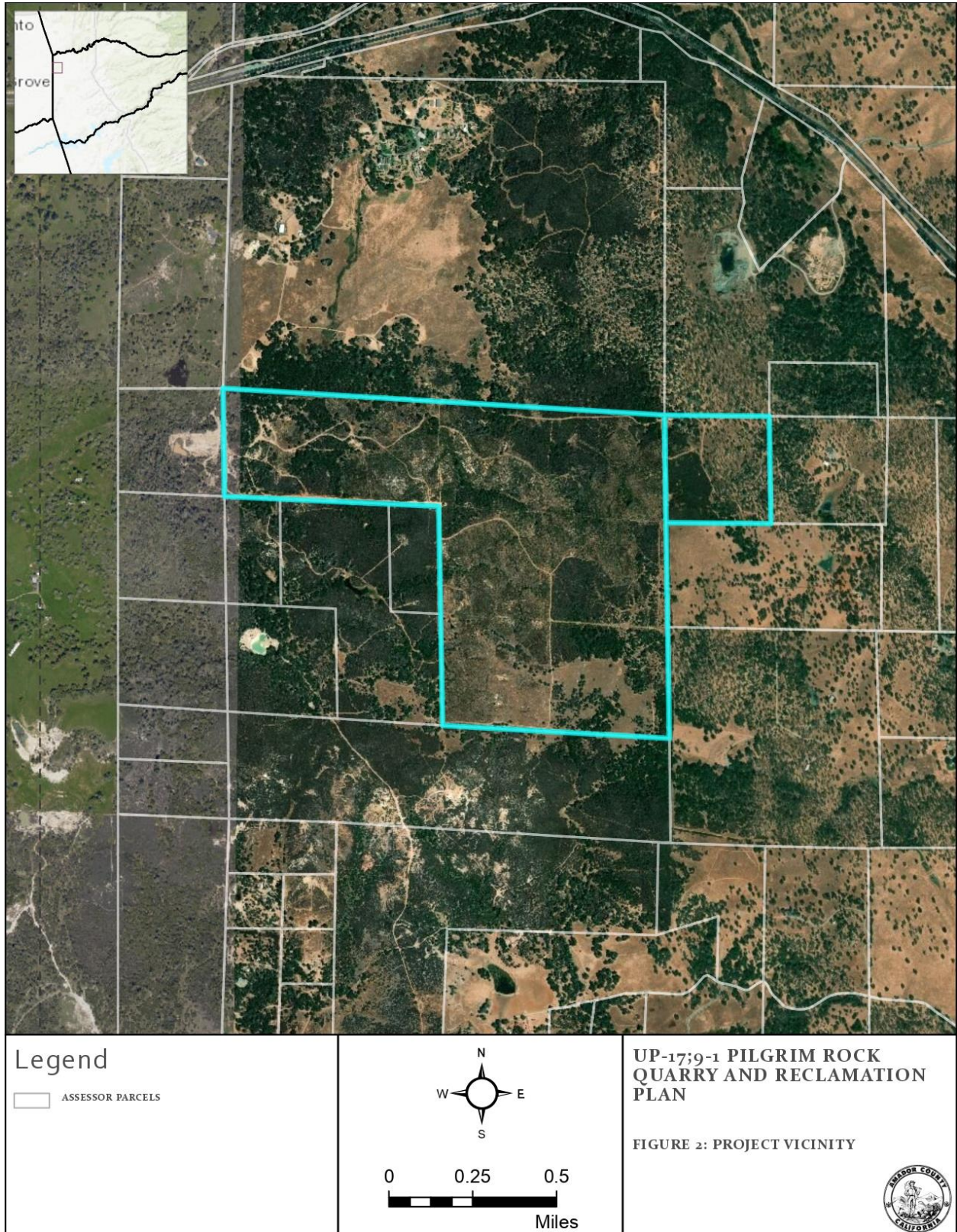
FIGURE 1: PROJECT REGIONAL LOCATION



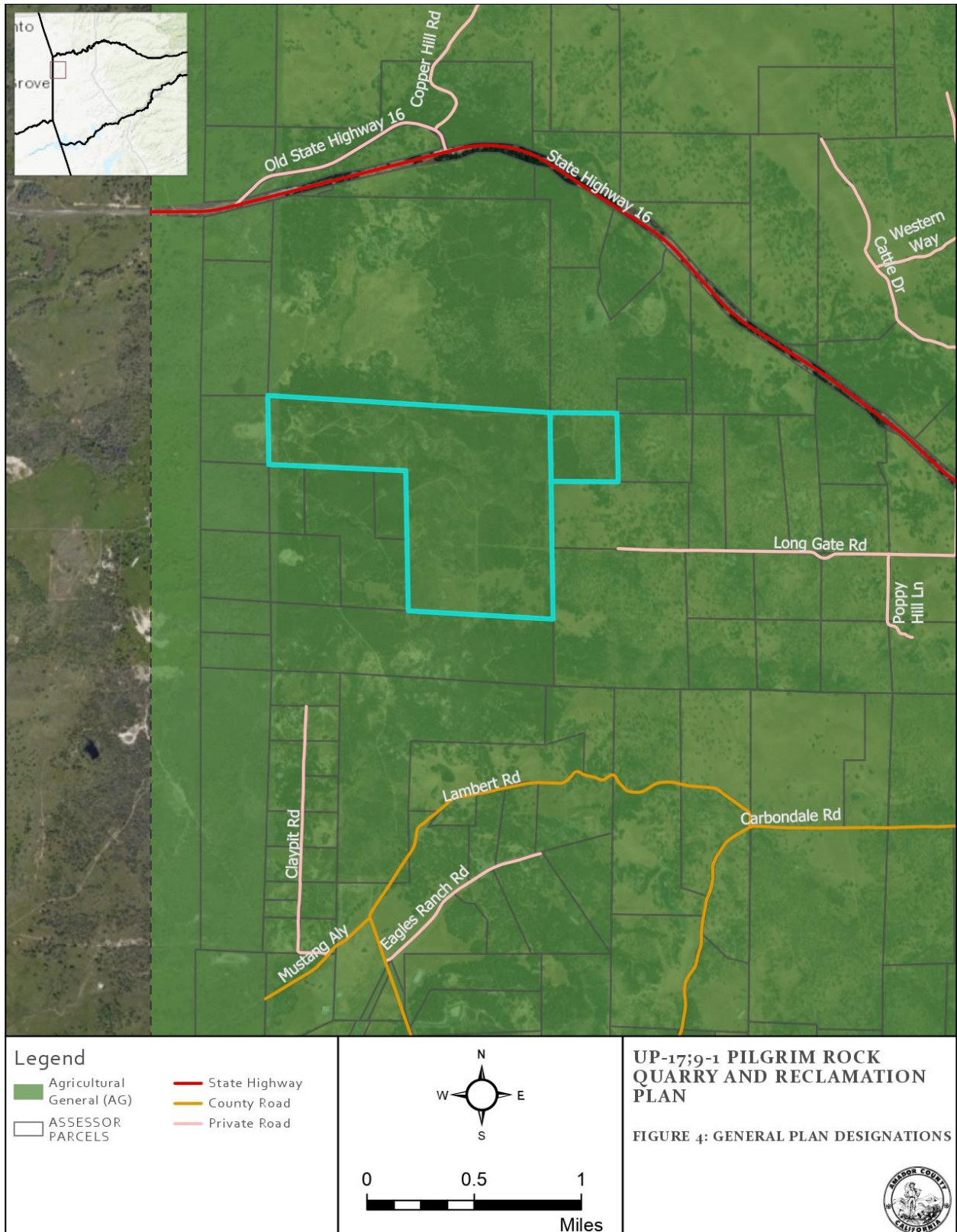
**FIGURE 2: PROJECT VICINITY**



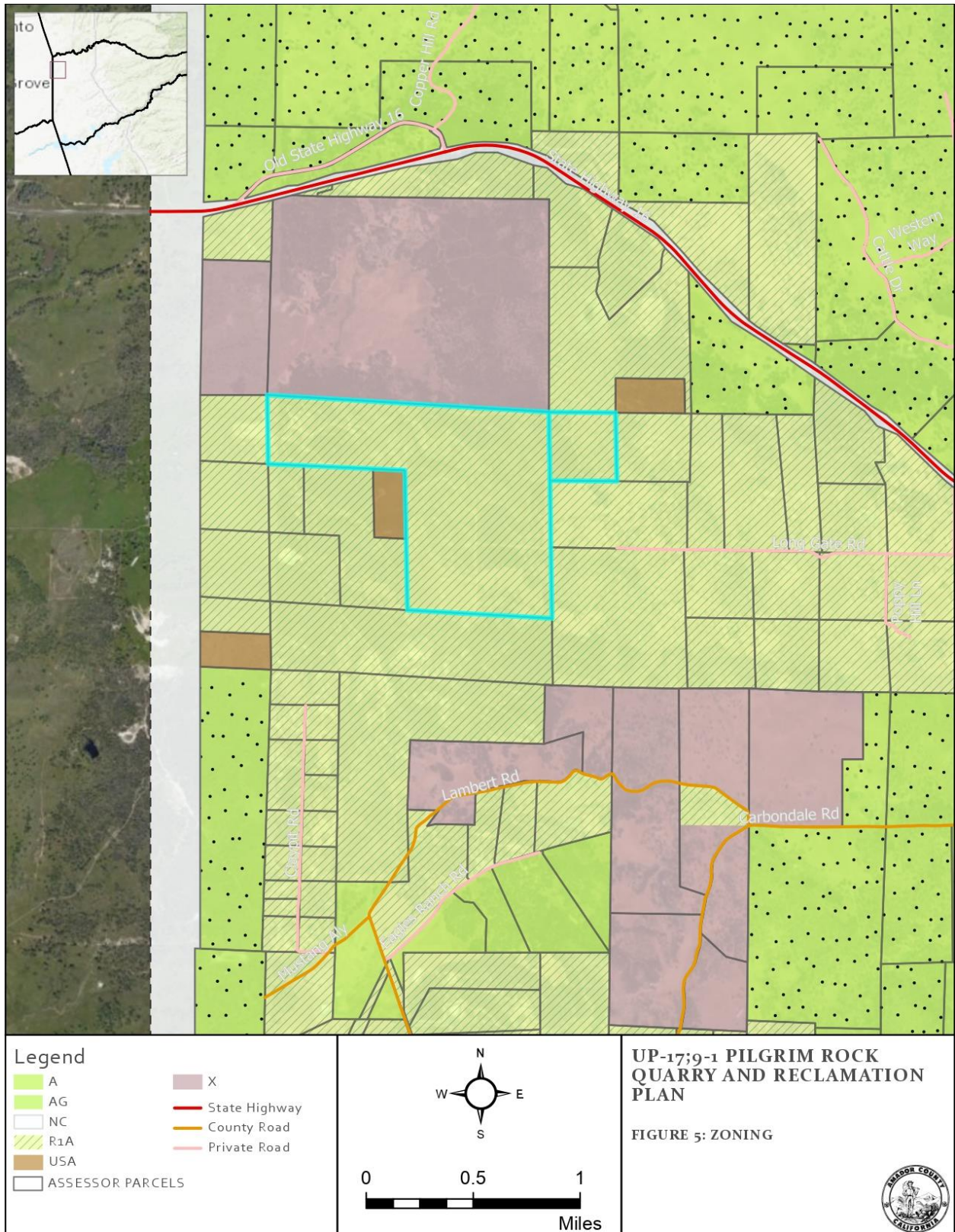
**FIGURE 3: PROJECT LOCATION - AERIAL**



**FIGURE 4: GENERAL PLAN LAND USES**



**FIGURE 5: ZONING DESIGNATIONS**



**FIGURE 6: QUARRY BOUNDARY**

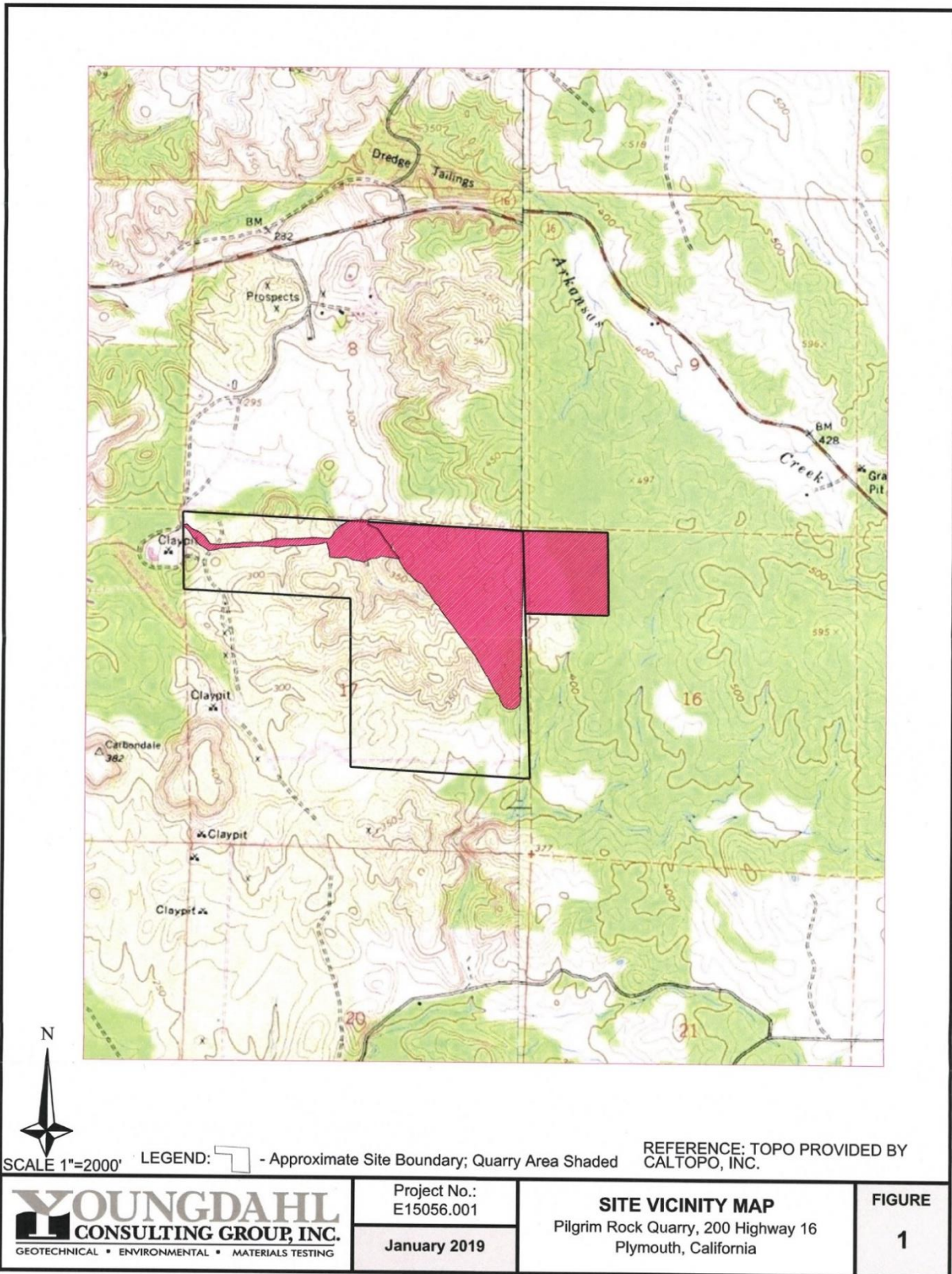
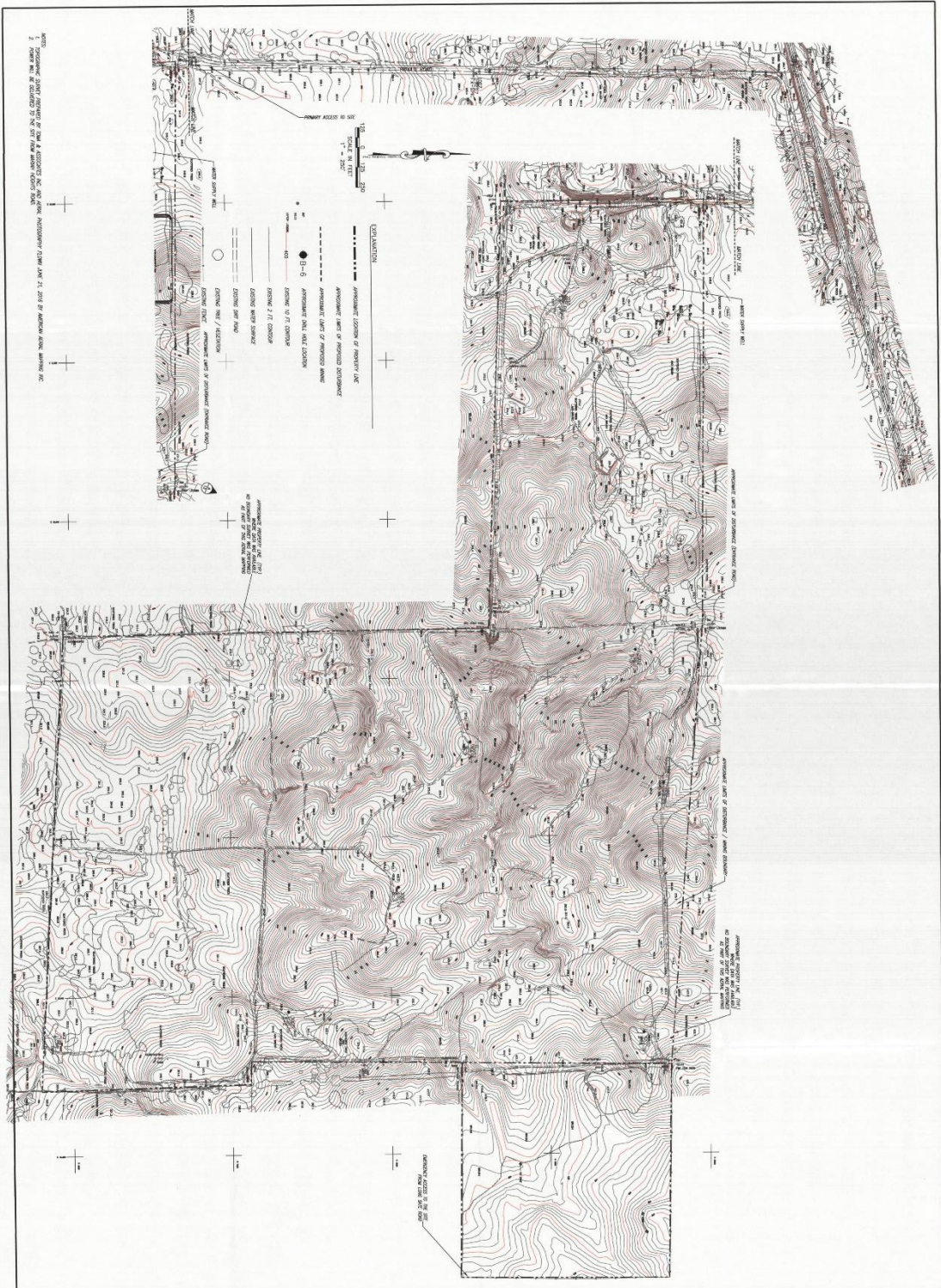


FIGURE 7: EXISTING SITE TOPOGRAPHY



**YOUNGDAHL**  
CONSULTING GROUP, INC.  
1234 Greenhorn Court  
El Dorado Hills, CA 95762  
916.433.6633  
916.433.6482

DATE: JANUARY 2019  
SCALE: 1" = 250'  
JOB NO. E15056.001

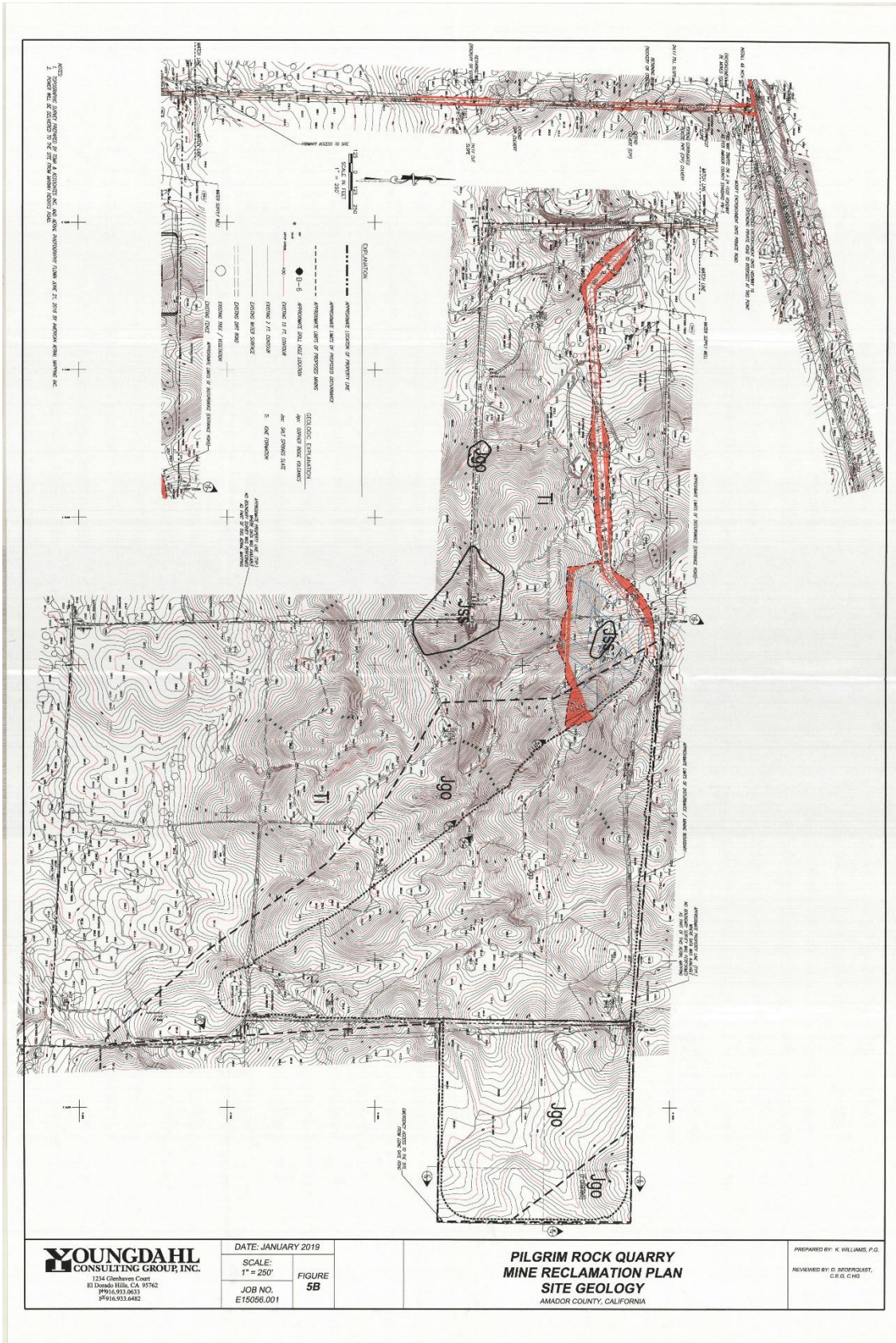
FIGURE 5

**PILGRIM ROCK QUARRY**  
**MINE RECLAMATION PLAN**  
**EXISTING SITE TOPOGRAPHY**  
AMADOR COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

PREPARED BY: K. WILLIAMS, P.G.  
REVIEWED BY: D. BEDERQUIST,  
C.E.G., C.H.G.



**FIGURE 9: SITE GEOLOGY**





**FIGURE 10: MINING PHASES**

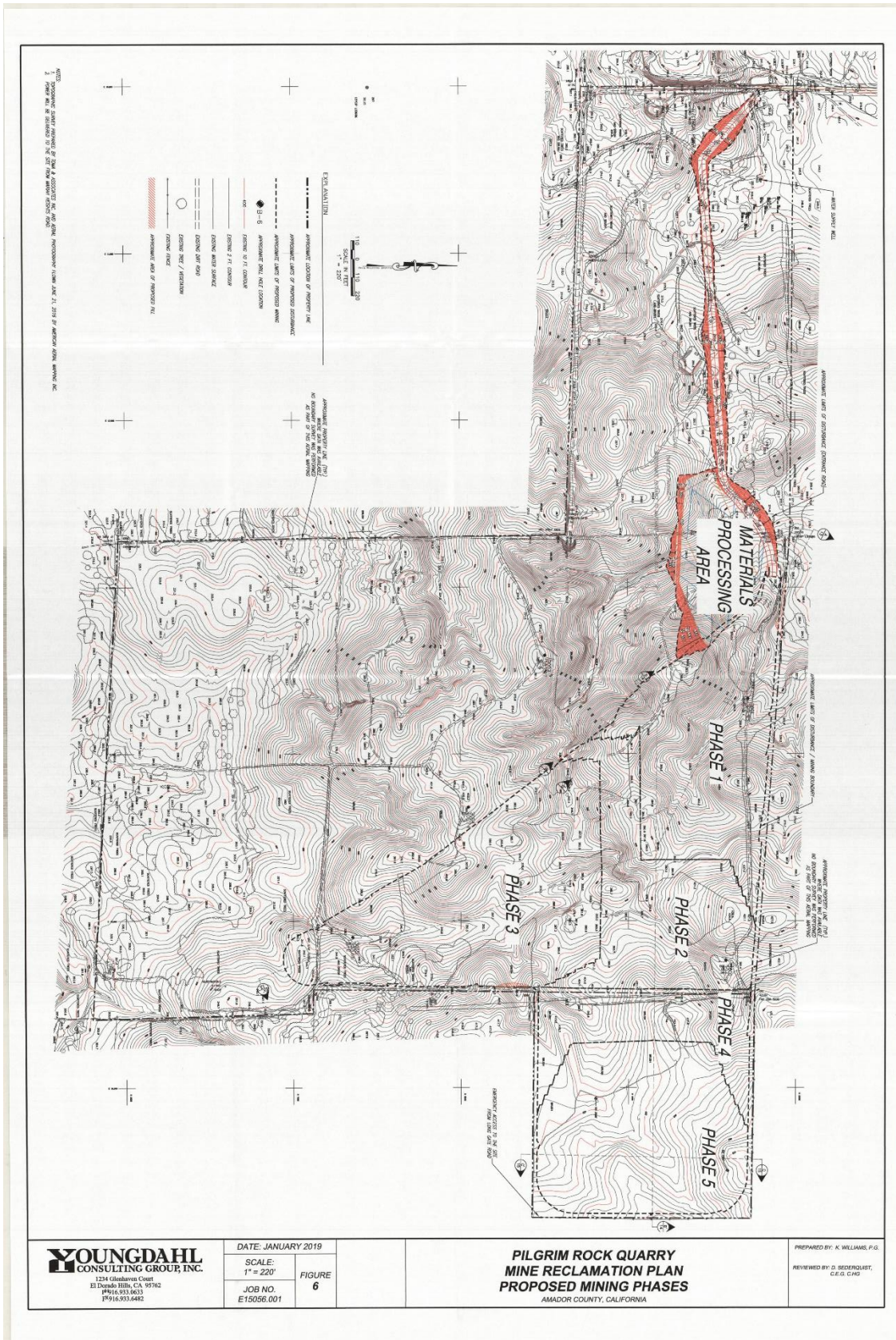
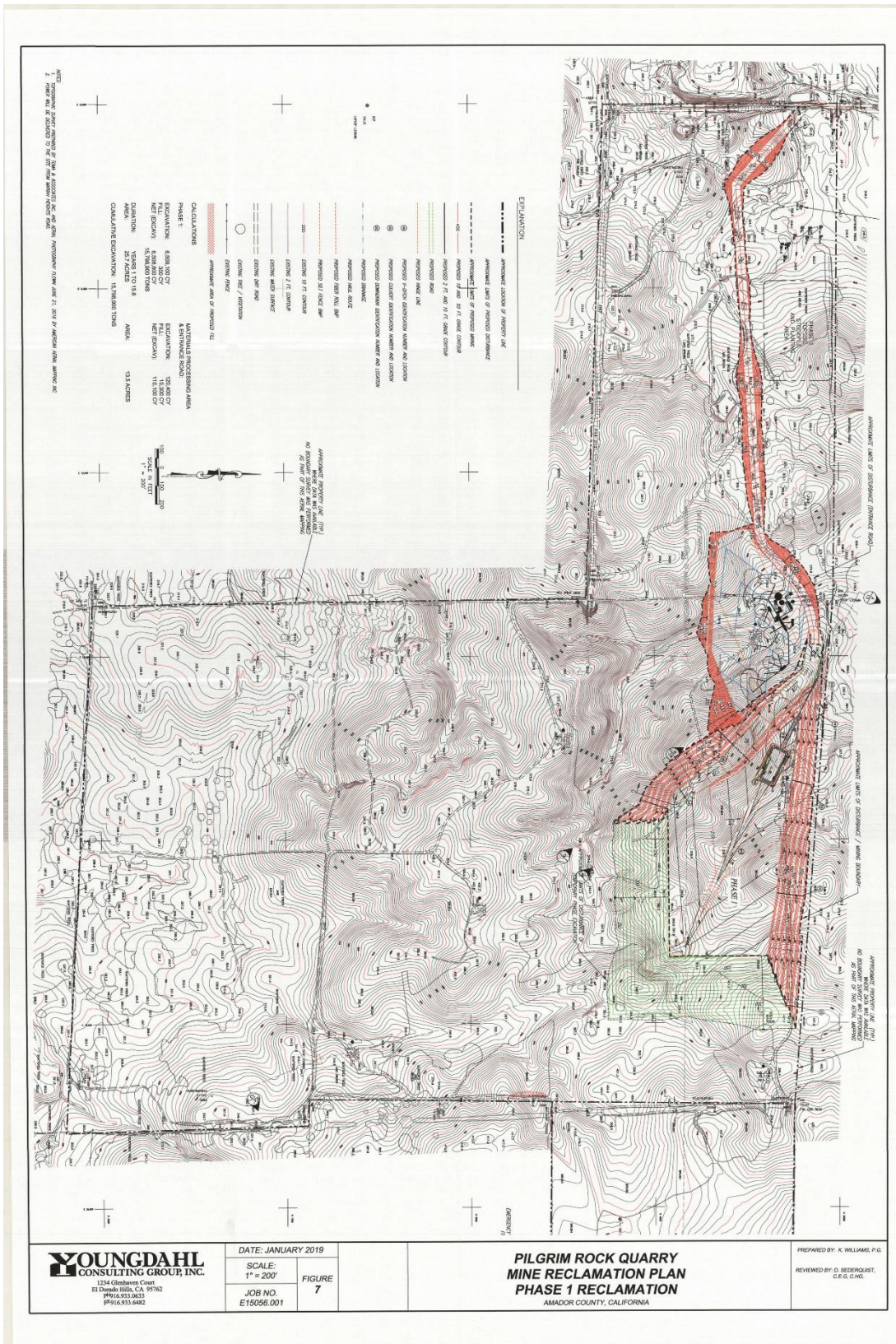


FIGURE 11: PHASE 1



**YOUNGDAHL**  
CONSULTING GROUP, INC.  
1254 Glendale Court  
El Dorado Hills, CA 95762  
916.933.9603  
916.933.6482

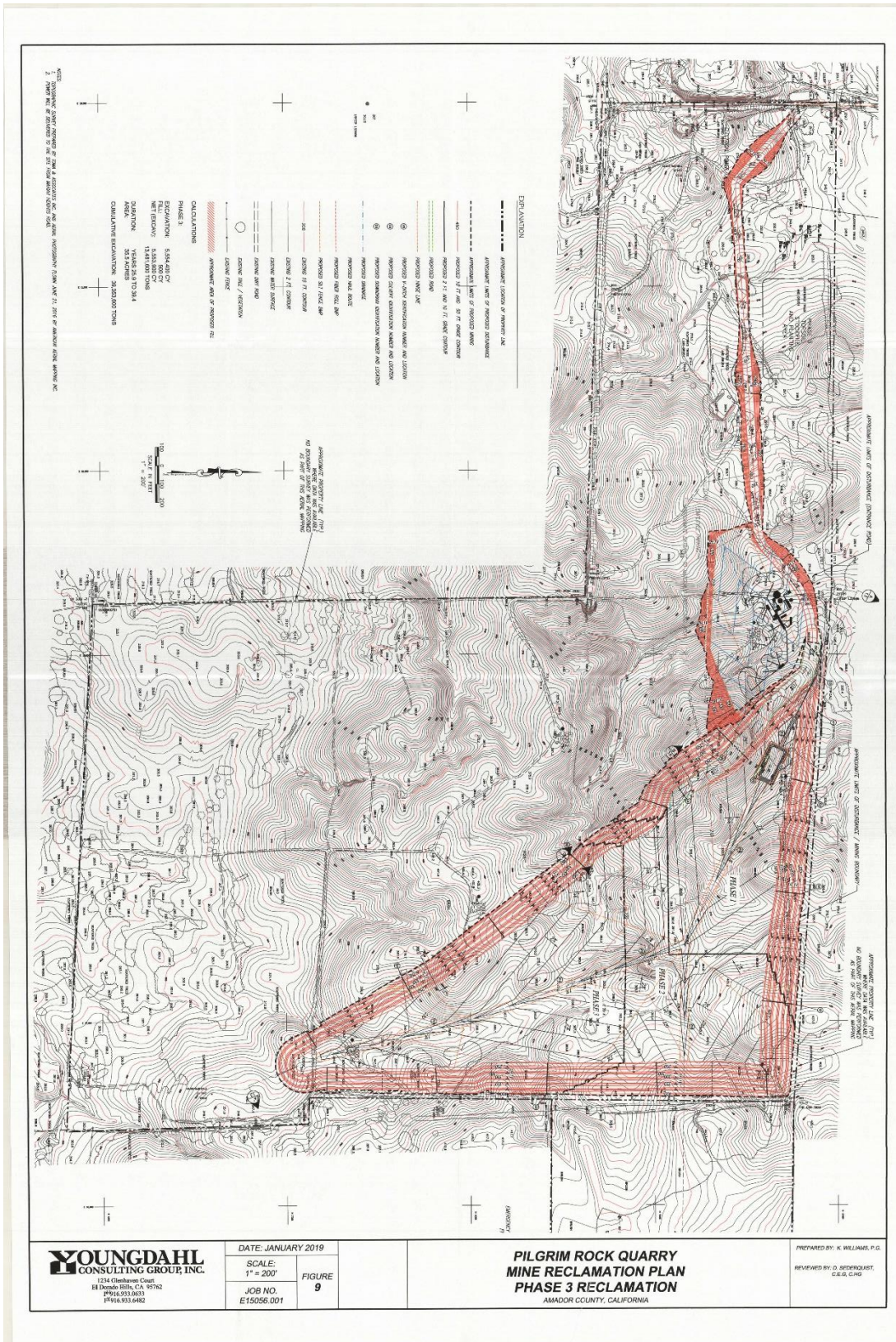
DATE: JANUARY 2019  
SCALE: 1" = 200'  
FIGURE 7  
JOB NO. E15056.001

**PILGRIM ROCK QUARRY**  
**MINE RECLAMATION PLAN**  
**PHASE 1 RECLAMATION**  
AMADOR COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

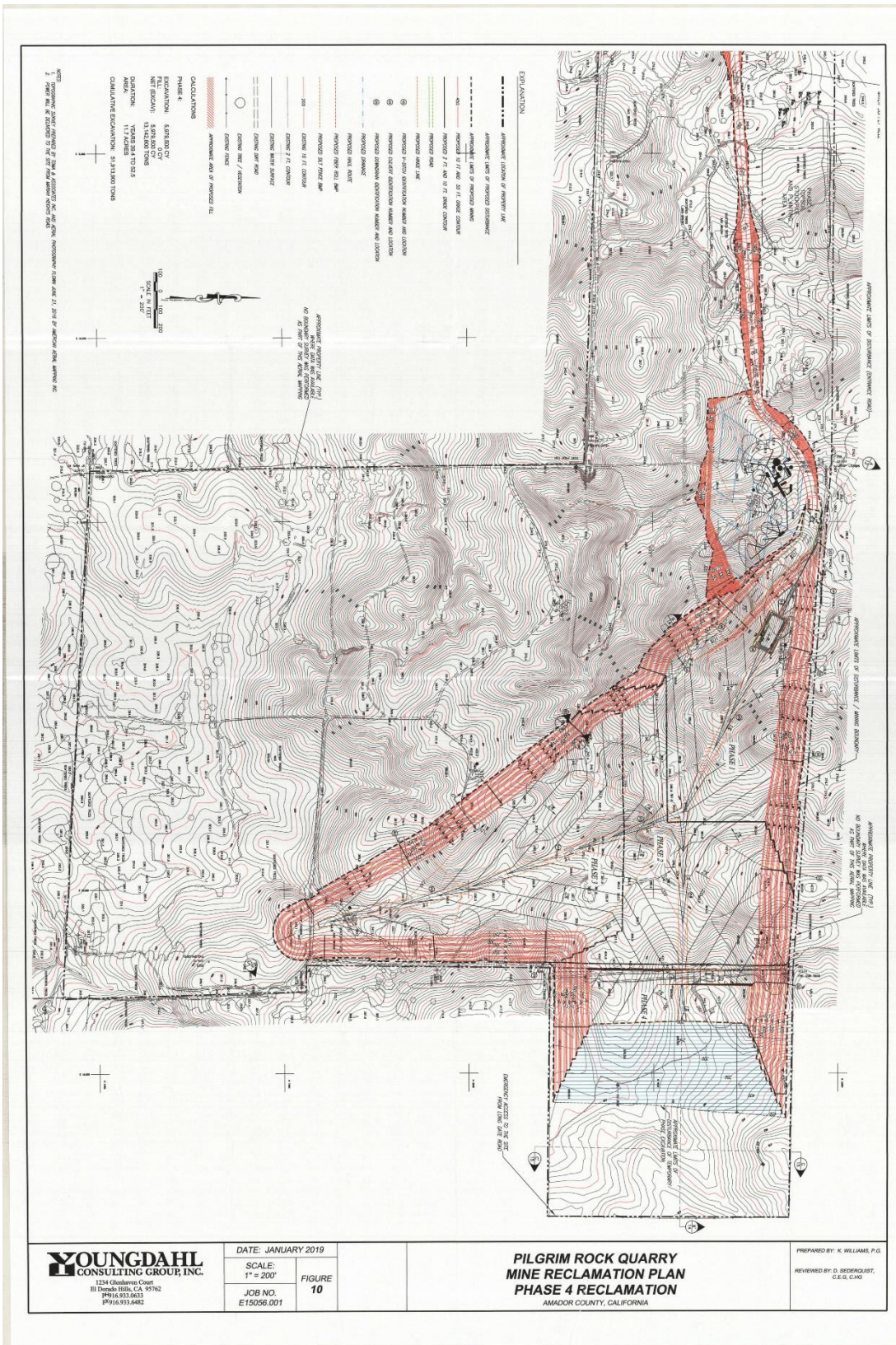
PREPARED BY: K. WILLIAMS, P.G.  
REVIEWED BY: D. SEIDERQUIST,  
C.E.G. CIVIL



FIGURE 13: PHASE 3

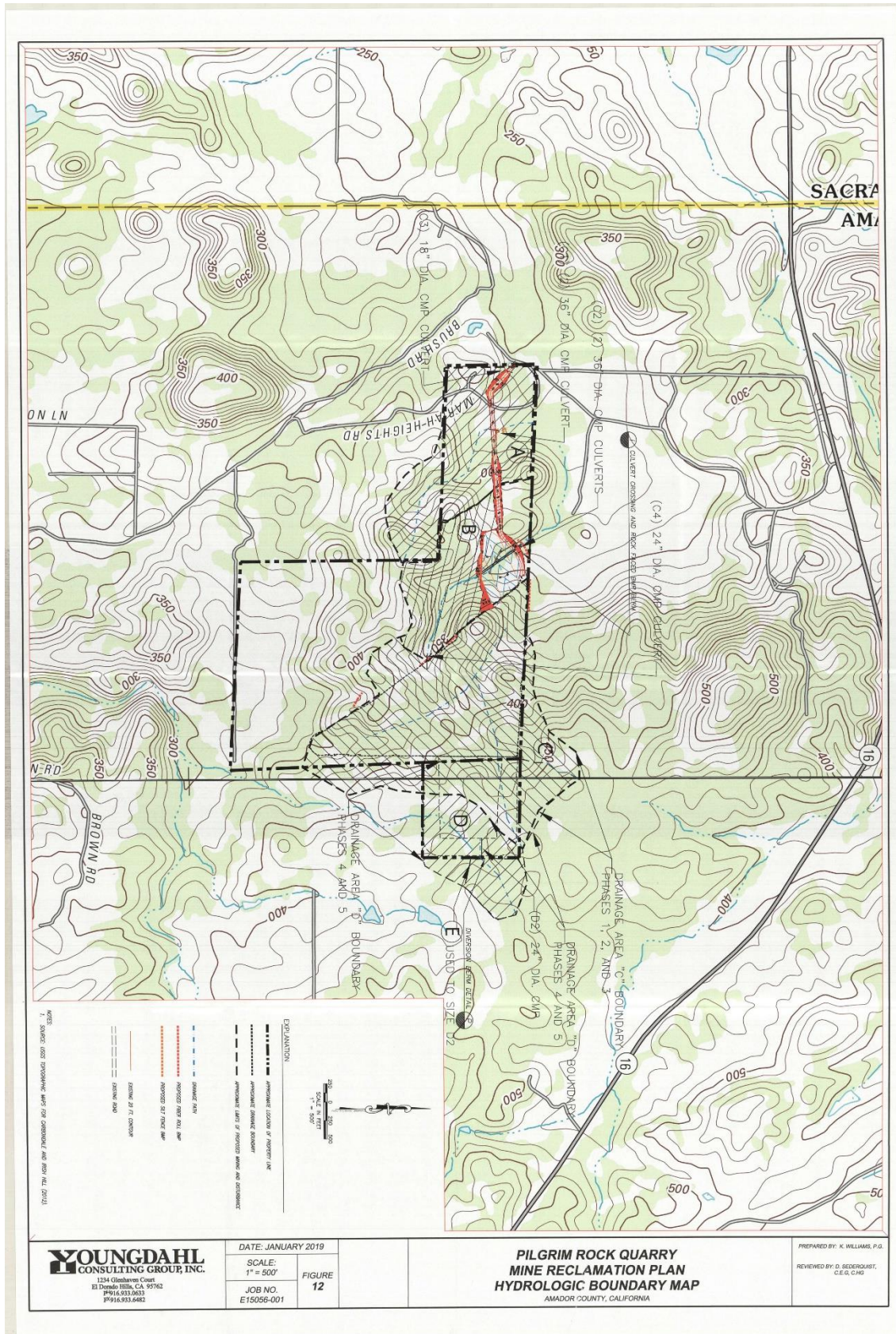


**FIGURE 14: PHASE 4**

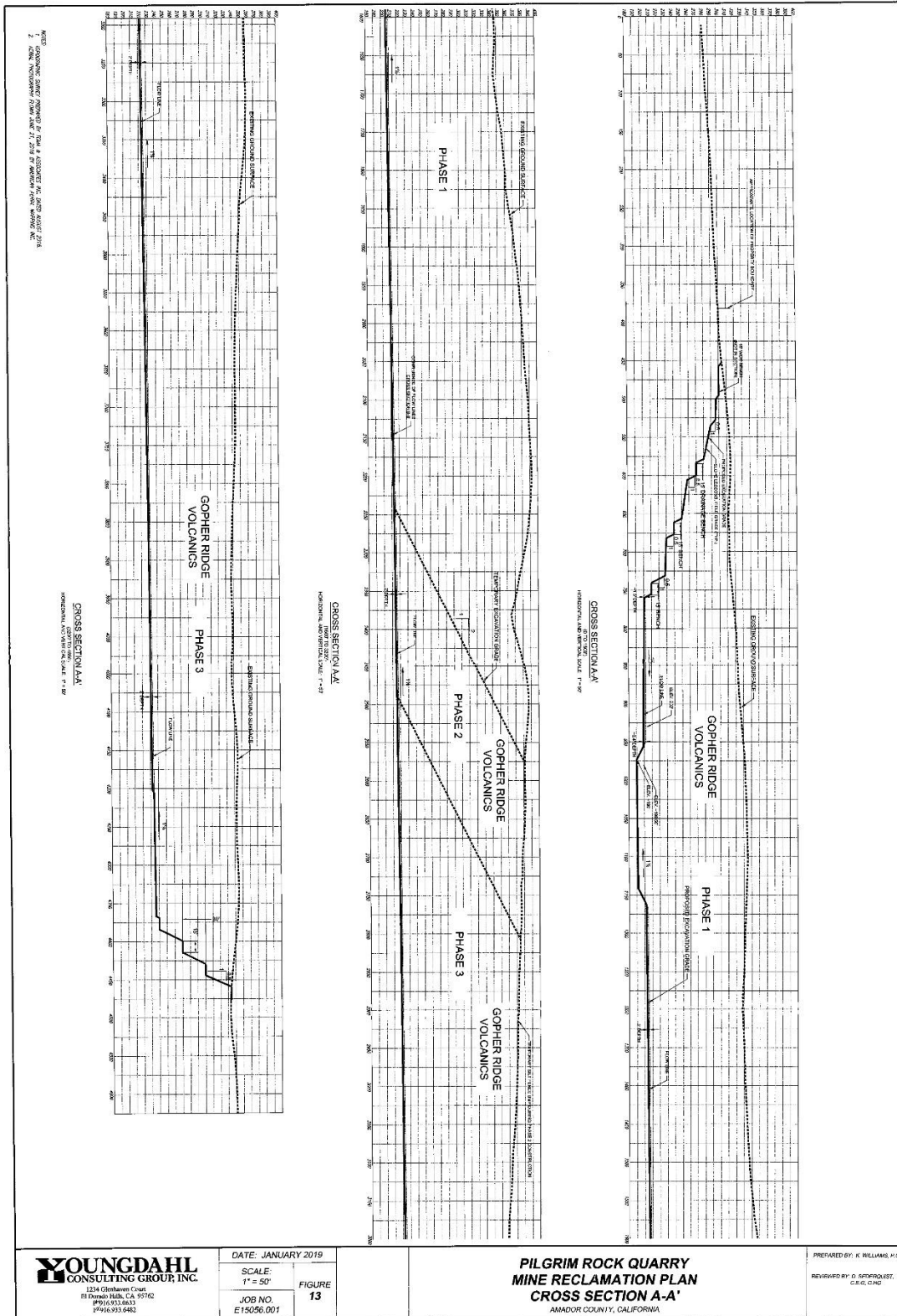




**FIGURE 16: Hydrologic Boundary**



**FIGURE 17: CROSS SECTION A-A**



**YOUNGDAHL**  
CONSULTING GROUP, INC.  
1234 Glenhaven Court  
111 Dorado Hills, CA 95702  
916.933.8833  
916.933.6482

DATE: JANUARY 2019  
SCALE:  
1" = 50'  
JOB NO.  
E15056.001

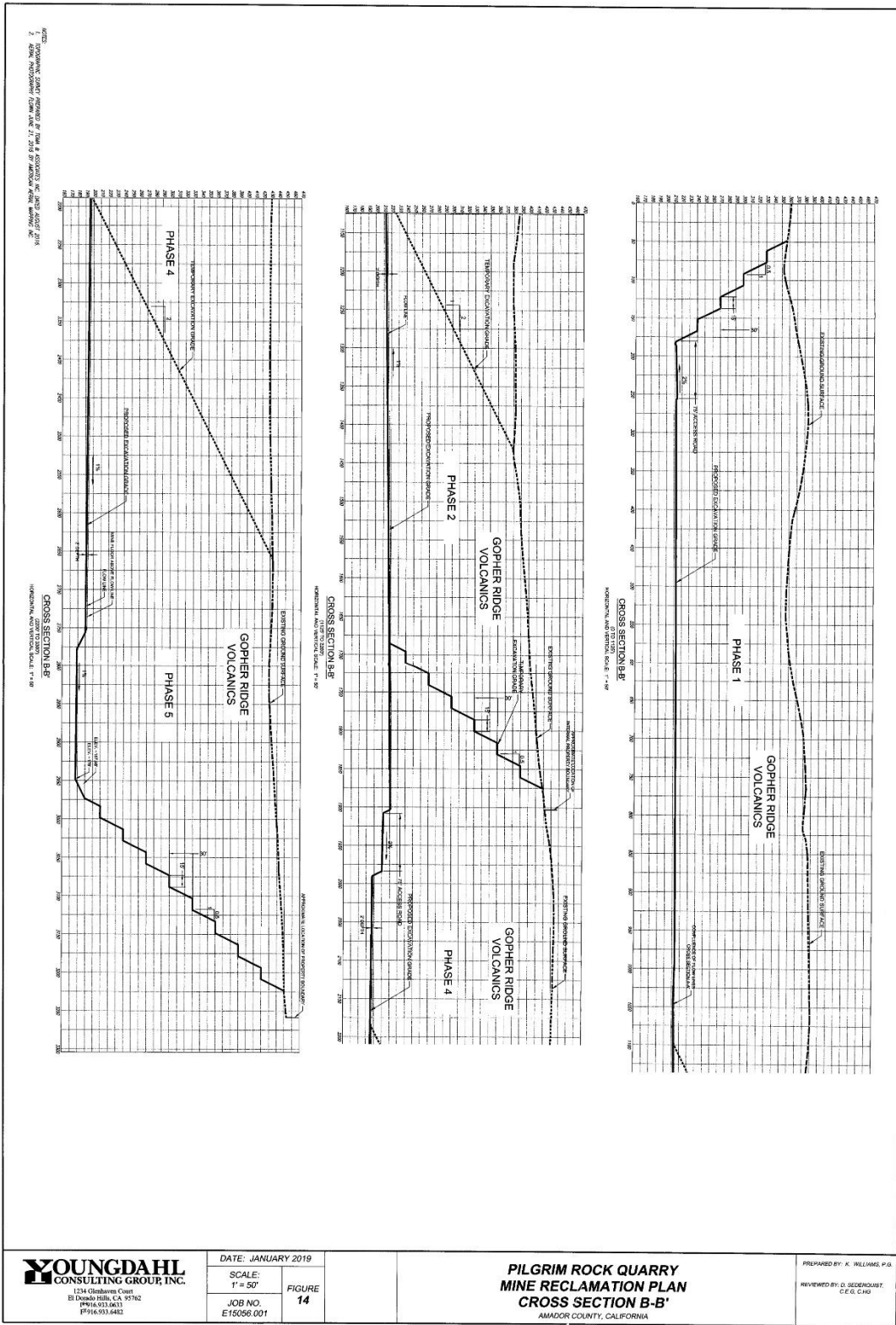
FIGURE  
13

**PILGRIM ROCK QUARRY  
MINE RECLAMATION PLAN  
CROSS SECTION A-A'**  
AMADOR COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

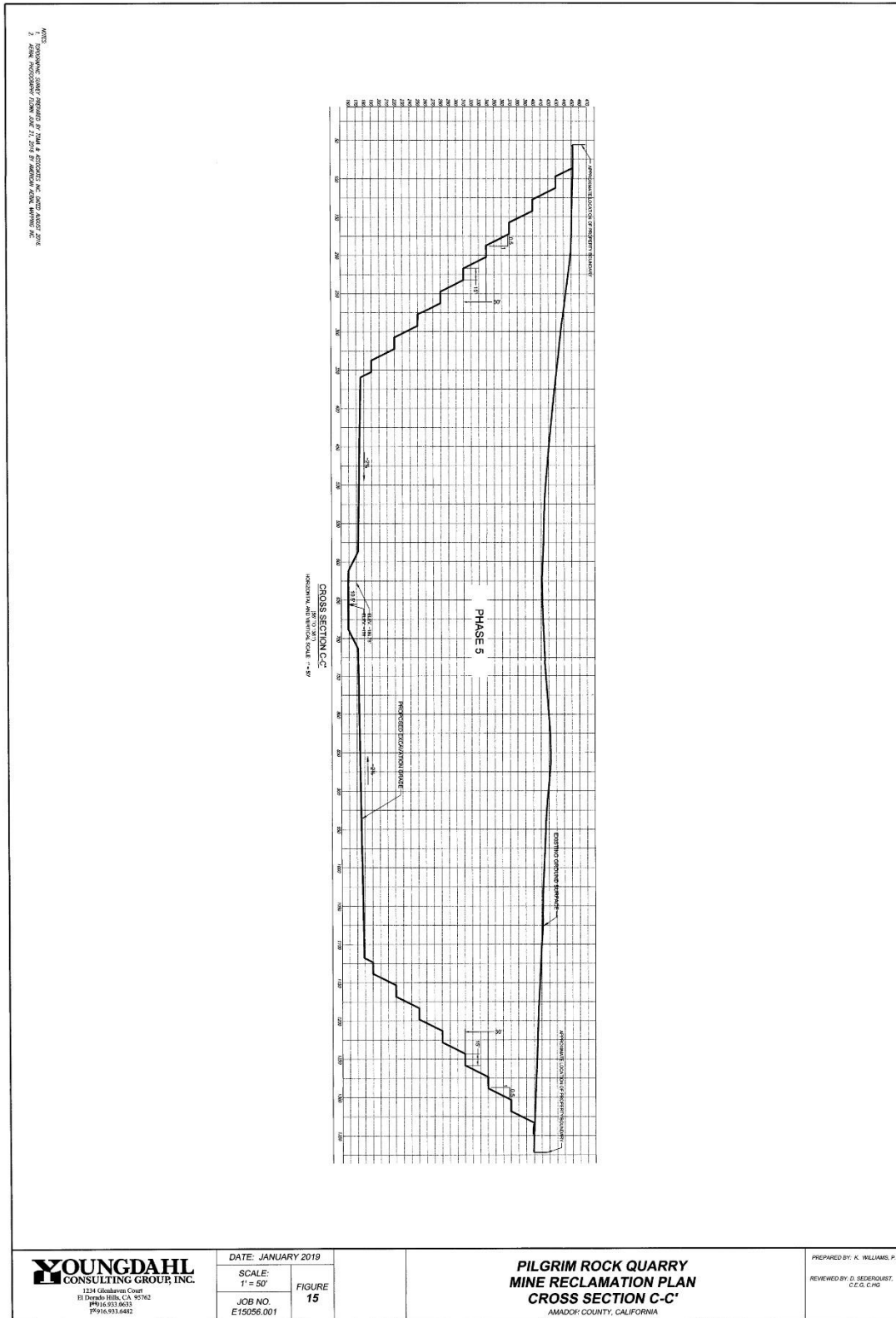
PREPARED BY: K. WILLIAMS, P.E.  
REVIEWED BY: D. ANDERSON, P.E.  
C.E.C./C.D.C.



**FIGURE 18: CROSS SECTION B-B**



**FIGURE 19: CROSS SECTION C-C**



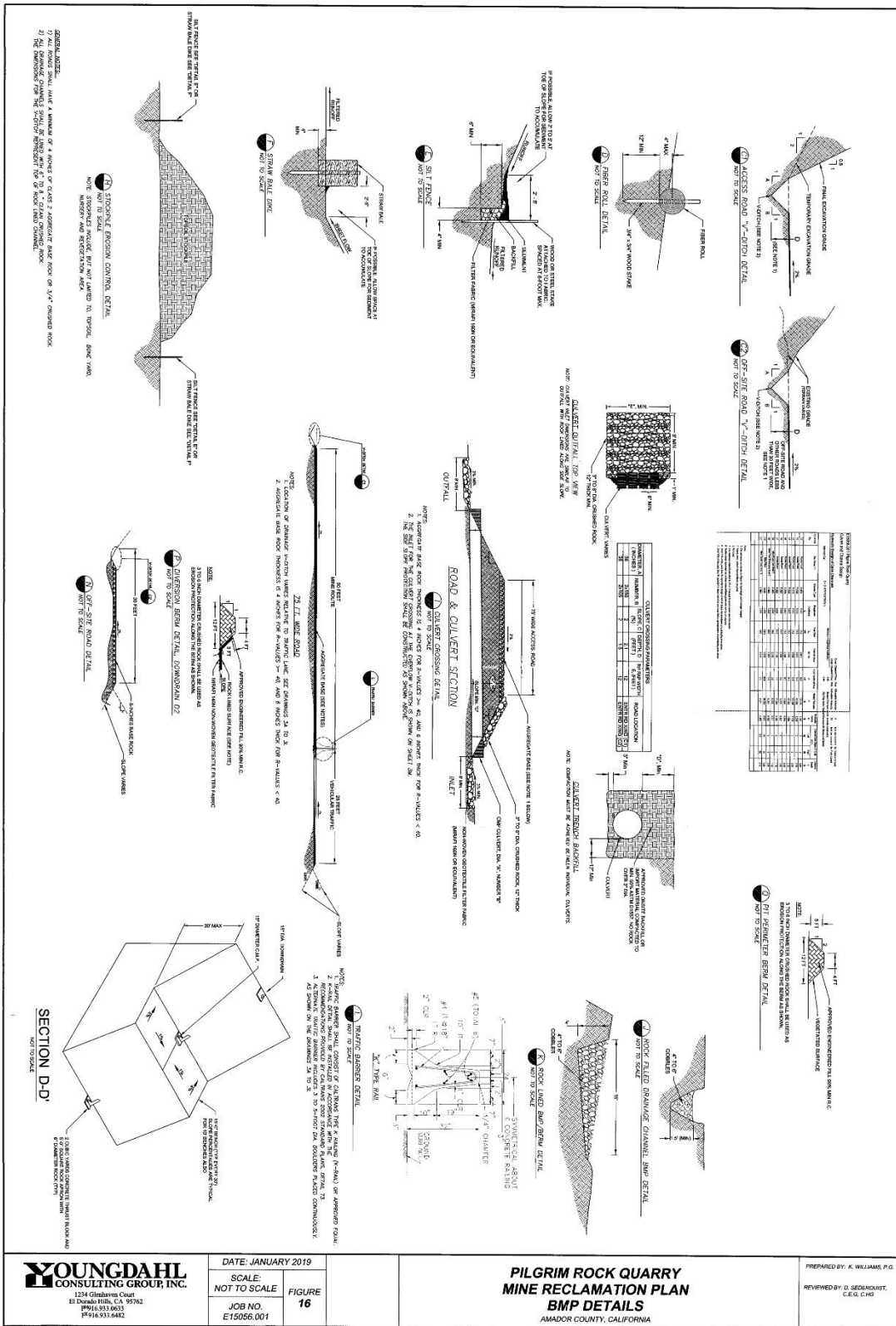
**YOUNGDAHL**  
CONSULTING GROUP, INC.  
1234 Glendale Court  
El Dorado Hills, CA 95762  
916.933.0633  
9916.933.6462

DATE: JANUARY 2019  
SCALE: 1" = 50'  
JOB NO. E15056.001  
FIGURE 15

**PILGRIM ROCK QUARRY  
MINE RECLAMATION PLAN  
CROSS SECTION C-C'**  
AMADOR COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

PREPARED BY: K. WILLIAMS, P.E.  
REVIEWED BY: D. SEDERQUIST, C.E.G. C.P.D.

FIGURE 20: BMP DETAILS



**YOUNGDAHL CONSULTING GROUP, INC.**  
 1314 Glenhurst Court  
 El Dorado Hills, CA 95762  
 PH: 916.533.6633  
 FX: 916.533.6882

DATE: JANUARY 2019  
 SCALE: NOT TO SCALE  
 JOB NO. E15056.001  
 FIGURE 16

**PILGRIM ROCK QUARRY MINE RECLAMATION PLAN BMP DETAILS**  
 AMADOR COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

PREPARED BY: K. WILLIAMS, P.G.  
 REVIEWED BY: D. SEIDERHAUST, C.E.G. CHD

**ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED:**

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, as indicated by the checklist and corresponding discussion on the following pages.

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

**DETERMINATION:** (To be completed by the Lead Agency)

On the basis of the initial evaluation:

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature – Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS:

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

<b>Chapter 1. AESTHETICS</b> – Would the Project:	<b>Potentially Significant Impact</b>	<b>Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated</b>	<b>Less Than Significant Impact</b>	<b>No Impact</b>
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) In nonurbanized areas, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from publicly accessible vantage point). If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Discussion:**

- A. Scenic Vistas: For the purposes of determining significance under CEQA, a scenic vista is defined as a viewpoint that provides expansive views of a highly valued landscape for the benefit of the general public. Scenic vistas are often designated by a public agency. A substantial adverse impact to a scenic vista would be one that degrades the view from such a designated location. No governmentally designated scenic vista has been identified within the project area, nor is the project site visible from any public thoroughfares. Therefore, there is **no impact**.
- B. Scenic Highways: The project is not located along a scenic highway, nor is it visible from Highway 16. Therefore, there is **no impact**.
- C. The project site is predominantly shielded by topographic highs and dense brush. Views from the north, east, and south are shielded by topographic highs and/or dense brush. However, the proposed project will create an open pit visible from above, and from two adjacent properties; one to the northeast, and one to the southeast. Phase 5 of the mining phase will take place on the second project site parcel (eastern 40-acre parcel) and more than half of the parcel will be disturbed. There is currently a residence approximately 800 feet from the area proposed to be mined for phase 5. The 40-year lifespan of the quarry will degrade views to existing surrounding neighbors and is a **potentially significant impact**.
- D. There are no existing sources of light and glare in the project site. New sources of light may include temporary lighting on mining equipment or temporary outbuildings. Development of the proposed project would create new sources of light and glare where none currently exist, and a few scattered rural residences (i.e., sensitive receptors) that exist near the project site could potentially be affected. Additionally, even downward shielded lights would potentially create a “dome-effect” above the open pit quarry. Therefore, because the proposed project would create sources of light and glare where none currently exist, impacts from light and glare associated with the proposed project would be considered **potentially significant**.

**Mitigation Measure(s)**

*Further analysis of these impacts will be discussed in the Aesthetics chapter of the Pilgrim Rock Quarry EIR*

**Source:** Planning Department.

<b>Chapter 2. AGRICULTURE AND FOREST RESOURCES</b> – In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Dept. of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. In determining whether impacts to forest resources, including timberland, are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to information compiled by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection regarding the state’s inventory of forest land, including the Forest and Range Assessment Project and the Forest Legacy Assessment project; and forest carbon measurement methodology provided in Forest Protocols adopted by the California Air Resources Board. Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to nonagricultural use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code Section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code Section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code Section 51104(g))?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**Discussion:**

- A. Farmland Conversion: The project will not result in the conversion of Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, or Farmland of Local Importance. The project site is primarily located in an area designated as “Other Land” on the Amador County Important Farmland 2016 map, published by the California Department of Conservation, Division of Land Resource Protection. Approximately half portion of the eastern 40-acre parcel is located in an area designated for “Grazing Land” but the amount is negligible in comparison to the majority of “Other Land”. There is **no impact** to farmland.
- B. The parcel is not included in a Williamson Act contract, therefore there is **no impact**.
- C. The area is not considered forest land, or zoned as forest land or timberland, therefore **no impacts will occur**.
- D. The area is not considered forest land, or zoned as forest land or timberland, therefore **no impacts will occur**.
- E. The project area is within an area designated as Other Land nor is the project area occupied by agricultural uses, therefore **no impacts will occur**.

**Source:** Amador County Important Farmland Map, 2016; Amador County General Plan; Planning Department; CA Public Resources Code; California Department of Conservation.

<b>Chapter 3. AIR QUALITY</b> – Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management district or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Discussion:**

A-D The Federal Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. Section 7401) requires the adoption of National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) to protect public health and safety, and welfare from known or anticipated effects of air pollution. Current standards are set for ozone, carbon monoxide (CO), nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide, particulate matter equal to or less than 10 microns in size (PM10), fine particulate matter equal to or less than 2.5 microns in size (PM2.5), and lead. The State of California Air Resources Board (CARB) has established additional standards that are generally more restrictive than the NAAQS. Local air quality districts are responsible for enforcing local air quality rules and conduct local air quality planning. The Amador Air Pollution Control District is the agency responsible for implementing emissions standards and other requirements of federal and State laws within Amador County.

Specific geographic areas are classified as either “attainment” or “nonattainment” areas for each pollutant, based on the comparison of measured data with federal and State standards. Amador County, which is located within the western portion of the Mountain Counties Air Basin, is currently designated as a Non-Attainment area for the State's 1-Hour Ozone Standard and the US EPA's 8-Hour Ozone Standard.

As stated on its website, Amador Air District (AAD) is a Special District governed by the Amador County Air District Board. The primary goal of the District is to protect public health by managing the county's air quality through educating the public and enforcement of District rules and California Air Resources Control Board - Air Toxic Control Measures that result in the reduction of air pollutants and contaminants. While there are minimal sources that impact air quality within the District, Amador County does experience air quality impacts from the Central Valley through transport pollutants. The most visible impacts to air quality within the District are a result of open burning of vegetation as conducted by individual property owners, industry, and state agencies for purposes of reducing wild land fire hazards. However, the Amador Air District does not have an established plan in place.

Development of the proposed project would result in an increased number of vehicle trips associated with traffic to, from, and within the project site. In addition, during operation, the project would require routine use of heavy equipment, stockpiling, drilling, blasting, hauling by truck and rail, and materials processing. The additional traffic and operations associated with the proposed project could result in notable increases in criteria pollutant emissions in the project vicinity. As a result, development of the proposed project could further contribute to the existing non-attainment status in the project area, and could cause conflict with, or obstruction of, the implementation of State Implementation Plans (SIPs) or local air quality management plans. Therefore, the proposed project could result in a potentially significant impact with regard to operational air quality.



Construction activities associated with the development of the proposed project would result in short-term increases in criteria air pollutant emissions, which could result in potentially significant impacts to local air quality in the short-term scenario.

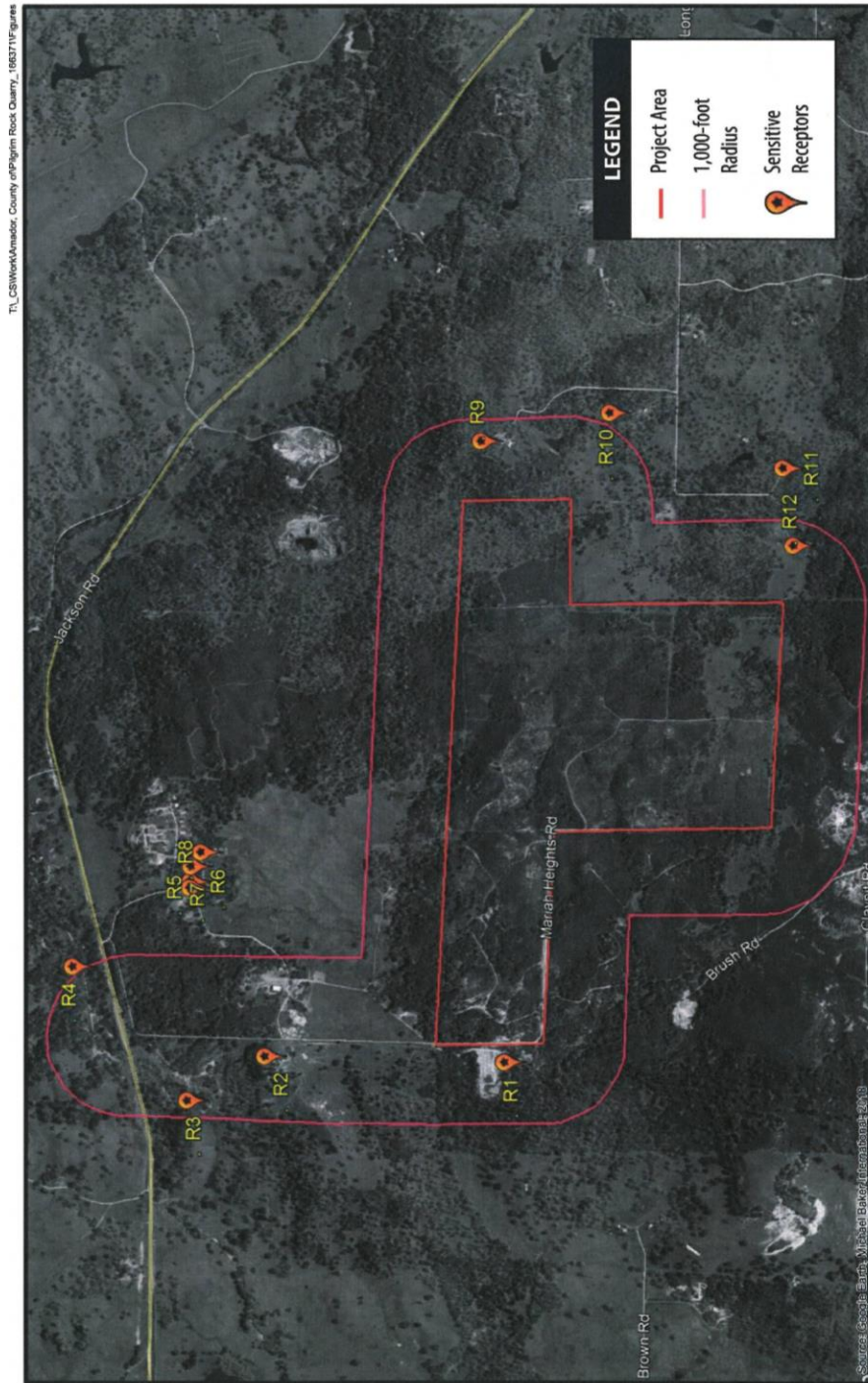
The project includes intensive mining uses and material processing, including an aggregate plant. In addition, portable restrooms and on-site septic tanks, heavy equipment, settling tanks, fuel storage and pumps, and various other potential odor producing sources would be utilized at the project site. Therefore, the proposed project could create objectionable odors and result in a potentially significant impact.

Sensitive receptors are uses that have an increased sensitivity to air pollution or environmental contaminants. Sensitive receptor locations include schools, parks and playgrounds, day care centers, nursing homes, hospitals, and residential dwelling units. The nearest sensitive receptors includes a nearby residence approximately 800 feet east of phase 5, the Whispering Pines Christian School, Moriah Heights Mobile Village and the Moriah Heights Seventh Day Adventist Reform Movement Church approximately 3,000 feet north, and another residence approximately 200 feet west of the Moriah Heights access road. The Whispering Pines Christian School holds classes during the proposed hours of operation of the Quarry. Additionally the Church holds services on Saturdays and are also during the time of proposed Quarry operation. The project includes intensive mining uses and material processing, including an aggregate plant. In addition, portable restrooms and on-site septic tanks, heavy equipment, settling tanks, fuel storage and pumps, and various other potential odor producing sources would be utilized at the project site. The project would use both stationary and mobile equipment and vehicles that can degrade air quality. Potential impacts include emission of criteria pollutants and diesel emissions. The EIR will consider impacts on air quality from operations and off-site truck traffic. Cumulative impacts from the quarry and other sources of emissions will also be evaluated. Therefore, the proposed project could create objectionable odors and emissions resulting in a **potentially significant** impact to sensitive receptors.

**Mitigation Measure(s)**

*Further analysis of these impacts will be discussed in the Air Quality chapter of the Pilgrim Rock Quarry EIR.*

**FIGURE 20: SENSITIVE RECEPTORS**



Source: Amador Air District, Amador Planning Department.

**FIGURE 4**  
Sensitive Receptor Locations

Michael Baker  
INTERNATIONAL

<b>Chapter 4. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES</b> – Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**Discussion:**

Biological surveys were conducted by Roy Woodward on April 30 and May 1, 2019. Roy had previously surveyed the site in 2004 and has performed rare plant surveys on other sites in Amador County. Studies included conducting a field survey, obtaining and analyzing data from state and federal agencies, and reviewing maps, aerial photographs, and published and unpublished literature. An evaluation of biological resources was conducted to determine if any special-status plant or wildlife species or their habitat occurs within the PSA. Special-status species are those listed under the federal or state endangered species acts, under the California Native Plant Protection Act, as a California species of special concern by the CDF&W, or that are on List 1 or 2 of the California Native Plant Society's Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants of California. The survey focused on finding rare habitats and species, particularly listed lone species of manzanita, buckwheat, Bisbee rush rose, and Parry's horkelia because they are known to occur in the vicinity of the site. Lone manzanita occurs on a slope immediately to the south of the property (less than ½ mile) and is clearly visible from the site. No critical habitats were identified in this location. No wetland delineations were performed, though potential wetland areas and ephemeral drainages were noted.

The project study area (PSA) contains potential habitat for species listed under the federal and state endangered species acts (FESA & CESA) and the California Native Plant Protection Act (NPPA). Potential impacts to such species are considered for projects subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and may require incidental take permits if the species are present.

A total of approximately 360 ac of chaparral, oak woodlands, and grassland was surveyed in the PSA, which includes the land boundaries of the entire site for the proposed Pilgrim Quarry project. The actual footprint of the proposed quarry and associated access and work areas within the 360 ac area is approximately 140 acres.

The PSA contains potential habitat for other special-status species that are not listed under FESA, CESA, or the NPPA. Potential impacts to these species are also considered for projects subject to CEQA. Only one special-status wildlife species (white-tailed kite) was observed in the PSA, though potential exists for several other special-status bird species to occur on the site, and California tiger salamander or Western pond turtle could potentially enter the property from adjoining grassland areas to utilize seasonal ponds on the margin of the site.

Three elderberry shrubs, which may provide habitat for the federal-threatened Valley elderberry longhorn beetle (VELB), were observed in widely separate locations on the site, though two appear to be outside of the proposed footprint of the mining project; a cursory examination of the trunks of these shrubs did not find any potential exit holes caused by VELB.

Two vernal pools were noted on the extreme southern edge of the property, well outside of the footprint of the proposed quarry. There is potential for special-status invertebrates and plants to occur in these pools. Ephemeral drainages occur on the property and many were wet at the time of the survey, though not flowing (it had not rained for several days). Flat spots in some of these drainages, particularly where crossed by dirt roads, had standing water and some wetland-related plant species, such as rushes, were present.

The PSA contains potential nesting habitat for birds-of-prey and migratory birds protected by state and federal law; red-tailed hawk, white-tailed kite, and turkey vulture were observed flying over or perched on the site, though no nests were observed.

A The Information for Planning and Consultation (IPAC) database provided through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB QuickView) were reviewed to determine if any special status animal species or habitats occur on the project site or in the project area. The IPAC database identified two species of threatened amphibians, one species of threatened reptile, one species of threatened fish, one species of threatened insect, one species of threatened flowering plants and one species of endangered flowering plants, one species of threatened crustaceans, and two species of endangered crustaceans. Threatened reptiles include the Giant Garter Snake (*Thamnophis gigas*). Threatened amphibians in the area include: the California Red-Legged Frog (*Rana draytonii*) and the California Tiger Salamander (*Ambystoma californiense*). Threatened fish in the area include: the Delta Smelt (*Hypomesus transpacificus*). Threatened insects include the Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle (*Desmocerus californicus dimorphus*). Threatened crustaceans include the Vernal Pool Fairy Shrimp (*Branchinecta lynchi*), and endangered crustaceans include the Conservancy Fairy Shrimp (*Branchinecta conservation*) and the Vernal Pool Tadpole Shrimp (*Lepidurus packardii*). Additionally, flowering plants include the threatened lone Manzanita (*Arctostaphylos myrtifolia*) and the endangered lone Buckwheat.

Seasonal ponds exist at the NW corner of the site and these have potential to contain California Tiger Salamander or Western Pond Turtle, though none were observed. A netting survey for salamander larvae or extended observations for turtles would be necessary to confirm presence/absence.

Three elderberry shrubs, potential habitat for the federally listed Valley elderberry longhorn beetle (VELB), were found, but only a cursory examination of the main stems was made to determine VELB presence of exit holes (none were found) and a focused study by VELB experts would be necessary to confirm presence/absence.

The impact to Candidate, Sensitive, and Special Status Species may be potentially significant. As a result, the possibility exists that the project site could provide valuable foraging habitat for special-status species including, but not limited to, various raptors and other migratory birds. Approximately 70 acres of oak woodland, and 275 acres of chamise chaparral has been mapped on the project site, which may be destroyed or damaged with implementation of the proposed project. Thus, common species associated with the habitat could be affected as well (see Figure 21). Because development of the proposed project site could impact sensitive species and habitat, a **potentially significant impact** would result.

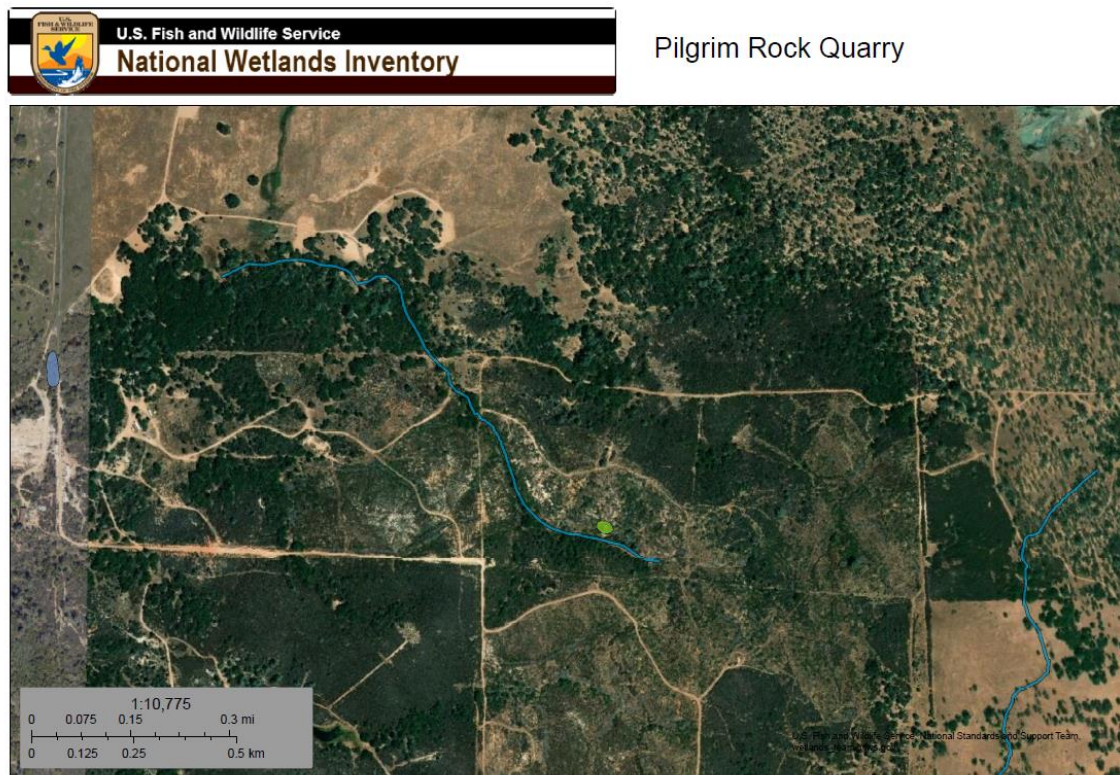
**FIGURE 21: ESTIMATED DISTURBANCE BY BIOLOGICAL COMMUNITY**

Community Type	TOTAL Acreage	Proposed Quarry Area
California Annual Grassland	10	0
Blue Oak – Grassland	40	20
Live Oak – Blue Oak – Foothill Pine	30	15
Chamise Chaparral	275	103
Vernal Pool	0.01	0
Bare/Road	5	2
Ponds, Ephemeral Channels, and Wet Spots	0.5	0.25
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>360</b>	<b>140</b>

**Source:** Table 1 – Biological Communities Biological Resources Evaluation Pilgrim Quarry Project

- B The majority of the project site is identified as Agricultural by the Amador County General Plan Environmental Impact Report, and there were no Riparian Habitat or other Sensitive Natural Communities found in the project area. Therefore **no impact** would occur.
- C State or Federally Protected Wetlands: The project site has two riverine systems crossing through it. One crosses through option 2 of the processing area, and the other crosses through the phase 5 area. Additionally there is a freshwater pond on the east side of the property approximately 45 feet west of the Moriah Heights access road (see Figure 22). Impacts to these wetlands would be unavoidable and thus **potentially significant**.

**FIGURE 22: NATIONAL WETLANDS INVENTORY**



June 9, 2020

**Wetlands**

- Estuarine and Marine Deepwater
- Estuarine and Marine Wetland
- Freshwater Emergent Wetland
- Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland
- Freshwater Pond
- Lake
- Other
- Riverine

This map is for general reference only. The US Fish and Wildlife Service is not responsible for the accuracy or currentness of the base data shown on this map. All wetlands related data should be used in accordance with the layer metadata found on the Wetlands Mapper web site.

D Movement of Fish and Wildlife: There is no major impact on the migratory thoroughfare of any fish and wildlife. However migratory birds potentially found in the project area include the Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*, Lawrence's Goldfinch (*Carduelis lawrencei*), Lewis's Woodpecker (*Melanerpes lewis*), Nuttall's Woodpecker (*Picoides nuttallii*), Oak Titmouse (*Baeolophus inornatus*), Song Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*), Spotted Towhee (*Pipilo maculatus clementae*), Tricolored Blackbird (*Agelaius tricolor*), Wrentit (*Chamaea fasciata*), and the Yellow-billed Magpie (*Pica nuttali*). The California Red-legged Frog (*Rana draytonii*), Tiger Salamander (*Ambystoma californiense*), and Delta Smelt (*Hypomesus transpacificus*) also have a potential suitable habitat area within the 9-quadrangle area surrounding the project. As a result, the possibility exists that disturbance of the 140 acre project site could cause the loss of valuable foraging habitat for special-status species including, but not limited to, various raptors and other migratory birds. Invaluable habitats which may be affected include native grassland, oak woodland, chamise chaparral, and aquatic wetlands. A wide variety of wildlife, including special status species, utilize the site and may be affected by the project. Impacts caused by loss of foraging/potential nesting habitat are **potentially significant**.

E-F As stated above, approximately 70 acres of oak woodland, and 275 acres of chamise chaparral has been mapped on the project site, which could potentially be damaged or destroyed as a result of the proposed project. However, Amador County has not adopted any tree preservation policies or ordinances. In addition, the County does not have an adopted habitat conservation plan. Therefore, the proposed project would be expected to have **no impact** with regard to conflicts with existing policies or habitat conservation plans. It should be noted that impacts related to loss of oak woodland habitat, as well as common species associated with the habitat, will be discussed in the Biological Resources chapter of the Pilgrim Rock Quarry EIR.

**Mitigation Measure(s)**

*Further analysis of this impact will be discussed in the Biological Resources chapter of the Pilgrim Rock Quarry EIR.*

**Source:** California Department of Fish and Wildlife BIOS, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service IPAC, California Department of Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Planning, Migratory Bird Treaty Act, National Wetland Inventory, 2019 Woodward Biological Resources Evaluation, Planning Department

<b>Chapter 5. CULTURAL RESOURCES</b> – Would the project:	<b>Potentially Significant Impact</b>	<b>Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated</b>	<b>Less Than Significant Impact</b>	<b>No Impact</b>
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to § 15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to § 15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of dedicated cemeteries?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Discussion:**

A-C According to Amador County EIR exhibit 4.5-2 Cultural Resource Sensitivity, the project site is located in an area considered to have high archeological sensitivity. Per Mitigation Measure 4.5-1b of the EIR, the County will require applicants for discretionary projects that could have significant adverse impacts to prehistoric or historic-era archaeological resources to assess impacts and provide mitigation as part of the CEQA process, and consistent with the requirements of CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.4(b)(3) and Public Resources Code Section 21083.2, or equivalent County regulation. These regulations generally require consultation with appropriate agencies, the Native American Heritage Commission, knowledgeable and Native American groups and individuals, new and updated record searches conducted by the North Central Information Center and federal and incorporated local agencies within and in the vicinity of the project site, repositories of historic archives including local historical societies, and individuals, significance determinations by qualified professionals, and avoidance of resources if feasible. If avoidance is not feasible, recovery, documentation and recordation of resources is required prior to project implementation, and copies of the documentation are forwarded to the NCIC.

The Pilgrim Rock Quarry proposes to quarry aggregate materials which includes a quarry area, a haul road and potentially other related facilities encompassing approximately 140 acres locate on hilly terrain in the western Amador County. In 2017, Windmiller Consulting Inc conducted a cultural resources assessment for sections 16 and 17, T.7N, R. 9E MDM Carbondale and Irish Hill 7.5 minute series. The site had a cultural resources inventory conducted in 2005 and a field survey in 2017. The study found no historic districts, Native American traditional cultural properties, or tribal cultural resources were identified.

Seven previously recorded archeological sites lie within the proposed Pilgrim Rock Quarry area of potential effect but only three of the seven were re-located in the 2017 field survey (the rest are presumed to have been destroyed during previous grubbing operations. No prehistoric archeological resources were identified within the area of potential effect, but twelve historic archeological resources were identified. All twelve are either mine prospects, mines, or water conveyance systems associated with mining. While none of the above historical resources listed above are eligible for California Register of Historical Resources, the proposed quarry project has the potential to destroy or damage unknown historical resources, unique archeological resources. Additionally, the project will physically alter large areas of the project site. In a letter dated November 9 2016, Windmiller Consulting Inc mailed a letter and project location map to the following tribes: Buena Vista Rancheria of Me-Wuk Indians; Calavaras Band of Mi-Wuk Indians; Lone Band of Miwok Indians; Jackson Rancheria Band of Me-Wuk Indians; and the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California. There was no response. The previous 2005 study included an onsite meeting with Mr. Sam Baugh (the previous Cultural Resources Representative for the Jackson Band of Mi-wuk Indians). At the time he declared that he had no knowledge of any Native American cultural sites on the property which encompassed the project site. As the resulting report stated that “the proposed project will have no adverse effect on historical resources or historic properties. Historic resources are not always found on the surface. There is usually a possibility of encountering historic resources under the surface. During ground disturbing activities associated with the proposed

project, mitigation measures should be followed to limit the amount of damage to possible subsurface historical artifacts. The proposed archaeological monitoring will allow for archaeologists to analyze the amount and quality of artifacts, if any, and also mitigate any potential damage to the resources. Archaeological monitoring will minimize significant impacts to a level less than significant. Recommendations produced by the report recommend additional archeological assessment would be required in the case that project plans change, which is outlined and supported by Mitigation Measures CULTR-1, CULTR-2, CULTR-3, CULTR-4. The project then has a **less than significant impact with mitigations incorporated.**

**Mitigation Measures:**

**CULTR-1** As grubbing would be necessary prior to initiating quarry operations, prior to any ground-disturbing activity, a qualified archeologist shall instruct equipment operators and supervisors on how to identify prehistoric archeological resources and additional historic resources, and procedures to follow if such “new” resources are encountered.

**CULTR-2** Grubbing operations shall be monitored by a qualified archaeologist who will have the authority to halt work at a specific find while the find is evaluated. If the find is a previously unrecorded archaeological resource, the archaeologist shall record the site or feature on a DPR 523 series forms, evaluate its significance. Work may continue on other parts of the project while the find is being evaluated and any additional mitigation undertaken. A “previously unrecorded archaeological resource” would include, but not necessarily be limited to a ditch, placer mine, mine shaft, mine tunnel, miners’ camp site, historic trash deposit, Native American village or camp site, or feature of a previously recorded archeological site.

**CULTR-3** During ground-disturbing activity, if paleontological, historic or pre-historic resources such as chipped or ground stone, fossil-bearing rock, large quantities of shell, historic debris, building foundations, or human bone are inadvertently discovered, the operator/permittee shall immediately cease all such activities within 100 feet of the find and notify the applicable agency. A qualified archaeologist shall be contracted by the operator/permittee to assess the significance of the find and prepare an evaluation, avoidance or mitigation plan, as appropriate, which shall be implemented before resuming ground disturbing activities.

**CULTR-4** Immediately cease any disturbance of the area where such suspected remains are discovered and any nearby areas reasonably suspected to overlie adjacent remains until the Amador County Coroner is Amador County General Plan FEIR AECOM County of Amador 4.5-15 Cultural Resources contacted, per Section 7050.5 of the California Health and Safety Code. The coroner shall, within two working days: Determine if an investigation of cause of death is required;

1. Determine if the remains are most likely that of Native American origin, and if so suspected, the coroner shall notify the California Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) within 24 hours of making his or her determination.
2. The descendants of the deceased Native Americans shall make a recommendation to the operator/ permittee for the means of handling the remains and any associated grave goods as provided in Public Resources Code (PRC) Section 5097.98.
3. The NAHC shall immediately notify those persons it believes to be most likely descended from the deceased Native American.
4. The descendants may, with the permission of the landowner or their representative, inspect the site of the discovered Native American remains and may recommend possible treatment or disposition within 24 hours of their notification.
5. Whenever the NAHC is unable to identify a descendent, or the descendent identified fails to make a recommendation, or the landowner or his or her authorized representative rejects the recommendation of the descendent and the mediation provided for in subdivision (k) of PRC Section 5097.94 fails to provide



measures acceptable to the landowner, the landowner or his or her authorized representative shall reinter the human remains and items associated with Native American burials with appropriate dignity on the property in a location not subject to further subsurface disturbance.

**Source:** Planning Department; Windmiller Consulting Inc. 2017; Amador County General Plan Environmental Impact Report

<b>Chapter 6. ENERGY</b> – Would the project:	<b>Potentially Significant Impact</b>	<b>Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated</b>	<b>Less Than Significant Impact</b>	<b>No Impact</b>
a) Result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Discussion:**

Energy was added in December 2018 as a topic in the Environmental Checklist included in Appendix G of the State CEQA Guidelines. The purpose of this report is to ensure that energy use is considered by the County of Amador, as the lead agency, and to quantify anticipated energy usage associated with construction and operation of the project, determine if the usage amounts are efficient, typical, or wasteful for the land use type, and to emphasize avoiding or reducing inefficient, wasteful, and unnecessary consumption of energy. The Project site is currently undeveloped and does not include any uses or activities that generate a substantive amount of energy use.

A. Energy Use During Construction

The construction of the project would consume electricity and fuel from construction equipment use. Construction workers and construction vendor/hauling trips would also consume fuel. The equipment used for Project construction would conform to CARB regulations and California emissions standards. The Project would utilize construction contractors which practice compliance with applicable CARB regulations regarding retrofitting, repowering, or replacement of diesel off-road construction equipment. Additionally, CARB has adopted the Airborne Toxic Control Measure to limit heavy-duty diesel motor vehicle idling in order to reduce public exposure to diesel particulate matter and other Toxic Air Contaminants. Compliance with anti-idling and emissions regulations would result in a more efficient use of construction-related energy and the minimization or elimination of wasteful or unnecessary consumption of energy. Idling restrictions and the use of newer engines and equipment would result in less fuel combustion and energy consumption. Additionally, certain incidental construction-source energy efficiencies would likely accrue through implementation of California regulations and best available control measures (BACM). More specifically, California Code of Regulations Title 13, Motor Vehicles, Section 2449(d)(3) Idling, limits idling times of construction vehicles to no more than five minutes, thereby precluding unnecessary and wasteful consumption of fuel due to unproductive idling of construction equipment. To this end, “grading plans shall reference the requirement that a sign shall be posted on site stating that construction workers need to shut off engines at or before five minutes of idling.” In this manner, construction equipment operators are informed that engines are to be turned off at or prior to five minutes of idling. Enforcement of idling limitations is realized through periodic site inspections conducted by County building officials and/or in response to citizen complaints.

There are no unusual project characteristics or construction processes that would require the use of equipment that would be more energy intensive than is used for comparable activities; or equipment that would not conform to current emissions standards (and related fuel efficiencies). Equipment employed in construction of the Project would therefore not result in inefficient, wasteful, or unnecessary consumption of fuel.

Energy Use During Project Operation

The proposed Pilgrim Rock Quarry will obtain power from Pacific Gas and Electric for the majority of electrical power to the aggregate processing operation. Electrical utility power lines enter the property from the northwest corner of the western parcel and provide power to the existing well. Electrical power may be delivered to the site by extending the existing power source from the lines that service the western parcel from the northwest. Any temporary power resources

will be derived from Tier 4 diesel generators or equivalent California Air Resources Board approved equipment and is only tied to portable crushers or conveyor systems. Hours of operation for generators will be 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM to coincide with the hours of operation for the quarry.

Additionally, the proposed aggregate quarry equipment will generally consist of tractors, front-end loaders, scrapers, excavators, transport trucks, water trucks, maintenance vehicles, and other equipment as necessary.

Processing equipment includes the use of a trammel and dry screens. All vehicles will be registered with the appropriate regulatory agency governing emissions. Motors on the crushing and conveyor components of the plant will be powered by terrestrial electricity sources, tiered diesels, solar, or a combination thereof.

The minimal energy required to construct and operate the project will not be wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary. Therefore, the Project would not result in a potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during Project construction or operation. This impact is **less than significant**.

- B. The 2018 Integrated Energy Policy Report (IEPR) released by the California Energy Commission (CEC) has shown that fuel efficiencies are getting better within on- and off-road vehicle engines due to more stringent government requirements. As supported by the preceding discussions, Project construction energy consumption would not be considered inefficient, wasteful, or otherwise unnecessary. In general, the construction processes promote conservation and efficient use of energy by reducing raw materials demands, with related reduction in energy demands associated with raw materials extraction, transportation, processing and refinement. Use of materials in bulk reduces energy demands associated with preparation and transport of construction materials as well as the transport and disposal of construction waste and solid waste in general, with corollary reduced demands on area landfill capacities and energy consumed by waste transport and landfill operations. Project construction energy consumption would not be considered inefficient, wasteful, or otherwise unnecessary. Many of the state and federal regulations regarding energy efficiency are focused on increasing building efficiency and renewable energy generation, as well as reducing water consumption and Vehicles Miles Traveled. Future development will need to comply with Title 24 and CalGreen building code standards at the time of construction. Therefore, the proposed project would implement energy reduction design features and comply with the most recent energy building standards and would not result in wasteful or inefficient use of nonrenewable energy sources. There is a **less than significant impact**.

**Sources:** Amador County Planning Department, Amador County Energy Action Plan, 2018 Integrated Energy Policy Report (IEPR).

Chapter 7. GEOLOGY AND SOILS – Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:				
i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map, issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iv) Landslides?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Discussion:**

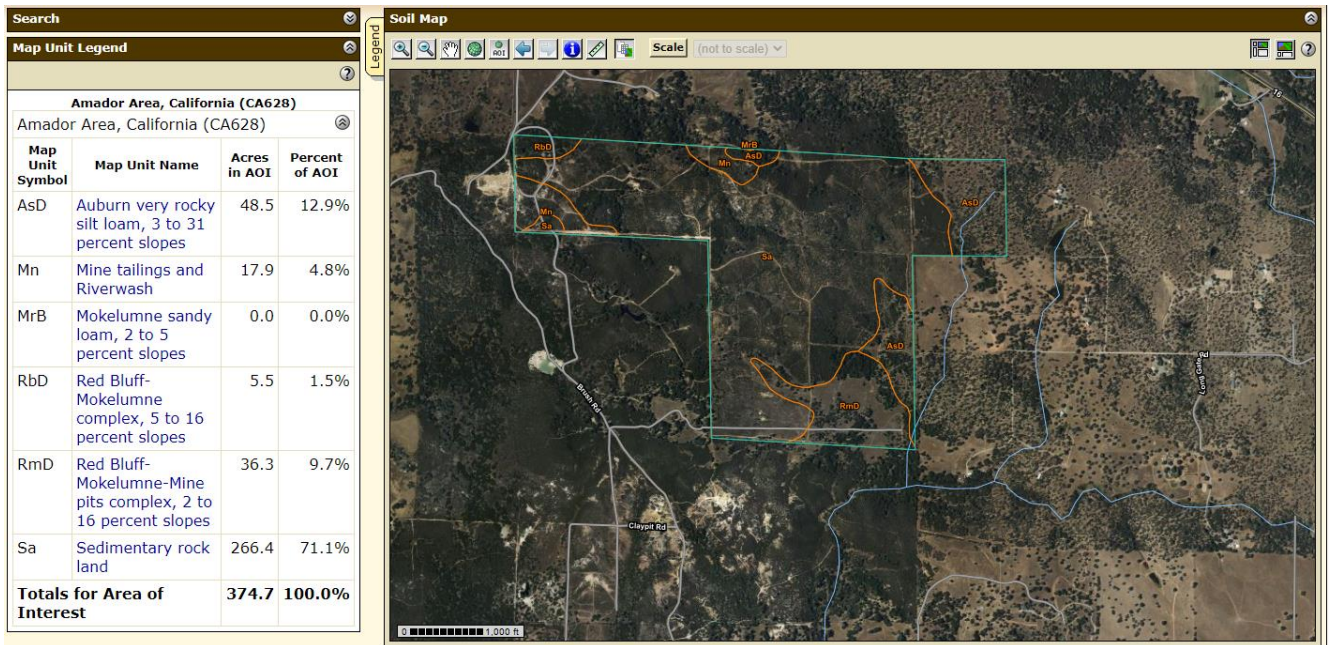
A1. Property in Amador County that is located below 6,000 feet in elevation is designated as an Earthquake Intensity Damage Zone I, Minor to Moderate, which does not require special considerations in accordance with the Uniform Building Code or the Amador County General Plan. Pursuant to Section 622 of the Public Resources Code, the Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Act, the State Geologist has determined that sufficiently active or well-defined faults do not exist in the area. Therefore, the proposed project would be expected to have a **less than-significant impact** with regard to exposure of future uses to adverse geological effects.

A2-C The proposed project includes drilling and blasting, stockpiling, and various other operations that could increase the potential for erosion, unstable soils, and other impacts related to the site's geology and soils. Although the project includes drainage and erosion control at all stages of operation and reclamation, the potential still exists for adverse effects to occur due to implementation of the proposed project. Surface soil erosion and loss of topsoil has the potential to occur in any area of the county from disturbances associated with the construction-related activities. Construction activities could also result in soil compaction and wind erosion effects that could adversely affect soils and reduce the revegetation potential at the construction site and staging areas. During construction-related activities, specific erosion control and surface water protection methods for each construction activity would be implemented on the project site. The type and number of measures implemented would be based upon location-specific attributes (i.e., slope, soil type, weather conditions). These control and protection measures, or BMPs, are standard in the construction industry and are

commonly used to minimize soil erosion and water quality degradation. Grading Permits are reviewed and approved by the County in accordance with Ordinance 1619 (County Code 15.40), and conditions/requirements are applied to minimize potential erosion. Therefore, because the project site would have a potential risk for impacts related to geology and soils, such as landslides and soil erosion, a **potentially significant impact** would result.

- D. According to the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS, 2020), the project site is not located in an area with expansive soils (Figure 23). The project area is well drained with a very high runoff class, but standard grading and erosion control techniques during grading activities would minimize the potential for erosion. Therefore, the impact is **less than significant**.

**FIGURE 23: Project Site Soil Map**

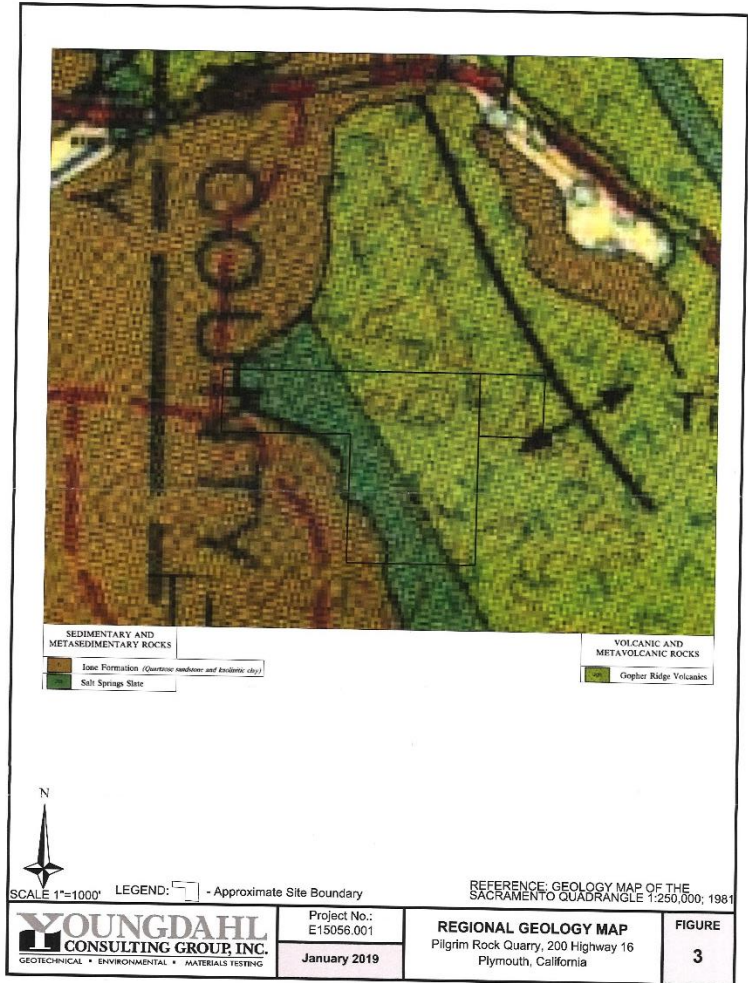


- E. The project would not require the use of a septic system, but rather be served by portable toilets. A portable gray-water system will be implemented for domestic wash stations. **No impact would result.**
- F. Paleontological resources potentially occur in sedimentary geologic formations. Mesozoic rocks mostly made of Salt Springs Slate and Gopher Ridge Volcanics and Cenozoic rocks of Lone Formation can be found within the project area (Figure 24). According to Amador County Guidelines for Determining Significance of Paleontological Resources (County 2009), Salt Springs Slate and Gopher Ridge Volcanics have either a “zero” or “low” potential to contain fossils. However the Lone Formations have high paleontological sensitivity. Vertebrate mammal, plant, and invertebrate fossils have been reported from the Lone Formation throughout the Central Valley and Sierra Nevada foothills. Numerous plant fossils have been recovered from the Lone Formation, including Lone, Plymouth, and Camanche Reservoir. Vertebrate mammal, plant, and invertebrate fossils have been recovered from the Lone Formation from over 300 locations in Amador, Nevada, Contra Costa, Placer, Butte, Alameda, Merced, Tuolumne, Sutter, Sierra, Plumas, Calaveras, Kern, and Stanislaus counties. Because of the large number of fossils that have been recovered from the Lone Formation, it is considered a paleontologically sensitive rock unit under the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology guidelines.

Although there is a possibility of finding paleontological resources within the proposed project area, impacts to paleontological resources generally occur as a result of the physical destruction of fossil remains by excavation or trenching activities that require cutting into the underlying geologic formations. Ground-disturbing activities in high or moderate sensitivity fossil-bearing geologic formations have the potential to damage or destroy paleontological resources that may be present below the ground surface. However, implementation of mitigation measure Geo-1 would

ensure that excavation impacts to the paleontological resources would be **less than significant with mitigation incorporated**.

FIGURE 24: Geologic Map of Sacramento Quadrangle



**Mitigation Measures:**

**GEO-1** Prior to the issuance of grading permits, the Project Applicant shall submit to and receive approval from the County, a Paleontological Resource Impact Mitigation Monitoring Program (PRIMMP). The PRIMMP shall include the provision of a qualified professional paleontologist (or his or her trained paleontological monitor representative) during on-site and off-site subsurface excavation that exceeds five (5) feet in depth. Selection of the paleontologist shall be subject to approval of the County of Amador Director of Community Development and no grading activities shall occur at the site until the paleontologist has been approved by the County.

**Sources:** Soil Survey-Amador County; Planning Department; Environmental Health Department; National Cooperative Soil Survey; Amador County General Plan EIR, California Geologic Survey: Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zones Maps, Geologic Map of Sacramento Quadrangle.

<b>Chapter 8. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS –</b> Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Discussion:**

A-B The CEQA Guidelines do not identify a quantitative threshold of significance for GHG emissions. Instead, the CEQA Guidelines leave the determination of the significance of GHG emissions up to the lead agency and authorize the lead agency to consider thresholds of significance previously adopted or recommended by other public agencies or recommended by experts (CEQA Guidelines §§ 15064.4(a), 15064.7(c)).

The proposed project would create approximately 10 initial full-time employment positions that, in addition to haul truck and delivery truck traffic associated with the proposed project, would add trips to the area roadways. Heavy equipment, and fuel for such, would be utilized on a daily basis at the project site. The project would involve the use of diesel-powered off road equipment for removing material from the quarry, transporting material to the processing area, and loading material in the processing area onto conveyors or customers’ delivery trucks. The actual equipment to be used in the operation of the project has not been determined yet. Furthermore, the project would require various utilities for operation, including electricity. As a result of the proposed project’s added trucks, heavy equipment, and utility usage, increased greenhouse gas emissions would be generated, potentially conflicting with policies and regulations adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases. Therefore, because the project would increase greenhouse gas emissions, a **potentially significant impact** could occur.

**Sources:** Amador County General Plan, Amador County Municipal Codes, Assembly Bill 32 Scoping Plan.

<b>Chapter 9. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS</b> – Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code § 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g) Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Discussion:**

A-B. Construction activities associated with the development of the proposed project would involve the use of potentially hazardous materials, including vehicle fuels, oils, and transmission fluids. However, all potentially hazardous materials would be contained, stored, and used in accordance with manufacturers’ instructions and handled in compliance with applicable standards and regulations. In the event of an accidental release, construction personal who are experienced in containing accidental releases of hazardous materials will likely be present to contain and treat affected areas in the event a spill occurs. If a larger spill were to occur, construction personal would generally be on hand to contact the appropriate agencies. Hazardous materials used during construction would ultimately disposed of by a licensed hazardous waste transporter at an authorized and licensed disposal facility or recycling facility.

The project would involve the routine transport, storage, and use of hazardous materials, such as blasting media and fuel, as well as performance of hazardous activities related to mining and materials processing, such as blasting and crushing. Additionally, operation of vehicles and equipment may create a potential for wildfire during project operations. Therefore, because the proposed project includes the routine use of hazardous materials, the impacts related to hazards and hazardous materials would be considered **potentially significant**.

C. Whispering Pines Christian School is within the vicinity of the project site; however, is located more than a one-quarter mile from the quarry site: approximately 0.66 miles at its closest point. Additionally, the transport route is located



approximately .44 west of the school. However, the school is located over one-quarter mile from the project area. Furthermore, compliance with Chapter 15.30 Fire and Life Safety and OSHA regulations, as well as all other applicable federal, state, and local regulations related to the handling of hazardous materials and worker safety would be required during construction and operation of the proposed project. These regulations would minimize the risk of accident conditions such as leaks or spills and would ensure prompt and effective cleanup in the event of an accidental release within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school. Therefore, impacts associated with emitting hazardous emissions or handling hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school would be **less than significant**.

- D. The project site does not appear on any hazardous material site lists compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5. In June 2020, Amador County staff searched the following databases for known hazardous materials contamination at the project site:
- Superfund Enterprise Management System (SEMS) database
  - Department of Toxic Substances Control's Envirostor database for cleanup sites and hazardous waste permitted facilities
  - Geotracker search for leaking underground fuel tanks

The project site does not appear on any of the above lists, nor are there any hazardous material contamination sites around the site. As such there would be **no impacts**.

- E. The proposed project is not within two miles of a public airport and is not within an airport land use plan. However, a privately owned airport, Eagles Nest Airport, is located approximately 2 miles south of the proposed Pilgrim Rock Quarry site. The private utilizes small engine planes that would not be flying over the project site. Therefore, the proximity of the project site to the private airstrip would not present a significant safety hazard for employees at the project site. Because the project site is not within an airport land use plan and the nearby private airstrip would not cause a safety hazard to the project employees, a **less-than-significant impact** would result.

- F. The proposed project would create approximately 10 initial full-time employment positions, which, in addition to haul truck and delivery truck traffic associated with the project, would add trips to the area roadways. Should the proposed project not provide adequate emergency access, fire and police department response to the site in the event of an emergency could be impeded. As a result, a **potentially significant impact** would occur.

- G. The proposed project site is characterized by annual grasses and scattered oak trees. According to the County's Fire Hazard Severity Zone Map, the project site is within an area of very high fire potential. Therefore, impacts related to wildland fires could be **potentially significant**.

**Mitigation Measure(s)**

*Further analysis of these impacts will be discussed in the Hazards and Hazardous Materials chapter of the Pilgrim Rock Quarry EIR.*

<b>Chapter 10. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY</b> – Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
i) result in a substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site;				
ii) substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or offsite;				
iii) create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff; or				
iv) impede or redirect flood flows?				
d) In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**Discussion:**

The site will have a Notice of Intent and Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan approved prior to the commencement of disturbance onsite. The project is designed to retain all water within the basins within the pit. Dry crushing and screening will use recycled water from winter storms for dust suppression activities. Chemical additives to suppress dust will not be used. Best management practices for controlling stormwater will be employed and maintained at the site. Discharges from the site will not be above water quality parameters established by the Regional Water Quality Control Board.

A Future development of the project site would require grading, excavation and general site preparation activities which could result in erosion of onsite soils and sedimentation during storm or high wind events. Erosion of on-site soils may temporarily impact surface water quality and water quality within nearby waterways. Downstream impacts from erosion may include increased turbidity and suspended sediment concentrations in waterways. Eroded soils also contains nitrogen, phosphorous and other nutrients, that when deposited in water bodies, can trigger algal blooms that reduce water clarity, deplete oxygen, and create odors. During construction-related activities, specific erosion control and surface water protection methods for each construction activity would be implemented on the project site by construction personnel. The type and number of measures implemented would be based upon location-specific attributes (i.e., slope, soil type, weather conditions). These control and protection measures, or BMPs, are standard in the construction industry and are commonly used to minimize soil erosion and water quality degradation. Future construction activities may be subject to the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Construction Activities Storm Water permit program if one acre or more of land is disturbed. Project operations that are under a NPDES permit would also be subject to the preparation and implementation of a Storm Water Pollution

Prevention Plan (SWPPP) to control pollution in stormwater runoff from the project site. A condition of approval reflecting the requirement of the applicant to obtain a NPDES permit, prior to grading activities, will be included with project approval. The stormwater facilities for the site will retain most of the stormwater onsite. Any discharges from the site will be authorized by the Regional Water Quality Control Board. Therefore, impacts to water quality or waste discharge would be **less than significant with mitigation incorporated**.

B The proposed mining operation will have unpaved haul roads (less than half a mile long) that will require approximately 10,000 gallons per day to mitigate dust. The demand of the 50-gallons per minute well will be equivalent to three hours of pumping. Watering will take place at the start of the day and at mid-day during the dry season (April 15 to October 15; 6 months) and less frequently during the rainy season (October 15 through April 15; 6 months). The proposed project would introduce impervious surfaces into an area that currently has none. Along with increasing surface runoff, the project would reduce the amount of precipitation that percolates into the ground, which recharges local groundwater aquifers. The open pit will likely encounter fractures that are water bearing or that communicate with water bearing zones. This, coupled with process water use and dust control, may adversely affect area groundwater availability and quality through evaporation, reduced recharge, increased extraction, and introduction of contaminants, resulting in potentially significant impacts to water wells supplying area residents and to the resource in general. Therefore, the proposed project has the potential to interfere with groundwater recharge such that a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level could occur. As a result, the proposed project could contribute to the depletion of groundwater supply, and impacts on groundwater recharge would be considered **potentially significant**.

C I. During construction-related activities, specific erosion control and surface water protection methods for each construction activity would be implemented on the project site by construction personnel. The type and number of measures implemented would be based upon location-specific attributes (i.e., slope, soil type, weather conditions). These control and protection measures, or BMPs, are standard in the construction industry and are commonly used to minimize soil erosion and water quality degradation. Application of BMPs administered through the construction process would minimize the potential increase of surface runoff from erosion. Construction and operation of the proposed project would involve potential erosion of on-site soils and discharge of sediment to the project's storm drainage system. Implementation of the proposed project would introduce impervious surfaces into an area that currently has none, thereby altering the existing drainage pattern of the site and increasing the amount of runoff water from the site. However, the proposed project is designed to control surface runoff to protect surrounding land and water resources in accordance with the federal Clean Water Act and other applicable local, State, and federal requirements. All operations would comply with the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Permit associated with industrial activities. Best Management Practices (BMPs) would be implemented in accordance with a Water Quality Management Plan (WQMP) and Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP). The project will alter the drainage pattern of the site, however, its inherent design is to capture and recycle as much surface water as possible. If water is discharged from the site, it will not be above the parameters set forth by the Regional Water Quality Control Board. Sedimentation basins within the pit are designed to capture erosional silt. Phases 1 through 5 have sedimentation basins incorporated into the end of phase designs and will remain in place until the final floor grades have been achieved. Impacts would be **less than significant**.

II. The minor increase in impervious surface area from the additional area for build-out of the site is not anticipated to be enough to alter existing drainage patterns or cause offsite flooding. While an increase in stormwater runoff may be expected due to the reduced absorption rate created from new impervious surfaces added to the site, such as from structures, future development would be reviewed by the Amador County Public Works Department to ensure any potential drainage concerns are addressed, and to ensure no net increase in stormwater runoff leaves the project site. The proposed facilities/sedimentation basins are designed to retain a 100-year 24-hour storm event. Impacts would be **less than significant**.

III. The proposed facilities/sedimentation basins are designed to retain a 100-year 24-hour storm event. Impacts would be **less than significant**.

IV. The project site falls within Zone X, which is determined to be outside designated floodplains, as mapped by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (2010). Additionally, sedimentation basins within the pit will be excavated in cut rock material that will have an elevation significantly lower than the surrounding topography. **No impact** would result.

D The project site is not located in an area that would be impacted by a seiche, tsunami, or mudflows, nor is it located near a levee or a dam. **No impact** would result

E Amador County does not have a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan. **No impact** would result.

**Mitigation Measure(s)**

**Hydro-1** Prior to the commencing any construction, applicant must obtain a Water Quality Management Plan (WQMP) and Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) as required by the State Water Resources Control Board.

*Further analysis of these impacts will be discussed in the Hydrology and Water Quality chapter of the Pilgrim Rock Quarry Project EIR.*

**Sources:** Environmental Health Department; Public Works Agency.

<b>Chapter 11. LAND USE AND PLANNING</b> – Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Physically divide an established community?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Discussion:**

- A The project would not divide an established community, because it isn't located within an established community. The surrounding area is characterized by sparse rural residential properties. Additionally, the project site lies at the end of Moriah Heights road. Therefore, **no impact** to dividing an established community is anticipated.
  
- B The project site has a current Amador County zoning designation of Single-Family Residential and Agricultural District (R1-A). The R1-A zoning regulations allow oil and gas wells, drilling, mining, and excavation of natural minerals, subject to approval of a use permit (County Zoning Code, § 19.24.045). Therefore, a use permit and Reclamation Plan must be obtained for mineral extraction and processing at the Quarry site. With approval of a use permit and Reclamation Plan, the Quarry site would be consistent with the existing County zoning designation.

As a result, without approval of a use permit for the Quarry site, the proposed project would not be consistent with County land use and zoning designations. Therefore, with the aforementioned approval, a **less than significant** impact would result.

Sources: Amador County General Plan, Amador County Municipal Codes.

Chapter 12. MINERAL RESOURCES – Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be a value to the region and the residents of the state?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Discussion:**

A & B The proposed project would involve the active mining of a known locally important mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the State, and the project is in response to the demand for construction materials. By mining the locally important mineral resource for the purpose of providing needed product to the region, the proposed project would ensure that loss of availability of the mineral resource would not occur. Only mining-related activities would occur at the Quarry site. Therefore, the Pilgrim Rock Quarry would support existing mining operations and the mining industry in the area, and development of the Pilgrim Rock Quarry would not be considered to result in a significant loss of availability of a mineral resource.

In addition, the proposed project requires the approval of a Reclamation Plan, pursuant to the State Surface Mining and Reclamation Act (SMARA) (Pub. Resources Code § 2710 et seq.) and the County surface mining ordinance (County Code Chapter 7.36), in order to authorize and specify reclamation of the Quarry site. Reclamation plans are developed to meet various performance standards for the protection of wildlife habitat, revegetation, recontouring, and erosion control, as well as to eliminate or reduce residual public health and safety hazards and minimize environmental impacts. Reclamation of disturbed portions of the Pilgrim Rock Quarry would be phased with mining activities and operations. Final reclamation of the Pilgrim Rock Quarry would occur after all mineral extraction is completed. The Quarry Reclamation Plan is intended to stabilize the post-extraction landform, provide visual integration with the natural landscape, and establish a productive vegetative cover.

Reclamation of the Pilgrim Rock Quarry site would include the following components: 1) removal of all manmade structures including all plant and conveyor equipment; 2) grading to achieve final landforms; 3) topsoil distribution; and 4) revegetation and monitoring. The aforementioned activities would achieve the goals of the Reclamation Plan and leave the site suitable for the proposed final land uses. Plant species used would be capable of selfregeneration without continued dependence on irrigation, soil amendments, or fertilizer and would include species representative of surrounding vegetative communities. In addition, the applicant would, pursuant to SMARA and County Code Chapter 7.36, post financial assurances payable to the County and the State Department of Conservation in an amount sufficient to cover the cost of reclaiming disturbed portions of the Quarry. These financial assurances would be reviewed and updated annually.

With approval of a use permit for the Quarry site, the proposed project would be consistent with the land use and zoning designations for the site. Additionally, the proposed project would help meet the demand for construction materials throughout the surrounding regions and ensure that mineral resources would continue to be available. The project would include a reclamation plan to ensure that the site is suitable for the proposed end uses. Therefore, the proposed project would result in a **less-than-significant** impact related to mineral resources.

**Sources:** Planning Department, Amador County General Plan Conservation Element 2016, Amador County General Plan Land Use Element 2016, California Department of Conservation Division of Mines and Geology

Chapter 13. NOISE – Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Discussion:**

- A The proposed project site is currently characterized by annual grasses and scattered oak trees, and is currently used for open space. Land uses immediately surrounding the site are predominantly rural residences. Additionally, the parcel to the north contains a mobile home village, a church, and a private school. Since there are no similar land uses to the proposed project in the project vicinity, and the existing project site does not currently have any noise producing land uses, the proposed project would contribute to an increase in noise levels in the area to a **potentially significant** level.
- B Various sources of noise and groundborne vibration would be present on the project site during construction and operation of the project, including drilling, blasting, hauling, and operation of materials-processing equipment. The proposed project’s noise levels could be in excess of the Amador County exterior and interior noise level criteria and could result in exposure of the nearest sensitive receptors to a significant increase in ambient noise levels and/or groundborne vibration. Therefore, a **potentially significant** impact would result.
- C The proposed project is not within two miles of a public airport and is not within an airport land use plan. However, a privately owned airport, Eagles Nest Airport, is located approximately 2 miles south of the proposed Pilgrim Rock Quarry site. The private utilizes small engine planes that would not be flying over the project site. Therefore, the proximity of the project to the private airstrip would not expose people working in the project area to excessive air traffic noise levels. Because the project site is not within an airport land use plan and the nearby private airstrip would not expose project employees to excessive noise levels, a **less-than-significant** impact would result.

**Mitigation Measure(s)**

*Further analysis of these impacts will be discussed in the Noise chapter of the Pilgrim Rock Quarry EIR.*

**Source: Planning Department**

<b>Chapter 14. POPULATION AND HOUSING –</b> Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Discussion:**

A & B     The proposed project site is currently undeveloped and the project would not include the development of any housing but would indirectly support employment in related industries such as construction. In addition residences do not exist on-site. However, though unlikely, the proximity of the Quarry could cause nearby residents to move elsewhere. The project would result in a **less than significant** impact related to displacement of people or the need for construction of replacement housing.



Chapter 15. PUBLIC SERVICES – Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for any of the public services:				
a) Fire protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Police protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Schools?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Parks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Other public facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**Discussion:**

A. The proposed project is located within the Amador Fire Protection District (AFPD) and State Responsibility Area (SRA) of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE). The AFPD was organized in 1990 after approval of the voters and resolution of the Amador County Board of Supervisors. The District has approximately 20 volunteer firefighters to participate in mandatory training and to respond to over 2000 calls for help each year to fire and medical emergencies in our community. These volunteers are supported by full time fire personnel that staff 4 of the 7 AFPD stations 24 hours a day in Plymouth, Pioneer and Pine Grove and surrounding areas. The remaining stations are staffed by volunteer personnel. In addition to staffing the mentioned stations, AFPD paid staff are responding to calls in Lockwood Fire Protection District, as well as through response of automatic aid and mutual aid from firefighters in surrounding fire departments, districts, and CAL FIRE. The AFPD maintains automatic aid and mutual aid agreements with these departments.

Fire protection services in Amador County are provided by CalFire/Amador Fire Protection District. The nearest fire station is Station 121 located at 16850 Demartini Road, Plymouth, approximately 7 miles east (driving distance) of the project site. The Fire Department, through agreements with the Amador County Fire Protection District (AFPD) and other entities, provides automatic and mutual aid response to areas outside Jackson City limits. Additional development may incrementally increase the demand for fire protection services. However, the project will improve access to the existing residences along the private road. The access road will be widened and paved from Highway 16 to the processing plant and an improved paved road will increase response times and access for emergency personnel. Additionally, Amador County Code requires the payment of fire protection impact fees to help offset the impacts for the new development has on the fire protection services. Such fees would be used to fund capital costs associated with acquiring land for new fire stations, constructing new fire stations, purchasing fire equipment, and providing for additional staff as needed. Fire protection impact fees would be paid at the time of building permit issuance resulting in a **less than significant impact**.

B. The Amador County Sheriff's Office provides law enforcement service to the site. Implementation of the proposed project could increase service calls related to any potential trespassing or other unforeseen concerns at the project site. It is anticipated that project implementation would not require any new law enforcement facilities or the alteration of existing facilities to maintain acceptable performance objectives. The project's increase in demand for law enforcement services would be partially offset through project-related impact fees resulting in a **less than significant impact**.

- C. The proposed project does not involve the development of housing units and would not directly increase population in the area. Because the project would not directly increase population in the area, an increase in demand for school services and facilities would not occur. A development impact fee for school facilities will be assessed at the time of additional development on the project site. Impact fees would partially offset any potential impact to area school facilities resulting in a **less than significant** impact.
- D. Use of local public parks is not expected to increase due to the proposed project, as the project would not directly increase the number of residents in the area. Because the demand for schools, parks, and other public facilities is driven by population, the proposed project would not increase demand for those services. Therefore, the proposed project is not expected to cause a need for new or expansion of parks, and impacts would be considered **less-than-significant**.
- E. The population in the project area is not expected to increase. Construction activities would temporarily increase the number of workers on site, however a small number of workers is expected in the project area. During operations within the project area, a permanent small crew would be present however, the number of employees is not expected to significantly rise from those levels. Development of the proposed Project, including operation proposed as part of the Project, would not directly increase the demand for library or other public services as no new residential uses would be developed and no direct increase in the resident population would result that may create a demand for library services. It is expected that the new jobs that would be created by the Project would be filled by residents of the City and the surrounding area. The Project would not require the construction of new or expanded library facilities or other public facilities and a **less than significant** impact is anticipated.

**Source:** Amador Fire Protection District, Sheriff's Office, Amador County Unified School District, Recreation Agency, Planning Department

Chapter 16. RECREATION – Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**Discussion:**

A&B      Increase in the demand for recreational facilities is typically associated with substantial increases in population. As discussed in Chapter 14 - Population and Housing, the proposed project would not generate growth in the local population nor does it require the expansion of existing recreational facilities. Therefore, the project would not increase use of existing parks and recreational facilities in the surrounding area and the parks and recreation district servicing the area. Therefore, the proposed rezone would have **no impact** on recreational facilities.

<b>Chapter 17. TRANSPORTATION / TRAFFIC –</b> Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Conflict with a program, plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines § 15064.3, subdivision (b)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Result in inadequate emergency access?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Discussion/Conclusion/Mitigation:**

- A. The General Plan Mitigation Measure 4.14.1 requires the County to evaluate discretionary development proposals for their impact on traffic and transportation infrastructure and provision of alternative transportation, and requires applicants/ developments to pay into the traffic mitigation fee program(s) to mitigate impacts to roadways. The County will require future projects to conduct traffic studies (following Amador County Transportation Commission guidance). The purpose of these traffic studies will be to identify and mitigate any cumulative or project impacts (roadways below the County’s standard of Level of Service “C”, or LOS C, for rural roadways and LOS D for roadways in urban and developing areas) beyond the limits of the mitigation fee program(s). Projects will be required to pay a “fair share” of those improvements that would be required to mitigate impacts outside the established mitigation fee program(s). The objective of this program(s) is to substantially reduce or avoid traffic impacts, including cumulative impacts, of development which would occur to implement the General Plan. Measurement of Circulation System effectiveness: The effectiveness of the County Circulation Element is measured by a project’s impact to LOS criteria adopted for roadways within Amador County.

Development of the proposed project would result in an increased number of vehicle trips associated with traffic to, from, and within the project site related to delivery trucks, hauling trucks, and individual employee trips. The proposed project is designed to haul trucks to transport the majority of produced material to market and is forecasted to generate approximately 522 vehicle trips per day, with approximately 66 AM peak hour trips and approximately 66 PM peak hour trips (see figure 25) . Approximately 95% of project trips are anticipated to travel westbound into Sacramento County.

Michael Baker International conducted Traffic Impact Analyses (TIA) on June 2018, September 2019, and March 2020 which analyzed forecast traffic conditions associated with the proposed Pilgrim Rock Quarry. This studies were prepared in accordance with the *Amador County Traffic Impact Study Guidelines* (July 2006), the *County of Sacramento Traffic Impact Analysis Guidelines* (July 2004), as well as *Caltrans Guide for the Preparation of Traffic Impact Studies* (December 2002). The following study scenarios were analyzed: Existing Conditions (Analysis of existing traffic count volumes, intersection geometry and existing roadway network); Existing Plus Project Conditions (Analysis of existing traffic volumes overlaid with traffic generated by the proposed project); Existing Plus Approved Projects Without Project Conditions (Analysis of existing traffic volumes overlaid with traffic from approved development projects without the proposed project); Existing Plus Approved Projects Plus Project Conditions (Analysis of existing traffic volumes overlaid with traffic from approved development projects and traffic associated with the proposed project); Existing Plus Approved and Pending Projects Without Project Conditions (Analysis of existing traffic volumes overlaid with traffic from approved and pending development projects without the proposed project); Existing Plus Approved and Pending Projects Plus Project Conditions (Analysis of existing traffic volumes overlaid with traffic from approved and pending development projects and traffic associated with the proposed project).

The results of the Existing Plus Approved and Pending Projects Plus Project conditions show there are two study intersections that are forecast to operate at deficient levels of service (LOS D & E): SR-16/Kiefer Blvd and SR-16/SR-124. The change in delay at both of these intersections does not exceed the significance threshold (i.e. 5.0 seconds). Therefore, no mitigation is required under Existing Plus Approved and Pending Projects Plus Project conditions at any of the study intersections.

The results of the roadway segment analysis based on daily traffic volumes along Jackson Road (SR-16) show that all study segments are forecast to operate at acceptable levels of service under Existing Plus Project conditions except from Kiefer Blvd to Murieta South Parkway which operates at LOS F. The change in v/c between Existing Plus Approved and Pending Projects Without Project conditions and Existing Plus Approved and Pending Projects Plus Project conditions is 0.025 which is less than the significance threshold (0.05). Therefore, the roadway segment impact is considered less than significant and no mitigation is required. Roadway segments were further analyzed under peak hour conditions and by direction. SR-16 from Kiefer Blvd to Murieta South Parkway is shown to operate at LOS E in the AM and PM peak hour. However, based on the thresholds of significance for the peak hour analysis, the addition of project-related trips would not result in a significant traffic impact at any of the roadway segments in Sacramento County. Therefore, no mitigation measures are required on study roadway segments under Existing Plus Approved and Pending Projects Plus Project conditions.

The project proposes to construct a new driveway to access SR-16 from the project site. A westbound left-turn lane and acceleration/deceleration lanes on SR-16 would also be constructed by the project in accordance with Caltrans standards. Vehicular access to the project site will be provided via this new driveway on Jackson Road (SR-16). The new driveway at SR-16 will be side-street stop controlled and has been analyzed in the TIA report as an unsignalized intersection. Results of the analysis show the intersection operates at an acceptable level of service (C or better) in all study scenarios. The existing Moriah Heights Road access will be abandoned after the new access to the Pilgrim Rock Quarry is constructed. The new access will serve both the Pilgrim Rock Quarry and existing traffic previously using Moriah Heights Road. The existing paved gravel road that currently runs parallel to SR- 16 on the south side will connect the new project driveway to Moriah Heights Road (See Figure 26).

The project does not conflict with any plan, ordinance, or policy establishing measure of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation system. Level of Service Standards: The LOS Standard criteria as established in the Circulation Element is the established congestion management program in effect for the County. The proposed project would not cause a substantial increase in traffic, reduce the existing level of service, or create any additional congestion at any intersections. As such, level of service standards would not be exceeded and the project would not conflict with an applicable plan, ordinance or policy establishing measures of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation system. Impacts would be **less than significant with mitigation incorporated**.

FIGURE 25: Proposed Project Trip Generation in Vehicles

**TABLE 8, PROPOSED PROJECT TRIP GENERATION IN VEHICLES**

Intensity	Daily Trips	AM Peak Hour Trips		PM Peak Hour Trips	
		Total	In : Out	Total	In : Out
10 Employees	22	10	10 : 0	10	0 : 10
28 Trucks <sup>1</sup>	500	56	28 : 28	56	28 : 28
<b>Total Vehicles</b>	<b>522</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>38 : 28</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>28 : 38</b>

<sup>1</sup> Assumes 250 deliveries per day with 1 hour per delivery per truck based on 9 hours of travel time per day.

FIGURE 26: Proposed Project Trip Generation in Vehicles



PILGRIM ROCK QUARRY  
 HIGHWAY 16/JACKSON ROAD  
 ENTRANCE EXHIBIT  
 AMADOR COUNTY, CALIFORNIA  
 AUGUST 20, 2019



19\_07\_029

# Project Access Design Concept

## Exhibit 10

- B. The proposed project would not conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines § 15064.3, subdivision (b). **No impact** would result.
- C. The proposed access road intersection with Highway 16 is currently under review by Caltrans. It is anticipated that the intersection will incorporate acceleration/deceleration turn lanes as well as refuge lanes on Highway 16. The proposed project does not include any design features that would create a hazard, such as sharp turns in the access road. Therefore, there is **less than significant with mitigation incorporated**.
- D. Access to the Pilgrim Rock Quarry is via an existing private road entrance located 0.75-miles east of the Amador County/Sacramento County border. All mine personnel and vehicles would use the road to access the project site. Material would be trucked from the Pilgrim Rock Quarry site along the unpaved haul road to the processing facility. The Moriah Heights access road is proposed to be paved and expanded from Highway 16 to the haul road. Naturally this will increase emergency access to residents north of the project side with a two-lane paved road. However, there is no mention of a secondary emergency access to/from the Quarry site itself, thus there is a **potentially significant impact** in respect to emergency access for Quarry personnel.

**Mitigation Measure(s)**

**Trans-1** Prior to constructing revised access obtain revised easement/approval from Hope Foundation and California Transportation Commission (CTC) approval

**Trans-2** Where an Encroachment Permit will be required for any work done within Caltrans right-of-way (ROW) now, or in future proposed developments, or any construction activities that will encroach into Caltrans ROW, appropriate environmental studies must be submitted with this application.

**Trans-3** In order to accommodate the potential safety impacts of the project generated truck traffic entering and exiting SR 16 at the proposed access, the project needs to construct a westbound SR 16 dedicated left-turn lane entering the quarry, westbound SR 16 acceleration lane, exiting the quarry. Eastbound SR 16 dedicated right-turn lane, entering the quarry and acceleration lane, exiting the quarry.

*Further analysis of these impacts will be discussed in the Transportation/Traffic chapter of the Pilgrim Rock Quarry EIR.*

**Source: Pilgrim Rock Quarry TIA March 2020**

Chapter 18. TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES – Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code § 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:				
a) Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1(k), or	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code § 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resource Code § 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Discussion:**

Tribal cultural resources” are defined as (1) Sites, features, places, cultural landscapes, sacred places, and objects with cultural value to a California Native American tribe that are either of the following:

- (A) Included or determined to be eligible for inclusion in the California Register of Historical Resources.
- (B) Included in a local register of historical resources as defined in subdivision (k) of Section 5020.1.

These may include non-unique archaeological resources previously subject to limited review under CEQA. Assembly Bill 52, which became effective in July 2015, requires the lead agency (in this case, Amador County) to begin consultation with any California Native American tribe that is traditionally and culturally affiliated with the geographic area of the proposed project prior to the release of a negative declaration, mitigated negative declaration, or environmental impact report if: (1) the California Native American tribe requested to the lead agency, in writing, to be informed by the lead agency through formal notification of proposed projects in the geographic area that is traditionally and culturally affiliated with the tribe, and (2) the California Native American tribe responds, in writing, within 30 days of receipt of the formal notification and requests the consultation (Public Resources Code Section 21080.3.1[b]).

A As defined by Public Resources Code section 21074 (a) there were no tribal cultural resources identified in the project area therefore the project would not cause a substantial adverse change in any identified tribal cultural resources. No cultural resources were listed or eligible to be listed in the Code. Many of identified archeological resources are either not eligible for the national Register, California Register, nor are eligible as a “unique archeological resource: due to integrity considerations. Additionally, the Lone Band of Miwok Indians, the Buena Vista Band of Me-Wuk Indians, the Shingle Springs Band of Miwuk Indians, and the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California were notified of this project proposal and did not submit any materials referencing tribal cultural resources affected by this project. Impacts are **less than significant**.

B On November 16, 2016, the Native American Heritage Commission completed a search of its sacred lands file for the Pilgrim Rock Quarry Project. The commission’s staff found that archeological sites were identified in the project vicinity,



which was not more specific than somewhere in Township 7 North, Range 9 East, Sections 16 and 17. Staff recommended contacting the Lone Band of Miwok Indians for more information about potential sites and resources within the area of potential effects (APE). The purpose of the present study was to identify historic properties listed on or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, historical resources listed on or eligible for the California Register of Historical Resources, unique archeological resources, Native American traditional cultural properties, and tribal cultural resources. To meet these goals, the North Central Information Center California Historical Resources Information System conducted a records search of the project area. The consultant (Windmiller Consulting, Inc.) attempted to contact Native Americans listed by the Native American Heritage Commission for this specific project.

The consultant reviewed available literature, including the results of his own cultural resources inventory back in 2005. The consultant focused on that portion of the property in Section 17 encompassing the proposed quarry, haul road, and staging/processing facilities. The archaeological resources identified in 2005 included placer mines and largely in-filled ditches of various lengths, widths, and depths. No prehistoric sites, traditional cultural properties, or tribal cultural resources were identified. An on-site consultation with a tribal representative of the Jackson Rancheria indicated that no Native American sites were located in the immediate vicinity.

Armed with these results, the consultant conducted an archaeological survey of the northwest one-quarter of the northwest one-quarter of Section 16, which was added to the Section 17 project area. Approximately two-thirds of the Section 16 property was surveyed for cultural resources. One-third of the Section 16 property could not be examined due to the presence of impenetrable chamise. Mitigation Measure TRI-1 addresses potential discovery of Tribal Cultural Resources on this site, rendering impacts **less than significant with mitigation incorporated.**

#### Mitigation Measure(s)

**TRI-1** If during the AB 52 consultation process information is provided that identifies tribal cultural resources, an additional Cultural Resources Study or EIR may be required.

**Sources:** Amador County Planning Department, California Public Resources Code; National Park Service National Register of Historic Places; Windmiller Consulting Inc. 2017.

<b>Chapter 19. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS –</b> Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Result in a determination by the waste water treatment provider, which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project’s projected demand in addition to the provider’s existing commitments?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Generate solid waste in excess of state or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Discussion:**

A-B The project will not entail construction of water or wastewater treatment facilities. The project would require water for dust control on the haul roads and at the processing area. Water usage would depend on production volume, and production volume would vary year-to-year with market demand. Water for the Quarry would be provided by a water well and would be delivered via water pipeline system or by water trucks. This well was drilled with sedimentary layers of the lone Formation geologic unit and the underlying aquifer is isolated from the aquifer within the pit footprint. All water pumped from the well will be recycled during quarrying and processing operations. The existing groundwater well will continue to supply water to meet the site needs upon completion of the site reclamation activities. The primary use of water will be for dust suppression and mitigation of fugitive dust.

The Pilgrim Rock Quarry operators are planning to use recycled surface water and secondarily local groundwater extracted from an on-site production well to supplement quarry operations when surface water supplies are exhausted. Process water, water for dust suppression, and irrigation water will be obtained from onsite wells and ponds. The project has adequate water from a 50-gallon per minute well as well as two stormwater sedimentation basins that will supply part of the water needs for the project. The project will alter the drainage pattern of the site to implement the use of the sedimentation basins, however, its inherent design is to capture and recycle as much surface water as possible. Sedimentation basins within the pit are designed to capture erosional silt. Additionally, the Quarry anticipates using 10,000 gallons of water a day for dust suppression which may have a **potentially significant impact** during multiple dry years.

C The project will not need wastewater treatment facilities. Portable toilets and wash stations will provide for wastewater confinement. There is a **less than significant impact**.

D Domestic refuse will be collected in trash bins and removed by a refuse disposal company. The project will have a standard 2.5 cubic yard dumpster for the entire site. Other wastes will be transported offsite and recycled at appropriate facilities. There is a **less than significant impact**.

- E Future potential construction will be required to comply with California Building Codes (Cal Green) that mandate construction and demolition recycling requirements and Chapter 7.27 of the Amador County Municipal Code which mandates recycling and diversion of construction and demolition debris. Compliance with these regulations will bring **impacts to less than significant** levels.

**Mitigation Measure(s)**

*Further analysis of these impacts will be discussed in the Utilities and Service Systems chapter of the Pilgrim Rock Quarry EIR.*

<b>Chapter 20. WILDFIRE</b> – If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the project:	<b>Potentially Significant Impact</b>	<b>Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated</b>	<b>Less Than Significant Impact</b>	<b>No Impact</b>
a) Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines, or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Discussion:**

According to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection’s (Cal Fire) Fire and Resources Assessment Program (FRAP), the Project site is located primarily in a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone (VHFHSZ) (Figure 27). The Project site is located within the unincorporated area Amador County, and is within a State Responsibility Area.

A During Highway 16 lane widening and driveway access construction, there may be lane closures involved in the proposed project that would constrict emergency access or interfere with an emergency evacuation plan. Highway 16 acts as one of the few major thoroughfares through the County. However, such work on Highway 16 would require a Traffic Management Plan and would be monitored by Caltrans bringing impacts to a **less than significant level**.

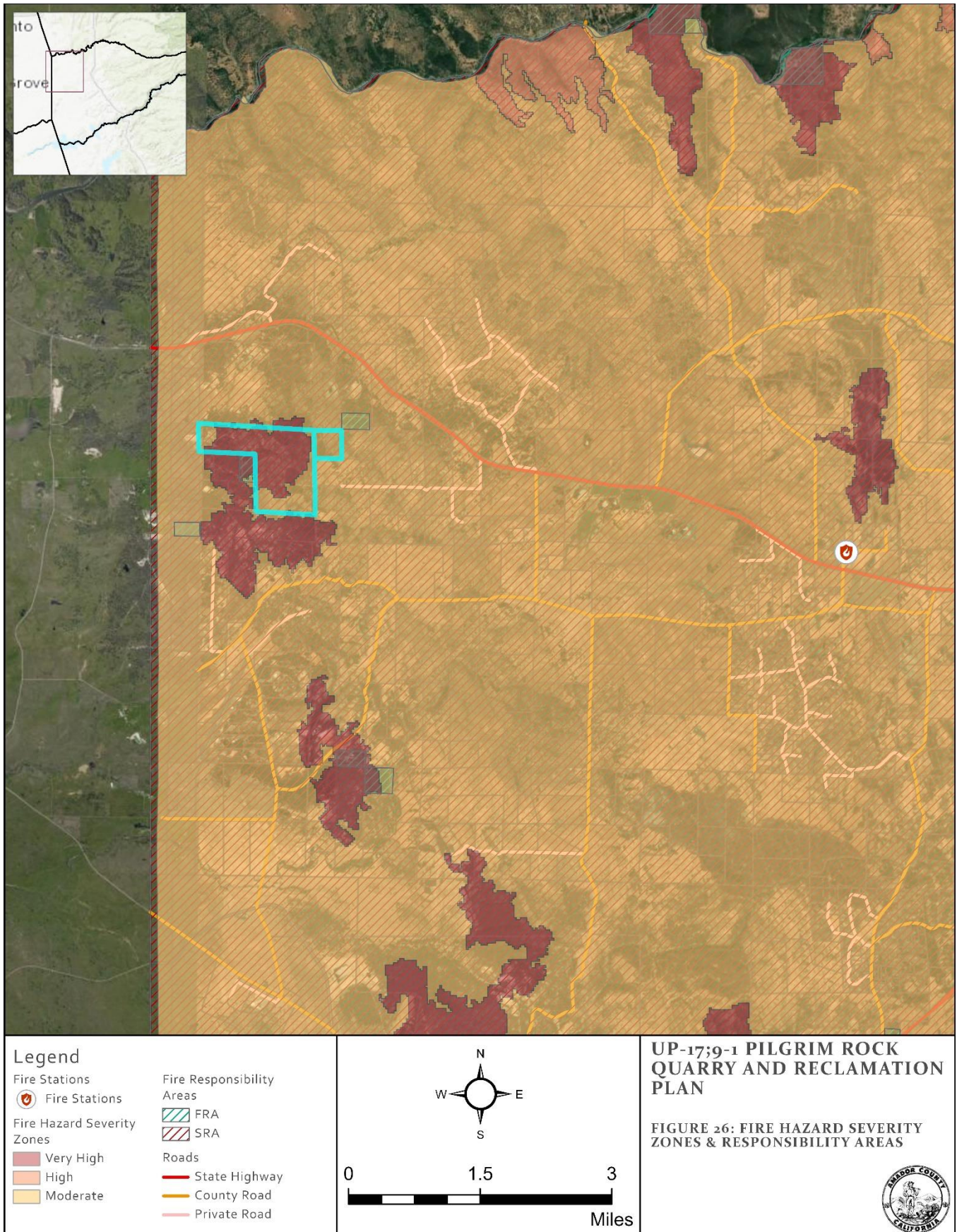
B-D The project site is primarily, located in a very high fire hazard severity zone and in a state responsibility area. The projectD would involve the routine transport, storage, and use of hazardous materials, such as blasting media and fuel, as well as performance of hazardous activities related to mining and materials processing, such as blasting and crushing. Additionally, operation of vehicles and equipment may create a potential for wildfire during project operations. Therefore, because the proposed project includes the routine use of flammable materials, would require the installation and maintenance of fire breaks, and alter the topography in such a way that greatly impacts the slope of the area, impacts related to wildfire would be considered potentially significant. Associated infrastructure that may exacerbate wildfire risk includes aggregate processing equipment and temporary generators. The project has the potential to exacerbate wildfire risks through change in slope, project construction, and project operation and thus exposing project occupants and nearby sensitive receptors to pollutant concentrations from a wildfire, and impacts are **potentially significant**.

**Mitigation Measure(s)**

*Further analysis of these impacts will be discussed in the Wildfire chapter of the Pilgrim Rock Quarry EIR.*

Source: Amador County Planning, Amador County Office of Emergency Services.

FIGURE 27: Fire Hazard Severity Zone and State Responsibility Areas



<b>Chapter 21. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE</b>	<b>Potentially Significant Impact</b>	<b>Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated</b>	<b>Less Than Significant Impact</b>	<b>No Impact</b>
a) Does the project have the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? (“Cumulatively considerable” means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects.)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Discussion:**

A As previously discussed, this Initial Environmental Study for the Pilgrim Rock Project identified potential impacts in the following areas: aesthetics, air quality, biological resources, geology and soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, noise, utilities and service systems, and wildfire. Therefore, impacts would be considered potentially significant.

Therefore, without the implementation of measures in accordance with the County’s General Plan and Municipal Code and other applicable plans, policies, regulations, and ordinances, the project has the potential to degrade the quality of the environment. The proposed project can result in potentially significant impacts to special-status species; habitat and other sensitive natural communities; jurisdictional waters and wetlands; wildlife corridors and nursery sites; and paleontological resources. Subsequent project specific environmental review will be required prior to project approval. Therefore, impacts would be considered **potentially significant**.

**Mitigation Measure(s)**

*Impacts related to the areas noted above will be discussed in the corresponding chapters of the Pilgrim Rock Project EIR.*

B Pursuant to Section 15065(a)(3) of the CEQA Guidelines, a lead agency shall find that a project may have a significant impact on the environment where there is substantial evidence that the project has potential environmental effects “that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable.” As defined in Section 15065(a)(3) of the CEQA Guidelines, cumulatively considerable means “that the incremental effects of an individual project are significant when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects.”

As discussed previously, temporary development, and 40 years of mining operation is proposed with the project; therefore, the project would generate significant dust and other particulate matter emissions in conflict with the Amador Air District standard measures. Development that converts rural areas to urban/suburban uses may be regarded as achieving short-term goals to the disadvantage of long-term environmental goals. However, long-range planning to establish policies, programs, and measures for the efficient and economical use of resources mitigates the inevitable

impacts resulting from population and economic growth. This Initial Environmental Study determined that the proposed project could have significant impacts related to the following: aesthetics, air quality, biological resources, geology and soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, noise, utilities and service systems, and wildfire. Additionally, this project site is located approximately 7 miles north of several other mines in the lone area. Given the potential project-level impacts, the incremental contribution to these areas of concern could result in a cumulatively considerable impact and therefore, impacts would be considered **potentially significant**.

**Mitigation Measure(s)**

*Impacts related to the areas noted above will be discussed in the corresponding chapters of the Pilgrim Rock Project EIR.*

- C Consistent with Section 15065(a)(4) of the CEQA Guidelines, a lead agency shall find that a project may have a significant effect on the environment where there is substantial evidence that the project has the potential to cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly. Pursuant to this standard, a change to the physical environment that might otherwise be minor must be treated as significant if people would be significantly affected. This factor relates to adverse changes to the environment of human beings generally, and not to effect particular individuals.

While changes to the environment that could indirectly affect human beings would be represented by all of the designated CEQA issue areas, those that could directly affect human beings include: aesthetics, air quality, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, noise, and wildfire. With development of the Project site, the Project could create environmental effects that will directly or indirectly cause adverse effects on human beings. Direct or indirect adverse effects on human beings have been identified resulting in a **potentially significant cumulative impact**.

**SOURCE:** Chapters 1 through 20 of this Initial Study.

**REFERENCES** Amador County General Plan; Amador County General Plan EIR; Amador Air District; Amador County Municipal Codes; Fish & Wildlife's IPAC and BIOS databases; Migratory Bird Treaty Act; California Air Resources Board; California Department of Conservation; California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection; California Geologic Survey; Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zones; State Department of Mines & Geology; Amador County GIS; Amador County Zoning Map; Amador County Municipal Codes; Amador County Soil Survey; Amador Fire Protection District; Caltrans District 10 Office of Rural Planning; Commenting Department and Agencies. All sources cited herein are available in the public domain, and are hereby incorporated by reference.