

**STAFF REPORT TO: AMADOR COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION**  
**FOR MEETING OF: OCTOBER 5, 2021**

**ITEM 1 - Public Scoping Session to take public comment on the potential environmental impacts to be analyzed in the Draft Environmental Impact Report the proposed Ione Quarry Expansion Project.**  
(APNs 005-080-106 and 005-080-020)

**Applicant:** Specialty Granules Ione, LLC

**Supervisory District:** 2

**Location:** 1900 Highway 104, Ione, CA, 500 feet east of the intersection with Michigan Bar Road.

**Proposed Environmental Document:** Environmental Impact Report (EIR)

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**Background:** In 1989, Amador County permitted the Ione Quarry, crushing, and offsite shipment facilities under Use Permit #UP-89; 3-4, with a permit termination date of December 31, 2038. In 2012, the County extended the Use Permit expiration date to December 31, 2075. The addition of an on-site asphalt batch plant was approved under Use Permit #UP-91; 3-1. In 1998, the County permitted a plant for producing granules (used in the off-site manufacture of roofing materials) under separate Use Permit #UP-98; 2-6. The granules plant is not within the boundaries of the quarry site.

The project proposes to expand the existing footprint and depth of the Ione Quarry to access additional rock reserves. This expansion requires an amended Conditional Use Permit and an amended Reclamation Plan. The project involves the following major components:

- 1) Extending the Use Permit expiration date from December 31, 2075 to December 31, 2175 at current annual production rates;
- 2) Enlarging the quarry's total surface disturbance from +/-56 acres to +/-136 acres;
- 3) Increasing the quarry's floor depth from +/-325 feet above sea to +/-280 feet below sea level;
- 4) Expanding overburden storage stockpiles on-site from +/-34 acres to +/-86 acres and increase elevation from +/-350 feet above sea level to +/-560 feet above sea level.

Detailed descriptions of project activities are included in the project description and technical studies attached to the staff report.

**Scoping Process:** The purpose of a CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act) scoping meeting is to provide participants with an opportunity to comment on the appropriate scope and content of the environmental analysis and environmental documentation for the project. The Notice of Preparation to prepare an EIR was submitted to the Governor's Office of Planning and Research, and has been distributed to various state and local agencies for comments to be addressed in the EIR.

CEQA requires that the following topics be analyzed during environmental review:

Aesthetics and Visual Resources  
Agriculture and Forestry Resources  
Air Quality  
Biological Resources  
Cultural Resources  
Energy  
Geology and Soils  
Greenhouse Gas Emissions  
Hazards and Hazardous Materials  
Hydrology and Water Quality  
Land Use and Planning  
Mineral Resources  
Noise  
Population and Housing  
Public Services  
Recreation  
Transportation  
Tribal Cultural Resources  
Utilities and Services Systems  
Wildfire  
3Mandatory Findings of Significance

Upon completion of the Scoping Session, the Planning Commission may direct the applicant to include detailed analysis of impacts and proposed mitigation measures for any of the above topics.