

**AMADOR COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES
SUMMARY MINUTES OF TAPE RECORDED SPECIAL MEETING
SPECIALTY GRANULES IONE QUARRY EXPANSION SCOPING SESSION
October 5, 2021 – 7:00 P.M.**

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The Planning Commission of the County of Amador met in special session on Tuesday, October 5, 2021 in the Board Chambers at the County Administration Center, 810 Court Street, Jackson, California. The special meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chair Gonsalves.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT WERE:

Planning Commissioners: Dave Wardall, District 2
Earl Curtis, District 3
Andy Byrne, District 4
Mark Bennett, District 5

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT WERE: John Gonsalves, Chair, District 1

Staff: Chuck Beatty, Planning Director
Glenn Spitzer, Deputy County Counsel
Ruslan Bratan, Planner II
Krista Ruesel, Planner II
Mary Ann Manges, Recording Secretary

NOTE: The Staff Report packet prepared for the Planning Commission is hereby incorporated into these minutes by reference as though set forth in full. Any Staff Report, recommended findings, mitigation measures, conditions or recommendations which are referred to by Commissioners in their action motions on project decisions which are contained in the Staff Reports are part of these minutes. Any written material, petitions, packets, or comments received at the hearing also become a part of these minutes. The recording tapes of this meeting are hereby incorporated into these minutes by reference and are stored in the Amador County Planning Department.

A. Pledge of Allegiance

B. Approval of Agenda:

MOTION: It was moved by Commissioner Byrne, seconded by Commissioner Wardall, and carried to approve the agenda.

AYES: Byrne, Wardall, Curtis, Bennett
NOES: None
ABSENT: Gonsalves

C. Minutes: None

D. Correspondence was received from the following after the release of the Notice of Preparation for the Specialty Granules/Ione Quarry expansion: Dan Troxell, Caltrans, Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board, Mark Korte, Paul Kovacik, Sondra West-Moore, CA Department of Conservation, John Muchetto, Kathy Strong, Brian & Karen Hlavaty, Buena Vista Rancheria of Me-Wuk Indians, Tom Infusino on behalf of Foothill Conservancy and Friends of Greater Ione, Mitchell Sorscher, Patrice Prest, Pete & Lori Scholtes, Susan Port, United Auburn Indian Community, Ione Band of Miwok Indians, SGI (PowerPoint presentation).

Vice Chair Curtis voiced that he prefers not to chair the meeting the meeting and asked if Commissioner Byrne would chair. Discussion ensued amongst the Commissioners, County Counsel, and Staff about the procedure of who chairs a meeting when neither the Chair nor Vice Chair can. Mr. Beatty commented that he believes the Commissioners appoint a temporary chair. Counsel concurred and added that it needs to be done with a motion.

MOTION: It was moved by Commissioner Byrne, seconded by Commissioner Wardall, and

carried to appoint Commissioner Byrne as temporary Chair for the October 5, 2021 meeting.

AYES: Byrne, Wardall, Curtis, Bennett

NOES: None

ABSENT: Gonsalves

E. **Public Matters not on the Agenda:** None

F. **Recent Board Actions:** None

G. **Agenda Items:**

PUBLIC SCOPING SESSION

Item 1: Public Scoping Session to take public comments on the potential environmental impacts to be analyzed in the Draft Environmental Impact Report for the proposed Ione Quarry Expansion Project. (APNs 005-080-016 and 005-080-020)

Applicant: Specialty Granules Ione, LLC

Supervisory Districts: 2

Location: 1900 Highway 104, Ione, CA, 500 feet east of the intersection with Michigan Bar Road, and approximately two miles west of the City of Ione

Acting Chair Byrne introduced the item and shared that the proponent has a PowerPoint to share and asked for confirmation that it is being shared via Zoom.

Mr. Beatty stated that printed copies of the PowerPoint are available, that an online version is available on the County website, and that the presentation will be screen-shared for those participating by Zoom. He then shared the Staff Report which is hereby incorporated by reference into these minutes as though set forth in full.

Ms. Manges confirmed that the PowerPoint is being shared with those participating via Zoom.

Mr. Beatty stated that the purpose of the scoping session is to obtain comments from the public and commenting agencies on the scope and breadth of the environmental impact report that will be prepared for this project. He added that it is less about project comments or approval or denial of the project at this stage. He stated that at the end of this session the Planning Commission can direct the project proponents on what areas under CEQA to study in the environmental impact report.

Acting Chair Byrne prompted the proponent to begin the presentation.

Kevin Moore, Director of Mine Planning and Capital of Specialty Granules, introduced himself and George Diaz, Site Manager at the Ione facility, Lori Dayton, Senior Permitting Specialist, and Pat Mitchell from Mitchell Chadwick. He and Mr. Diaz shared a PowerPoint containing a brief overview of the company, what work is performed at the Ione facility, and information about the expansion project.

Members of the public who commented that evening included: Mike DeSpain, Buena Vista Rancheria of Miwok Indians Natural Resources Director; Emily Maloney, Buena Vista Rancheria of Miwok Indians Water Program Coordinator; Ivan Senock, Buena Vista Rancheria of Miwok Indians Tribal Historic Preservation Officer; Susan Bragstadt, Susan Port; unidentified caller; Alise Bradshaw; Sondra West-Moore.

Some of the comments voiced by the public during the meeting included concerns such as:

- trucks without covers
- dust
- gravel and debris on road
- accountable for traffic cost share
- air quality
- noise
- analyze impacts to groundwater by mining
- groundwater and storm water pumped into Loch Lane Lake, Dry Creek, and the Mokelumne River
- deep wells pulling water out of shallow aquifers
- pumping of impaired water into protected waters and discharge permits
- reinjecting impaired water back into the ground rather than discharging as surface water
- quarry pit lake effects depriving other surface waters like ponds, lakes, wet meadows, etc.
- effects of blasting agents on groundwater, surface water, soil, and air for nitrates and other things
- monitoring plan for hydrocarbons that can impact surface and ground water
- storm water basin plans and permits
- runoff and erosion from stockpiles, including industrial storm water
- location of the air quality monitoring 32 miles away
- accountability of project cost share
- storm water basins plan and permit for analysis
- hydro-seeding of stockpiles
- desire for traditional landscapes
- oak mitigation reforestation plan
- vernal pool, oak restoration, and riparian protection
- solar panel array removal – analysis of electricity usage and potential loss
- tribal cultural monitor use
- archeological resources protected through mitigation measures
- close proximity of Castle Oaks subdivision
- jurisdictional conflicts
- importance of working with neighbors
- desire to review every 5 years and invite community to participate similar to San Rafael Gravel Pit conditions
- frequent updating and reviewing instead of blanket time frame
- huge plumes of dust at night
- length of proposed use permit with no evaluation
- taking climate change into account
- cumulative effects due to the length of the permit
- high-producing wells with fractured rock pull water from shallow wells that ranchers use
- traffic
- trains noises at night
- economic impact to local businesses
- one large polluting business vs. others
- grandfathered into being a mine with us being here before the mine
- community benefits such as a regional park
- carbon offsets
- concerns about known Miwok caves
- community benefits such as a 300 acre regional park
- inclusion of more mitigation
- dust and air quality needs to be readdressed due to impacts to Mule Creek and Castle Oaks

Acting Chair Byrne asked if there were additional comments. There were no additional public comments. He then said that the comments received will be part of the public record and be utilized in how the

environmental document will be created. Most of his comments were seen in the letters received.

Commissioner Wardall asked that comments be included in the initial EIR.

Commissioner Bennett stated that dust is most commented upon and asked how Castle Oaks came about.

Mr. Beatty commented from the City of Ione was responsible for environmental review and approval of that project.

Commissioner Curtis shared that there are a lot of good comments and that he expects that most of them will be answered at some time. He understands the concerns and that the operators of the quarry understands them and will address them in an appropriate manner.

Commissioner Bennett noted that sphere of influence is supposed to prevent jurisdictional problems.

Mr. Beatty shared that the quarry was about two miles from Ione's sphere of influence.

Acting Chair Byrne said we are seeing a jurisdictional conflict and is also concerned about a 150 year project and not sure if can predict the environmental impacts that far out.

Mr. Beatty said that future conditions of approval could include periodic monitoring.

Acting Chair Byrne asked why going out that far and that the length of time has cumulative effects and should be explored. Tonight's meeting cannot really address that, but after draft environmental document is out it can.

Counsel Spitzer added that the length of the permit could impact what proposed mitigation measures are in the EIR. He shared that it can be addressed with different alternatives and that the mitigation measures would flow from those alternatives.

Mr. DeSpain relayed that he wants everyone to know that the Buena Vista Tribe is the owner of Harrah's NorCal, but to be aware when the Tribe is making comments regarding environmental documents that it is the Tribe, itself. He stressed the importance that the permit should be looked at for review every 5 or 10 years.

Acting Chair Byrne said that the point is well taken and asked if economic impact can be studied with local business.

Counsel Spitzer responded that it can be looked at, but is not an environmental impact per CEQA.

There were no other public comments.

MOTION: It was moved by Commissioner Wardall, seconded by Commissioner Bennett, and carried to close the public comments.

AYES: Wardall, Bennett, Curtis, Byrne

NOES: None

ABSENT: Gonsalves

Acting Chair Byrne asked for discussion amongst the Commission.

Mr. Beatty shared that there are 21 chapters of CEQA that need to be evaluated for the EIR.

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Counsel Spitzer elaborated that the EIR is going to be evaluating impacts from the baseline or existing conditions right now.

Acting Chair Byrne asked if the Commission is going to present additional personal views or what the public has brought us.

Discussion amongst the Commissioners was to address comments made.

MOTION: It was moved by Commissioner Curtis, seconded by Commissioner Bennett, and carried to request that items in submitted letters, public comments, and in the public record be addressed in the EIR.

AYES: Curtis, Bennett, Wardall, ~~Byrne~~

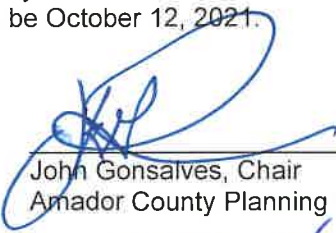
NOES: Byrne

ABSENT: Gonsalves


MOTION: It was moved by Commissioner Curtis seconded by Commissioner Wardall, and carried to adjourn the meeting. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be October 12, 2021.



Mary Ann Manges, Recording Secretary
Amador County Planning Department



John Gonsalves, Chair
Amador County Planning Commission



Chuck Beatty, Planning Director
Amador County Planning Department

