

STAFF REPORT TO: AMADOR COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION
FOR MEETING OF: DECEMBER 12, 2023

ITEM 1: Discussion and possible action concerning a request from George Reed, Inc. / Jackson Valley Quarry for and Amended Use Permit (UP-06;9-2) to extend the hours of operation for operational and reclamation activities (excavation, crushing/processing, truck loading, and hauling) from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday through Friday to 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Property Owner: The Reed Leasing Company
Applicant: George Reed, Inc. (Tom Ferrell, Representative)
Supervisory District: 2
Location: 3421 Jackson Valley Road, Ione, CA 95640 (APN 005-230-018)

A. GENERAL PLAN DESIGNATION: MRZ, Mineral Resource Zone (+/-75 acres) and A-G, Agriculture-General (+/-85 acres)

B. ZONING DISTRICT: X, Special Use District

C. ACREAGE INVOLVED: 160

D. BACKGROUND: The existing Jackson Valley Quarry Use Permit (UP-06; 9-2) was approved in 2013 and involved a geographic expansion of the quarry pit from 74 acres to 160 acres, and an increase in material production up to two million tons per year. The expansion project underwent environmental review including preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR). Based on the EIR for the expansion project, the current Use Permit restricts hours of operation to the following:

- Site preparation activities: 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday (Condition of Approval #44.a)
- Operational / reclamation activities (other than site preparation): 6:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m., Monday through Friday (Condition of Approval #15)
- Maintenance and repair work: no restriction as long as activities do not exceed 45 dBA at the property line (Condition of Approval #15)
- Blasting: 11:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m., Monday through Friday (Condition of Approval #16)

The amendment seeks to extend the hours of operation for operational and reclamation activities (excavation, crushing/processing, truck loading, and hauling) to 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. The Project will not modify the permitted production levels, area of disturbance, truck trip volumes, or hours of operation for site preparation, maintenance activities, or blasting.

An updated noise and vibration assessment was conducted for the proposed Project to evaluate potential impacts to nearby receptors and compliance with current Amador County noise standards during extended hours of operation. Accordingly, proposed noise mitigation measures include mining setbacks, acoustic curtains for rock crushing equipment, vehicle noise controls, and limitations on the number of nighttime truck trips.

A Light Pollution Prevention Plan was prepared to identify the location lighting fixtures that will illuminate operational areas during extended hours of operation. The existing Use Permit addresses requirements for site lighting by stipulating that “artificial illumination of any area within Quarry site shall be of a non-glare nature and shall be shielded to extent feasible to prevent glare from affecting neighboring parcels of land with direct line of site of the Quarry...” (COA #23). Consistent with this requirement, existing and proposed lighting fixtures will concentrate illumination downward such that no direct lighting is cast offsite.

Condition of Approval #15 would be amended as follows with additional text shown in **bold underline** and deleted text shown in **~~bold strikeout~~**:

15. “Hours of operation **for excavation, crushing, processing, truck loading, and hauling**, other than maintenance and repair work, shall be limited to the hours of 6:00 a.m. and ~~6:00 p.m.~~ **10:00 p.m.** Days of operation, other than maintenance and repair work, shall be limited to Monday through Friday. Maintenance and repair work of a low noise level may be made outside the foregoing working hours and days of operations. The noise level for maintenance and repair work conducted outside normal working hours and days shall not exceed 45 dBA at the property line. The above limitations on working hours and days may, in case of emergency, be temporarily waived by the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, or his/her designee, until such time as the matter may be heard by the Board of Supervisors for a final determination. **The extended hours of operation are subject to criteria #1 through #3, below.**
 1. **Mining of the outer areas of the quarry is limited to the hours of 6:00 am – 6:00 pm, Monday through Friday, until mining has progressed to a depth of at least one bench height (~20 ft.) as delineated in the noise report (Bollard; May 2023).**
 2. **Use of excavator-mounted hydraulic rock breakers remains limited to the hours of 6:00 am – 6:00 pm, Monday through Friday.**
 3. **Load out of rip-rap remains limited to the hours of 6:00 am – 6:00 pm, Monday through Friday.”**

Condition of Approval #44 would be amended to add Condition of Approval #44a as follows with additional text shown in **bold underline**:

44a. To reduce potential impacts associated with noise, the following noise mitigation measures are required for excavation, material processing, load-out, and hauling, the operator shall:

1. **Suspend acoustic curtains around the processing plant crushers and screen decks;**
2. **Ensure that all processing area conveyors are properly lubricated at all times;**
3. **Limit excavation activities to 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday through Friday until the excavation equipment has progressed 20 feet below adjoining grade to be shielded by surrounding topography.**
4. **Use of excavator-mounted hydraulic rock breakers will remain limited to the hours of 6:00 am – 6:00 pm, Monday through Friday.**
5. **Load- out of rip-rap will remain limited to the hours of 6:00 am – 6:00 pm, Monday through Friday.**
6. **Replace tonal backup warning devices with broad-band backup warning devices on mobile mining equipment.**
7. **Following implementation of COAs 44a(1) through (3), noise monitoring shall be performed by a qualified consultant funded by the applicant and selected by the County 3 months and 6 months from commencement of nighttime operations and shall occur while processing plant crushers are in operation to confirm effectiveness of the mitigation measures and compliance with the applicable noise standards.**

Condition of Approval #46 would be amended as follows with additional text shown in **bold underline** and deleted text shown in **~~bold-strikeout~~**:

46. The operator/permittee shall adhere to the following:

- a. On-site equipment shall be outfitted at all times with noise attenuation devices. Haul trucks shall not exceed the standards for maximum permitted noise established in Article 2.5 of Chapter 5 of Division 12 of the California Vehicle Code. (former COA 17)
- b. The following noise standards shall not be exceeded at the property lines (former COA 19):

Time Period	Noise Standard
6 AM – 6 PM <u>10:00 PM</u>	65 decibels (A-weighting)

E. TAC Review and Recommendation: Prior versions of the project application that requested extended overnight (24/7) and weekend hours were reviewed by the Technical Advisory Committee in 2021 and 2022. Ultimately, the application was revised to its current form. The current project application was found to be complete by the Technical Advisory Committee on July 6, 2023. On November 2, 2023, TAC reviewed the project

for environmental impacts, prepared draft conditions of approval, and found no technical objection to the Planning Commission adopting a Subsequent Mitigated Negative Declaration for the project subject to the proposed conditions of approval and mitigation measures included in the staff report.

F. Planning Commission Action: Following the public hearing, the first action of the Planning Commission should a decision on the adequacy of the proposed Subsequent Mitigated Negative Declaration. If the Commission finds the environmental analysis to be adequate, the Commission may then move to approve or deny the amended Use Permit.

G. Recommended Findings: If the Planning Commission moves to approve this project, the following findings are recommended for adoption:

1. The Planning Commission's approval of this Use Permit Amendment is sanctioned by Amador County Code Section 19.56.040 and 19.56.065 and said approval is contingent on the permittee's adherence to County Code Chapter 19.56, Use Permits.
2. The proposed uses are consistent with Amador County Code Section 19.24.030, District Regulations, within the X, Special Use District, are consistent with the General Plan Designations of MRZ, Mineral Resource Zone and AG, Agriculture General of the project site.
3. There are no project-specific significant, unmitigated effects which are peculiar to the project or its site.
4. The establishment, maintenance or operation of the use applied for will not, under the circumstances of the particular case, be detrimental to the health, safety, peace, morals, comfort and general welfare of persons residing or working in the neighborhood of such proposed use or be detrimental or injurious to property and improvements in the neighborhood or to the general welfare of the County.
5. On the basis of the administrative record presented, the Planning Commission finds that there is no substantial evidence that the project, as conditioned, will have a significant environmental impact and that the Subsequent Mitigated Negative Declaration included in the Staff Report reflects the Commission's independent judgement and analysis.

PROPOSED AMENDED
USE PERMIT CONDITIONS OF APPROVAL
FOR
JACKSON VALLEY QUARRY EXPANSION

APPLICANT: George Reed, Inc. (Contacts: Ed Berlier / **Tom Ferrell** ~~Jeff Welch~~)

ADDRESS: P.O. Box 4760
Modesto, CA 95352-4760

PHONE: (209) 523-0734 / (209) 521-9771

APN(S): 005-230-007-000 and 005-230-016-000

USE PERMIT NO.: UP-06;9-2 *NOTE:* Upon issuance this Use Permit supersedes and voids UP 89;5-5.

RECLAMATION PLAN NO.: RP-06-1

PROJECT DESCRIPTION & LOCATION: A Use Permit Amendment and Reclamation Plan for a hard rock aggregate quarry in an “X,” Special Use District on approximately 159 acres. The proposal is to expand the existing Jackson Valley Quarry site from its currently permitted 73.63 acre site to include an additional 85.73 acres to the east for the mining of approximately 50 million tons of aggregate material over a 35 year period. The maximum depth of mining is proposed to be approximately 75 feet below mean sea level (MSL) The quarry is located on the south side of Hwy. 88 just east of the most westerly junction of Hwy 88 and Jackson Valley Rd. in the Buena Vista/Ione area. **The project is amended to extend the hours of operation for operational and reclamation activities (excavation, processing, load-out, and hauling) from 6am to 6pm Monday through Friday to 6am to 10pm Monday through Friday.**

PLANNING COMMISSION APPROVAL DATE: June 11, 2013

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS APPROVAL DATE (ON APPEAL): July 30, 2013

PLANNING COMMISSION APPROVAL DATE of AMENDMENT for EXPANDED HOURS OF OPERATION:

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1. *No permits shall be issued, fees paid, or activity commence, as they relate to this project, until such time as the operator/permittee has provided the Planning Department with the Department of Fish and Game Filing Fee for a Notice of Determination or a Certificate of Fee Exemption from Fish and Game. THE PLANNING DEPARTMENT SHALL MONITOR THIS REQUIREMENT.*

 2. The issuance of this Use Permit is expressly conditioned upon the operator’s/permittee's compliance with all the provisions contained herein and if any of the provisions contained herein are violated, this Use Permit may be subject to revocation proceedings as set forth in Amador County Code. THE PLANNING DEPARTMENT SHALL MONITOR THIS CONDITION.

3. This Use Permit shall not become valid, nor shall the use commence until such time as an acceptable Reclamation Plan has been approved, the appropriate financial assurance mechanism has been provided in accordance with the approved cost estimate, all applicable fees pursuant to these conditions have been paid, and the operator / permittee is either found to be in compliance with or has agreed, in writing, to a program of mitigation measure and compliance monitoring acceptable to the County. At that time the permit shall be signed by the Planning Department and the use may commence. THE PLANNING DEPARTMENT SHALL MONITOR THIS REQUIREMENT. (former COA 3 modified)
4. The project shall be substantially the same as approved. Phasing of the project shall be per approved plans and Reclamation Plan (See Section 2.5 of the Reclamation Plan). Any substantial changes will require an amendment to this Use Permit. (former COA 24 modified) THE PLANNING DEPARTMENT SHALL MONITOR THIS REQUIREMENT.
5. The operator/permittee shall obtain and maintain in effect at all times during project construction, operations, and reclamation a certificate of insurance evidencing operator's/permittee's coverage for general liability and property damage with limits not less than \$5,000,000 (five million dollars) per occurrence insuring against incidents arising out of mining operations. If operator/permittee maintains higher limits than the minimums shown above, the County requires and shall be entitled to coverage for the higher limits maintained by the operator/permittee. Certificate(s) shall list County of Amador as an additionally insured on said policy. General Liability and Property coverage shall be provided in the form of an endorsement to the operator/permittee's insurance. (former COA 29 revised) THE PLANNING DEPARTMENT SHALL MONITOR THIS REQUIREMENT BY VERIFYING WITH RISK MANAGEMENT.
6. Operator/permittee shall pay to Amador County an in-lieu fee equal to the amount of sales tax avoided by operator / permittee by utilizing material from its quarry itself or selling it to person or entities with a re-sale license. (former COA 44)

MITIGATION MONITORING

7. An independent registered professional(s) licensed by the State of California, authorized to do the work described, and acceptable to the County, shall be hired by the operator/permittee to monitor, on an ongoing basis, the compliance with conditions of approval, mitigation measures, and Reclamation Plan requirements, and prepare a study and report to the Amador County Planning Department with regard to such compliance. The first report shall be completed and submitted to the County within six months of the commencement of operations within the expansion area. A report shall be completed every three years thereafter. **NOTE: The County shall be notified in writing by the operator/permittee immediately upon the commencement of operations in the expansion area.**

The results of the sub-surface water-testing required by COA 30 shall be included in this monitoring report. (portion of former COA 35)

The independent registered professional(s) also shall conduct an unnoticed 24-hour noise test at the property lines to determine compliance with the noise conditions contained herein (COA 46 a. – d. below). Results of this testing shall be included in this monitoring report (former COA 30 revised).

Failure to file reports in a timely manner shall be cause for the initiation of Use Permit revocation proceedings.

THE PLANNING DEPARTMENT SHALL MONITOR THIS REQUIREMENT.

RECLAMATION PLAN & FINANCIAL ASSURANCE:

8. The operator/permittee shall comply with all requirements of the State Surface Mining and Reclamation Act (SMARA) and Amador County Code Chapter 7.36 Surface Mining and Reclamation. Reclamation of the site shall be in conformance with the approved Reclamation Plan. THE PLANNING DEPARTMENT SHALL MONITOR THIS REQUIREMENT.
9. Annual inspections of the quarry excavation area shall be conducted by the County in accordance with Amador County Code 7.36.170 and Public Resources Code 2774 (b) to determine whether the operation is in conformance with SMARA (Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1975). A copy shall be forwarded to the State Mines and Geology Board in accordance with Section 3504(a) of the California Administrative Code. Said report shall be considered as operator/permittee and County compliance with AB 1380 (1988) and AB 3551 (1991). Reports shall be on forms acceptable to the State Division of Mines and Geology. THE PLANNING DEPARTMENT SHALL MONITOR THIS REQUIREMENT.
10. The operator/permittee shall provide and continually maintain the appropriate financial assurances as required by Section 2770 and 2773.1 of the State Surface Mining and Reclamation Act (SMARA) as specified by the County. (former COA 31 updated) THE PLANNING DEPARTMENT SHALL MONITOR THIS REQUIREMENT.
11. On the fifth anniversary of issuance of the Amended Use Permit, and every five years thereafter until reserves have been depleted and / or the mine reclaimed, the operator shall submit for the review and approval of the Planning Director:
 - a. a narrative and, where feasible, figures, outlining the most viable use(s) of the site based upon the anticipated progression of mining for the next (future) five years;
 - b. a cost estimate to implement that most viable use identified in the narrative in a. above;
 - c. a financial assurance mechanism (such as a surety bond), for the amount indicated by the updated cost estimate, which may equal or exceed, but which may never be less than, the financial assurance cost estimate (FACE) produced in accordance with SMARA Section 2773.1(a) (3); and
 - d. an updated visual screening landscape and vegetation plan for the berm and revegetation required in Conditions # 48 and 68.THE PLANNING DEPARTMENT SHALL MONITOR THIS REQUIREMENT.

PRODUCTION LEVELS:

12. The maximum total production at the Quarry shall not exceed 50,000,000 (fifty million) tons of rock over the 35-year duration. THE PLANNING DEPARTMENT SHALL MONITOR THIS REQUIREMENT.
13. The extraction and hauling of material from the Project site shall be limited to the maximum tonnages during the specified time periods, as follows:
 - From the date of issuance of the amended use permit (Year 1) through the full sixth year from the date of issuance (Year 6): 1.2 million tons per year;
 - From Year 7 (seventh year from the date of issuance) through Year 12 (twelfth year from the date of issuance): 1.6 million tons per year;

- From Year 13 (thirteenth year from the date of issuance) through the term of the use permit: 2.0 million tons per year.

THE PLANNING DEPARTMENT SHALL MONITOR THIS REQUIREMENT. (former COA 3 modified)

OTHER PERMITS:

14. The operator / permittee shall continuously maintain necessary permits, plans and measures to comply with the regulations of all applicable State (former COA 21 modified), Federal, and County regulatory agencies as required, including, but not limited to:
- a. Amador County Building Department: Building Permits, as necessary, for any additional structures at the Quarry site. (former COA 6 modified)
 - b. Amador County Environmental Health Department (ACEHD)
 - c. Amador County Air District (AAD): Authority to Construct, Permit to Operate (former COA 13 modified)
 - d. Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (CVRWQCB): Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP), Water Quality Management Plan (WQMP), Waste Discharge Requirement (WDR) (former COA 5)

THE PLANNING DEPARTMENT SHALL MONITOR THIS REQUIREMENT IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE ABOVE MENTIONED DEPARTMENTS/AGENCIES.

HOURS OF OPERATION:

15. Hours of operation **for excavation, material processing, load-out, and hauling** other than maintenance and repair work, shall be limited to the hours of 6:00 a.m. and ~~6:00 p.m.~~ **10 p.m.** Days of operation, other than maintenance and repair work, shall be limited to Monday through Friday. Maintenance and repair work of a low noise level may be made outside the foregoing working hours and days of operations. The noise level for maintenance and repair work conducted outside normal working hours and days shall not exceed 45 dBA at the property line. The above limitations on working hours and days may, in case of emergency, be temporarily waived by the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, or his/her designee, until such time as the matter may be heard by the Board of Supervisors for a final determination. **The extended hours of operation are subject to criteria #1 through #3, below.**

- 1. Mining of the outer areas of the quarry is limited to the hours of 6:00 am – 6:00 pm, Monday through Friday, until mining has progressed to a depth of at least one bench height (~20 ft.) as delineated in the noise report (Bollard; May 2023).**
- 2. Use of excavator-mounted hydraulic rock breakers remains limited to the hours of 6:00 am – 6:00 pm, Monday through Friday.**
- 3. Load out of rip-rap remains limited to the hours of 6:00 am – 6:00 pm, Monday through Friday.”**

THE PLANNING DEPARTMENT SHALL MONITOR THIS REQUIREMENT.

BLASTING:

16. Blasting shall be limited to a maximum of eighty (80) blasts per year, Monday through Friday, between the hours of 11:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m., unless conditions or circumstances require delay of the blast after 2:30 p.m. Blasting materials shall be kept in magazines approved by the Technical Advisory Committee or will be transported to the Quarry for each day of blasting, as needed, by a licensed and permitted explosives delivery contractor and transferred directly into the drill holes. (former COA 18 [portion of] and 26 reworded) THE PLANNING DEPARTMENT SHALL MONITOR THIS REQUIREMENT.
17. The operator/permittee shall provide a minimum 24-hour notice via email and phone call, to all neighbors within a one-mile radius of the quarry's property lines unless said resident(s) opt-out of the notification process, of the expected 3-hour blast window on the blasting day (i.e., 11:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.). If a blast must be delayed, the operator/permittee shall provide notice of the blast delay to those neighbors within a one-mile radius by email and phone call during the normal blast window, and provide the most likely window of time the delayed blast will occur. THE PLANNING DEPARTMENT SHALL MONITOR THIS REQUIREMENT. (portion of former COA 18 modified)
18. All feasible measures to reduce noise and vibration effects of blasting shall be utilized, including, but not limited to the following: electronic detonator instead of Primacord; milli-second delays; appropriate stemming of charges; avoidance of blasting during adverse weather conditions; management of charge size consistent with particular stage of quarry development. (former COA 18) THE PLANNING DEPARTMENT SHALL MONITOR THIS REQUIREMENT.
19. Three additional seismographs in addition to the one currently in place on the south side of the highway across from 3871 SR 88 (Givich property), shall be installed to monitor blasting vibrations as the quarry expands eastward. One seismograph shall be installed approximately at the eastern edge of the estimated five year expansion area, or as otherwise advised by the blasting technician. This seismograph will continue to be moved eastward as expansion progresses and located as advised by the blasting technician. One seismograph shall be located at 4100 Jackson Valley Rd. (Lambert property) and one seismograph at 4121 Jackson Valley Rd. (May property) in locations determined by the blasting technician to provide the most accurate reading of blast vibrations. These seismographs shall be installed prior to the first blast in the expansion area or within 30 days of issuance of the amended use permit, whichever occurs first.

Seismograph readings from the seismographs shall be included in the six month report (per Condition 7), and shall be made available to the landowners at that time. Included in the report shall be material stating the maximum blast vibration allowable per the industry regulations and a brief explanation of the seismograph readings in relation to those industry standards. Readings shall continue in perpetuity, unless the property owners send written notification to the County indicating they no longer desire to participate. These readings shall be maintained with each blast record, and shall be made available to the property owners every six months.

After the first 3 year monitoring report (per Condition 7), the operator/permittee shall include in subsequent 3 year monitoring reports only the seismograph readings from those blasts with a powder factor greater than 1.4 lbs/yd³, along with notification of any changes in regulation regarding blast vibrations in regard to structures, etc. THE PLANNING DEPARTMENT SHALL MONITOR THIS REQUIREMENT.

20. To mitigate any potential impact of blasting on the Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) natural gas line located along SR 88, the maximum allowable peak particle velocity (PPV) resulting from blasting is 4 inches/second as measured by the seismograph closest to the gas line. Operator/permittee shall notify PG&E and the Planning Department whenever blasting will occur within 500 feet of the gas line so PG&E can review the situation. Any requirements and/or recommendations resulting from PG&E's review shall be provided to the County by PG&E. The operator/permittee shall adhere to all requirements/recommendations resulting from PG&E's review. THE PLANNING DEPARTMENT SHALL MONITOR THIS REQUIREMENT IN CONSULTATION WITH PG&E.

SAFETY AND SECURITY:

21. Fencing shall be installed along the perimeter of the Quarry to prevent public access and appropriate "no trespassing" signage shall be posted around the perimeter of the Quarry boundary. (former COA 7) THE PLANNING DEPARTMENT SHALL MONITOR THIS REQUIREMENT.
22. Prior to issuance of the Amended Use Permit operator/permittee shall mail to each land owner within a one-mile radius of the exterior boundary of the project site as listed on the County's most current tax roll, a list of quarry contacts and phone numbers for the following issues:
- a. Quarry operations site contact (local phone number and email address) for regular daytime operations (Monday – Friday, 6:00 AM – 6:00 PM) regarding such things as dust, noise, traffic (i.e., quarry truck traffic going eastbound on Jackson Valley Rd.), etc.
 - b. Quarry operations contact (mobile phone number and email) for evening and weekend hours for trespassing, suspicious activity, working outside of approved business hours, Saturday maintenance activity exceeding allowed noise limits, etc.
 - c. Administrative contacts (email addresses and phone numbers) during regular business hours (Monday – Friday, 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM) concerning fulfillment of mitigation measures, conditions of approval, etc. or if there is not an adequate response from other contacts.

The contact list shall be updated every 3 (three) years (to coincide with the monitoring report required pursuant to Condition 7, above) and any time there are changes in personnel and/or contact information listed on contact list and re-sent to all land owners within the one-mile radius.

LIGHTING:

23. Artificial illumination of any area within the Quarry site shall be of a non-glare nature and shall be shielded to the extent feasible to prevent glare from affecting neighboring parcels of land with a direct line of sight of the Quarry. (former COA 8) THE PLANNING DEPARTMENT SHALL MONITOR THIS REQUIREMENT.

OPERATIONAL CONDITIONS

24. Operator/permittee shall make all reasonable efforts to hire local residents. (former COA 41)

Water Quality / Storm Water Runoff / Erosion Control

25. All requirements of the California Regional Water Quality Control Board ("Regional Board" hereinafter), including but not limited to a comprehensive erosion and drainage control plan and submittal of a report of waste discharge, shall be adhered to at all times. All water used in any part of operator's/permittee's quarrying or processing of quarried materials, wastewater, and

precipitation runoff polluted by contact with any materials used in quarrying, processing of quarried material, storage of any waste, ore, or other materials, and the hauling associated with the project shall be contained to the satisfaction of the Regional Board. (former COA 5)

26. In addition to the requirements set forth by the Regional Board, to the extent the provisions of this condition are not inconsistent therewith, the operator/permittee shall install and/or maintain a drainage containment system so that the storm water runoff from the site and from quarry operations shall be directed into a settling basin so that sediment contained in such water may be removed by ponding, recycling, infiltration, or evaporation to prevent said contamination or pollution from leaving operator's/permittee's property or entering the groundwater. Settling basins shall be sized so an adequate volume of runoff can be retained without causing the ponds to overflow (i.e., for a 100-year storm). (former COAs 9 and 36)
27. Operator / permittee shall ensure that areas of the site which are not surfaced with crushed rock or more substantial paving, except for the active quarry area and stockpile areas, are revegetated annually, if necessary, to reduce erosion potential. Native species appropriate to the topography, soil characteristics and climate of the property shall be utilized in conjunction with natural recruitment to ensure a good survival rate of materials used in revegetating. (former COA 1, slightly revised)
28. All revegetation required pursuant to these conditions shall be accomplished by operator/permittee prior to October 15 of each year. (former COA 33 updated)
29. The operator/permittee shall provide a positive storm water disposal system per Section 17.90.120 of the Amador County Code, including rights-of-way, channels, swales and appurtenant structures as needed to provide adequate drainage facilities to Jackson Creek. (former COA 32)
30. The operator/permittee shall file, and have approved, an industrial stormwater permit with the Regional Water Quality Control Board. The operator/permittee shall pay the cost of annual sub-surface water-testing (i.e. three water wells in the immediate area), conducted in accordance with the memorandum of April 7, 1983 (Weatherby Associates). (portion of former COA 35)

THE AMADOR COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT SHALL MONITOR THESE REQUIREMENTS (# 25 - 30).

Dust Suppression

31. Wet suppression shall be used to reduce, to the extent feasible, air pollution resulting from the crushing / screening operation and quarrying activity. The installation of the apparatus to be used for said dust control, and the operation thereof, shall meet the requirements of the ACAPCD and all other applicable federal, state and local requirements. (former COA 15)
32. Storage piles of quarry rock, sand, gravel and/ or banked overburden shall be stabilized with water spray, crusting agents, revegetation, or other method as approved by the APCD. Dust from haul truck movements and interior roads shall be controlled to the extent feasible through surface wetting, surface stabilization by chemical means, sealants, or paving, together with regular maintenance and cleaning, or as may be required by the conditions hereof and otherwise approved by APCD. (former COA 16)

THE AMADOR COUNTY AIR DISTRICT SHALL MONITOR THESE REQUIREMENTS (#'s 31 and 32).

TRAFFIC AND CIRCULATION

- 33. Widen the westbound State Route 12 approach at State Route 88:** The operator / permittee shall place into an escrow account, for each of the first six years following issuance of the Amended Use Permit 15%, and for the seventh year following issuance of the Amended Use Permit 10%, of the operator's/permittee's required Fair Share contribution (calculated to be 2.7% of the total needed improvements) for the benefit of San Joaquin County/COG (or other agency as determined) toward the required improvement. At the time that such funds are required for construction of the improvement, the funds will be tendered from the escrow account to the San Joaquin County/COG (or other agency as determined). If the improvement will be constructed before seven years has expired from the issuance of the Amended Use Permit, the operator/permittee shall tender its full Fair Share (2.7%) contribution to San Joaquin County/COG (or other agency as determined) toward the required improvement within 60 days of written notice that such funds are actually required for construction. As an alternative to payment of the Fair Share (2.7%) contribution, the operator/permittee may upon San Joaquin County/COG concurrence, construct a portion of the improvement with equal value to the Fair Share (2.7%) contribution. **(Mitigation Measure 3.2.3a)**
- 34. a. Install traffic signals and improvements at State Route 88 and Jackson Valley Road (West):** Operator/Permittee shall annually provide the County Department of Transportation and Public Works with the traffic volumes for this section of SR 88. Upon traffic volumes on SR 88 reaching 80% of AM peak hour cumulative volume (80% of 1,142 trips) or of mid-day peak hour cumulative volume (80% of 1,310 trips), County shall, at the expense of the operator/permittee, cause delay monitoring for Level of Service (LOS) on Jackson Valley Rd. (South leg) and SR 88 to be conducted. If conditions are worse than LOS C for the northbound Jackson Valley Road approach at this intersection, the operator/permittee shall meter truck traffic outbound from the quarry to the level such that LOS C is not exceeded. If operator/permittee cannot meter truck traffic to attain LOS C or better, operator/permittee shall fully fund the installation of a traffic signal of which 59% shall be their fair share. Operator/Permittee may enter into an agreement with Amador County for possible reimbursement of construction cost in excess of the project's proportionate share (RTP Policy 1B-15). **(Mitigation Measure 3.2.3b);** and
- b. Install traffic signals at State Route 88 and Buena Vista Road:** Payment of Regional and Local traffic impact fees is the mitigation for this impact (MM 3.2.3c). The operator/permittee shall make payments to Amador County for funding of the calculated traffic impact fees over five years following the issuance of the Amended Use Permit. The first payment of 20% of the total traffic impact fees is due prior to approval of the Amended Use Permit. The remaining 80% of the traffic impact fees shall be paid, 20% per year over the next four years with the payments being made to Amador County Public Works on the anniversary date of the issuance of the Amended Conditional Use Permit. **(Mitigation Measure 3.2.3c)**

Traffic Mitigation Fees in accordance with County Ordinance No. 7.84 and applicable to the "Industrial/Mining" uses are calculated as Project generated trip ends (273) multiplied by the unit cost per trip end for both the Regional and Local traffic impact fees. The current fee schedule is \$456/trip end for Regional Fees and \$375/trip end for Local fees.

$$TIMF = (Fee) \times [(273 \text{ Trips}) / (1.5 \text{ Trips per Fee})]$$

35. **Install traffic signal at the intersection of State Route 88 and State Route 104:** Prior to issuance of the Amended Use Permit, the operator/permittee shall pay to the Amador County Department of Transportation and Public Works a Fair Share Contribution of 0.9% of the signalization costs of improvement to the State Route 88/Jackson Valley Road (East) Intersection. **(Mitigation Measure 3.2.3d)**
36. **Construct an eastbound right-turn lane at the intersection of State Route 88 and Jackson Valley Road (West), in accordance with Caltrans standards.** The operator/permittee shall begin the permitting and construction design/bid process for the required improvement upon issuance of the Amended Use Permit. Construction is to be initiated within one year of issuance of the Amended Use Permit (unless delayed by conditions beyond the control of the operator / permittee). The operator/permittee shall work diligently through the design, approval and construction process with Caltrans while keeping Amador County apprised of the progress with monthly progress reports. **(Mitigation Measure 3.2.5)**
37. **Reconstruct Jackson Valley Road (West) from the quarry access northwest to State Route 88, in accordance with Amador County standards.** The operator/permittee shall submit, within 12 months of the issuance of the Amended Use Permit, improvement plans for the reconstruction of Jackson Valley Road to a minimum Caltrans standard traffic index (TI) of 11.0. Operator/permittee shall diligently pursue plan approval from Amador County and Caltrans. Construction of improvements shall begin when production exceeds 500,000 tons in one year or 4 years from the issuance of the Amended Conditional Use Permit, whichever occurs first. Construction is to be completed within one year. **(Mitigation Measure 3.2.6a)**
38. Prior to issuance of the Amended Use Permit, the operator/permittee shall enter into a new long-term road maintenance agreement with Amador County to maintain Jackson Valley Road (West) between the Quarry access and SR 88. **(Mitigation Measure 3.2.6b)**
39. The only approved access to the site is from Jackson Valley Road at the existing driveway encroachment. (former COA 23)

THE AMADOR COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT SHALL MONITOR THESE REQUIREMENTS (#'s 33 - 39).

40. Any speed limits, traffic control regulations, and load limits as established from time to time by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Amador, and all applicable provision of the California Vehicle Code and the California Streets and Highway Code, shall be obeyed at all times by persons operating haul trucks to and from the Quarry site. The operator/permittee shall carry public liability insurance covering its Quarry operations as set forth herein (COA 5, above). If necessary, a special truck speed limit shall be mandated along Jackson Valley Road between the Quarry and State Highway 88. (former COA 2)
41. All parking and vehicle staging shall be contained on-site. There shall be no Project truck parking along Jackson Valley Road.
42. Project truck traffic shall be routed westerly along Jackson Valley Road from the Quarry access to State Highway 88 since Jackson Valley Road east of the site is posted with a legal load limit. (former COA 28)

43. Each load carried by a transport truck shall be weighed prior to travel on a public thoroughfare to ensure that all loads conform to applicable State requirements. (former COA 37 modified)

THE AMADOR COUNTY SHERIFF AND/OR CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL SHALL MONITOR THESE REQUIREMENTS (#'s 40 - 43).

NOISE

44. The operator/permittee shall ensure project activities adhere to/comply with the following operational conditions: (**Mitigation Measures 3.4.1.a , 3.4.1b, 3.4.1c**)
- a. Site preparation activities shall be limited to the daytime hours of 8AM – 5PM, Monday through Friday.
 - b. All equipment, fixed or mobile shall be outfitted with properly operating and maintained exhaust and intake mufflers, consistent with manufacturers' standards.
 - c. Impact tools (e.g. jackhammers, pavement breakers, rock drills), shall be hydraulically or electrically powered wherever possible to avoid noise associated with compressed air exhaust from pneumatically powered tools. Where use of pneumatic tools is unavoidable, an exhaust muffler on the compressed air exhaust shall be used. External jackets on the tools themselves shall be used where feasible. Quieter tools, such as the use of drills, rather than impact tools, shall be used whenever feasible.
 - d. Stationary noise sources shall be located as far from adjacent receptors as possible, and they shall be muffled and enclosed within temporary sheds, shall incorporate insulation barriers, or other measures to the extent feasible.
 - e. Prior to issuance of the Amended Use Permit signs shall be posted at the Quarry site entrance and in the area of the quarry expansion for the purpose of informing all quarry workers, contractors, subcontractors, their employees and agents, materials haulers of the basic requirements of Conditions 44 a. through d. above.
 - f. Prior to issuance of the Amended Use Permit signs shall be posted at the Quarry site that include permitted days and hours for site preparation and for Quarry operations, a day and evening contact number for the Quarry site, and a contact number in the event of problems.
 - g. An onsite complaint and enforcement manager shall respond to and track complaints and questions related to noise.

44a. To reduce potential impacts associated with noise, the following noise mitigation measures are required for excavation, material processing, load-out, and hauling, the operator shall:

1. **Suspend acoustic curtains around the processing plant crushers and screen decks;**
2. **Ensure that all processing area conveyors are properly lubricated at all times;**
3. **Limit excavation activities to 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday through Friday until the excavation equipment has progressed 20 feet below adjoining grade to be shielded by surrounding topography.**

4. Use of excavator-mounted hydraulic rock breakers will remain limited to the hours of 6:00 am – 6:00 pm, Monday through Friday.
5. Load- out of rip-rap will remain limited to the hours of 6:00 am – 6:00 pm, Monday through Friday.
6. Replace tonal backup warning devices with broad-band backup warning devices on mobile mining equipment.
7. Following implementation of COAs 44a(1) through (3), noise monitoring shall be performed by a qualified consultant funded by the applicant and selected by the County 3 months and 6 months from commencement of nighttime operations and shall occur while processing plant crushers are in operation to confirm effectiveness of the mitigation measures and compliance with the applicable noise standards.

45. The operator/permittee shall construct along that portion of the northern property line of the Quarry site an approximately seven (7) foot high earthen noise and visual attenuation berm necessary to block the line of site from the nearest residence to the north to the noise sources and to the traveling public. This berm may be developed from overburden or aggregate material and shall be landscaped for erosion control. The location of this berm shall be approximately as shown on Sheets 2 and 3 of the Reclamation Plan. This berm shall remain in perpetuity, unless otherwise advised by the County upon reclamation. **(Mitigation Measure 3.4.2 and project description)**

46. The operator/permittee shall adhere to the following:

a. On-site equipment shall be outfitted at all times with noise attenuation devices. Haul trucks shall not exceed the standards for maximum permitted noise established in Article 2.5 of Chapter 5 of Division 12 of the California Vehicle Code. (former COA 17)

b. The following noise standards shall not be exceeded at the property lines (former COA 19):

<u>Time Period</u>	<u>Noise Standard</u>
6 AM – 6 PM <u>10:00 PM</u>	65 decibels (A-weighting)

c. The above standards shall not be exceeded except by the following A-weighting allowed decibels for the duration of time set forth below:

<u>Cumulative Duration of the Intrusive Sound (cumulative period of minutes / hour)</u>	<u>Allowance Decibels (A-weighting)</u>
a. 30 minutes / hour	0
b. 15 minutes / hour	+5
c. 5 minutes / hour	+10
d. 1 minute / hour	+15
e. Level not to be exceed at any time	+20 (<i>i.e.</i> 85 decibels)

Said noise level requirements shall be cumulative and apply to all equipment on the project site (except blasting), including, but not limited to, the crushing/screening equipment, trucks and other equipment that may be owned by the operator/permittee or any other person. The use of loud sound signals shall be avoided in favor of visual (flashing light) warnings except for those loud signals required by safety laws for the protection of personnel.

- d. Upon the request of Amador County, the operator/permittee shall provide for the measurement of decibels at the Quarry property lines. (former COA 20)
 - e. If these off-site noise standards cannot be maintained, operator/permittee shall employ muffling, noise attenuation berms, noise deflection walls, or enclose equipment within (temporary) structures. (former COA 39)
47. The operator/permittee shall not allow the use of jake brakes on Jackson Valley Road by trucks entering or exiting the Quarry site. Operator/permittee shall ensure that signs remain on the Quarry site and on Jackson Valley Road, at a location conspicuous to truck traffic, stating that “the use of jake brakes is prohibited on Jackson Valley Road”. (former COA 42)
48. The operator/permittee shall install low berms (minimum five feet in height) and trees in low topographic areas (designated on Figure 7, attached) along the Project’s eastern property line to aid in screening eastward-blowing dust and aid in the deflection of potential noise from the eastward expansion of the Quarry operations to 4121 Jackson Valley Road (May property). Berms shall be constructed when overburden material becomes available with the first eastward expansion of the Quarry. Priority for berm construction shall be as indicated on Figure 7, with the intent to deflect dust and noise from the initial expansion and continue in successive expansions. The first berm shall be constructed within three months of commencing overburden removal within the expansion area. The two additional berms shall be constructed with each successive annual expansion of the Quarry eastward. All berms shall be constructed no later than 3 years from the commencement of operations within the expansion area.

Trees shall be planted on the berms within three months of completion of each of the berms and shall be a maximum 24-inch box size, of a mix of at least two evergreen specie native to the area, such as: Coulter pine (*Pinus coulteri*), Jeffrey pine (*Pinus jeffreyi*), Incense cedar (*Calacedrus decurrens*), and Interior live oak (*Quercus wislizenii*).

The operator/permittee shall maintain the trees until established (a maximum of 7 years from each initial planting) and shall replace any which die within that 7-year period.

THE PLANNING DEPARTMENT SHALL MONITOR THESE REQUIREMENTS (#’s 44 - 48).

49. Quarry and rock processing employees shall not be exposed to noise levels higher than those established by California OSHA and the Federal Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA). (former COA 38) THE AMADOR COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT SHALL MONITOR THIS REQUIREMENT.

BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

50. In the spring just prior to initiation of surface disturbing activities for each new area of the quarry expansion, a qualified biologist shall conduct preconstruction surveys for Hoover’s calycadenia (*Calycadenia hooverii*) and any other state or federal special status plant species. If no sensitive species are found, then no further action is needed. If special-status plant species are found, the operator/permittee shall consult with the appropriate agencies (United States Fish and Wildlife Service [USFWS] if a federally-listed species; California Department of Fish and Wildlife [CDFW] if a State-listed species) to provide minimization and avoidance measures commensurate with the standards provided in application protocols for the affected species.

Where project disturbance will impact special status plant species habitat and avoidance is impractical, offsite habitat shall be preserved at a 1:1 ratio unless a different ratio is authorized by USFWS and/or CDFW protocol and/or site specific circumstances justify a different ratio. The preservation and avoidance measures shall include, at a minimum, appropriate buffer areas clearly marked during mining activities, monitoring by a qualified botanist, and the development and implementation of a replanting plan (collection of seeds, revegetation, and management and monitoring of the habitat to ensure success) for any individuals of the species that cannot be avoided. **(Mitigation Measures 3.6.1.a)**

51. If feasible, conduct all tree and shrub removal and ground-disturbing activities for any phase of the Quarry operation during the tree-nesting raptor and other listed/protected nesting bird non-breeding season, generally October through February.

Prior to initiation of surface disturbing activities for each new area of the quarry, if activities are expected to occur during the breeding season of tree-nesting raptors and other listed/protected (i.e., Migratory Bird Treaty Act) nesting birds (generally from March through September), pre-construction surveys for tree-nesting raptors and other listed/protected nesting birds shall be conducted. The surveys shall be conducted by a qualified biologist in suitable nesting habitat within 1000 feet of the disturbance area for tree nesting raptors and other listed/protected nesting birds prior to project activities that will occur between March 15 and September 15 of any given year.

If active nests are recorded, the operator/permittee shall consult with the appropriate Federal (USFWS) or State (CADFW) agency to determine and implement appropriate avoidance and mitigation measures. Said measures may include, but are not limited to, buffers (typically 500 feet) and monitoring. **(Mitigation Measures 3.6.1.b)**

52. Where avoidance is not feasible or practicable, the project proponent shall provide at a ratio of no less than 1:1 blue oak tree replacement onsite or off-site.

On site mitigation may not represent more than one-half of the required mitigation {PRC 21083.4 (b) (2) (C)}. All trees and shrubs planted shall be purchased from a locally adapted genetic stock obtained within 50 miles and 1,000 feet in elevation of the project site. To help ensure habitat establishment and success, planting densities shall not exceed 450 trees for each acre planted. The maintenance and monitoring plan shall include cages for each seedling, identify a weed control schedule, and outline a watering regimen for the plantings.

Mitigation shall commence within one year of the loss of trees due to project operations. Mitigation is required only as areas are affected by immediate clearing or mine operations, not for those areas affected by anticipated activity over the entirety of the 25-year mining operation. The requirement to maintain trees planted for mitigation purposes terminates seven years after the trees are planted. {PRC 21083.4 (b) (2) (B)}

AND

As an alternative to on- or direct offsite mitigation, the project proponent may contribute funds to the Oak Woodlands Conservation Fund, as established under subdivision Fish and Game Code §1363(a), for the purpose of purchasing oak woodlands conservation easements, as specified under paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of that section and the guidelines and criteria of the Wildlife Conservation Board. **(Mitigation Measure 3.6.2)**

53. To ensure that there is no net loss of wetland and associated riparian habitat and no significant impact to potential jurisdictional features, the project proponent shall compensate for impacted wetlands and associated riparian habitat at a ratio no less than 1:1. Compensation shall take the form of wetland preservation or creation in accordance with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) and CDFG mitigation requirements, as required under project permits. Preservation and creation may occur on-site (through a conservation agreement) or off-site (through purchasing credits at a Corps approved mitigation bank), or as otherwise permitted or required by governing agencies. **(Mitigation Measure 3.6.3)**

THE PLANNING DEPARTMENT SHALL MONITOR THESE REQUIREMENTS (#s 50 - 53).

GEOLOGY, SOILS AND SEISMICITY

54. On an annual basis, and following any major seismic events, a California registered geotechnical engineer shall inspect the quarry slopes to assess bedrock fracture and joint conditions. The inspection shall require continued mapping and movement monitoring of mining slopes (if any) to assess slope stability. If a slope condition presents a risk to mine safety or the potential for erosion/siltation, remediation measures shall be implemented upon recommendation by the geotechnical engineer. Engineering recommendations for slope repair or stabilization shall be incorporated into the quarry operations.

If it is proven that annual inspections are not necessary through accumulated data from the Geotechnical Engineer's reporting (including data that indicates no substantive changes in slope stability are occurring such as a continued "factor of safety" rating of 1.0, or greater, is maintained), the frequency of inspections may be reduced with the Geotechnical Engineer's recommendation and County concurrence. **(Mitigation Measure 3.7.2)** THE PLANNING DEPARTMENT SHALL MONITOR THIS REQUIREMENT.

PUBLIC SERVICES, UTILITIES AND RECREATION

55. The operator/permittee shall ensure, through the enforcement of contractual obligations, the following operational procedures:
- a. Construction areas, staging areas, welding areas or areas slated for other development using spark-producing equipment shall be cleared of dried vegetation or other materials that could serve as fire fuel. These areas shall be kept clear of combustible materials in order to maintain a fire break.
 - b. Any construction or mining equipment, including, but not limited to, vehicles and heavy equipment that normally includes a spark arrestor shall be equipped with an arrestor in good working order. **(Mitigation measure 3.8.1a)**
56. The operator/permittee shall consult with the Jackson Valley Fire Protection District (JVFPD) to:
- a. Create fire-safe landscaping (if any is proposed) near structures prior to its installation; and
 - b. Develop an emergency response and evacuation plan for the Quarry prior to commencing land clearing activities within the expansion area. **(Mitigation Measure 3.8.1b)** THE PLANNING DEPARTMENT IN COORDINATION WITH THE JACKSON VALLEY

FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT WILL MONITOR THESE REQUIREMENTS (#'s 55 and 56).

57. The operator/permittee shall comply with all health regulations contained in Title 14 (Water and Sewage) of the Amador County Code and all relevant state law. Use of chemical toilets (portable sanitary facilities) is permitted as long as proof of a contract with an acceptable pumping service is on file with the Amador County Environmental Health Department. (former COA 10 modified) THE AMADOR COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT SHALL MONITOR THIS REQUIREMENT.
58. The operator/permittee shall provide potable water for use by employees at the project site in accordance with previous approvals by the Amador County Environmental Health Department. Any desired changes to the provision of potable water shall be approved by the Amador County Environmental Health Department prior to such change and shall be otherwise subject to all health regulations contained in Title 14 Water and Sewage) of the Amador County Code and applicable state laws. (revision to former COA 11) THE AMADOR COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT SHALL MONITOR THIS REQUIREMENT.
59. Nonpotable water for processing shall to be obtained from the Jackson Valley Irrigation District. Any water line extension(s) to the quarry site shall be made available to adjacent landowners, if they so desire, through a method acceptable to all concerned parties. If any other source of water is to be utilized, the source must receive review and approval of the Amador County Planning Commission or the Board of Supervisors. (minor revision to former COA 12) THE AMADOR COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC WORKS SHALL MONITOR THIS REQUIREMENT.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

60. 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 Amador County Technical Advisory Committee. 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. (**Mitigation Measure 3.9.2**)
61. In the event of discovery or recognition of any human remains anywhere within the Quarry area, the operator / permittee shall comply with the following protocol:
 - 1) 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 contacted, per Section 7050.5 of the California Health and Safety Code, who shall
 - a. Determine if an investigation of cause of death is required;
 - b. Determine if the remains are most likely that of Native American origin, and if so suspected:

- i. The operator/permittee shall comply with state laws relating to the disposition of Native American burials under the jurisdiction of the Native American Heritage Commission (PRC Section 5097).
 - ii. 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 provide in Public Resources Code (PRC) Section 5097.98
- c. If the NAHC is unable to identify a descendant, or the descendant fails to make a recommendation within 24 hours after being contacted by the NAHC operations may continue. **(Mitigation Measure 3.9.3)**

THE PLANNING DEPARTMENT SHALL MONITOR THESE REQUIREMENTS (#'s 60 and 61).

HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

62. If contaminated soil and/or groundwater or suspected contaminated soil and/or groundwater are encountered during any ground-disturbing activities, such activities shall be halted in the area and the type and extent of the contamination shall be identified.

A qualified professional, in consultation with the overseeing regulatory agency (Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board [RWQCB], Department of Toxic Substances [DTSC], and/or Amador County Environmental Health Department [ACEHD]) shall develop a remediation plan and determine the appropriate handling and disposal method of any contaminated soil and/or groundwater. If required, a remediation plan shall be implemented. **(Mitigation Measure 3.10.1)**

63. All hazardous materials shall be transported, stored and handled in a manner consistent with relevant regulations and guidelines, including those recommended and enforced by the Caltrans, the Central Valley RWQCB, the Amador Fire Protection District, the Jackson Valley Fire Protection District, and the Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA).

The operator/permittee immediately shall control the source of any leak or spill and contain such spill or leak utilizing the appropriate containment and countermeasures as outlined in the site's SPCCP. If required by the overseeing regulatory agency, contaminated media shall be collected and disposed of at an offsite facility approved to handle such media. The operator/permittee shall adhere to all precautions required by the CVRWQCB-issued NPDES construction activity storm water permits to ensure that no hazardous materials enter nearby waterways. **(Mitigation Measure 3.10.2)**

64. The operator/permittee shall install an oil sponge or similar type of grease trap at any discharge point within the quarry site, or provide containment at storage areas in accordance the overseeing regulatory agency and the site's WDRs and SWPPP. (former COA 34 modified to reflect current regulations)
65. Operator/permittee shall comply with all applicable Air District regulations related to the handling and storage of petroleum products. (revised to cover former COA 14) THE AMADOR AIR DISTRICT SHALL MONITOR THIS REQUIREMENT.

66. An independent registered professional shall conduct testing for naturally-occurring asbestos (NOA) on the Quarry rock within the expansion area within three months of commencement of operations in the expansion area. These tests shall be in conformance with current State protocols as determined and directed by the Amador Air District. Results of this initial testing shall be included in the six-month report (per Condition 7). Additional testing for NOA shall be conducted no less frequently than once per year. Results of testing shall be included in the 3-year monitoring report (per Condition 7). THE AMADOR AIR DISTRICT SHALL MONITOR THIS REQUIREMENT.
67. Operator/permittee shall maintain substantial compliance with the requirement of the CUPA. (revised to cover former COAs 4 and 14)

THE AMADOR COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT SHALL MONITOR THESE REQUIREMENTS (# 62 – 64 and 67).

AESTHETICS

68. In addition to the noise and visual attenuation berm required in COA 48, above, the operator/permittee shall plant and maintain the trees along the property lines to screen the quarry operation from Highway 88 and Jackson Valley Road. (former COA 43 expanded to include expansion area) To the extent feasible, and in accordance with Condition 52 above (Mitigation Measure 3.6.2), commencing within the first year of surface disturbance of the Expansion area and over the course of mining operations the operator/permittee shall:
- a. Revegetate the site with blue oaks in a manner that will help to screen the mine area from view from Jackson Valley Road and Highway 88. The first area of oak mitigation shall be located nearest the southeastern corner of the site, generally along and between the 250' and 275' contour lines and along Jackson Valley Road where such trees will not be damaged by future surface disturbance (please refer to cross-section C-C' of the Amended Conditional Use Permit application).
 - b. Revegetate the northeastern corner of the site along Highway 88 and along or on top of the noise attenuation berm once that berm has been completed and the trees will not be damaged by surface disturbance in the area due to mining activities (please refer to Sheet 3 of 3 of the Reclamation Plan and cross-section C-C' of the Amended Conditional Use Permit application).
 - c. In accordance with Figure 6, attached, (Visual Simulation of the Quarry as viewed from eastbound SR 88), the operator/permittee shall prior to the first 3 year monitoring report, plant trees along the western property line of the Quarry. Trees shall be a maximum 24-inch box size, of a mix of at least two evergreen species native to the area, such as: Coulter pine (*Pinus coulteri*), Jeffrey pine (*Pinus jeffreyi*), Incense cedar (*Calocedrus decurrens*), and Interior live oak (*Quercus wislizenii*), or other specie as determined appropriate by the Planning Director, the combination of which shall provide a maximum screening effect for the full development of the Quarry.
 - d. Prior to the first 3 year monitoring report, the operator/permittee shall plant along the exterior edge of the ultimate disturbed areas, as shown on Sheet 2 of 3 of the Reclamation Plan and which may be viewed from Jackson Valley Road, additional native species of perennial flowers and shrubs among the groupings of rock which will remain undisturbed as an aid in early revegetation and to continue the more natural, undisturbed look of the area.

69. The operator/permittee shall plant trees at 4100 Jackson Valley Road (Lambert property) on the east side of the front paddock (west side of the driveway) in a line running roughly north-south to Jackson Valley Road (as indicated in Figure 8, attached). In addition, 2-3 trees shall be planted along the north side of the paddock in an approximately east-west line, or as otherwise directed by the landowners (as indicated on attached layout diagram). The trees shall be a 24-inch box size Coast Redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*) or any other fast-growing evergreen tree species non-toxic to horses, appropriate for the climate, and as approved by the landowners. The trees shall be planted no less than 20 (twenty) feet apart, or at a greater distance if so dictated by the tree species. A maximum of fifteen (15) trees shall be planted.

The operator/permittee shall install an irrigation system for these trees. This shall be accomplished by extending a 2-inch water supply line from the existing line in the landowner's front yard along the west side of the east driveway fence to the last pasture water line at the entrance of the driveway, connecting the new line to the existing 4 parallel pasture lines. The existing 4 parallel pasture irrigation lines shall be capped off on the east side (pasture side) of the east driveway fence. A new 2-inch water line with an appropriate number of sprinkler risers to provide adequate irrigation to the driveway irrigation zone (i.e., the trees and both sides of the driveway) shall be installed and the two new lines would be cross-connected utilizing the 4 existing pasture lines (now capped off) with the result being to separate the driveway irrigation zone from the pasture zone to allow for separate watering schedules (see attached layout diagram for reference). The trees shall be planted and the irrigation system installed within three months of the issuance of the amended use permit. The foregoing proposed irrigation plan may be altered, prior to installation, with the agreement of both parties (i.e., George Reed, Inc. and the homeowners of 4100 Jackson Valley Road) in the event an alternative design is developed which accomplishes the goal of providing a separate irrigation zone for the driveway strip and adequate irrigation for the grass within the strip and the trees to be planted on the west side of the driveway.

70. In accordance with the Reclamation Plan, as revised pursuant to these conditions, the operator/permittee shall distribute topsoil and revegetate the site as quickly as feasible upon cessation of mining and the depletion of the reserve. Revegetation species shall be consistent with the majority pre-mining habitats of California annual grassland and blue oak/foothill pine woodlands as indicated in the Reclamation Plan and noted in the final EIR certified for this Amended Conditional Use Permit. If on-site oak mitigation has not yet been completed, or is needed due to failure of oaks previously planted for mitigation, the operator/permittee may plant additional oaks as part of the allowed maximum on-site mitigation and revegetation. Trees shall be located to provide the greatest visual screening of the quarry from off-site views.
71. Operator/Permittee shall periodically remove revegetation appurtenances (e.g., staking, cages, fencing, irrigation, etc.) upon the successful establishment of the vegetation and, at or prior to, final reclamation to return the site to a visually natural state.

THE PLANNING DEPARTMENT SHALL MONITOR THESE REQUIREMENTS (#'s 68 – 71).

**CEQA INITIAL STUDY AND
SUBSEQUENT MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION**

**AMENDMENT TO USE PERMIT (UP-06; 9-2) TO ALLOW FOR
MODIFIED HOURS OF OPERATION**

**GEORGE REED, INC.
JACKSON VALLEY QUARRY
(CA MINE ID No. 91-03-0020)**

AMADOR COUNTY, CA

August 2023

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.0	INTRODUCTION	1
1.1	Background.....	1
1.2	Environmental Review	1
2.0	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	2
2.1	Project Title and Location	2
2.2	Lead Agency Name and Address.....	2
2.3	Project Sponsor’s Name and Address.....	3
2.4	Assessor Parcels, Ownership, Zoning, and General Plan Designations.....	3
2.5	Description of Project	3
2.6	Surrounding Land Uses and Setting.....	4
2.7	Public Agencies Whose Approval is Required	4
3.0	CEQA EVALUATION	5
3.1	Environmental Factors Potentially Affected	5
3.2	Evaluation of Environmental Impacts	5
I.	AESTHETICS.....	6
II.	AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY RESOURCES.....	8
III.	AIR QUALITY.....	10
IV.	BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES.	11
V.	CULTURAL RESOURCES.	14
VI.	ENERGY.	16
VII.	GEOLOGY AND SOILS.	17
VIII.	GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS.	19
IX.	HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS.....	20
X.	HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY.....	22
XI.	LAND USE AND PLANNING.....	24
XII.	MINERAL RESOURCES.	25
XIII.	NOISE.	26
XIV.	POPULATION AND HOUSING.	31
XV.	PUBLIC SERVICES.....	32
XVI.	RECREATION.....	34
XVII.	TRANSPORTATION	35
XVIII.	TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES.	37
XIX.	UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS.	39
XX.	WILDFIRE.....	40
XXI.	MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE.....	42

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

George Reed, Inc. (“GRI”) owns and operates a fully-permitted aggregate mining site known as the Jackson Valley Quarry (“JVQ” or “Site”) located on the south side of Highway 88 approximately ½ mile east of the most westerly junction of Jackson Valley Road and Highway 88 in the lone area of Amador County (“County”). In 2013, GRI obtained approval of a Use Permit Amendment (UP-06; 9-2) and Reclamation Plan (RP-06-1) for an expansion of the Site from approximately 74 acres to approximately 159 acres, with reclamation to open space and grazing following the completion of mining (“2013 JVQ Expansion Project”). The 2013 JVQ Expansion Project underwent environmental review pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (“CEQA”). As Lead Agency, the County prepared and certified an Environmental Impact Report (herein referred to as the “2013 EIR”), adopted Findings of Fact, and adopted a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program¹.

1.2 Environmental Review

In accordance with CEQA, when a Lead Agency considers further discretionary approval on a previously approved project, the Lead Agency is required to consider if the previously certified CEQA document provides an adequate basis for rendering a decision on the proposed discretionary action. When making such a decision, the Lead Agency must consider any changes to the project or its circumstances that have occurred and any new information that has become available since the project’s CEQA document was certified.

In accordance with State CEQA Guidelines Sections 15162–15164, prior to approving a further discretionary action, and depending on the situation, the Lead Agency must either: (1) prepare a Subsequent EIR; (2) prepare a Supplemental EIR; (3) prepare a Subsequent Negative Declaration; (4) prepare an Addendum to the EIR or Negative Declaration; or (5) prepare no further documentation. More specifically, State CEQA Guidelines Section 15162(a) states:

When an EIR has been certified or a negative declaration adopted for a project, no subsequent EIR shall be prepared for that project unless the lead agency determines, on the basis of substantial evidence in the light of the whole record, one or more of the following:

- 1) Substantial changes are proposed in the project which will require major revisions of the previous EIR or negative declaration due to the involvement of new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects;*
- 2) Substantial changes occur with respect to the circumstances under which the project is undertaken which will require major revisions of the previous EIR or negative*

¹ The 2013 JVQ Expansion Project was approved by the Amador County Planning Commission on June 11, 2013, and was upheld on appeal by the Amador County Board of Supervisors on July 30, 2013.

declaration due to the involvement of new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects; or

- 3) *New information of substantial importance, which was not known and could not have been known with the exercise of reasonable diligence at the time the previous EIR was certified as complete or the negative declaration was adopted, shows any of the following:*
- A. *The project will have one or more significant effects not discussed in the previous EIR or negative declaration;*
 - B. *Significant effects previously examined will be substantially more severe than shown in the previous EIR;*
 - C. *Mitigation measures or alternatives previously found not to be feasible would in fact be feasible and would substantially reduce one or more significant effects of the project, but the project proponents decline to adopt the mitigation measure or alternative; or*
 - D. *Mitigation measures or alternatives which are considerably different from those analyzed in the previous EIR would substantially reduce one or more significant effects on the environment, but the project proponents decline to adopt the mitigation measure or alternative.*

As demonstrated in Section 3.0, CEQA Evaluation, none of the conditions described in CEQA Guidelines Section 15162 calling for preparation of a subsequent EIR review have occurred. This Initial Study / Subsequent MND supports the conclusion that the proposed Project will not result in any new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects. In addition, as discussed below, there is no new information of substantial importance, new mitigation measures, or new alternatives that would substantially reduce significant impacts. As a result, when considered with the 2013 EIR, this Initial Study / Subsequent MND is an appropriate CEQA document for analysis and consideration of the proposed Project.

2.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

2.1 Project Title and Location

George Reed, Inc. Jackson Valley Quarry – Amendment to Use Permit (UP-06; 9-2) to Allow for Modified Hours of Operation.

2.2 Lead Agency Name and Address

Lead Agency Name: County of Amador, Planning Department
Lead Agency Address: 810 Court Street, Jackson, CA 95642
Contact Person: Chuck Beatty, Director
Phone Number: (209) 223-6380

2.3 Project Sponsor’s Name and Address

Applicant:

Attn: Tom Ferrell
George Reed, Inc.
140 Empire Avenue
Modesto, CA 95354

Agent:

Attn: Jordan Main
Compass Land Group
3140 Peacekeeper Way, Suite 102
McClellan, CA 95652

2.4 Assessor Parcels, Ownership, Zoning, and General Plan Designations

The Project Site’s current assessor parcel numbers, acreage, ownership, zoning and General Plan land use designations are as follows:

Current APN	Acreage	Ownership	Zoning	General Plan
005-230-018	159.66 ac.	The Reed Leasing Group, LLC*	Special Use (X)	Mineral Resource Zone (MRZ) and Agricultural General (AG)

**The Reed Leasing Group, LLC is an affiliate company of George Reed, Inc.*

2.5 Description of Project

The JVQ Use Permit (UP-06; 9-2) currently restricts hours of operation to the following:

1. Site preparation activities: 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday (COA 44.a)
2. Operational / reclamation activities (other than site preparation): 6:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m., Monday through Friday (COA 15)
3. Maintenance and repair work: no restriction as long as activities do not exceed 45 dBA at the property line (COA 15)
4. Blasting: 11:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m., Monday through Friday (COA 16)

George Reed, Inc. (“GRI”) proposes to modify Condition of Approval (“COA”) #15 of the JVQ Use Permit (UP-06; 9-2) to allow operational / reclamation activities to occur during modified hours of operation: 6:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, with limitations for activities allowed between the hours of 6:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. (“Project”). No change to the approved hours of operation for site preparation activities, maintenance and repair, or blasting are requested. See **Table 1, Comparison of Existing vs. Proposed Hours of Operation.**

The Project will not modify the approved production levels, materials to be mined, area of disturbance, equipment types or mining methods, or otherwise expand or intensify the existing use.

Table 1
Comparison of Existing vs. Proposed Hours of Operation

Activity	Existing Approved	Proposed
Site Preparation	Mon – Fri, 8 am – 5 pm	No change
Operational / Reclamation	Mon – Fri, 6 am – 6 pm	Mon – Fri, 6 am – 10 pm ¹
Maintenance & Repair Work	Anytime	No change
Blasting	Mon – Fri, 11:30 am – 2:30 pm	No change

¹ *Proposed Limitations to Updated Hours*

- *Mining of the outer areas of the quarry will remain limited to the hours of 6:00 am – 6:00 pm, Mon – Fri, until mining has progressed to a depth of at least one bench height (~20 ft.) as delineated in the Environmental Noise & Vibration Assessment prepared by Bollard Acoustical Consultants, Inc., dated May 17, 2023).*
- *Use of excavator-mounted hydraulic rock breakers will remain limited to the hours of 6:00 am – 6:00 pm, Mon – Fri.*
- *Load out of rip-rap will be limited to the hours of 6:00 am – 6:00 pm, Mon – Fri.*

2.6 Surrounding Land Uses and Setting

The Project Site consists of an active hard rock quarry mining operation. The Site is bounded by agricultural land use designations on all sides. Surrounding land uses include SR 88 and open space to the north and east, Jackson Valley Road and agricultural lands to the south, and agricultural lands and SR 88 to the west. (Reference 2013 EIR; §3.1.2, Setting)

2.7 Other Public Agencies Whose Approval is Required

None.

3.0 CEQA EVALUATION

3.1 Environmental Factors Potentially Affected

The proposed Project will not have a significant effect on the environment, as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

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

3.2 Evaluation of Environmental Impacts

The following checklist is taken from the Environmental Checklist Form presented in Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines. The checklist is used to describe the impacts of the proposed Project and identify project-specific mitigation measures, as appropriate: For this checklist, the following designations are used:

Potentially Significant Impact: An impact that could be significant, and for which no mitigation has been identified. If any potentially significant impacts are identified, an EIR must be prepared.

Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated: An impact that requires mitigation to reduce the impact to a less-than-significant level.

Less-Than-Significant Impact: Any impact that would not be considered significant under CEQA relative to existing standards.

No Impact: The Project would not have any impact.

I. AESTHETICS. <i>Except as provided in Public Resources Code Section 21099, would the project:</i>	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d. Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Discussion

This Initial Study hereby incorporates by reference the prior 2013 EIR and focuses solely on the potential environmental impacts of the proposed Project. No significant change to the environmental setting in relation to aesthetics has occurred since the 2013 EIR (e.g., nearby receptors, scenic designations).

a-b. The 2013 EIR found that the 2013 JVQ Expansion Project would have a less than significant impact on scenic vistas and resources. The proposed Project, involving only a change to the approved hours of operation for operational / reclamation activities, would result in no new or different impacts related to scenic vistas and scenic resources. The Project will not modify the approved production levels, materials to be mined, area of disturbance, equipment types or mining methods, or otherwise expand or intensify the existing use. **No impact** would occur.

c. The 2013 EIR found that, despite reclamation, impacts to the existing visual character of the Site would be considered significant and unavoidable, and a mitigation measure was adopted to reduce potential impacts. The Project would continue to comply with the existing mitigation measure relating to aesthetics identified in the 2013 EIR:

3.11.2: Implementation of approved reclamation plan. Mine reclamation is required by the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act (SMARA). SMARA requires mines to be reclaimed to a usable condition that is readily adaptable for a productive alternative land use that

creates no danger to public health or safety. SMARA also requires surface mining operators to obtain approved financial assurance for the reclamation of mined lands, so that the public would not bear the cost of reclaiming abandoned operations. The reclamation process would include revegetation of disturbed areas around the perimeter of the project site

The proposed Project, involving only a change to the approved hours of operation for operational / reclamation activities, would result in no new or different impacts related to the existing visual character of the Site. The Project will not modify the approved production levels, materials to be mined, area of disturbance, equipment types or mining methods, or otherwise expand or intensify the existing use. **No impact** would occur.

d. The 2013 EIR found that the 2013 JVQ Expansion Project would have a less than significant impact due to light or glare. Area and task lighting is currently in-place at the Project site for safety purposes and to operate during periods of low visibility. The proposed Project, although consisting of the same equipment types, production levels, and mining footprint, may shift additional production activities to extended hours, requiring additional lighting within select operational areas. A Light Pollution Prevention Plan has been prepared to identify the location of existing and proposed lighting fixtures that will illuminate operational areas during extended hours of operation while minimizing off-site effects. In addition to the approximate ten existing light fixtures associated with the processing plant, it is anticipated that approximately four new lighting fixtures will be needed in the processing and load-out area. Consistent with existing practices, in locations where lighting does not exist or where stationary lighting is not feasible, industry-standard portable light towers will be employed. The locations of the portable light towers will vary as mining progresses throughout the site. The existing Use Permit addresses requirements for site lighting by stipulating that “artificial illumination of any area within Quarry site shall be of a non-glare nature and shall be shielded to extent feasible to prevent glare from affecting neighboring parcels of land with direct line of sight of the Quarry...” (COA #23). Consistent with this requirement, existing and proposed lighting fixtures will be equipped with shields / hoods that concentrate illumination downward such that no direct lighting is cast offsite. Given setbacks from nearby public streets and residences, as well as the fact that mining will predominantly occur below grade, site lighting is not anticipated to affect neighboring parcels of land. In addition, the site’s rolling topography and perimeter vegetation will also provide natural screening from potential lighting impacts. A **less than significant impact** resulting from light or glare will occur.

II. AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY RESOURCES.

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) prepare 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 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 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 non- agricultural 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

This Initial Study hereby incorporates by reference the prior 2013 EIR and focuses solely on the potential environmental impacts of the proposed Project. No significant change to the environmental setting in relation to agriculture and forestry resources has occurred since the 2013 EIR.

a-e. The proposed Project, involving only a change to the approved hours of operation for operational / reclamation activities, would result in no new or different impacts related to agriculture and forestry resources. The Project will not modify the approved production levels, materials to be mined, area of disturbance, equipment types or mining methods, or otherwise expand or intensify the existing use. **No impact** would occur.

III. AIR QUALITY.

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 with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c. Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d. Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Discussion

This Initial Study hereby incorporates by reference the prior 2013 EIR and focuses solely on the potential environmental impacts of the proposed Project. No significant change to the environmental setting in relation to air quality has occurred since the 2013 EIR.

a-d. The proposed Project, involving only a change to the approved hours of operation for operational / reclamation activities, would result in no new or different impacts related to air quality. The Project will not modify the approved production levels, materials to be mined, area of disturbance, equipment types or mining methods, or otherwise expand or intensify the existing use. **No impact** would occur.

IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES. <i>Would the project:</i>	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant 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 Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 Game or US 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 Conservation Community 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

This Initial Study hereby incorporates by reference the prior 2013 EIR and focuses solely on the potential environmental impacts of the proposed Project. No significant change to the environmental setting in relation to biological resources has occurred since the 2013 EIR.

a-f. The applicant commissioned an updated Biological Assessment (ELMT, 2021) in support of the proposed Project to determine whether extended hours of operation may impact biological resources at the Site. ELMT determined the following:

- No substantial changes to the vegetation communities at the Site have occurred since the 2013 EIR;
- No documented wildlife movement areas occur within the boundary of the Site;
- No special-status wildlife species were observed during the habitat assessment;
- The Site is not located within federally designated Critical Habitat; and
- No new wetlands or potentially jurisdictional features, beyond those previously mapped and permitted, were observed.

ELMT's analysis confirms that there has been no significant change in the biological setting at the Project site since the 2013 EIR, and that the Project's proposed change to approved hours of operation would have **no impact** with respect to riparian habitat and sensitive natural communities, wetlands or jurisdictional waters, wildlife movement, local ordinances, or adopted habitat conservation plans.

ELMT's analysis concludes that potential impacts to nocturnal wildlife species would be **less than significant** with implementation of the proposed Light Pollution Prevention Plan (GRI, 2021), proposed noise mitigation measures contained within the Project's updated noise assessment (Bollard, 2021; rev. 2023), and continued implementation of the biological resources mitigation measures adopted in connection with the 2013 EIR:

*3.6.1a: As a precautionary measure, a qualified plant biologist shall conduct a preconstruction survey in the spring just prior to surface disturbance of each new area to be mined to ensure that Hoover's calycadenia (*Calycadenia hooveri*) and any other state or federal special-status plant species would not be affected by the proposed activities. If no sensitive plants are found, then no further action would be needed. If special-status plant species are found, the project proponent shall consult with USFWS and/or CDFW to provide minimization and avoidance measures commensurate with the standards provided in applicable USFWS and/or CDFW protocols for the affected species. Where project disturbance will impact special status plant species habitat and avoidance is impractical, offsite habitat shall be preserved at a 1:1 ratio unless a different ratio is authorized by USFWS and/or CDFW protocol and or site specific circumstances justify a different ratio. The preservation and avoidance measures shall include, at a minimum, appropriate buffer areas clearly marked during mining activities, monitoring by a qualified botanist, and the development and implementation of a replanting plan (collection of success) for any individuals of the species that cannot be avoided.*

3.6.1b: To avoid and minimize impacts on tree-nesting raptors and other listed/protected (i.e., Migratory Bird Treaty Act) nesting birds the following measures will be implemented;

- *If feasible, conduct all tree and shrub removal and grading activities during the non-breeding season (generally from October through February).*

- *If grading and tree removal activities are scheduled to occur during the breeding season for tree-nesting raptors and other listed/protected nesting birds (generally from March through September), pre-construction surveys for tree-nesting raptors and other listed/protected nesting birds shall be conducted. The surveys shall be conducted by a qualified biologist in suitable nesting habitat within 1,000 feet of the disturbance area for tree nesting raptors and other nesting birds prior to project activities that will occur between March 15 and September 15 of any given year. If active nests are recorded within these buffers the project proponent shall consult with CDFW to determine and implement appropriate avoidance and mitigation measures. Measures may include, but are not limited to, buffers (typically 500 feet) and monitoring.*

3.6.2: Implement On- and Off-site Replacement of Oak Woodlands Habitat. Where avoidance is not feasible or practicable, the project applicant shall provide a combination of on-site and off-site blue oak tree replacement of the full function and value of the natural community at a per-tree ratio of no less than 1:1. On-site mitigation may not represent more than one-half of the required mitigation consistent with PRC 21083.4 (b) (2) (C). All trees and shrubs planted shall be purchased from a locally adapted genetic stock obtained within 50 miles and 1,000 feet in elevation of the project site. To help ensure habitat establishment and success, planting densities shall not exceed 450 trees for each acre planted. The maintenance and monitoring plan shall include cages for each seedling, identify a weed control schedule, and outline a watering regimen for the plantings. Mitigation shall commence within one year of the removal of trees due to project operations. Replacement plantings would occur as areas are affected by mining operations. The requirements to maintain trees for mitigation purposes terminates seven years after the replacement trees are planted (PRC 21083.4 (b)(2)(C)).

As an alternative to on- or direct offsite mitigation (implemented by the applicant), the project proponent may contribute funds to the Oak Woodlands Conservation Fund, as established under Fish and Game Code §1363(a), for the purpose of purchasing oak woodlands conservation easements, as specified under paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of that section and the guidelines and criteria of the Wildlife Conservation Board.

3.6.3: Compensate for Loss of Potential Jurisdictional Wetland Features and Associated Riparian Habitat. To ensure that there is no net loss of wetland and associated riparian habitat and no significant impact to potential jurisdictional features, the project proponent shall compensate for impacted wetlands and associated riparian habitat at a ratio of no less than 1:1. Compensation shall take the form of wetland preservation or creation in accordance with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and CDFW mitigation requirements, as required under project permits. Preservation and creation may occur on-site (through a conservation agreement) or off-site (through purchasing credits at a Corps approved mitigation bank), or as otherwise permitted or required by governing agencies.

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

Discussion

This Initial Study hereby incorporates by reference the prior 2013 EIR and focuses solely on the potential environmental impacts of the proposed Project. No significant change to the environmental setting in relation to cultural resources has occurred since the 2013 EIR.

a-c. The proposed Project, involving only a change to the approved hours of operation for operational / reclamation activities, will have **no impact** to cultural resources. The Project would not increase the area subject to disturbance or the depth of excavation relative to what was analyzed under the 2013 EIR. In addition, the Project would continue to comply with the existing mitigation measures relating to cultural resources identified in the 2013 EIR:

3.9.2: If paleontologic, historic or prehistoric archaeological resources, such as chipped or ground stone, fossil bearing rock, large quantities of shell, historic debris, building foundations, or human bone, are inadvertently discovered during ground-disturbing activities, no further mining should be permitted within 100 feet of the find until the Amador County Technical Advisory Committee is notified, and a qualified archaeologist can assess the significance of the find and prepare an avoidance, evaluation or mitigation plan if appropriate.

3.9.3: In the event of discovery or recognition of any human remains on site anywhere within the project area, there shall be no further excavation or disturbance of the site or any nearby area reasonably suspected to overlie adjacent remains until the coroner of Amador County has been contacted, per Section 7050.5 of the California Health and Safety Code. If the coroner determines that the human remains are of Native American origin, it is necessary to comply with state laws relating to the disposition of Native American burials, which fall within the jurisdiction of the Native American Heritage Commission (Pub. Res. Code Sec. 5097). If any human remains are discovered or recognized in any location other than a dedicated cemetery, there will be no further excavation or disturbance of the site or any nearby area reasonably suspected to overlie adjacent human remains until:

1. *The coroner of the county has been informed and has determined that no investigation of the cause of death is required; and*
2. *if the remains are of Native American origin,*
 - a. *The descendants of the deceased Native Americans have made a recommendation to the landowner or the person responsible for the excavation work, for means of treating or disposing of, with appropriate dignity, the human remains and any associated grave goods as provided in Public Resources Code Section 5097.98, or*
 - b. *The Native American Heritage Commission was unable to identify a descendant or the descendant failed to make a recommendation within 24 hours after being notified by the commission.*

VI. ENERGY. <i>Would the project:</i>	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Discussion

This Initial Study hereby incorporates by reference the prior 2013 EIR and focuses solely on the potential environmental impacts of the proposed Project. No significant change to the environmental setting in relation to energy has occurred since the 2013 EIR.

a-b. The proposed Project, involving only a change to the approved hours of operation for operational / reclamation activities, would result in no new or different impacts related to energy. Instead, by operating during extended hours, GRI will have flexibility to curtail energy consuming operations during periods of peak power demand, resulting in potentially beneficial impacts to energy use. The Project will not modify the approved production levels, materials to be mined, area of disturbance, equipment types or mining methods, or otherwise expand or intensify the existing use. **No impact** would occur.

VII. GEOLOGY AND SOILS. <i>Would the project:</i>	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
ii. Strong seismic ground shaking?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
iii. Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
iv. Landslides?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Discussion

This Initial Study hereby incorporates by reference the prior 2013 EIR and focuses solely on the potential environmental impacts of the proposed Project. No significant change to the environmental setting in relation to geology and soils has occurred since the 2013 EIR.

a-b. The proposed Project, involving only a change to the approved hours of operation for operational / reclamation activities, would result in no new or different impacts related to geology and soils. The Project will not modify the approved production levels, materials to be mined, area of disturbance, equipment types or mining methods, or otherwise expand or intensify the existing use. Further, the Project would not increase the area subject to disturbance, slope angles, or the depth of excavation relative to what was analyzed under the 2013 EIR. **No impact** would occur.

In addition, the Project would continue to comply with the existing mitigation measures relating to geology and soils identified in the 2013 EIR:

3.7.2: A California registered Geotechnical Engineer shall inspect the quarry slopes on an annual basis during excavation (in addition to following major seismic events) to assess bedrock fracture and joint conditions. If it is proven that annual inspections are not necessary, inspections may be reduced with the Geotechnical Engineer's recommendation and County concurrence. The inspection shall require continued mapping and movement monitoring of the mining slopes to assess slope stability. If a slope condition presents risk to mine safety or the potential for erosion/siltation, repair measures shall be implemented. Engineering recommendations for slope repair or stabilization shall be incorporated into the proposed project.

3.9.2: If paleontologic, historic or prehistoric archaeological resources, such as chipped or ground stone, fossil bearing rock, large quantities of shell, historic debris, building foundations, or human bone, are inadvertently discovered during ground-disturbing activities, no further mining should be permitted within 100 feet of the find until the Amador County Technical Advisory Committee is notified, and a qualified archaeologist can assess the significance of the find and prepare an avoidance, evaluation or mitigation plan if appropriate.

VIII. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS. <i>Would the project:</i>	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Discussion

This Initial Study hereby incorporates by reference the prior 2013 EIR and focuses solely on the potential environmental impacts of the proposed Project.

a-b. The proposed Project, involving only a change to the approved hours of operation for operational / reclamation activities, would result in no new or different impacts related to greenhouse gas emissions. The Project will not modify the approved production levels, materials to be mined, area of disturbance, equipment types or mining methods, or otherwise expand or intensify the existing use. **No impact** would occur.

IX. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS. <i>Would the project:</i>	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d. Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f. Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
g. Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Discussion

This Initial Study hereby incorporates by reference the prior 2013 EIR and focuses solely on the potential environmental impacts of the proposed Project. No significant change to the environmental setting in relation to hazards or hazardous materials has occurred since the 2013 EIR.

a-d. The proposed Project, involving only a change to the approved hours of operation for operational / reclamation activities, would result in no new or different impacts related to hazards and hazardous materials. The Project will not modify the approved production levels, materials to be mined, area of disturbance, equipment types or mining methods, or otherwise expand or intensify the existing use. **No impact** would occur.

In addition, the Project would continue to comply with the existing mitigation measures relating to hazards and hazardous materials identified in the 2013 EIR:

3.10.1: If contaminated soil and/or groundwater are encountered or suspected contamination is encountered during project construction, work shall be halted in the area, and the type and extent of the contamination shall be identified. A qualified professional, in consultation with the overseeing regulatory agency (RWQCB, DTSC, and/or ACEHD) shall then develop an appropriate method to remediate the contamination, and determine the appropriate handling and disposal method of any contaminated soil and/or groundwater. If required, a remediation plan shall be implemented in conjunction with continued project construction.

3.10.2: The project applicant will ensure, through the enforcement of contractual obligations, that all contractors transport, store, and handle construction related hazardous materials in a manner consistent with relevant regulations and guidelines, including those recommended and enforced by the California Department of Transportation, the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board, ACEHD, the Amador Fire Protection District, the Jackson Valley Fire Protection District, and as outlined in the Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasures Plan (SPCCP) and the HMMP prepared for the project site. The project applicant will also ensure that all contractors immediately control the source of any leak and immediately contain any spill utilizing appropriate spill containment and countermeasures as outlined in the SPCCP. If required by any regulatory agency, contaminated media shall be collected and disposed of at an offsite facility approved to accept such media. In addition, all precautions required by the CVRWQCB-issued NPDES construction activity storm water permits will be taken to ensure that no hazardous materials enter any nearby waterways.

X. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY. <i>Would the project:</i>	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant 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 groundwater quality?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
i) result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
ii) substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or offsite;	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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

This Initial Study hereby incorporates by reference the prior 2013 EIR and focuses solely on the potential environmental impacts of the proposed Project. No significant change to the environmental setting in relation to hydrology and water quality has occurred since the 2013 EIR.

a-d. The proposed Project, involving only a change to the approved hours of operation for operational / reclamation activities, would result in no new or different impacts related to hydrology and water quality. The Project will not modify the approved production levels, materials to be mined, area of disturbance, equipment types or mining methods, or otherwise expand or intensify the existing use. **No impact** would occur.

In addition, the Project would continue to comply with the existing mitigation measure relating to hydrology and water quality identified in the 2013 EIR:

3.10.2: The project applicant will ensure, through the enforcement of contractual obligations, that all contractors transport, store, and handle construction related hazardous materials in a manner consistent with relevant regulations and guidelines, including those recommended and enforced by the California Department of Transportation, the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board, ACEHD, the Amador Fire Protection District, the Jackson Valley Fire Protection District, and as outlined in the Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasures Plan (SPCCP) and the HMMP prepared for the project site. The project applicant will also ensure that all contractors immediately control the source of any leak and immediately contain any spill utilizing appropriate spill containment and countermeasures as outlined in the SPCCP. If required by any regulatory agency, contaminated media shall be collected and disposed of at an offsite facility approved to accept such media. In addition, all precautions required by the CVRWQCB-issued NPDES construction activity storm water permits will be taken to ensure that no hazardous materials enter any nearby waterways.

XI. LAND USE AND PLANNING. <i>Would the project:</i>	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Discussion

This Initial Study hereby incorporates by reference the prior 2013 EIR and focuses solely on the potential environmental impacts of the proposed Project. No significant change to the environmental setting in relation to land use and planning has occurred since the 2013 EIR.

a-b. The proposed Project, involving only a change to the approved hours of operation for operational / reclamation activities, would result in no new or different impacts related to land use and planning. The Project will not modify the approved production levels, materials to be mined, area of disturbance, equipment types or mining methods, or otherwise expand or intensify the existing use. No element of the proposed Project affects land use/planning considerations; the Project is consistent with the County’s relevant land use plans. **No impact** would occur.

XII. MINERAL RESOURCES. <i>Would the project:</i>	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Discussion

This Initial Study hereby incorporates by reference the prior 2013 EIR and focuses solely on the potential environmental impacts of the proposed Project. No significant change to the environmental setting in relation to land use and planning has occurred since the 2013 EIR.

a-b. The proposed Project, involving only a change to the approved hours of operation for operational / reclamation activities, would result in no new or different impacts related to mineral resources. The Project will not modify the approved production levels, materials to be mined, area of disturbance, equipment types or mining methods, or otherwise expand or intensify the existing use. The Project would not change the maximum annual production level or otherwise impact the availability of mineral resources. **No impact** would occur.

XIII. NOISE. <i>Would the project result in:</i>	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Discussion

This Initial Study hereby incorporates by reference the prior 2013 EIR and focuses solely on the potential environmental impacts of the proposed Project. No significant change to the environmental setting in relation to noise has occurred since the 2013 EIR.

a. The applicant commissioned an updated Environmental Noise and Vibration Assessment (Bollard Acoustical Consultants, 2021; rev. 2023) in support of the proposed Project to determine whether extended hours of operation may result in new or more severe impacts from noise from those analyzed in the 2013 EIR. Bollard conducted a detailed assessment to identify existing noise-sensitive land uses in the immediate project vicinity; quantify existing ambient noise and vibration levels in the immediate project vicinity; use CEQA guidelines and local Amador County noise standards to develop appropriate standards of significance for this project; predict project-related noise and vibration levels at the nearest sensitive receptor areas and to compare those levels against the applicable standards of significance; and where potentially significant project-related noise impacts are identified, to recommend and evaluate mitigation options that will reduce those impacts to a less than significant level.

The noise assessment evaluated 24-hour unmitigated (worst-case) conditions and revealed that, without implementation of mitigation measures, noise generated during nighttime activities could exceed acceptable levels at certain discrete sensitive receptors in the Project vicinity. Following preparation of the noise study, the project description was revised to remove nighttime activities (i.e., after 10:00 p.m.). Notwithstanding, the noise consultant developed noise reduction mitigation measures that could be implemented to reduce the potential for adverse public reaction to extended hours of operation at the quarry.

Mitigation Measure N-1: Processing Plant Source Control

Install acoustic curtains around the processing plant crushers and screen decks (i.e., the loudest components of the processing plant).

Mitigation Measure N-2: Replacement of Backup Warning Devices

Replace traditional, tonal, backup warning devices with advanced, broad-band, backup warning devices on mobile mining equipment.

Mitigation Measure N-3: Limit Hours for Load-Out of Rip-Rap

No load-out of rip-rap between 6:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m.

Mitigation Measure N-4: Limit Hours for Rock Breaking with Excavator-Mounted Equipment

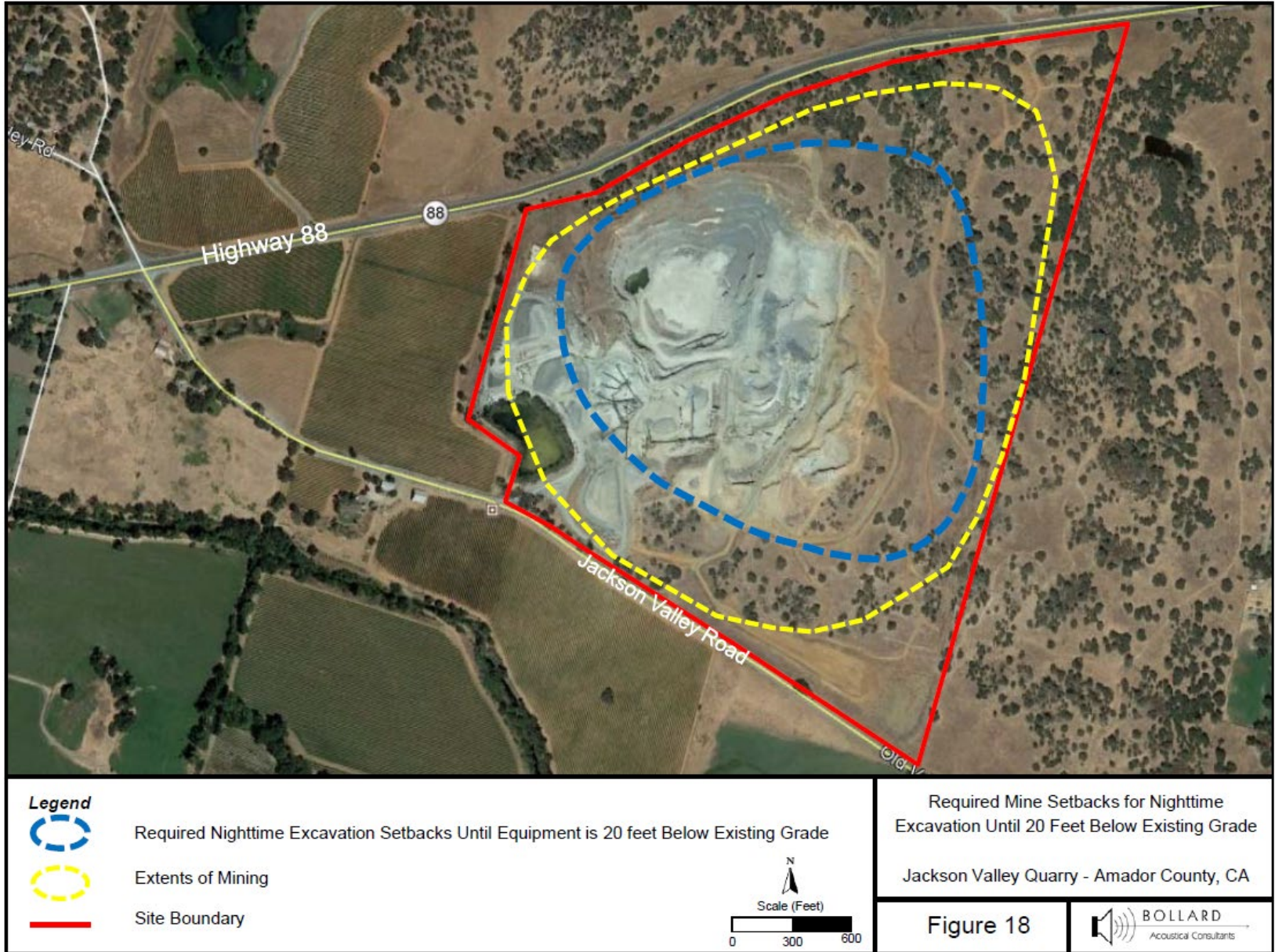
No rock breaking with excavator-mounted hydraulic pistons between 6:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m.

Mitigation Measure N-5: Excavation Buffers

Limit excavation activities to 6:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. until the excavation equipment has progressed at least 20 feet below existing grade, to be shielded by surrounding topography. Figure 18 from the Bollard report (shown below) identifies the locations where excavation activities should be limited to currently permitted hours of operation until that equipment is depressed at least 20 feet below existing grade.

Mitigation Measure N-6: Compliance Monitoring

Following implementation of N-1 through N-5, periodic noise monitoring should be conducted to confirm effectiveness of the mitigation measures and compliance with the applicable noise standards.



Level of Significance After Mitigation:

Implementation of Mitigation Measures N-1 through N-5, in conjunction with voluntary implementation of new technology backup warning devices and the ongoing application of the current project conditions of approval which pertain to noise, would reduce potential impacts associated with noise to ***less than significant***.

In addition, the Project would continue to comply with the existing mitigation measures relating to noise identified in the 2013 EIR:

3.4.1a: In order to avoid noise-sensitive hours of the day and night, project applicant shall comply with the following:

- *Site preparation activities shall be limited to the daytime hours of 8 a.m. through 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.*

3.4.1b: To reduce daytime noise impacts due to mining operations, the applicant shall implement the following measures:

- *During mining operations, the project applicant shall outfit all equipment, fixed or mobile, with properly operating and maintained exhaust and intake mufflers, consistent with manufacturers' standards.*
- *Impact tools (e.g., jack hammers and rock drills) used for mining operations shall be hydraulically or electrically powered wherever possible to avoid noise associated with compressed air exhaust from pneumatically powered tools. Where use of pneumatic tools is unavoidable, an exhaust muffler on the compressed air exhaust shall be used. External jackets on the tools themselves shall be used where feasible. Quieter procedures, such as use of drills rather than impact tools, shall be used whenever feasible.*
- *Stationary noise sources shall be located as far from adjacent receptors as possible, and they shall be muffled and enclosed within temporary sheds, incorporate insulation barriers, or other measures to the extent feasible.*

3.4.1c: To further address the nuisance impact of site preparation activities, the project applicant shall implement the following:

- *Signs shall be posted at all site entrances to the property upon commencement of mining operations, for the purposes of informing all contractors/subcontractors, their employees, agents, material haulers, and all other persons at the applicable sites of the basic requirements of Mitigation Measures 3.4.1a through 3.4.1b.*

- *Signs shall be posted at the project site that include permitted operation days and hours, a day and evening contact number for the job site, and a contact number in the event of problems.*
- *An onsite complaint and enforcement manager shall respond to and track complaints and questions related to noise.*

3.4.2: The applicant shall construct an approximately 7 foot high earthen berm, which can be developed from overburden or aggregate material and which shall be landscaped for erosion control and will remain in place during the life of the project. The berm shall be placed along a portion of the northern edge of the project site that will block the line of sight from the nearest residence to the north to the noise sources of mining activities.

- b. The applicant commissioned an updated Environmental Noise and Vibration Assessment (Bollard Acoustical Consultants, 2021; rev. 2023) in support of the proposed Project to determine whether the modified hours of operation may result in new or more severe impacts from groundborne vibration from those analyzed in the 2013 EIR. Bollard determined the vibration generated during extended hours of operation would be similar to that which currently occurs during daytime hours. This is because no changes in overall plant equipment, production or heavy truck trip generation are proposed as part of the project. Rather, the proposed project would allow shifting of production, processing and load-out to an additional 4 hours per day, but no increases in production are proposed. No change to currently approved blasting hours would occur. Because existing and project-generated vibration levels are well below those thresholds, no vibration-related impacts are identified for the Project. **No impact** would occur.
- c. The Project site is not located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or within two miles of a public airport. **No impact** would occur.

XIV. POPULATION AND HOUSING. <i>Would the project:</i>	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Discussion

This Initial Study hereby incorporates by reference the prior 2013 EIR and focuses solely on the potential environmental impacts of the proposed Project. No significant change to the environmental setting in relation to population and housing has occurred since the 2013 EIR.

a-b. The proposed Project, involving only a change to the approved hours of operation for operational / reclamation activities, would result in no new or different impacts related to population and housing. The Project would not include construction of new housing or any development that would draw people to the area nor displace existing people or housing. **No impact** would occur.

XV. PUBLIC SERVICES. <i>Would the project:</i>	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provisions of 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:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fire protection	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Police protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Schools?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Parks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other Public Facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Discussion

This Initial Study hereby incorporates by reference the prior 2013 EIR and focuses solely on the potential environmental impacts of the proposed Project. No significant change to the environmental setting in relation to public services has occurred since the 2013 EIR.

a-b. The proposed Project, involving only a change to the approved hours of operation for operational / reclamation activities, may result in minimal impacts to public services if needed during the additional operation times. However, the project would not require the construction of new public service facilities (e.g., fire protection, police protection, school, parks, other public facilities), and would not affect existing public service facilities. A **less than significant impact** would occur.

In addition, the Project would continue to comply with the existing mitigation measures relating to public services identified in the 2013 EIR:

3.8.1a: The project applicant will ensure, through the enforcement of contractual obligations that during construction, staging areas, welding areas, or areas slated for development using spark-producing equipment shall be cleared of dried vegetation or other materials that could

serve as fire fuel. The contractor shall keep these areas clear of combustible materials in order to maintain a firebreak. Any construction and mining equipment that normally includes a spark arrester shall be equipped with an arrester in good working order. This includes, but is not limited to, vehicles and heavy equipment.

3.8.1b: The project applicant shall, in consultation with the Jackson Valley Fire Protection District (JVFPD), create fire-safe landscaping near the structures and develop a plan for emergency response and evacuation at the project site.

XVI. RECREATION.	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant 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

This Initial Study hereby incorporates by reference the prior 2013 EIR and focuses solely on the potential environmental impacts of the proposed Project. No significant change to the environmental setting in relation to recreation has occurred since the 2013 EIR.

a-b. The proposed Project, involving only a change to the approved hours of operation for operational / reclamation activities, would result in no new or different impacts related to recreation. The Project would not result in an increased use of existing recreational facilities and would not involve the expansion of recreational facilities. **No impact** would occur.

XVII. TRANSPORTATION <i>Would the project:</i>	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Conflict with program, plan, ordinance, or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3(b) - VMT?	<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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d. Result in inadequate emergency access?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Discussion

This Initial Study hereby incorporates by reference the prior 2013 EIR and focuses solely on the potential environmental impacts of the proposed Project. No significant change to the environmental setting in relation to transportation has occurred since the 2013 EIR.

a-d. The proposed Project, involving only a change to the approved hours of operation for operational / reclamation activities, would result in no new or different impacts related to transportation. Instead, GRI will have flexibility to shift approved levels of traffic to an extended operational period, thereby reducing congestion during periods of peak travel. The Project will not modify the approved production levels, total number of daily truck trips, trucking routes, or otherwise expand or intensify the existing use. **No impact** would occur.

In addition, the Project would continue to comply with the existing mitigation measures relating to transportation identified in the 2013 EIR:

3.2.3a: Widen the westbound SR 12 approach at the intersection of SR 88 / SR 12 to provide a separate 100-foot-long right-turn lane, and modify the signal to provide overlap phasing for southbound right turns during the protected eastbound left-turn phase.

3.2.3b: Install traffic signals, and associated geometric improvements (such as deceleration and turning lanes), at the intersection of State Route 88 at Jackson Valley Road [West]].

3.2.3c: Install traffic signals at the intersection of SR 88 and Buena Vista Road.

3.2.3d: Install traffic signals at the intersection of SR 88 and SR 104 – Jackson Valley Road (East).

3.2.5: Construct an eastbound right-turn lane at the intersection of SR 88 and Jackson Valley Road [West] (#2), in accordance with Caltrans standards (for deceleration lane length and storage length).

3.2.6a: Reconstruct Jackson Valley Road (West) from the quarry access northwest to SR 88, in accordance with Amador County standards.

3.2.6b: The quarry operator shall enter into a new long-term maintenance agreement with Amador County to maintain Jackson Valley Road (West) between the quarry access and SR 88.

XVIII. TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES.	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code section 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:				
i) 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
ii) 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 Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Discussion

This Initial Study hereby incorporates by reference the prior 2013 EIR and focuses solely on the potential environmental impacts of the proposed Project. No significant change to the environmental setting in relation to tribal cultural resources has occurred since the 2013 EIR.

a-c. The proposed Project, involving only a change to the approved hours of operation for operational / reclamation activities, will have **no impact** to tribal cultural resources. The Project would not increase the area subject to disturbance or the depth of excavation relative to what was analyzed under the 2013 EIR. In addition, the Project would continue to comply with the existing mitigation measures relating to cultural resources identified in the 2013 EIR:

3.9.2: If paleontologic, historic or prehistoric archaeological resources, such as chipped or ground stone, fossil bearing rock, large quantities of shell, historic debris, building foundations, or human bone, are inadvertently discovered during ground-disturbing activities, no further mining should be permitted within 100 feet of the find until the Amador County Technical Advisory Committee is notified, and a qualified archaeologist can assess the

significance of the find and prepare an avoidance, evaluation or mitigation plan if appropriate.

3.9.3: In the event of discovery or recognition of any human remains on site anywhere within the project area, there shall be no further excavation or disturbance of the site or any nearby area reasonably suspected to overlie adjacent remains until the coroner of Amador County has been contacted, per Section 7050.5 of the California Health and Safety Code. If the coroner determines that the human remains are of Native American origin, it is necessary to comply with state laws relating to the disposition of Native American burials, which fall within the jurisdiction of the Native American Heritage Commission (Pub. Res. Code Sec. 5097). If any human remains are discovered or recognized in any location other than a dedicated cemetery, there will be no further excavation or disturbance of the site or any nearby area reasonably suspected to overlie adjacent human remains until:

- 1. The coroner of the county has been informed and has determined that no investigation of the cause of death is required; and*
- 2. if the remains are of Native American origin,*
 - a. The descendants of the deceased Native Americans have made a recommendation to the landowner or the person responsible for the excavation work, for means of treating or disposing of, with appropriate dignity, the human remains and any associated grave goods as provided in Public Resources Code Section 5097.98, or*

The Native American Heritage Commission was unable to identify a descendant or the descendant failed to make a recommendation within 24 hours after being notified by the commission.

XIX. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS. <i>Would the project:</i>	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant 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 telecommunication facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d. Generate solid waste in excess of state or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructures, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Discussion

This Initial Study hereby incorporates by reference the prior 2013 EIR and focuses solely on the potential environmental impacts of the proposed Project. No significant change to the environmental setting in relation to utilities and service systems has occurred since the 2013 EIR.

a-b. The proposed Project, involving only a change to the approved hours of operation for operational / reclamation activities, would result in no new or different impacts related to utilities and service systems. By operating during extended hours, GRI will have flexibility to curtail energy consuming operations during periods of peak power demand, resulting in potentially beneficial impacts to energy use. No new water facilities, wastewater treatment facilities, or stormwater drainage facilities would be required to support the Project. **No impact** would occur.

XX. WILDFIRE.

If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Discussion

This Initial Study hereby incorporates by reference the prior 2013 EIR and focuses solely on the potential environmental impacts of the proposed Project. No significant change to the environmental setting in relation to wildfire has occurred since the 2013 EIR.

a-b. The proposed Project, involving only a change to the approved hours of operation for operational / reclamation activities, would result in no new or different impacts related to wildfires. The Project would not exacerbate wildfire risks or impair emergency response or evacuation plans. **No impact** would occur.

In addition, the Project would continue to comply with the existing mitigation measures relating to wildfires² identified in the 2013 EIR:

3.8.1a: The project applicant will ensure, through the enforcement of contractual obligations that during construction, staging areas, welding areas, or areas slated for development using spark-producing equipment shall be cleared of dried vegetation or other materials that could serve as fire fuel. The contractor shall keep these areas clear of combustible materials in order

² Wildfires was not a specific Appendix G checklist item at the time of the 2013 EIR; however, wildfire related mitigation measures were adopted in connection with the analysis related to public services.

to maintain a firebreak. Any construction and mining equipment that normally includes a spark arrester shall be equipped with an arrester in good working order. This includes, but is not limited to, vehicles and heavy equipment.

3.8.1b: The project applicant shall, in consultation with the Jackson Valley Fire Protection District (JVFPD), create fire-safe landscaping near the structures and develop a plan for emergency response and evacuation at the project site.

XXI. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE.	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Discussion

This Initial Study hereby incorporates by reference the prior 2013 EIR and focuses solely on the potential environmental impacts of the proposed Project.

a-c. The proposed Project involves a change to the approved hours of operation for operational / reclamation activities at an existing mining site. The Project will not modify the approved production levels, materials to be mined, area of disturbance, equipment types or mining methods, or otherwise expand or intensify the existing use.

An updated noise and vibration assessment was conducted for the proposed Project to evaluate potential impacts to nearby receptors and compliance with current Amador County noise standards during extended hours of operation. The noise and vibration assessment evaluated 24-hour unmitigated (worst-case) conditions, then determined appropriate mitigation measures to ensure that the extended hours of operations do not adversely affect sensitive receptors located in the Project vicinity. No adverse vibration impacts were identified for the proposed Project and subsequent to the noise study the project description was revised to remove activities during nighttime hours. Notwithstanding, noise reduction mitigation measures that could be implemented to reduce the potential for adverse public reaction to extended hours of operation

at the quarry were developed by the noise consultant that include mining setbacks, processing area source noise control, and limitations on activities between 6:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. The analysis concludes that noise-related impacts would be less than significant levels. An adaptive management program consisting of periodic noise monitoring following implementation of the noise mitigation measures would be conducted to confirm effectiveness of the mitigation measures and compliance with applicable noise standards.

A Light Pollution Prevention Plan has been prepared to identify the location of existing and proposed lighting fixtures that will illuminate operational areas during extended hours of operation while minimizing off-site effects. Given setbacks from nearby public streets and residences, as well as the fact that mining will predominantly occur below grade, site lighting is not anticipated to affect neighboring parcels of land. In addition, the site's rolling topography and perimeter vegetation will also provide natural screening from potential lighting impacts.

An updated biological resources and jurisdictional waters assessment was conducted for the proposed Project to evaluate whether there have been any changes to the biological setting since the prior environmental review, and whether the proposed Project may impact nocturnal wildlife species as a result of extended operating hours. The updated biological assessment determined that there have been no significant changes in the biological setting at the Project site since the 2013 EIR was prepared and that no new jurisdictional features, beyond those previously mapped and permitted, are present. Further, the updated biological assessment concludes that with implementation of the Light Pollution Prevention Plan and adherence to existing and proposed noise mitigation measures, potential impacts to nocturnal wildlife species associated with extended hours of operation will be less than significant.

In addition, the Project would continue to comply with all applicable existing mitigation measures relating identified in the 2013 EIR.

On the basis of the evaluation contained in this document, the proposed Project would have **less than significant impacts** to the overall quality of the environment and on human beings, and would not be cumulatively considerable.

ENDORSED
FILED

NOV 15 2023

KIMBERLY L. GRADY, County Clerk
AMADOR COUNTY

By A. HANNA Deputy

**NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION
CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT**

PROJECT: Jackson Valley Quarry Amended Use Permit (UP-06;9-2) to extend the hours of operation for operational / reclamation activities.

LEAD AGENCY: Amador County

PROJECT LOCATION: 3421 Jackson Valley Road, Ione, CA 95640 (APN 005-230-018)

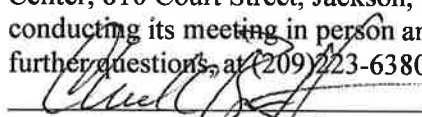
PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Amended Use Permit (UP-06;9-2) to modify the Conditions of Approval of the Jackson Valley Quarry Use Permit to extend the hours of operation for operational / reclamation activities (e.g., excavation, processing, load-out, and hauling). The current hours of operation for operational / reclamation activities are from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. The amendment seeks to extend the hours of operation for operational / reclamation activities to 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. No other changes to the approved Use Permit are requested.

PROJECT FINDINGS: There is no substantial evidence that the approval of the amended Use Permit, subject to implementation of the proposed Conditions of Approval and Mitigation Measures, will have a significant adverse effect on the physical environment.

STATEMENT OF REASONS:

1. The project, as proposed, is consistent with the Amador County General Plan and proposed zoning district at this location.
2. Additionally, this project is found to be consistent with CA GOV Code Section(s) 65860 and 65860(c).
3. The Planning Commission's approval of this Use Permit is sanctioned by Amador County Code Section 19.56.040 and said approval is contingent on the permittee's adherence to County Code Chapter 19.56 Use Permits.
4. There are no project-specific significant, unmitigated effects which are peculiar to the project or its site.
5. The establishment, maintenance or operation of the use or building applied for will not under the circumstances of the particular case be detrimental to the health, safety, peace, morals, comfort and general welfare of persons residing or working in the neighborhood of such proposed use or be detrimental or injurious to property and improvements in the neighborhood or to the general welfare of the County.
6. A review of the Use Permit was conducted by the Technical Advisory Committee who, through their own research and the CEQA Initial Study, found this project will not have a significant effect on the environment due to the mitigation measures and conditions of approval incorporated, and a Subsequent Mitigated Negative Declaration will be adopted and filed with the County Recorder.
7. On the basis of the administrative record presented, the County finds that there is no substantial evidence that the project will have a significant environment and that the Subsequent Mitigated Negative Declaration reflects the Planning Commission's independent judgement and analysis.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: The Amador County Planning Commission will conduct a public hearing on the matter on December 12, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Chambers of the County Administration Center, 810 Court Street, Jackson, CA, 95642. The Amador County Planning Commission will be conducting its meeting in person and via teleconference. Please contact the Planning Department with further questions, at (209) 223-6380 or planning@amadorgov.org


Chuck Beatty, Planning Director

11-13-2023
Date:

File No. _____

Posted On 11/15/2023

Posting Removed _____

**SUBSEQUENT MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION
CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT**

PROJECT: Use Permit UP-06:9-2, Jackson Valley Quarry extended hours of operation

LEAD AGENCY: Amador County Planning Department

PROJECT LOCATION: 3421 Jackson Valley Road, Ione, CA 95640

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Extended hours of operation for operational and reclamation activities (excavation, crushing/processing, truck loading, and hauling) from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday through Friday to 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. APN 005-230-018

PUBLIC HEARING: The Amador County Planning Commission conducted a public hearing on the matter December 12, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Chambers of the County Administration Center, 810 Court Street, Jackson, CA, 95642.

PROJECT FINDINGS:

The Planning Commission's approval of this Use Permit Amendment is sanctioned by Amador County Code Section 19.56.040 and 19.56.065 and said approval is contingent on the permittee's adherence to County Code Chapter 19.56, Use Permits.

The proposed uses are consistent with Amador County Code Section 19.24.030, District Regulations, within the X, Special Use District, are consistent with the General Plan Designations of MRZ, Mineral Resource Zone and AG, Agriculture General of the project site.

There are no project-specific significant, unmitigated effects which are peculiar to the project or its site.

The establishment, maintenance or operation of the use applied for will not, under the circumstances of the particular case, be detrimental to the health, safety, peace, morals, comfort and general welfare of persons residing or working in the neighborhood of such proposed use or be detrimental or injurious to property and improvements in the neighborhood or to the general welfare of the County.

On the basis of the administrative record presented, the Planning Commission finds that there is no substantial evidence that the project, as conditioned, will have a significant environmental impact and that the Subsequent Mitigated Negative Declaration included in the Staff Report reflects the Commission's independent judgement and analysis.

PREPARATION OF STUDY: Information on file with the Amador County Planning Department, 810 Court Street, Jackson, CA 95642; (209)223-6380; File No. UP-06:9-2, Jackson Valley Quarry.

Chairperson
Amador County Planning Commission

Date

File No. _____
Posted On _____
Posting Removed _____