



County of Fresno

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND PLANNING
ALAN WEAVER
Director

**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY
AND
OPPORTUNITY TO SUBMIT WRITTEN COMMENTS
ON THE
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT
FOR THE
JESSE MORROW MOUNTAIN MINE & RECLAMATION PROJECT**

Pursuant to the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act, notice is hereby given that a Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) has been prepared for the Jesse Morrow Mountain Mine & Reclamation Project (Project), Unclassified Conditional Use Permit No. 3100, and is available for review.

Project Location: The Project site is located in eastern Fresno County within the Sierra South Regional Plan Area, approximately 8 miles east of the City of Sanger and 20 miles east of the City of Fresno, on the southern side of Jesse Morrow Mountain. The Project site is located on Assessor Parcel Numbers 158-203-15, 185-020-01, 33-450-16, 18, 19, 23, and 26, 333-240-22, 24, and 26, and 333-100-32, 44, and 46 within sections 11, 12, 13, and 14, Township 14 south, Range 23 East of the Wahtoke, California USGS 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle.

Project Description Summary: Cemex Construction Materials, LP (Applicant) is proposing to operate a hard rock aggregate mining operation on the southern side of Jesse Morrow Mountain. The Project, as evaluated in the DEIR, includes hard rock aggregate extraction, a conveyor system to move material to an aggregate processing facility, concrete batch plant, asphalt plant, recycling plant for production of excess concrete and asphalt concrete returns, truck distribution of aggregate products, and various support facilities (e.g., weighing station, office, and maintenance). The applicant owns approximately 2,036 acres of undeveloped land, of which approximately 824 acres will be developed for the Project (400 acres for mining and 40 acres for the processing facilities). The remaining 384 acres would act as a buffer between the mining and processing areas and surrounding land uses.

California State Route 180 (SR 180) forms the southern boundary of the Project site. Aggregate, cement, and asphalt products will be transported from the Project site via SR 180 to destinations throughout central and eastern Fresno County and the surrounding areas.

Potential Project Impacts Identified in the DEIR: The DEIR identifies the following potentially significant environmental impacts associated with the following resource areas: Aesthetics, Agricultural Resources, Air Quality, Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Geology and Soils, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Hydrology and Water Quality, Land Use and Planning, Noise, Transportation / Traffic.

Significant and Unavoidable Impacts Identified in the DEIR: While most of the impacts above can be mitigated to a level that is less than significant through mitigation measures included in the DEIR, the following impacts are considered significant and unavoidable:

- **Aesthetics:** The Project would alter the site topography, vegetation, and level of vehicle activity at the quarry, and introduce buildings and equipment at the plant site (Impact 3.1-2) and the Project's aesthetics, in conjunction with other development, would be considered significant and unavoidable (Section 4.2.3.6);
- **Air Quality:** Project operations would increase air emissions due to emissions from mobile equipment and fugitive dust from mining operations (blasting, crushing, screening, and

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DIVISION

2220 Tulare Street, Sixth Floor / Fresno, California 93721 / Phone (559) 262-4055 / 262-4029 / 262-4302 / 262-4022 FAX 262-4893
Equal Employment Opportunity • Affirmative Action • Disabled Employer

handling of aggregate, asphalt plant, ready-mix plant, and truck and employee traffic) (Impact 3.3-2); the Project includes an asphalt concrete plant, which could emit objectionable odors (Impact 3.3-3); and cumulative impact to ozone and NO_x is considered significant and unavoidable (Section 4.2.5.1);

- Cultural Resources: The Project could have a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historic or archaeological resource for its association with past lifeways important to the Choinumni Tribe (Impact 3.5-1);
- Transportation/ Traffic: The Project could cause an increase in traffic that is substantial in relation to the existing traffic load, and the capacity of the street system and/or the Project could cause an exceedance of a level of service standard established by the County and/or Caltrans for designated roadways or highways [Impact 3.11-1 (Project specific) and 3.11-2 (cumulative)].

DEIR Review and Public Comment: The 60-day review and comment period for the DEIR begins October 2, 2009 and ends December 1, 2009. Several hard copies will be available to check out or a CD copy of the DEIR is available at each of the following locations:

- Fresno County Public Works and Planning Department, 2220 Tulare Street, Fresno; CA;
- Fresno County Main Library, Reference Department, 2420 Mariposa Street, Fresno; CA;
- Fresno County Library, Sanger Branch, 1812 Seventh Street, Sanger; CA;
- Fresno County Library, Reedley Branch, 1027 E Street, Reedley, CA;
- Fresno County Library, Bear Mountain Branch, 30733 E. Kings Canyon Road, Squaw Valley, CA;
- Henry Madden Library, California State University, Fresno, 5200 North Barton Avenue M/S ML 34 and
- Fresno County website: <http://www.co.fresno.ca.us/departmentpage.aspx?id=4322>

An opportunity to provide written comments directly to County staff will be available from **6:00 pm to 7:30 pm Thursday October 8, 2009** at the Sanger High School Multi-Purpose Room, located at 1045 Bethel Avenue, Sanger, CA 93657. The primary objective is to distribute DEIR information and material and to receive written comments on the document. There will not be a formal presentation or Question & Answer session. A Spanish translator will be available. Un intérprete español estará disponible en la junta. Comments should be addressed to:

Briza Sholars, Planner III
Fresno County Public Works and Planning Department
Planning & Environmental Analysis
2220 Tulare Street - 6th Floor
Fresno, CA 93721

In your written comment letter please reference: EIR 4858 and CUP 3100 (Jesse Morrow Mountain Mine & Reclamation Project) and include your name and phone number. Persons with questions or requests for a public hearing notice may call Briza Sholars at (559) 262-4454 or email at bsholars@co.fresno.ca.us.

