



## NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY/NOTICE OF COMPLETION OF A DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

**DATE:** 1/8/2016

**TO:** Interested Agencies, Organizations, and Individuals  
(See Attached Distribution List)

**FROM:** City of Lake Elsinore  
Community Development Department – Planning Division  
130 South Main Street  
Lake Elsinore, CA 92530

The City of Lake Elsinore, as lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), is issuing notification that it has completed the Draft Environmental Impact Report (“DEIR”) (State Clearinghouse Number 2006051034) for the project described below and that the completed document is available for review.

**PROJECT TITLE:** Amendment No. 2 to Reclamation Plan 2006-01A1 and Surface Mining Permit No. 2015-01 (Nichols Canyon Mine)

**PROJECT LOCATION:** The Nichols Canyon Mine encompasses 199 acres located east of and adjacent to Interstate 15, both north and south of Nichols Road. Interstate 15 (I-15) abuts the Mine’s western boundary. The property is divided into two segments by Nichols Road with approximately 156 acres located north of Nichols Road and approximately 43 acres located south of Nichols Road. Areas planned for revision as part of the Project encompass approximately 24 acres of the portion of the site located north of Nichols Road. The Nichols Canyon Mine site corresponds to the following Assessor’s Parcel Numbers (APNs): 389-200-35, 389-200-036, and 389-200-38. Latitude/Longitude: 33°42’35.62” North/117°21’3.35” West, San Bernardino Baseline and Meridian.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** The project consists of applications for a surface mining permit (SMP No. 2015-01) and an amendment to Reclamation Plan No. 2006-01A1 (RP 2006-01A2), which propose to: increase the total area subject to mining activities on the approximately 199-acre Nichols Canyon Mine from approximately 116 acres to approximately 140 acres, representing an increase of approximately 24 acres; extend the hours permitted for mining equipment operation, processing, equipment, and export from between 7:00 am and 12:00 am (Monday through Friday, excluding Federal Holidays) and between 7:00 am and 7:00 pm (Saturdays only) to between 4:00 am and 12:00 am (Monday through Saturday, excluding Federal Holidays) for mining equipment operation and 24 hours per day (Monday through Saturdays, excluding Federal Holidays) for aggregate export activities to reduce daytime and peak hour traffic from the Mine; and reduce the Nichols Canyon Mine’s permitted annual tonnage from 4,000,000 tons per year (tpy) to 856,560 tpy.

**POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS:** The DEIR discusses the project's potential environmental impacts. Impacts to the following issue areas were determined not to be significant as part of the project's Notice of Preparation (NOP) process: agricultural resources, hazards/hazardous materials, land use/planning, mineral resources, population/housing, public services, and recreation. The DEIR concluded that the project will have no potentially significant impacts upon aesthetics, cultural resources, greenhouse gas emissions, hydrology/water quality, and utilities/service systems. The DEIR also determined that the following issue areas have potentially significant environmental impacts that will be mitigated to below a level of significance: air quality, biological resources, and geology/soils. The DEIR determined that the proposed project will have significant and unavoidable project-level and cumulative impacts related to noise and transportation/circulation, which cannot be mitigated to below a level of significance. As a result, a Statement of Overriding Considerations would be required for the project to be approved.

**HAZARDOUS MATERIALS STATEMENT:** The project area does not include sites that have been included on lists of hazardous waste sites enumerated under Section 65962.5 of the California Government Code.

**DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY:** The Draft Environmental Impact Report (State Clearinghouse No. 2006051034) and associated Technical Appendices are available for review on the City's website at <http://www.lake-elsinore.org/index.aspx?page=246>, and at the following locations:

- **City of Lake Elsinore**, 130 South Main Street, Lake Elsinore, CA 92530. All documents referenced in the DEIR are available at this location.
- **Altha Merrifield Memorial Library**, 600 West Graham Avenue, Lake Elsinore, CA 92530. Hard copies of the DEIR and associated technical appendices are available at this location.
- **Vick Knight Community Library**, 32593 Riverside Drive, Building 200, Lake Elsinore, CA 92530. Hard copies of the DEIR and associated technical appendices are available at this location.

**PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD:** A 45-day review period has been established for the DEIR beginning **Friday, January 8, 2016** and ending on **Monday, February 22, 2015**. All comments on the DEIR may be submitted as soon as possible, but must be received no later than **5:00 p.m. on Monday, February 22, 2015**. All comments must be submitted in writing to the address listed below:

Mr. Richard J. MacHott, LEED Green Associate, Planning Manager  
Community Development Department – Planning Division  
City of Lake Elsinore  
130 South Main Street  
Lake Elsinore, CA 92530  
E-mail: [rmachott@lake-elsinore.org](mailto:rmachott@lake-elsinore.org)  
Telephone: 951.674.3124 Ext. 209/Fax: 951.471.1419

**PUBLIC HEARINGS:** No hearing dates have been set at this time. Notification of the date, time, and place of future public hearings will be provided in compliance with City and CEQA requirements.

Date: January 7, 2016

Signature: 

Richard J. MacHott, LEED Green Associate

Title: Planning Manager

Telephone: 951.674.3124 Ext. 209

E-mail Address: [rmachott@lake-elsinore.org](mailto:rmachott@lake-elsinore.org)