



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

**DATE:** August 22, 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 Recirculated Draft Environmental Impact Report (“RDEIR”) (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 BACKGROUND:** The City of Lake Elsinore circulated a Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for surface mining permit (SMP No. 2015-01) and an amendment to Reclamation Plan No. 2006-01A1 (RP 2006-01A2) for public review from January 8, 2016 to February 22, 2016. Based on comments received in response to the DEIR, the City of Lake Elsinore has prepared a Recirculated Draft Environmental Impact Report (RDEIR) to inform the public of changes to the document since the DEIR was initially distributed for public review and to provide the public with the opportunity to provide additional comments on the Project’s potential environmental effects. In accordance with CEQA Guidelines § 15088.5(g), the revisions made to the previously circulated DEIR are reflected in the RDEIR in strikeout/underline format. The RDEIR will be used to enable the City of Lake Elsinore and other interested parties to evaluate the significant environmental impacts associated with the proposed project. The RDEIR encompasses all sections of the DEIR, as the document is being recirculated for public review in its entirety.

The public is invited to provide comments on the RDEIR. All public comments received during the public review period of the DEIR along with their associated responses are included in RDEIR Section R.0, *Decision to Recirculate*. The RDEIR, along with any comment letters received in response to the public review period for the RDEIR and written responses thereto, will comprise the Final EIR, which will be considered by the City of Lake Elsinore Planning Commission.

**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 and asphalt batch plant operation and 24 hours per day (Monday through Saturdays, excluding Federal Holidays) for asphalt batch plant and 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 RDEIR 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 RDEIR concluded that the project will have either no impacts or less-than significant impacts prior to mitigation to the following issue areas: aesthetics, greenhouse gases, and utilities/service systems. The RDEIR also determined that, with the incorporation of mitigation measures, impacts to the following issue areas would be reduced to less-than-significant levels: cultural resources and geology/soils. Although mitigation measures are identified, impacts to the following issue areas would remain significant and unavoidable impacts of the proposed Project: air quality, biological resources, noise, and transportation/circulation. As a result, the Planning Commission would be required to adopt a Statement of Overriding Considerations in order to approve the proposed Project.

**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 Recirculated 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/city-hall/city-departments/community-development/planning/ceqa-documents-available-for-public-review>, and at the following locations:

- **City of Lake Elsinore**, 130 South Main Street, Lake Elsinore, CA 92530. A hard copy of the RDEIR and CDs with the RDEIR, associated technical appendices, and RDEIR reference materials are available at this location.

- **Altha Merrifield Memorial Library**, 600 West Graham Avenue, Lake Elsinore, CA 92530. Hard copies of the RDEIR and CDs with the RDEIR, associated technical appendices, and RDEIR reference materials are available at this location.
- **Vick Knight Community Library**, 32593 Riverside Drive, Building 200, Lake Elsinore, CA 92530. Hard copies of the RDEIR and CDs with the RDEIR, associated technical appendices, and RDEIR reference materials are available at this location.

**PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD:** A 45-day review period has been established for the RDEIR beginning **Tuesday, August 23, 2016** and ending on **Friday, October 7, 2016**. All comments on the RDEIR may be submitted as soon as possible, but must be received no later than **5:00 p.m. on Friday, October 7, 2016**. 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 GEQA requirements.

Date: 8/10/16

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)

**Amendment No. 2 to Reclamation Plan No. 2006-01A1, Surface Mining Permit No. 2015-01  
SCH#2006051034**

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