

**RESOLUTION OF THE ZONING ADMINISTRATOR
OF THE COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT
Resolution Number 25-
CASE NUMBER PLN-2025-19156
ASSESSOR'S PARCEL NUMBERS 524-052-002**

MAKING THE REQUIRED FINDINGS FOR CERTIFYING COMPLIANCE WITH THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT AND CONDITIONALLY APPROVING THE BRANSTETTER GRAVEL BAR CONDITIONAL USE/MINING PERMIT AND RECLAMATION PLAN 15-YEAR RENEWAL

WHEREAS, Mercer-Fraser Company submitted an application and evidence in support of approving a 15 year renewal of the McKnight Gravel Bar Conditional Use/Mining Permit and Reclamation Plan (CUP-10-12/SMP-09-03/RP-09-03); and

WHEREAS, the Humboldt County Planning Division has reviewed the submitted application, PLN-2025-19156, and evidence and has referred the application and evidence to involved reviewing agencies for site inspections, comments and recommendations; and

WHEREAS, the Humboldt County Planning Division, has reviewed the submitted application and evidence to involved reviewing agencies for site inspections, comments and recommendations; and

WHEREAS, a Mitigated Negative Declaration was adopted for the original permit and no changes are proposed, therefore no additional environmental review is required; and

WHEREAS, the Humboldt County Planning Division staff report includes evidence in support of making all of the required findings for approving the proposed 15-year renewal of the surface mining operation; and

WHEREAS, on May 1, 2025, a public hearing was held to receive public testimony on the proposed project.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Zoning Administrator makes all the following findings:

- 1. FINDING:** **Project Description:** Renewal of a 15-year term of a previously approved, existing instream gravel bar mining operation on the Trinity River near Willow Creek. The operation includes annual

extraction and processing of up to 10,000 cubic yards (cy) of river-run gravel. Extraction activities typically occur in areas adjacent to the wetted channel from June 1st to October 15th of each year. No changes to the extraction volume, location or Reclamation Plan is proposed. The annual volume, locations and extraction methods will be consistent with the recommendations of the CHERT and other regulatory agencies.

EVIDENCE: a) Project File: PLN-2025-19156

2. FINDING: **CEQA:** NO additional environmental review is required.

EVIDENCE: a) No expansion horizontally or vertically is proposed; no changes are proposed.

b) The project was previously subject to CEQA review, mitigation measures were incorporated and are now part of the project

c) The project is subject to review and approval by CHERT and other affected agencies annually.

Mining Permit 15-Year Renewal (*Title III, Div. 9, Chapter 1, §391-4(b)(6), Term, of the Humboldt County Code*)

3. FINDING: The life expectancy of the operation justifies a 15-year renewal.

EVIDENCE: County Public Works staff state that the extraction area is replenished annually and there will be aggregate material available through the 15-year term.

4. FINDING: There are no special circumstances related to the operation that would cause the term to be set for less than 15 years.

EVIDENCE: Referral notices were sent to interested agencies including CHERT, and no agencies indicated that the term should be less than 15 years. County Public Works staff are not aware of any special circumstances that should limit the term.

5. FINDING: The mine has been conducted in compliance with permit conditions.

EVIDENCE: The operation is inspected annually by County Planning staff for compliance with the Reclamation Plan and conditions of

approval and mitigation measures. The most recent inspection report from November 2022 shows no violations or issues.

6. FINDING: Existing Mitigation Measures and Conditions reduce environmental impacts to less than significant and all impacts are addressed.

EVIDENCE: Following review of relevant regulations and consultation with interested agencies, there are no changes in the law or circumstances that warrant additions or changes to conditions or mitigation measures.

NOW, THEREFORE, based on the above findings and evidence, the Humboldt County Zoning Administrator does hereby:

- Adopt the findings set forth in this resolution; and
- Approve the 15-year renewal of the McKnight Gravel Bar Conditional Use/Mining Permit and Reclamation Plan.

Adopted after review and consideration of all the evidence on **May 1, 2025**.

I, John H. Ford, Zoning Administrator of the County of Humboldt, do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct record of the action taken on the above-entitled matter by said Zoning Administrator at a meeting held on the date noted above.

John H. Ford, Director
Planning and Building Department