ATTACHMENT 5

Subsequent Mitigated Negative Declaration and Mitigated Negative Declaration adopted in 1993

Subsequent Mitigated Negative Declaration

Note: Pursuant to Section 15162 of the California Environmental Quality Act, this document is a Subsequent Mitigated Negative Declaration. The previous document Mitigated Negative Declaration is available and can be reviewed at the Humboldt County Community Development Services, Planning Division, 3015 H Street, Eureka, California.

1. Project title: Humboldt County Department of Public Works – Pacific Lumber Bar – Eel River at Dyerville

Renewal of Surface Mining/Conditional Use Permits/Approval of Reclamation Plan and

Review of Financial Assurance Cost Estimate Application

APN **211-141-03 and -65** (Weott area) Case No: CUP-02-92X/SMR-01-92X

- 2. Lead agency name and address: Humboldt County Community Development Services, 3015 H Street, Eureka, CA 95501-4484; Phone: (707) 445-7541; Fax (707) 445-7446
- 3. Contact person and phone number: Anita Punla, Senior Planner (707) 268-3727
- 4. **Project location**: The project is located in Humboldt County, in the Weott area, on the east side of Dyerville Loop Road, approximately 312 feet east from the intersection of Dyerville Loop Road and Vinnum Road, on the property known to be in the northeast quarter of Section 26 Township 1 South Range 2 East.
- 5. **Project sponsor's name and address**: Humboldt County Department of Public Works, c/o Ann Glubczynski, 1106 Second Street, Eureka CA 95501-0579.
- 6. General plan designation: Agriculture Grazing (AG), Framework Plan (FRWK)
- 7. **Zoning**: Unclassified
- 8. **Description of project**: A renewal of Surface Mining/Conditional Use Permits, approval of Reclamation Plan and review of Financial Cost Estimates for continued extraction from the Main Fork of the Eel River of a maximum 28,000 cubic yards of gravel over every three-year period. Operations were originally permitted in 1993. The project site is approximately 30 acres. Gravel from the river bar is used in County road maintenance activities in the region. The Department of Public Works has a License Agreement with the property owner for mining activities.

Skimming is the preferred method of extraction, but the extraction volume, location and extraction method will be based on the recommendations of CHERT and other regulatory agencies. Access to the site is from Dyerville Loop Road via the existing haul road located on the west side of the bar. Equipment used for extraction include: bulldozer or excavator, front-end loader and dump trucks. Extraction activities will occur between September 16 and November 1 to avoid the northern spotted owl and marbled murrelet nesting periods and to ensure completion of work before the winter rainy season. A portable crusher assembly will be temporarily located adjacent to the existing stockpile area. Crushing activities will avoid nesting periods.

- 9. **Surrounding land uses and setting**: The gravel bar is located on the Eel River. The surrounding area consists of heavily forested hillsides. Founders Grove (Humboldt Redwoods State Park) is located west of the project area. Other land uses near the gravel bar are livestock grazing and recreation. The land east of the river is primarily timberland.
- 10. Other public agencies whose approval is required (e.g. permits, financing approval, or participation agreement): Regional Water Quality Control Board, North Coast Air Quality Management District, California Department of Conservation, Office of Mine and Reclamation (Reclamation Plan and Financial Assurance Approval), California Department of Fish and Game, National Marine Fisheries

Service, Army Corps of Engineers, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, County of Humboldt Extraction Review Team.

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED:

Anita Punla, Senior Planner

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is a "Potentially Significant Impact" as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

☑ /	Aesthetics	☑ Agriculture Resources	☑ Air Quality			
V	Biological Resources	☐ Cultural Resources	☑ Geology / Soils			
	Hazards & Hazardous Materials	☑ Hydrology / Water Quality	☐ Land Use / Planning			
Ø	Mineral Resources	☑ Noise	☐ Population / Housing			
	Public Services	☑ Recreation	☑Transportation / Traffic			
	Utilities / Service Systems	☑ Mandatory Findings of Significance				
DE	TERMINATION:					
On	the basis of this initial evalua	ation:				
	I find that the proposed pr NEGATIVE DECLARATION	oject COULD NOT have a significant of will be prepared.	effect on the environment, and a			
Ø	I find that although the proposed project COULD have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A SUBSEQUENT MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.					
	I find that the proposed ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT		ct on the environment, and an			
	I find that the proposed project MAY have a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated" impact on the environment, but at least one effect 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.					
	I find that although the proposed project COULD have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required.					
	Anita Punla	. 6	17.09			
Sig	gnature		Date			

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Humboldt County Community Development Services

EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS:

- 1) A brief explanation is required for all answers except "No Impact" answers that are adequately supported by the information sources a lead agency cites in the parentheses following each question. A "No Impact" answer is adequately supported if the referenced information sources show that the impact simply does not apply to projects like the one involved (e.g., the project falls outside a fault rupture zone). A "No Impact" answer should be explained where it is based on project-specific factors as well as general standards (e.g., the project will not expose sensitive receptors to pollutants, based on a project-specific screening analysis).
- All answers must take into account the whole action involved, including off-site was well as on-site, cumulative as well as project-level, indirect as well as direct, and construction as well as operational impacts.
- 3) Once the lead agency has determined that a particular physical impact may occur, then the checklist answers must indicate whether the impact is potentially significant, less than significant with mitigation, or less than significant. "Potentially Significant Impact" is appropriate if there is substantial evidence that an effect may be significant. If there are one or more "Potentially Significant Impact" entries when the determination is made, an EIR is required.
- 4) "Negative Declaration: Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated" applies where the incorporation of mitigation measures has reduced an effect from "Potentially Significant Impact" to a "Less Than Significant Impact." The lead agency must describe the mitigation measures, and briefly explain how they reduce the effect to a less than significant level (mitigation measures from Section XVII, "Earlier Analyses," may be cross-referenced).
- 5) Earlier analyses may be used where, pursuant to the tiering, program EIR, or other CEQA process, an effect has been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR or negative declaration. Section 15063(c)(3)(D). In this case, a brief discussion should identify the following:
 - a) Earlier Analysis Used. Identify and state where they are available for review.
 - b) Impacts Adequately Addresses. Identify which effects from the above checklist were within the scope of and adequately analyze in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and state whether such effects were addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis.
 - c) Mitigation Measures. For effects that are "Less Than Significant with Mitigation Measures Incorporated,:" describe the mitigation measures which they address site-specific conditions for the project.
- 6) Lead agencies are encouraged to incorporate into the checklist references to information sources for potential impacts (e.g., general plan, zoning ordinances). Reference to a previously prepared or outside document should, where appropriate, include a reference to the page or pages where the statement is substantiated.
- 7) Supporting Information Sources: A source list should be attached, and other sources used or individuals contacted should be cited in the discussion.
 - a.) Reclamation Plan for Quarry
 - b.) Plan of Operations for Quarry
 - c) Project maps and figures

- 8) This is only a suggested form, and lead agencies are free to use different formats, however, lead agencies should normally address the questions from this checklist that are relevant to a project's environmental effects in whatever format is selected.
- 9) The explanation of each issue identifies:
 - a) The significant criteria or threshold, if any, used to evaluate each question; and
 - b) The mitigation measure identified, if any, to reduce the impact to less than significant.

CHECKLIST DISCUSSION OF CHECKLIST RESPONSES, PROPOSED MITIGATION

CHECKLIST, DISCUSSION OF CHECKLIST RESPONSES, PROPOSED WITIGATION									
1.	AESTHETICS . Would the project:	Potentially Significant	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorp.	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact				
a)	Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?								
b)	Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?			Ø					
c)	Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?			☑					
d)	Create a new source of substantial light or glare that would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?			☑					
<u>Discussion:</u> The gravel bar is located on the Eel River. The Eel River is designated a Wild and Scenic River in the project vicinity and project area. Operations were originally permitted in 1993. The surrounding area consists of heavily forested hillsides. Founders Grove (Humboldt Redwoods State Park) is located west of the project area. Other land uses near the gravel bar are livestock grazing and recreation. The land east of the river is primarily timberland. The bar is not visible from Founders Grove and is minimally visible from Highway 101 and Dyerville Loop Road. Mining activities on the bar will temporarily disrupt the scenic nature of the area. The project is intermittent and limited to daylight hours. Reclamation includes re-grading the bar smooth to resemble the natural gravel bar topography and removal of haul roads, stockpile areas and equipment to return the site to its natural condition.									
2.	AGRICULTURE 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) prepared by the California Dept. of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. Would the project:	Potentially Significant	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorp.	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?				Ø				
b)	Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?				Ø				
c)	Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use?				Ø				
sur local lan res	<u>Discussion:</u> The gravel bar is located on the Eel River. Operations were originally permitted in 1993. The surrounding area consists of heavily forested hillsides. Founders Grove (Humboldt Redwoods State Park) is located west of the project area. Other land uses near the gravel bar are livestock grazing and recreation. The land east of the river is primarily timberland. There are no residential communities in the area; the nearest residence is approximately three-quarter mile southeast from the site. Work will be confined to the gravel bar, existing access roads and stockpile areas. The gravel bar consists of river wash which is unsuitable for								

е st agriculture. Reclamation includes re-grading the bar smooth to resemble the natural gravel bar topography and removal of haul roads, stockpile areas and equipment to return the site to its natural condition. There is no evidence that the project will impact agricultural resources.

Less Than Significant Potentially 3. AIR QUALITY. Where available, the significant criteria established Potentially Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorp. Significant Impact by the applicable air quality management or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:

a)	Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?			Ø
b)	Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?		Ø	
c)	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 (including releasing emissions, which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?		Ø	,
d)	Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?		v	
e)	Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?			☑

<u>Discussion</u>: The gravel bar is located in the Eel River. The mining operation was originally permitted in 1993. The surrounding area consists of heavily forested hillsides. Founders Grove (Humboldt Redwoods State Park) is located west of the project area. Other land uses near the gravel bar are livestock grazing and recreation. The land east of the river is primarily timberland. There are no residential communities in the area; the nearest residence is approximately three-quarter mile southeast from the site.

In 2002, the California Air Resources Board approved an Asbestos Airborne Toxic Control Measure for Construction, Grading, Quarrying and Surface Mining Operations that applies to any operations in a geographic ultramafic rock unit. An exemption exists for sand and gravel operations if the operation processes materials from an alluvial deposit, e.g. river gravel bar. The Pacific Lumber gravel bar is not located in a geographic ultramafic rock unit. No known ultramafic rock units have been found along the mainstem Eel River upstream of the gravel bar.

The site is located in the North Coast Air Basin which is in non-attainment for Particulate Matter smaller than 10 microns in diameter (PM10). The areas of Humboldt County that are in non-attainment for PM10 are in the urban areas along the coast, e.g. Eureka and Arcata. Air pollutants could result from the project. Emissions from extraction and processing equipment and from trucks used for transporting material off-site will not result in significant contributions to PM10 levels in the area due to the location, scale and intermittent nature of the project. Mining operations will be done infrequently and for limited duration. Gravel crushing will be done by a portable crusher assembly that will be set up on the bar and will crush gravel for stockpiling. Crushing will take place concurrently with excavation. The applicant will obtain, as required, a "Permit to Operate" from the Northern California Air Quality Management District, which will regulate air emissions from that operation. Heavy equipment is generally subject to emission standards, and exceeding those standards may constitute a "nuisance" condition, and can be mitigated by proper vehicle maintenance.

Dust from operations, i.e. processing and transport activities, would be created during the time the site is active. Dust suppression measures, e.g. periodic watering, will be utilized to control dust. Dust associated with truck traffic would be reduced due to the speed at which the trucks could travel on the access road.

Mitigation M-1:

- 1. The project shall meet the requirements of the North Coast Unified Air Quality Management District, including consistency with the Asbestos Airborne Toxic Control Measure for Construction, Grading, Quarrying and Surface Mining Operations.
- 2. Dust suppression measures shall be utilized to control dust.

4.	BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES. Would the project:	Potentially Significant	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorp.	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		Ø		

11.5	Fich	and	Wildlifa	Service?
U.O.	L1211	anu	WILCINE	Service ?

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?	Ø	
c)	Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?		Ø
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?	☑	
e)	Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?		☑
f)	Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?		☑

<u>Discussion:</u> Mining operations were originally permitted in 1993. The project site is on the Eel River. The surrounding area consists of heavily forested hillsides. Founders Grove (Humboldt Redwoods State Park) is located west of the project area. Other land uses near the gravel bar are livestock grazing and recreation. The land east of the river is primarily timberland.

The California Natural Diversity Database contains records for five rare or sensitive plant species. Of these, the project area or vicinity may contain habitat for one species, the *White-flowered Rein Orchid*. It has been found at the south end of the Northwestern Pacific railroad bridge on the gravel bar. It is likely that the gravel bar access road is located in orchid habitat, and orchids may be found in the project vicinity. Mining activities include removing small, annual vegetation from the bar during excavation, as well as removing limbs from roadside trees. Access to the bar will be limited to the existing access road. Other than minor vegetation removal and tree limbing as needed to accommodate equipment and transports on the road, riparian disturbance will be avoided.

Several species of wildlife are listed by the US Fish & Wildlife Service as threatened or are candidates for listing for the Weott area. Some species were listed or critical habitat designated after the 1993 adoption of the Mitigated Negative Declaration. There is habitat for the Western Yellow-billed Cuckoo and Pacific Fisher in the project vicinity, but not the project area.

Coho, Chinook salmon and steelhead trout are known to inhabit the "middle" Eel River including the project reach. The middle Eel River serves primarily as a migration corridor with limited juvenile rearing habitat. Habitat has been degraded due to historic land management and flooding. The middle Eel River may provide Chinook salmon spawning habitat during low-water years when spawning habitat in tributaries is not available. Annual extraction volume, location and method will be based on the recommendations of CHERT and other regulatory agencies.

Northern spotted owls prefer old-growth or mixed-age stands of mature and old-growth trees. Owls nest in large trees with broken tops or cavities. Foraging activities can take place in a wider array of forest types, including more open forests. While owls forage in dense forests, they also forage along the edges of dense forests and in more open forests for different prey. Nesting season is from February 1 through July 31. The project area does not contain habitat for the northern spotted owl. However, they are known to inhabit the project vicinity, with seven records of owl occurrences within 2.3 miles of the project area.

Marbled murrelets are long-lived seabirds that spend most of their lives in the marine environment, but fly inward to nest. Nesting generally occurs in old-growth forests characterized by large trees, Douglas fir and coastal redwood. Nesting season is March 24 through September 15. The project area does not contain habitat for marbled murrelets; however, marbled murrelets are known to inhabit the project vicinity, and the CNDDB contains 16 records for murrelets within two miles of the bar. In addition, an approximate 50,250 acres of

designated marbled murrelet critical habitat can be found immediately west of the bar.

Review of occurrences of rare and sensitive wildlife species recorded in the CNDDB revealed four species, none of which have recorded occurrences in the project area. The project area and/or vicinity contain habitat for all four species (Sonoma Tree Vole, Ten Mile Shoulderband, Humboldt Marten and Foothill Yellow-legged Frog).

The project may temporarily affect movement of wildlife through the disturbed area, but extraction activities are intermittent and temporary. Mining activities are limited to late summer during daylight hours.

Mitigation M-2:

- Extraction methods, volumes and locations shall be consistent with the requirements of CHERT, DF&G, COE, RWQCB and other regulatory agencies. If a wetland pit extraction is performed, work shall be coordinated with DFG to develop a strategy to avoid fish entrapment and eradicate bullfrogs that may attempt to utilize the area.
- 2. The project shall employ Best Management Practices (BMP's) for Erosion and Sediment Control (ESC) and Contractor Activities (CA) as identified in the California Storm Water Best Management Practice Handbook for Construction Activity.
- 3. The project shall be consistent with the County's General Plan policies re: sensitive and critical habitats and with the County's Streamside Management Area Ordinance.
- 4. Gravel mining activities will be restricted to summer months during daylight hours (after September 15th and before November 1st).
- 5. Access to the bar will be limited to the existing access road. Other than minor vegetation removal and tree limbing as needed to accommodate equipment and transports on the road, riparian disturbance will be avoided. Furthermore, applicant will work with DFG to develop a strategy to improve riparian buffer area between riverbank and permanent stockpile area.

5.	CULTURAL RESOURCES. Would the project:	Potentially Significant	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorp.	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impaci
a)	Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in §15064.5?				V
b)	Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?				Ø
c)	Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?				Ø
d)	Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?				\square

<u>Discussion:</u> The gravel bar is located on the Eel River. Mining operations were originally permitted in 1993. The Pacific Railroad bridge at the north (downstream) end of the gravel bar was constructed in 1910. The bridge incurred damage in the 1964 flood and its spans and pier were replaced in 1965. The project will not affect the bridge. The Division of Natural Resources of the Humboldt County Department of Public Works has indicated that their database contains no recorded archaeological sites within the project area. The geology at the project site is not unique to the area nor is it a paleontological resource or site. There is no evidence that the project would impact archaeological resources.

6.	GEC	DLOGY AND SOILS. Would the project:	Potentially Significant	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorp,	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a)		pose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, cluding 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			Ø	

		evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42?				
	(ii)	Strong seismic ground shaking?			Ø	
	iii)	Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?			V	
	iv)	Landslides?			$\overline{\checkmark}$	
b)	Re	sult in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?				
c)	bed on-	located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would come unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction collapse?			Ø	
d)	Un	located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the iform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or operty?			☑	
e)	tan	ve soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic ks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers not available for the disposal of waste water?				☑
gradinstant act no mo sloppro The gradbe The by CC adj	vel) cabil kno dera ced e pr vel per mor E a ace	ast of the river is primarily timberland. The project area consists and river terrace deposits, also of sand and gravel. The area surity, but the bar itself has low slope instability. The north coast of Cregions in the United States. Humboldt County in general is at risk own earthquake faults in the vicinity of the project. Characteristately high accelerations of short to intermediate periods with intenstability. Equipment will contain all required safety features. Poures. There is no topsoil on the bar, which is made up of sand and generate as the bar is inundated and the gravel replenished during he nount of gravel extraction in any given year will be based on the anitoring cross sections. Extraction volume and method are subject and other regulatory agencies. These standards have been designt bar morphology, reduce bank erosion, create deep-water ment.	rounding California from stros of extraction gravel. Louigh flows amount of to annual pned to r	the gravel be is one of the ong ground-slearthquake slearthquake sleaduration of will follow an will be limited oss of gravel in winters will freplenishmental review by the maintain char	ar has hig most seis naking. The naking constant of the at the site the normal ent as detected to the county anel capacities.	h slope smically ere are nsist of and low safety alluvial will not rainfall. ermined y, DFG, city and
7.	HA	ZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS. Would the project:	Potentially Significant	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorp.	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a)		eate a significant hazard to the public or the environment through routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?			Ø	
b)	rea	eate a significant hazard to the public or the environment through asonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the ease of hazardous materials into the environment?			Ø	
c)	ha	nit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely zardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile an existing or proposed school?				Ø
d)	Re	located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous	П	П	П	V

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?			
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 for people residing or working in the project area?			Ø
f)	For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?			V
g)	Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?			☑
h)	Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?		Ø	

<u>Discussion:</u> The project site is on the Eel River. Mining operations were originally permitted in 1993. There are no residential communities in the area; the nearest residence is approximately three-quarter mile southeast from the site.

The project site is not included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5. The project does not involve the handling or emissions of acutely hazardous materials, substances or waste. The project site is not located within two miles of a public airport or public use airport; there are no known private airstrips within the vicinity of the site. There are no residential communities in the area. There are no schools located within one-quarter mile of the site. The project is located off Dyerville Loop Road.

Standards of operation minimize any potential impacts from the project. The potential for contaminants is limited to operation-related activities such as equipment leaks or spills. Such contaminants from equipment shall be controlled through proper equipment operation and maintenance. Major equipment maintenance work, i.e. repairs and changing of fluids or lubricants, will be conducted off-site. Any materials contaminated by equipment leaks will be properly disposed.

The project site is located in an area subject to risk from wildland fires. The site is within a State Responsibility Area and fire jurisdiction is by Cal Fire. Extraction activity will occur at the gravel bar, away from vegetation, and heavy equipment shall be fire-safe, i.e. operating under a fire safety plan and equipped with spark arrestors. The access road shall be maintained free of vegetation during times of activity. There will be no "abandoned" equipment, structures, refuse, etc. associated with operations to remain on the reclaimed site after extraction has been discontinued.

In 2002, the California Air Resources Board approved an Asbestos Airborne Toxic Control Measure for Construction, Grading, Quarrying and Surface Mining Operations that applies to any operations in a geographic ultramafic rock unit. An exemption exists for sand and gravel operations if the operation processes materials from an alluvial deposit, e.g. river gravel bar. The bar is not located in an area known to contain ultramafic rock units. No known ultramafic rock units have been found along the mainstem Eel River upstream of the gravel bar. Mitigation M-3:

- 1. The project shall meet the requirements of the North Coast Unified Air Quality Management District, including consistency with the Asbestos Airborne Toxic Control Measure for Construction, Grading, Quarrying and Surface Mining Operations.
- 2. The project shall be consistent with the standards in the Mining and Reclamation Plan, as well as standards and requirements of other regulatory agencies.

8.	HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY. Would the project:	Potentially Significant	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorp.	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a)	Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?			Ø	

b)	Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?			
c)	Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?	Ø		
d)	Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site?			Ø
e)	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?			☑
f)	Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?		\square	
g)	Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map?			☒
h)	Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures which would impede or redirect flood flows?			V
!)	Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?			
j)	Inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?			

<u>Discussion:</u> The Middle Mainstem Eel River is water-quality impaired due to temperature and excessive sedimentation. The proposed project has the potential to increase sediment input to the river.

No work will be done in the water. However, gravel extraction includes excavation that will disturb the bar surface; gravel with a finer sediment component can enter the river when higher flows inundate the bar. Gravel extraction will not require the removal of any shade-producing riparian/riverside vegetation that could affect water temperatures. However, extractions have the potential to increase temperatures by encouraging a wider and shallower low flow channel.

Extraction will also alter gravel bar drainage patterns by concentrating surface flow to one deeper low-flow channel than the current bar configuration of multiple, shallow, braided channels. This drainage change is temporary as each excavation will fill in when winter flows become great enough to mobilize the remaining gravel on the bar. Extraction methods and volumes are reviewed annually by the County of Humboldt Extraction Review Team, the Department of Fish and Game and other regulatory agencies. Standards have been designed to maintain channel capacity and adjacent bar morphology, reduce bank erosion, create deep-water habitat and reduce impacts to the environment. Regular monitoring through the use of pre-extraction, post-extraction and permanent monitoring cross sections provide information on stream bed changes in relation to extraction activities, and future extraction plans will be designed and approved based on the monitoring data. Consistency with the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act, Water Code section 13000 et seq., and the Federal Clean Water Act 301 et seq., the Regional Water Quality Control Board or the State Water Resources Control Board and requirements of permitting agencies will ensure that water quality is not degraded.

The Northwestern Pacific Railroad bridge is located at the downstream end of the project. To minimize impacts to the bridge due to scour or erosion, a setback of minimum 500 feet will be instituted unless a smaller setback is approved by the North Coast Railroad Authority.

The project will not draw groundwater and will not cause any change in current groundwater recharge

processes. No withdrawals are proposed. No housing or structures are being proposed. No levee or dam construction is associated with the project. The site is not located within a tsunami hazard zone. The site is not a part of an existing or planned stormwater drainage system.

Mitigation M-4:

- 1. Operations shall be consistent with the standards and requirements of CHERT, DF&G, COE, RWQCB and other regulatory agencies.
- 2. The project shall employ Best Management Practices (BMP's) for Erosion and Sediment Control (ESC) and Contractor Activities (CA) as identified in the California Storm Water Best Management Practice Handbook for Construction Activity.
- 3. Operations shall maintain a minimum 500 foot setback from the bridge unless a smaller setback is approved by the North Coast Railroad Authority.

9.	LAND USE AND PLANNING. Would the project:	Potentially Significant	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorp.	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a)	Physically divide an established community?				Ø
b)	Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?				Ø
c)	Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?				☑

<u>Discussion</u>: The gravel bar is located on the Eel River. Operations were originally permitted in 1993. The surrounding area consists of heavily forested hillsides. Founders Grove (Humboldt Redwoods State Park) is located west of the project area. Other land uses near the gravel bar are livestock grazing and recreation. The land east of the river is primarily timberland. The site is planned Agriculture Grazing and zoned Unclassified. Work will be confined to the gravel bar, existing access roads and stockpile areas. The gravel bar consists of river wash which is unsuitable for agriculture. There are no residential communities in the area; the nearest residence is approximately three-quarter mile southeast from the site. Reclamation includes re-grading the bar smooth and removal of haul roads, as required, stockpile areas and equipment to return the site to its natural condition. There is no evidence that the project would result in land use and planning impacts.

10.	MINERAL RESOURCES. Would the project:	Potentially Significant	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorp.	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?				Ø
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?				Ø

<u>Discussion</u>: The project proposes extraction and processing of up to 28,000 cubic yards of gravel over a three-year period. Sand and gravel are a needed resource for local residential, commercial, industrial and public facility development. The project allows for the continued, sustainable utilization of an important mineral resource. The mineral resources available on the site are not unique to the area and are subject to annual replenishment during high flows in winters with normal rainfall. The amount of gravel extraction in any given year will be based on the amount of replenishment as determined by monitoring cross sections. Extraction volume and method are subject to annual review by the CHERT, DFG and other regulatory agencies. These standards have been designed to maintain channel capacity and adjacent bar morphology, reduce bank erosion, create deep-water habitat and reduce impacts to the environment. The project will have no effect on future mining opportunities in this area. There is no evidence that the project would impact mineral resources.

11.	NOISE. Would the project result in:	Potentially Significant	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorp.	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impac
a)	Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?			Ø	
b)	Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?				
c)	A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?				Ø
d)	A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?			Ø	
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 expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?				☑
f)	For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?				☑

<u>Discussion</u>: The gravel bar is located on the Eel River. Operations were originally permitted in 1993. The surrounding area consists of heavily forested hillsides. Founders Grove (Humboldt Redwoods State Park) is located west of the project area. Other land uses near the gravel bar are livestock grazing and recreation. The land east of the river is primarily timberland. There are no residential communities in the area; the closest residence is approximately three-quarter mile southeast from the site.

Mining activities that will produce noise include extraction, processing, loading and transporting rock material. Bulldozers, loaders, trucks, portable crusher and other similar type equipment will be used to extract, crush and transport the material.

Ambient noise levels have historically been associated with timber harvesting and quarry activities. The mine will operate on an intermittent basis with the activity to occur in the drier months. There will be long periods of time when no sounds will be generated. Increased noise levels occur only during periods of operation. When the mining operation occurs, the period of activity will usually be three to four weeks. Operations including extraction, crushing, and transport may impact wildlife behavior. However, disruption to wildlife will be temporary and short term, and operations are limited to summer daylight hours (after September 15th to before November 1st) to minimize impact to wildlife and outside the nesting season for northern spotted owls and marbled murrelets.

The proposed project is not located within an airport land use plan or within two miles of a public airport or private airstrip.

Mitigation M-5:

1. Gravel mining activities will be restricted to summer months during daylight hours (after September 15th and before November 1st) to minimize impacts to wildlife, including the northern spotted owl and marbled murrelet.

12.	POPULATION AND HOUSING. Would the project:	Potentfally Signiffcant	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorp.	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a)	Induce substantial 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)?				Ø
b)	Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?				Ø
c)	Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the				

construction of replacement housing elsewhere?

<u>Discussion</u>: The project will not produce any significant growth inducing impacts. Aggregate extraction is normally driven by growth, not vice versa. Growth inducing impacts are generally caused by projects that have a direct or indirect affect on economic or population growth, or when the project taxes community service facilities which require upgrades beyond the existing remaining capacity. No services or utilities are required to be extended to the site. The project will employ only a few people for a limited amount of time. The project will not displace existing housing or people. There are no residential communities in the area. There is no evidence that the project would impact population and housing.

13. PUBLIC SERVICES.

a)	Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for 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:	Potentially Significant	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorp.	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
	i. Fire protection?				
	ii. Police protection?				
	iii. Schools?				\square
	iv. Parks?				\square
	v. Other public facilities?				

<u>Discussion:</u> The gravel bar is located on the Eel River. Operations were originally permitted in 1993. The surrounding area consists of heavily forested hillsides. Founders Grove (Humboldt Redwoods State Park) is located west of the project area. Other land uses near the gravel bar are livestock grazing and recreation. The land east of the river is primarily timberland. There are no residential communities in the area; the closest residence is approximately three-quarter mile southeast from the site. No additional facilities or extension of existing facilities or increased demand for services are required for the project.

14.	RECREATION.	Potentially Significant	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorp,	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?				
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?				Ø

<u>Discussion</u>: The gravel bar is located on the Eel River. Operations were originally permitted in 1993. The surrounding area consists of heavily forested hillsides. Founders Grove (Humboldt Redwoods State Park) is located west of the project area. Other land uses near the gravel bar are livestock grazing and recreation. The land east of the river is primarily timberland. There are no residential communities in the area; the closest residence is approximately three-quarter mile southeast from the site. No recreational facilities or development requiring the need for recreational facilities is proposed. There is no evidence that the project results in impacts associated with recreation.

15.	TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC. Would the project:	Potentially Significant	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorp.	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a)	Cause an increase in traffic that is substantial in relation to the existing traffic load and capacity of the street system (i.e., result in a			Ø	

	substantial increase in either the number of vehicle trips, the volume to capacity ratio on roads, or congestion at intersections)?				
b)	Exceed, either individually or cumulatively, a level of service standard established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?				Ø
c)	Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks?				Ø
d)	Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?				Ø
e)	Result in inadequate emergency access?				$\overline{\mathbf{Q}}$
f)	Result in inadequate parking capacity?				
g)	Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation (e.g., bus turnouts, bicycle racks)?				Ø
sur loc lan res roa har will ope	cussion: The gravel bar is located on the Eel River. Operations rounding area consists of heavily forested hillsides. Founders Grove ated west of the project area. Other land uses near the gravel bar are deast of the river is primarily timberland. There are no residential idence is approximately three-quarter mile southeast from the site. It is off Dyerville Loop Road. The roads have been used intermitted three-typesting activities. Truck traffic generated by the project will vary with the long periods with little or no project-generated traffic. Traffic increase in the project will constitute a minimal increase of 5% of the average daily trained to the project will not affect any other emergency access route. Ample pages and the project will not affect any other emergency access.	e (Humbole livestock communi The site iently for queesonal afficients)	dt Redwood grazing ar ties in the s accessed uarry opera and market Dyerville Lo	ds State F nd recreation area; the I via existinations and conditions op Road fr	Park) is on. The closest ng haul timber. There om the
cur	rently exists at the site. There is no evidence that the project will ograms supporting alternative transportation.				
16.	UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS. Would the project:	Potentially Significant	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorp.	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a)	Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?				Ø
b)	Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?				☑
c)	Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?				Ø
d)	Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?				Ø
e)	Result in a determination by the wastewater 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?				V
f)	Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to				\square

g) Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations

 \square

related to solid waste?

<u>Discussion</u>: The gravel bar is located on the Eel River. Operations were originally permitted in 1993. The surrounding area consists of heavily forested hillsides. Founders Grove (Humboldt Redwoods State Park) is located west of the project area. Other land uses near the gravel bar are livestock grazing and recreation. The land east of the river is primarily timberland. There are no residential communities in the area; the closest residence is approximately three-quarter mile southeast from the site. Portable chemical toilets will be provided, as required, and maintained by a licensed pumper. The use and maintenance of the portable sanitary facility will comply with all state and county regulations. No wastewater is produced. No solid waste will be generated. There is no evidence that the project will adversely impact utilities and service systems.

17): Mandatory Findings of Significance

17 MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

<u>Findings</u>: The proposal will not have the potential to 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, 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; potential to achieve short-term, to the disadvantage of long-term, environmental goals; impacts which 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); or environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly.

Potenti

Potentially

Discussion:

		ally Signific ant	Significant Unless Mitigation Incorp.	Than Signific ant Impact	Impaci
a)	Does the project have the potential to 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, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of major periods of California history/prehistory?			团	
act ext Co the dis	cussion: The project proposes continuation of operations originally ivities occur on the gravel bars, subject to alluvial processes durifuraction volume, location and method, is subject to regulatory oversunty of Humboldt Extraction Review Team, DFG and COE. Monitoring project. Potential project impacts have been mitigated during the plancussion under Section 4. Biological Resources.	ing high ight by r and ada ining stag	flows. The numerous ag ptive manag	oroject, ir encies, ir ement are	cluding cluding part o
lm	portant examples of California history or prehistory do not exist on the s	site.			
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)?			Ø	

<u>Discussion</u>: The surface mining activities and final reclamation of the site have no collective impact greater than any individual component. The proposed development does not include any short-term impacts that are to the detriment of long-term environmental goals. Potential project impacts have been mitigated during the planning stage of the proposal. The project is designed and mitigated with these long-term goals in mind. The project, including extraction volume, location and method, is subject to regulatory oversight by numerous agencies,

including County of Humboldt Extraction Review Team, DFG and COE. Monitoring and adaptive management are part of the project. The ultimate reclamation of the site, to return the site to its natural condition, will be beneficial in all cases when viewed in a context with past, present, and future projects. The proposed project is consistent with the general or community plan developed for the area.

The project has been reviewed in the context of all other recent discretionary approvals in the surrounding area, in the context of conformance with the applicable general plan or community plan policies and standards, and in the context of future developments which are known at the time of project review. As part of this review, the project has been determined to be consistent with the long term goals of the general plan by virtue of consistency with the provisions of the general plan designation and zoning. The project represents conditionally permitted development in the context of the general and/or community plans.

, , ,	Does the project have environmental effects which will cause		abla	
	substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or			
	indirectly?			

<u>Discussion:</u> The proposed project will not cause cumulative adverse effects to human beings, either directly or indirectly. The proposed project is not expected to cause substantial adverse effects on human beings. The project will not generate uses which would be expected to cause adverse effects on people.

18. DISCUSSION OF MITIGATION MEASURES, MONITORING, AND REPORTING PROGRAM

The Department found that the project could result in potentially significant adverse impacts unless mitigation measures are required. A list of Mitigation that addresses and mitigates potentially significant adverse impacts to a level of non-significance follows. Additional details regarding mitigation for reclamation of the site can be found in the Reclamation Plan.

Mitigation M-1:

- 1. The project shall meet the requirements of the North Coast Unified Air Quality Management District, including consistency with the Asbestos Airborne Toxic Control Measure for Construction, Grading, Quarrying and Surface Mining Operations.
- 2. Dust suppression measures shall be utilized to control dust.

Mitigation M-2:

- Extraction methods, volumes and locations shall be consistent with the requirements of CHERT, DF&G, COE, RWQCB and other regulatory agencies. If a wetland pit extraction is performed, work shall be coordinated with DFG to develop a strategy to avoid fish entrapment and eradicate bullfrogs that may attempt to utilize the area.
- 2. The project shall employ Best Management Practices (BMP's) for Erosion and Sediment Control (ESC) and Contractor Activities (CA) as identified in the California Storm Water Best Management Practice Handbook for Construction Activity.
- 3. The project shall be consistent with the County's General Plan policies re: sensitive and critical habitats and with the County's Streamside Management Area Ordinance.
- 4. Gravel mining activities will be restricted to summer months (June through October), primarily when the gravel bar is dry, to avoid impacts to federally listed steelhead trout.
- 5. Access to the bar will be limited to the existing access road. Other than minor vegetation removal and tree limbing as needed to accommodate equipment and transports on the road, riparian disturbance will be avoided. Furthermore, applicant will work with DFG to develop a strategy to improve riparian buffer area between riverbank and permanent stockpile area.

Mitigation M-3:

1. The project shall meet the requirements of the North Coast Unified Air Quality Management District, including consistency with the Asbestos Airborne Toxic Control Measure for Construction, Grading, Quarrying and Surface Mining Operations.

2. The project shall be consistent with the standards in the Mining and Reclamation Plan, as well as standards and requirements of other regulatory agencies.

Mitigation M-4:

- 1. Operations shall be consistent with the standards and requirements of CHERT, DF&G, COE, RWQCB and other regulatory agencies.
- 2. The project shall employ Best Management Practices (BMP's) for Erosion and Sediment Control (ESC) and Contractor Activities (CA) as identified in the California Storm Water Best Management Practice Handbook for Construction Activity.
- 3. Operations shall maintain a minimum 500 foot setback from the bridge unless a smaller setback isapproved by the North Coast Railroad Authority.

Mitigation M-5:

1. Gravel mining activities will be restricted to summer months during daylight hours (after September 15th and before November 1st) to minimize impacts to wildlife, including the northern spotted owl and marbled murrelet.

19. EARLIER ANALYSES.

Earlier analysis may be used where, pursuant to the tiering, program EIR, or other CEQA process, one or more effects have been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR or negative declaration. Section 16063(c)(3)(D). In this case a discussion should identify the following on attached sheets:

- a) Earlier analyses used. Identify earlier analyses and state where they are available for review.
- 1. Humboldt County General Plan
- 2. Humboldt County Zoning Ordinance
- 3. Mitigated Negative Declaration adopted with the 1993 approval of the original project

Items are available for review at Humboldt County Planning Division.

b) Impacts adequately addressed. Identify which effects from the above checklist were within the scope of and adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and state whether such effects ere addressed by mitigation measure based on a the earlier analysis.

See 19.a above

c) Mitigation measures. For effects that are "Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated," describe the mitigation measures which were incorporated or refined from the earlier document and the extent to which they address site-specific conditions for the project.

See 19.a above

20. SOURCE/REFERENCE LIST

Humboldt County documents are available for review at the Humboldt County Community Development Services – Planning Division during regular business hours.

Berg, Alice, D. Halligan, K. Hess. 2002. Biological Assessment for Southern Oregon/Northern California Coasts Coho Salmon, California Coastal Chinook Salmon, Northern California Steelhead that may be affected by LOP-02-1 Gravel Extraction Operations in Humboldt County of Humboldt

Bosch, Ray. 1998. Noise Monitoring of Humboldt County Crushing Operations near Founders Grove California Department of Fish and Game. July 2008. Biogeographic Information and Observation System California Natural Diversity Database. November 2007. Report: Weott Quadrangle. California Department of Fish and Game.

Ferndale Enterprise. June 11, 1965. NWPRR Restoration Is Saga of Private Enterprise at Work. Ferndale, CA.

Humboldt County Planning Division. 1979. Seismic Safety Map

Humboldt County. 1984. Humboldt County General Plan, Volume 1, Framework Plan.

Humboldt County. 1993. Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration – Pacific Lumber Bar - Dyerville National Marine Fisheries Service. 2004. Biological Opinion, Letter of Permission Procedure 2004-1 for Gravel Mining and Excavation Activities within Humboldt County.

Pacific Biodiversity Institute. 2007. www.pacificbio.org/ESIN/Mammals/PacificFisher/fisher page.html

Spittler, Thomas E. 1983. Geologic and Geomorphic Features Related to Landsliding – Weott 7.5' Quadrangle, Humboldt County, California. California Department of Conservation, Division of Mines and Geology.

Stindt, Fred, G. Dunscomb. 1964. The Northwestern Pacific Railroad, Redwood Empire Route. Stindt and Dunscomb. Redwood City, CA.

Thomas, Jack, E. Forsman, J. Lin et al. 1990. A Conservation Strategy for the Northern Spotted Owl, Interagency Scientific Committee to Address the Conservation of the Northern Spotted Owl. Portland, OR.

US Environmental Protection Agency, Region IX. 2005. Final Middle Main Eel River and Tributaries (from Dos Rios to the South Fork) Total Maximum Daily Loads for Temperature and Sediment.

US Fish and Wildlife Service. 1998. Biological Opinion, Humboldt County Gravel Operations near Founders Grove, Humboldt Redwood State Park

US Fish and Wildlife Service. 2004. http://endangered.fws.gov/i/b6k.html

US Fish and Wildlife Service. 2007. www.fws.gov/oregonfwo/Species/Data/YellowBilledCuckoo/default.asp

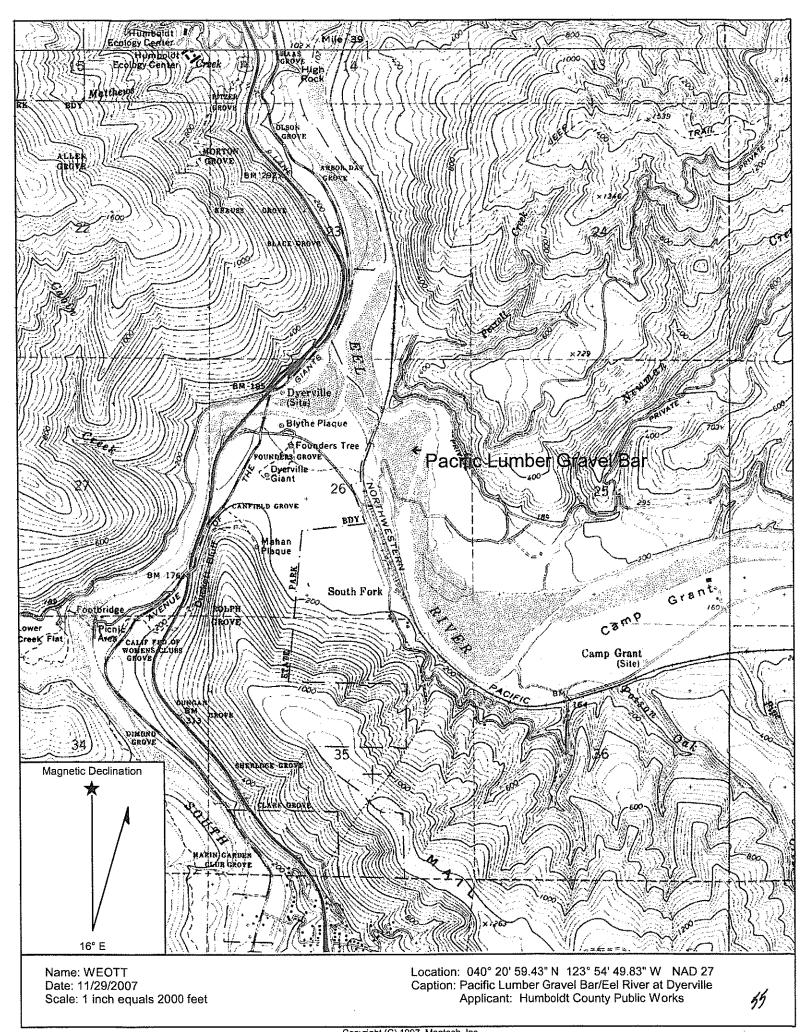
US Fish and Wildlife Service. 2007. www.fws.gov/arcata/es/birds/MM/m murrelet.html

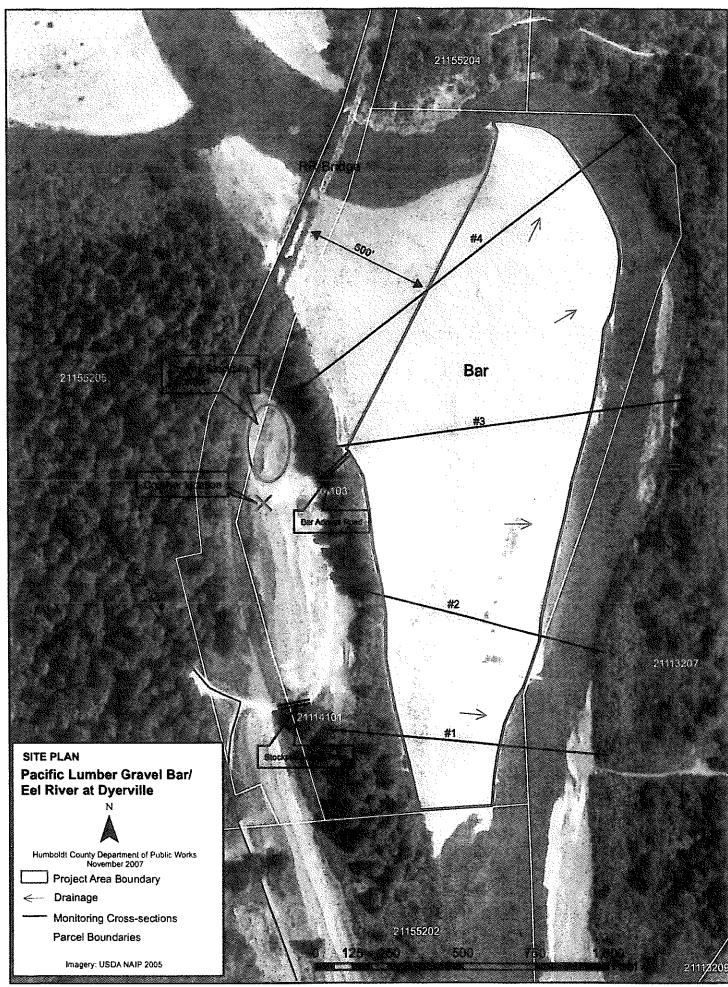
US Geologic Survey, National Water Information System. Web Interface. 2007. www.waterdata.usgs.gov/ca.nwis.

Wikipedia.2007. www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Northwestern Pacific Railroad.

Contacts:

Leslie Wolff, Hydrologist, National Marine Fisheries Service. November 8, 2007. Ken Hoffman, Biologist, US Fish and Wildlife Service. September 5, 2007.





NEGATIVE DECLARATION

for

Pacific Lumber Company Gravel Bar Eel River near Dyerville

PROJECT: Dyerville Loop Gravel Bar

APPLICANT: Humboldt County

Public Works Department

Road Division 1106 Second Street Eureka, CA 95501

CONTACT PERSON: Donald C. Tuttle, Environmental Services Manager

(707) 445-7741

PROPERTY OWNER: Pacific Lumber Company

125 Main Street Scotia, CA 95565

ASSESSOR'S PARCEL NO.: 211-141-03

ZONING DESIGNATION: Unclassified

GENERAL PLAN DESIGNATION: Agriculture Grazing

PROJECT LOCATION: The project is located on a river bar on the west side of the Main Eel River, approximately 500 feet upstream of the railroad bridge which crosses the Main Eel River at its confluence with the South Fork Eel River.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The project involves the annual removal of 1,000 cubic yards of gravel from the river bar plus the removal and crushing of up to 25,000 cubic yards every three to five years. This material will be trucked from the bar to an old river terrace located about 1,000 feet south of the work site where it will be crushed and stockpiled until needed.

PURPOSE OF PROJECT: To provide material for maintaining County roads.

FINDING OF INSIGNIFICANT IMPACTS: Based upon the attached Initial Study prepared by the Natural Resources Division of the Public Works Department, it has been determined that the continuing use of this gravel bar will have no significant adverse effects on the environment.

Donald C. Tuttle

Environmental Services Manager

Donald C. Turto

August 7, 1992

INITIAL STUDY

Pacific Lumber Company Gravel Bar August 1992

Applicant: Humboldt County

Public Works Department

Road Division 1106 Second Street Eureka, CA 95501 Land Owner: Pacific Lumber Company

125 Main Street Scotia, CA 95565 AP#211-141-03

Project Description: The project involves the removal of 1,000 cubic yards of gravel from the bar on an annual basis. Every three to five years, 25,000 cubic yards will be removed, crushed and stockpiled. This larger volume will be obtained by skimming an area measuring approximately 1,000 feet by 200 feet to a depth of three to four feet. A portable crusher will be placed on adjacent land up out of the river bed about 1,000 feet south of the bar when crushing is to be done (Figure 1).

A detailed description of the operation is contained in the attached Work Plan (Appendix A).

Project Purpose: The purpose of the project is to provide gravel and crushed rock for maintenance of County roads in this area of the County.

Project Location: The gravel bar is located at the west side of the Main Eel River, approximately 500 feet upstream of the railroad bridge which crosses the Main Eel River near its confluence with the South Fork Eel River. An existing access road runs east to the river bar off of Dyerville Loop Road, one-half mile south of the intersection of Avenue of the Giants. It provides access to the old river terrace and continues on to the bar. The site is located in Section 26, TlS, R2E, H.B. & M., and may be located on the 15 minute and 7½ minute Weott Quadrangle sheets (see Maps in Figures 2 through 5).

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Wild & Scenic River Designation: The project area on the Eel River is included under the California Wild & Scenic Rivers System. The California Wild & Scenic Rivers Act (SB 107) of December 20, 1972, declares it is the policy of the State of California to preserve the river in its free-flowing state together with its immediate environment for the benefit and enjoyment of the people of the State. Use of the river as wild and scenic is declared to be the highest and most beneficial use, and a reasonable and beneficial use of water within the meeting of the California Constitution.

The project area is designated or classified as a recreational section of the wild river. No dam, reservoir, diversion or other water impoundment facility other than temporary flood storage facilities can be constructed on this river in this area. In regard to the streambed alteration agreement, the State Attorney General has held that the Department of Fish & Game is prohibited from entering into these agreements in any case where the agreement would alter the natural condition of the river (60 Ops. Cal. Atty. Gen. for [1977]).

Humboldt County Public Works Department Parcel Boundary Gravel Extraction Area Railroad Wenue of the Glants Aerial photo dated July 28, 1988

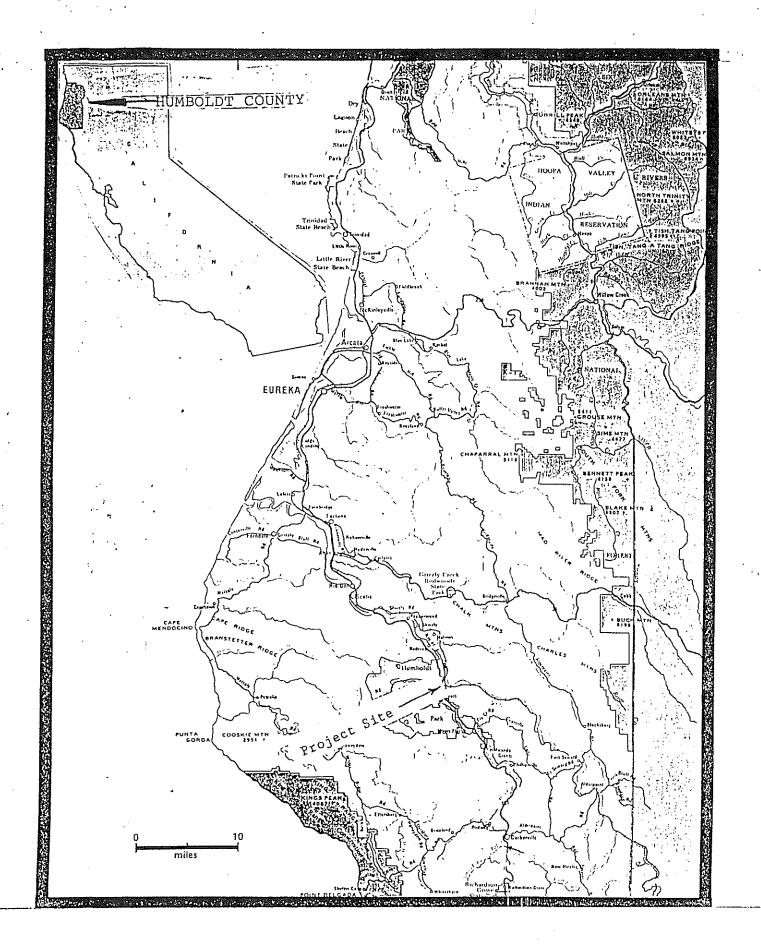


Figure 2 - Regional Map

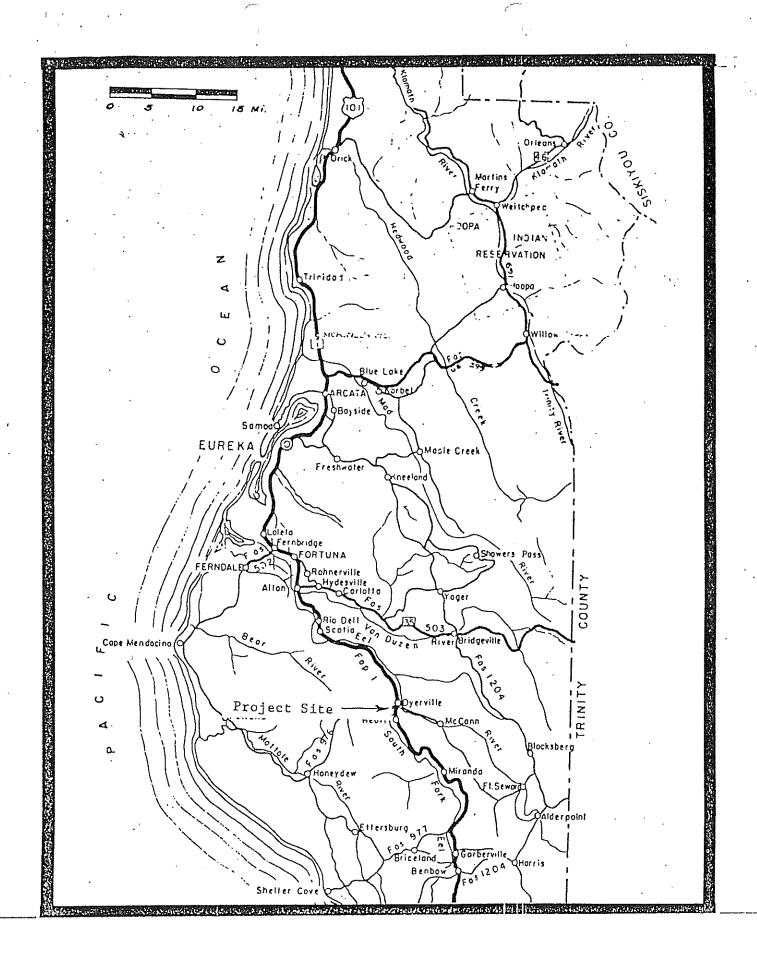


Figure 3 - Humboldt County showing project site at Dyerville.

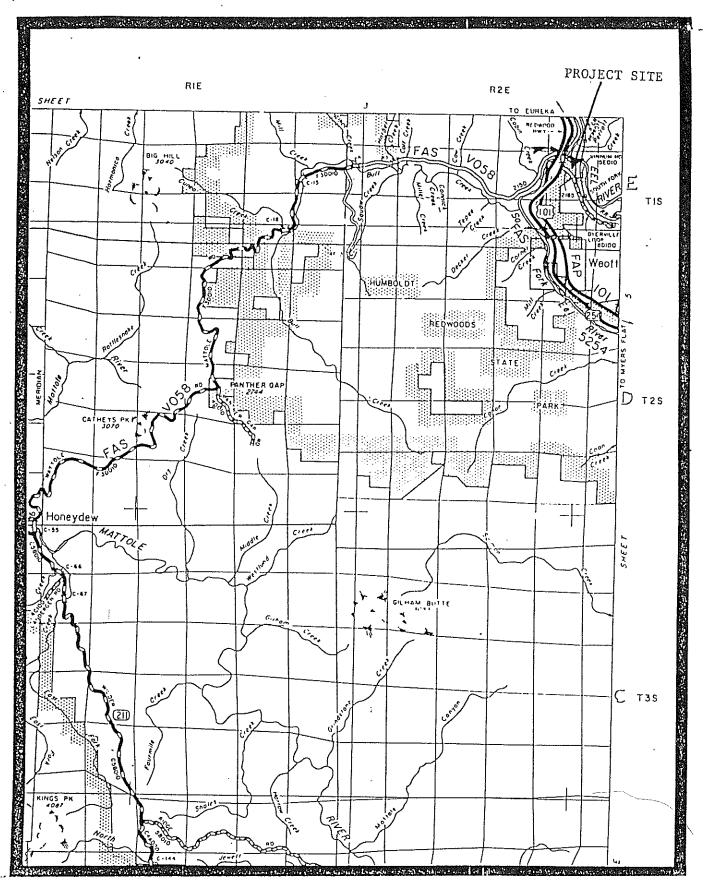


Figure 4 - Portion of County road map showing project site at Dyerville. Scale 1'' = 2 Miles.

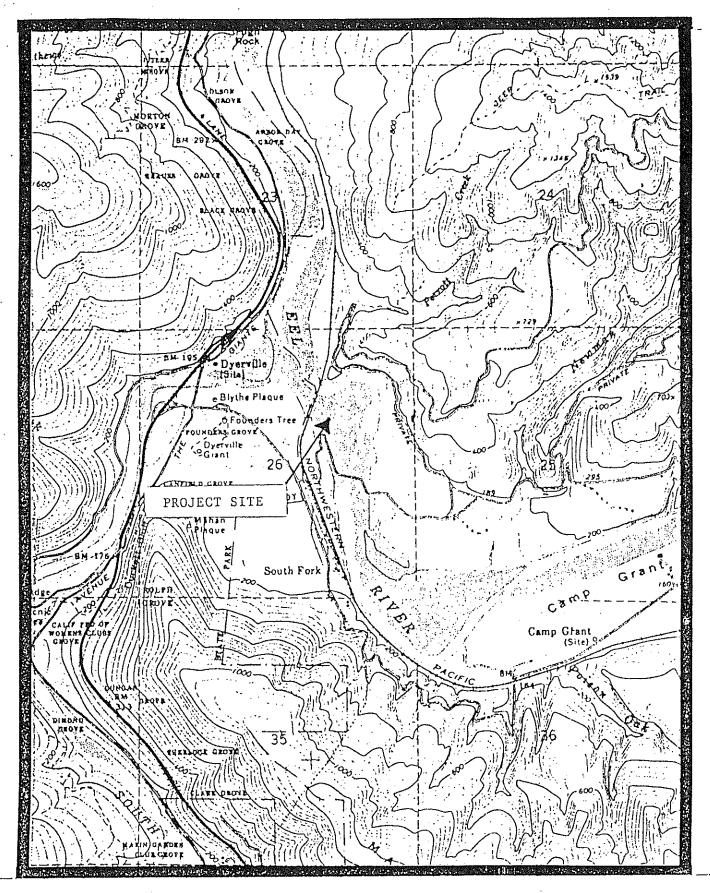


Figure 5 - Portion of $7\frac{1}{2}$ Minute USGS Weott Quadrangle map. Scale 1" = 2,000'.

<u>Vegetation</u>: The Inventory of Rare and Endangered Vascular Plants, published by the California Native Plant Society in 1975, did not show any rare or endangered species at this site.

The California Department of Fish & Game was consulted with regard to the presence of rare and endangered plants or animals. That department reported that their Natural Diversity Data Base showed no rare or endangered species at the project location as of August 14, 1991.

As a result of the lack of scouring floods during the past six years, the bar currently supports growth of wild dill, star thistle, dandelion, mustard and a few willows. The area of the river terrace up out of the floodplain on which the stockpiles are to be placed is unvegetated.

The proposed site lies in close proximity to Humboldt Redwoods State Park which contains both old growth and second growth redwood trees. The land across the river from the gravel bar has been logged and currently supports second growth redwood and douglas fir trees.

Wildlife: None was observed during the site visits by Public Works personnel. However, it would be expected that the bar would be traversed by various mammals, primarily from dusk to dawn. It would be anticipated that various species of song birds would nest in the trees and shrubs on the perimeter of the terrace. This area probably supports some small mammals, reptiles, amphibians and invertebrates, as well. Economically important species of fish reported from this area of the Main Eel River include king and silver salmon, and steelhead trout.

In addition to the negative report of rare or endangered species obtained from the California Department of Fish & Game's Natural Diversity Data Base, a request was made to that department with regard to the presence of Northern Spotted Owls. California Department of Fish & Game searched their Northern Spotted Owl Data Base System and reported no known observation records at the proposed site as of April 25, 1991.

Hydrology: The project site is located on the bed of the Main Stem Eel River just above the confluence with the South Fork of the Eel River. The nearest active gaging station is located about 12 miles downstream at Scotia. This station has a drainage area of 3,113 square miles including the 690 square miles of the South Fork. Flow data has been recorded at this station since 1910. The average annual flow as reported in the USGS Water-Data Report Ca-8202, published in 1984, was 7,336 cfs. The range of flows from June through September 1982 were from 119 to 1,640 cfs. These flows include that portion derived from the 690 square miles drainage area of the South Fork Eel River which represents about 22% of the total flow. Subtracting this 22% from the above data produces an average annual flow of 5,745 cfs with the 1982 summer range being 92 to 1,279 cfs.

Geology: The types of rock and strata affecting the Dyerville site are composed of four geologic formations. The predominant formation located to the north, southeast and virtually surrounding the area is Upper Cretaceous marine sedimentary of the Yager formation composed of dark gray mudstone, shale, graywacke and conglomerate. To the east, within the watershed of influence, can be found middle and/or lower Pliocene marine sedimentary rocks of the Eel River formation which are composed of dark gray to black mudstone, silt stone, and glauconitic sandstone. To the south, outcrops of Tertiary Marine Sedimentary rocks of the Wildcat group can be found. These are composed of mudstone, siltstone, and sandstone. The streambed runs through Quaternary Non-Marine Terrace deposits of gravel, sand and clay of the Rohnerville formation.

Description of the Gravel Bar: The current gravel bar measures 600 feet wide at its widest point and 2,000 feet long resulting in a total surface area of 20± acres. It slopes down along most of its length at an average slope of 3% towards the low flow channel. There are no secondary channels nor noticeable depressions.

Noise Levels: Ambient noise levels range from 40 to 60 dBA and are the result of vehicular traffic, wind, water and wildlife. In addition, the site is subject to periodic noise resulting from the trains which utilize the tracks that run parallel to it and the State park. This railroad has been in existence since 1914. It presently operates two freight trains daily, Tuesday through Saturday, past this site.

Archaeological and Historical Resources: The archaeological site maps contained in the Environmental Data Bank were checked and revealed no known or recorded archaeological resources at this specific site.

<u>Visual Aesthetics</u>: The stockpile area is not visible from Dyerville Loop Road, nor is the bar. However, the bar is visible from an 800 foot stretch of the Avenue of the Giants and Highway 101, 2,000 feet northwest of its north boundary.

Recreation: The proposed site is adjacent to Humboldt Redwoods State Park. The terrace upon which the crusher will be placed is 2,200 feet from the nearest park rest area and the trail to the fallen giant. Vehicular noise from the Avenue of the Giants and Highway 101, which are 400 to 500 feet from the State park rest area and the trail to the fallen giant, was recorded on June 2, 1992 and ranged from 48 to 59 dBA. These measurements were taken within the rest area parking lot and on the trail in front of Founder's tree.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT

River Bed and Sediment Transport: The proposed removal of 25,000 cubic yards of gravel every three to five years, skimmed from approximately 4.5 acres to a depth of three to four feet, will impact 25% or less of the total bar area of 20± acres. The material that is removed from the bar will be replenished in years of normal rainfall by bedload transport from upstream. In addition, the requirement to obtain an annual Streambed Alteration Agreement from the Department of Fish & Game provides for consultation with that department and compliance with their recommendations.

There is an application for a proposed gravel extraction operation at a site on the Eel River at Fort Seward, known as the Satterlee Bar. The application has been determined by the County Planning Department to be incomplete. In the event that this proposed operation does come into existence at some future time, the possible impact on gravel recruitment at the Pacific Lumber Company Bar at Dyerville will have to be evaluated. The Fort Seward site is approximately 29 river miles upstream of the Dyerville site. In that stretch, Dobbyn Creek and 14 smaller watersheds drain into the Eel River. However, regardless of the amount of bedload that these streams may contribute to the Eel River, the policy of the Humboldt County Public Works Department will be that no gravel will be removed by the department from the Dyerville site unless it can be done while maintaining a 3% slope toward the low flow channel while staying at least 20 feet from the water's edge.

Cross-sections of the bed of the South Fork Eel River taken at the Highway 101 Bridge (No. 4-76) in 1957 and 1992 show very slight changes in elevation at the bridge piers (Figure $\underline{6}$). Only pier three had a net loss in elevation of four feet. The other piers had net gains of two to four feet. Gravel extraction at this site has been conducted since 1960.

<u>Vegetation</u>: There will be no significant impact on vegetation since the stockpile area has been previously cleared and there are existing access roads. Four and a half acres of sparse vegetation will be lost from the gravel bar. However, this vegetation is not permanent and would be removed from the bar when the next scouring flood occurs.

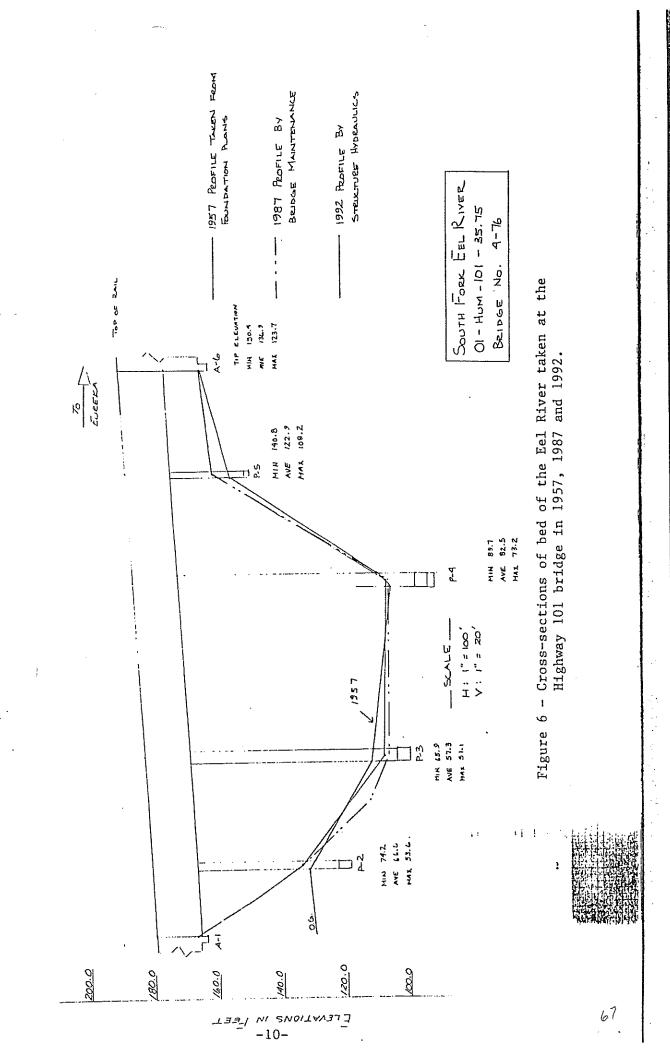
<u>Wildlife:</u> The impact on fish should be insignificant since no work will be done in the live stream; the timeframe for operating will be June 1st to September 30th and no holes will be left on the bar when seasonal work is completed (see Appendix B).

Equipment noise would impact nesting birds. However, this should also be insignificant since most nesting activity will be completed before the work starts. The affected area is small relative to the available nesting sites in the general area and the equipment with the greatest potential impact, the portable crusher, will only be at the site every three to five years for 25-30 working days.

The infrequent noise created by the use of a front-end loader to place crushed material from the stockpiles into the bed of a dump truck will have no significant impact.

Water Quality: There should be no significant impact on water quality since no work will be done in the live stream. The proposed operation will not require the withdrawal of any water from the river nor will it involve any discharge to it.

Noise Levels: Maximum equipment noise has been measured at 90 dBA at a distance of 50 feet. The nearest residence is about 3/4 mile southeast from the site. The anticipated noise level outside that residence is 54 dBA or less, which should be insignificant.



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The noise levels of the crusher, experienced by recreationists using the nearest activity center of Humboldt Redwoods State Park west of the site, would be reduced to 50 dBA or less. This will occur since noise is reduced by 6 dBA for each doubling of the distance from its source. Since the crusher site is 2,200 feet from the activity center, the crusher noise, 90 dBA at a distance of 50 feet, will be reduced to 58 dBA at 2,200 feet. In addition, the high frequency spectra of the noise will be reduced by at least another 10 dBA because 1,600 feet of the total distance from the crusher site is heavily forested. Thus, the noise level from the crusher will be less than that observed at the activity center resulting from traffic noise on Highway 101. Furthermore, the crusher will only be in use every three to five years for a period of 25 to 30 days.

<u>Visual Impact</u>: The impact on aesthetics of the river environment will be insignificant to people in vehicles since the portion of the bar where operations will take place are not visible from the road except for an 800 foot stretch of Highway 101 and Avenue of the Giants. Few recreationists use this bar. Those that do would experience a view of equipment for 25 to 30 days (weekdays) and a skimmed area.

Air Quality: Some dust may be created when the crusher is operating or when dump trucks are being loaded. However, this air pollution will be limited to the immediate work site and is considered insignificant.

<u>Persons Consulted</u>: Don Raffaelli, Deputy Public Works Director; Gordon Schuler, Road Superintendent; George Hackett, Road Maintenance Supervisor; Wiley Ritchie, Real Property Manager; and Karen Kovacs, Department of Fish & Game.