

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 *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 – Monument Quarry**
Conditional Use/Surface Mining Permits and Reclamation Plan
APN 205-031-49 Rio Dell Area
Case Nos.: CUP-10-11/SMP-10-04/RP-10-04
- 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:** Meghan Ryan, Planner I, (707) 268-3798
- 4. Project location:** The project is located in Humboldt County, in the Rio Dell area, on the west side of Monument Road, approximately 3.0 miles southwest from the intersection of Pacific Avenue and Monument Road, on the property known to be in Section 13 Township 01 North Range 01 West.

5. Project sponsor's name and address:

APPLICANT

HUMBOLDT COUNTY
DEPT OF PUBLIC WORKS
C/o Doug Dinsmore
1106 Second Street
Eureka, CA 95501
Phone: (707) 445-7741

OWNER(S)

Humboldt Redwood Company
PO Box 712
Scotia, CA 95565
Phone: (707) 764-4110

AGENT

- 6. General plan designation:** Timber Production (T); Agriculture Grazing (AG) Framework Plan (FRWK).
- 7. Zoning:** Agriculture Exclusive-Minimum building site area 160 acres (AE-B-5(160)); Timberland Production (TPZ).
- 8. Description of project:** A Renewal and Modification of Conditional Use/Surface Mining permits for an existing quarry operation known as the Monument Quarry near Rio Dell. The current project proposes extraction of up to 35,000 cubic yards of aggregate material over the 15-year permit term. Mining may consist of a single 25,000 cy extraction, or smaller extractions, as frequently as annually. **The permit term is 15 years and, if approved, will expire on October 6, 2025.**

The quarry has been utilized since 1955 by the Humboldt County Department of Public Works for road maintenance projects in the area. Mining operations were permitted in 1995 for the annual extraction of 60,000 cubic yards of aggregate rock; approximately 25,000 cubic yards of materials has been extracted since 1995. During the processing of the permit, the project was identified as File No. 205-331-04. Upon review of the quarry location for the renewal and modification, it was found that the Assessor's Parcel Number (APN) associated with this quarry was in error and 205-031-49 is the correct APN. However, a review of the documentation for the 1995 permit indicates the correct project location and site descriptions were identified correctly. There are no other changes to the permitted operations. The site contains of mostly mudstone, siltstone and sandstone. Mining activities include extraction, crushing, sorting, stockpiling, re-vegetation and annual and final reclamation. Extraction of rock from the quarry face is accomplished by ripping and breaking up the rock with a bulldozer and/or excavator. Small-scale separation charges may be performed. Equipment also includes crawler tractor, crusher unit, front-end loader and dump truck. The permit term is 15 years and will expire October 6, 2025.

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED:

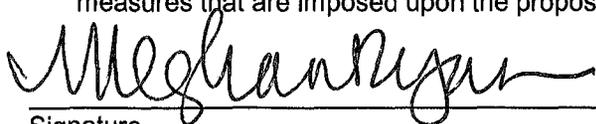
The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is a "Potentially Significant Impact" as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aesthetics | <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture Resources | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Air Quality |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Biological Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural Resources | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Geology / Soils |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hazards & Hazardous Materials | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hydrology / Water Quality | <input type="checkbox"/> Land Use / Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mineral Resources | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Noise | <input type="checkbox"/> Population / Housing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public Services | <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation / Traffic |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Utilities / Service Systems | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mandatory Findings of Significance | |

DETERMINATION:

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

- I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- 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 project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.
- 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.



Signature

02/02/2011

Date

Meghan Ryan, Planner I

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).
- 2) All answers must take into account the whole action involved, including off-site as 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: The Negative Declaration is available for review at the Humboldt County Community Development Services, 3015 H Street, Eureka CA.
 - 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 identify:
 - 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

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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare that would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Discussion: The site is located off Monument Road, approximately three (3) miles southwest from the intersection of Pacific Avenue and Monument Road in the community of Rio Dell. The quarry was originally developed along an exposed shale ridge top that separates Atwell Creek on the west from Dean Creek on the east, both tributaries to the mainstem of the Eel River. The surrounding area consists of heavily forested hillsides and pastures. The surrounding land use is predominantly timber production and livestock grazing. The County approved operations in 1995, but the site had been mined for road maintenance activities in the region since at least 1955.

The quarry is located on the ridgeline is visible from Monument Road when traveling in either direction. The quarry is not visible from any residences. The quarry will not expand beyond the current mining boundaries. The quarry area will revert back consistent with the plan designation, zoning and surrounding agricultural and timber production uses.

The project is intermittent and limited to daylight hours. The nearest residence is located over one-half (1/2) mile from the site (approximately 3800 feet to the north of the project site). Because of the intermittent nature of the operation and the limited hours of activity, impact from light, glare or nighttime views is considered less than significant.

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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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siltstone and sandstone. The extraction operation will not be conducted on designated prime, unique or important agricultural lands. The quarry area will revert back consistent with the plan designation, zoning and surrounding agricultural and timber production uses. There is no evidence that the project will have a significant adverse impact on agricultural resources.

3. AIR QUALITY. Where available, the significant criteria established by the applicable air quality management or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:	Potentially Significant	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorp.	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Discussion: The site is located off Monument Road, approximately three (3) miles southwest from the intersection of Pacific Avenue and Monument Road in the community of Rio Dell. The quarry was originally developed along an exposed shale ridge top that separates Atwell Creek on the west from Dean Creek on the east, both tributaries to the mainstem of the Eel River. The surrounding area consists of heavily forested hillsides and pastures. The surrounding land use is predominantly timber production and livestock grazing.

The quarry was permitted in 1995 but has been mined since at least 1955 for road maintenance activities in the region. The site lies within the North Coast Air Basin (NCAB). No final attainment plan currently exists for Humboldt County. The nearest residence is located over one-half (1/2) mile from the site (approximately 3800 feet to the north of the project site).

Air pollutants could result from the project. Emissions from extraction and processing equipment and from trucks used for transporting rock off-site would be created when the site is active. Operations will not result in significant contributions to PM10 levels in the area due to the scale and intermittent nature of the project. Mining operations will be done infrequently and for limited duration. The quarry is not located in a geologic ultramafic rock unit and does not contain asbestos, serpentine or ultramafic rock. Dust abatement measures used during operations, consisting of watering the quarry entrance and floor regularly, spraying rock before crushing and wetting truckloads before hauling, will minimize airborne dust. If naturally-occurring asbestos (NOA) is discovered within the project site, any areas left exposed will be encapsulated by re-soiling during final reclamation. Equipment is generally subject to emission standards, and exceeding those standards may constitute a "nuisance" condition, and can be mitigated by proper vehicle maintenance. Personnel operating heavy equipment at the site will be exposed to airborne dust. The measures above with the use of facemasks will minimize the level of PM10 exposure to less than significant levels.

Odors created by the project consist of heavy equipment and crusher generator exhaust, but operations are intermittent and temporary.

Mitigation M-1:

1. The project shall employ Best Management Practices for Erosion and Sediment Control and Contractor Activities as identified in the California Storm Water Best Management Practice Handbook for Construction Activity, and shall comply with the Asbestos Airborne Toxic Control Measure for Construction, Grading, Quarry and Surface Mining Operations.
2. In the event NOA is discovered, the North Coast Unified Air Quality Management District will be notified

immediately, and any areas left exposed will be encapsulated by re-soiling during final reclamation.

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 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Discussion: The site is located off Monument Road, approximately three (3) miles southwest from the intersection of Pacific Avenue and Monument Road in the community of Rio Dell. The quarry was originally developed along an exposed shale ridge top that separates Atwell Creek on the west from Dean Creek on the east, both tributaries to the mainstem of the Eel River. The surrounding area consists of heavily forested hillsides and pastures. The surrounding land use is predominantly timber production and livestock grazing. The County approved operations in 1995, but the site had been mined since at least the 1955 for road maintenance activities in the region.

The area contains wetland elements and is habitat for giant fawn lily, coast fawn lily, Pacific gillia, short-leaved evax, Howell's Montia, Seacoast ragwort, Oregon polemonium, Maple-leaved checkerbloom, Siskiyou checkerbloom and long-beard lichen but habitat will be left undisturbed. The project will not involve the disturbance of habitat for green sturgeon, tidewater groby, Southern Oregon/Northern California coho salmon, Northern California California steelhead or California Coastal Chinook salmon. Additionally, the project will not involve the disturbance of habitat for the western yellow-billed cuckoo.

The quarry site lies in an area comprised of a mix of open prairie and redwood-fir forest. The dominant tree species are Coast redwood, Douglas fir and tanoak. The site contains no wetlands or riparian vegetation listed as threatened or endangered. There are two ephemeral wet areas located on the northeast edge of the processing area. The California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB) contains records for eight (8) sensitive species as ranked by the California Native Plant Society (CNPS). The working site is unvegetated; the site does not contain habitat for seven (7) of the 8 sensitive species, although habitat can be found in the vicinity of the project. This project area includes habitat for the Siskiyou Checkerbloom. Siskiyou Checkerbloom has not been documented within the project area; however, Siskiyou checkerbloom has been documented 3.45 miles southwest of the project area. There is minimal topsoil on this hilltop, as was the case when the original permit was issued. The Humboldt County Department of Public Works contracted with a certified botanist to perform a botanical survey of the quarry and the surrounding area. There were no special status species found during the survey. Activities do not include major vegetation removal. The project area is comparatively minor in scale.

This matrix will continue to support wildlife and vegetation. There is minimal topsoil on this hilltop, as was the case when the original permit was issued. Habitat disturbance will be temporary and final reclamation will restore the area to prior conditions.

The project vicinity contains habitat for owls and murrelets. There is no marbled murrelet habitat in the project area. The California Department of Fish & Game Biogeographic Information Systems (BIOS) contains one recorded marbled murrelet occurrence 1.0-mile radius of the site. BIOS contains four (4) records of northern spotted owl occurrences within a 1.0-mile radius of the project area. The impact on the northern spotted owls within the project vicinity will be less than significant because they are further than one-half mile away and the pit will be operated after their breeding season ends. No occurrences have been reported in the immediate vicinity of the project. The project does not involve removal of large trees and will not affect owl or murrelet habitat. It is unlikely that owls and/or murrelets would be present at the quarry site as the site is located along Monument Road which is subject to intermittent disturbance from vehicular traffic. Per email dated January 26, 2011, from Michael van Hattem, Department of Fish & Game, assuming the project is continued and implemented as described, there are no additional comments from the Department of Fish and Game regarding this project.

The project area is comparatively minor in scale. This area will continue to support wildlife and vegetation. The noise generated by mechanized equipment, including the rock crushing assembly, may affect wildlife. Operations are intermittent and temporary. Operations will be conducted Monday through Friday during daylight hours, generally 6:00 am to 6:00 pm; with blasting from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm, as necessary. These hours do not apply to emergency road repair situations. Any substantial changes to the hours of operation shall be pre-approved by the Planning Department. The average time period from extraction to stockpiling will be about four (4) to six (6) weeks.

The project will not conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance. The project will not conflict with a Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan or other local, regional or state plan.

Mitigation M-2:

1. Reclamation will include restoration of site to prior conditions consistent with the plan designation, zoning and surrounding agricultural and timber production uses when the quarry is no longer economically viable.
2. Hours of operation will be restricted to daylight hours, generally 6:00 am to 6:00 pm; with blasting from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm, as necessary.
3. The quarry will be operated after the end of the NSO breeding season.
4. The project shall be consistent with the County's General Plan policies re: sensitive and critical habitats.

5. CULTURAL RESOURCES. Would the project:

	Potentially Significant	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorp.	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in §15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Discussion: The County approved operations in 1995, but the site had been mined since at least 1955 for road maintenance activities in the region. The geology at the project site is not unique to the area nor is it a paleontological resource or site. 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. There is no evidence that the project would impact archaeological resources.

6. GEOLOGY AND SOILS. Would the project:

Potentially Significant	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorp.	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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- a) Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including 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 evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42?
 - ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?
 - iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?
 - iv) Landslides?
- b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?
- c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?
- d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property?
- e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?

Discussion: The site is located off Monument Road, approximately three (3) miles southwest from the intersection of Pacific Avenue and Monument Road in the community of Rio Dell. The surrounding area consists of heavily forested hillsides and pastures. The surrounding land use is predominantly timber production and livestock grazing. The County approved operations in 1995, but the site had been mined for road maintenance activities in the region since at least 1955. The rock to be quarried consists of mostly mudstone, siltstone and sandstone.

The topography of the coast range is known for its potential for landslides. The north coast of California is one of the most seismically active regions in the United States. Humboldt County in general is at risk for strong ground-shaking. There are no known earthquake faults in the project vicinity.

The amount of rock extracted in any given year will be dependent on seasonal and market conditions. Extraction standards are subject to annual review by the County and the Office of Mine Reclamation. These standards have been designed to minimize erosion, prevent discharges to state waters, protect vegetation and wildlife, ensure worker safety, etc. Operations will employ Best Management Practices, including erosion and sediment control, to reduce the potential for substantial loss of topsoil or soil erosion and to reduce pollutants in storm water discharge and siltation. There is no topsoil on the quarry floor and minimal topsoil on the hilltop behind the quarry face. As much as is feasible, existing vegetation will be retained, with the overall drainage pattern of the area to be maintained as much as practical. Berms are placed along the east and west sides of the quarry floor to keep rainfall from leaving the site. Runoff from the quarry face and floor will be directed to a detention basin located east of the center of the quarry floor for percolation and evaporation. The quarry area will revert back consistent with the plan designation, zoning and surrounding agricultural and timber production uses when the quarry is no longer economically viable. The reclamation plan will restore the area to its natural setting.

No septic or wastewater disposal systems are associated with the project.

Mitigation M-3:

1. 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.
2. Berms along the east and west sides of the quarry floor shall be maintained to keep rainfall from leaving the site, and runoff from the quarry face and floor shall be directed to the east of the center of the site where it

will enter the detention basin and eventually percolate/evaporate into the ground.

7. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS. Would the project:	Potentially Significant	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorp.	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous 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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
g) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Discussion: The site is located off Monument Road, approximately three (3) miles southwest from the intersection of Pacific Avenue and Monument Road in the community of Rio Dell. The surrounding area consists of heavily forested hillsides and pastures. The surrounding land use is predominantly timber production and livestock grazing. The County approved operations in 1995, but the site had been mined for road maintenance activities in the region since at least 1955. The rock to be quarried consists of mostly mudstone, siltstone and sandstone.

The project site is not included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5. 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.

The quarry operations require fuel for equipment. The potential for contaminants is limited to operation-related activities such as equipment leaks or spills. Such contaminants from equipment shall be controlled through property 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. Equipment will be inspected for leaks prior to starting the shift, following lunch break and at the end of the shift each workday. All fueling, lubing and equipment maintenance will be performed per site specific Spill Prevention Control and Counter-measures Plan (SPCC Plan) developed by the Humboldt County Department of Public Works – Natural Resources Division. The designated staging/storage area for equipment, fuels, lubricants, and solvents will be located downgrade and away from pond/wetland area. All activities related to fueling, lubing and maintenance will be performed in the designated staging area only. Topping off of fuel tanks will not occur. Fuels and lubricants will not be stored onsite. The gasoline powered water pump used to supply water to the crushing equipment, dust suppression system is situated over a drip pan and is either securely

stored or removed from the site at the end of the shift each workday.

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 rock face, 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.

In the event that localized hard rock boulders are encountered, small scale separation charges may be performed. The nearest residence is approximately over one-half (1/2) mile away (approximately 3800 feet to the north of the project site). Blasting activities will use regulated explosives. The operator is required to hire licensed professionals. State and Federal operating standards require procedures that minimize the risk of wildfire, injury from projectiles, etc. As a standard practice, prior to blasting, adjacent neighbors will be notified of the activity, and flagmen will be posted at the quarry gate to control traffic as needed. All safety regulations concerning the use, storage, transportation and disposal of explosives will be strictly observed. Explosives will be transported to the site. Only trained personnel will transport or handle the explosives. There will be no "abandoned" equipment, structures, refuse, etc. associated with extraction and transport activity to remain on the reclaimed site or elsewhere on the parcel after extraction has been discontinued.

Mitigation M-4:

1. All fueling, lubing and equipment maintenance will be performed per site specific Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasures Plan (SPCC Plan).
2. Blasting shall occur consistent with State and Federal operating standards and all safety regulations concerning the use, storage; transportation and disposal of explosives shall be strictly observed.
3. Fuel storage, if any, shall be consistent with the requirements of the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, and operations shall minimize potential impact from contaminants.

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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f) Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
h) Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures which would	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

impede or redirect flood flows?

- i) 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?

Discussion: The site is located off Monument Road, approximately three (3) miles southwest from the intersection of Pacific Avenue and Monument Road in the community of Rio Dell. The quarry was originally developed along an exposed shale ridge top that separates Atwell Creek on the west from Dean Creek on the east, both tributaries to the mainstem of the Eel River. The surrounding area consists of heavily forested hillsides and pastures. The surrounding land use is predominantly timber production and livestock grazing. The County approved operations in 1995, but the site had been mined for road maintenance activities in the region since at least 1955. The rock to be quarried consists of mostly mudstone, siltstone and sandstone.

Operations will employ Best Management Practices, including erosion and sediment control, to reduce the potential for substantial loss of topsoil or soil erosion and to reduce pollutants in storm water discharge and siltation. As much as is feasible, existing vegetation will be retained, with the overall drainage pattern of the area to be maintained as much as practical. Berms are placed along the east and west sides of the quarry floor to keep rainfall from leaving the site. Runoff from the quarry face and floor will be directed to a detention basin at the east side of the quarry floor for percolation and evaporation. The quarry area will revert back consistent with the plan designation, zoning and surrounding agricultural and timber production uses when the quarry is no longer economically viable. The reclamation plan will restore the area to its natural setting.

Water is required only for dust control; water is transported to the site via water trucks. No water impoundments or diversions are proposed. The project will not draw groundwater and will not cause any change in current groundwater recharge processes. No withdrawals are proposed. No wastewater is produced by nature of the excavation process. No discharge of mineral wastes will occur to nearby tributaries. Major equipment repairs and the changing of fluids or lubricants will not take place on the site.

The site is not a part of an existing or planned stormwater drainage system. Adherence to Mining and Reclamation Plan Standards will ensure that water quality is not degraded. The project is not located within the 100 year flood plain of any adjacent stream channel. Extraction activities will not impede or redirect flood flows since the project is not located in the floodplain of any adjacent streams. No housing or structures are being proposed. No levee or dam construction is associated with the proposed project. The project is not located within a tsunami hazard zone, nor is it located on a body of water subject to seiches. Extraction activity will not occur during times of high rainfall, and based on the site and location and type of material, will not cause mudflows.

Mitigation M-5:

- 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.
- Berms along the east and west sides of the quarry floor shall be maintained to keep rainfall from leaving the site, and runoff from the quarry face and floor shall be directed to the detention basin at the east side of the quarry floor for percolation and evaporation.

- 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? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 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? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Discussion: The site is located off Monument Road, approximately three (3) miles southwest from the intersection of Pacific Avenue and Monument Road in the community of Rio Dell. The quarry was originally developed along an exposed shale ridge top that separates Atwell Creek on the west from Dean Creek on the east, both tributaries to the mainstem of the Eel River. The surrounding area consists of heavily forested hillsides and pastures. The surrounding land use is predominantly timber production and livestock grazing. The County approved operations in 1995, but the site had been mined for road maintenance activities in the region since the 1960s. The surrounding land use is predominantly timber production and livestock grazing. The rock to be quarried consists of mostly mudstone, siltstone and sandstone. The commodity to be mined is aggregate rock to be used for County road maintenance activities in the region. The Framework Plan recognizes the importance of aggregate extraction sites. The quarry area will revert back consistent with the plan designation, zoning and surrounding agricultural and timber production uses when the quarry is no longer economically viable. 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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Discussion: The quarry area is a hillside outcrop of aggregate rock that has been used for County road maintenance activities over the past 15 years. The quarry site is in a location that meets the needs of Federal, State, County and local construction projects. The project site is not delineated as a locally important mineral resource recovery site. The quarry area will revert back consistent with the plan designation, zoning and surrounding agricultural and timber production land uses when the quarry is no longer economically viable. The final reclamation 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 Impact
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Discussion: The site is located off Monument Road, approximately three (3) miles southwest from the intersection of Pacific Avenue and Monument Road in the community of Rio Dell. The quarry was originally

developed along an exposed shale ridge top that separates Atwell Creek on the west from Dean Creek on the east, both tributaries to the mainstem of the Eel River. The surrounding area consists of heavily forested hillsides and pastures. The surrounding land use is predominantly timber production and livestock grazing. The rock to be quarried consists of mostly mudstone, siltstone and sandstone.

The quarry was permitted by the Department of Public Works in 1995; however, the quarry had been operating since at least 1955 for road maintenance activities in the region. Ambient noise levels have historically been associated with timber harvesting and quarry activities. The mine will operate on an intermittent basis with the bulk of 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. Mining activities that will produce noise include extraction, processing, loading and transporting rock material.

The closest residence is located approximately over one-half (1/2) mile away (approximately 3800 feet to the north of the project site). All other residences are beyond 3800 feet away. Operations will meet County noise standards. Workers will take safety measures during blasting to minimize effects to workers.

Noise from operations is likely to impact wildlife, but operations will be intermittent and temporary. See discussion under *Biological Resources*. Operations will be conducted during daylight hours, generally 6:00 am to 6:00 pm; with blasting from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm, as necessary. The average time period from extraction to stockpiling will be about four (4) to six (6) weeks.

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-6:

1. Operations will be conducted during daylight hours, generally 6:00 am to 6:00 pm; with blasting from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm, as necessary. The average time period from extraction to stockpiling will be about four (4) to six (6) weeks.
2. The quarry will be operated after the end of the NSO breeding season.

12. POPULATION AND HOUSING. Would the project:

	Potentially Significant	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)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Discussion: 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 is no evidence that the project would impact population and housing.

13. PUBLIC SERVICES.

	Potentially Significant	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorp.	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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:				
i. Fire protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

- | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| ii. Police protection? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| iii. Schools? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| iv. Parks? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| v. Other public facilities? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Discussion: The project is located approximately three (3) miles southwest of the community of Rio Dell on Monument Road. The quarry has been permitted for the past 15 years; however it has been used since at least 1955 to provide materials for road maintenance activities in the region. The mined area will revert back consistent with the plan designation, zoning and surrounding agricultural and timber production uses when the operation is no longer economically viable. 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? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 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? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Discussion: The project is located approximately three (3) miles southwest of the community of Rio Dell on Monument Road. The quarry has been permitted for the past 15 years; however it has been used since at least 1955 to provide materials for road maintenance activities in the region. The nearest residence is located approximately over one-half (1/2) mile away (approximately 3800 feet to the north of the project site); all other residences are more than 3800 feet away. 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 substantial increase in either the number of vehicle trips, the volume to capacity ratio on roads, or congestion at intersections)? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Exceed, either individually or cumulatively, a level of service standard established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 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? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| d) Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| e) Result in inadequate emergency access? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| f) Result in inadequate parking capacity? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| g) Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

alternative transportation (e.g., bus turnouts, bicycle racks)?

Discussion: The site is located off Monument Road, approximately three (3) miles southwest from the intersection of Pacific Avenue and Monument Road in the community of Rio Dell. The quarry was originally developed along an exposed shale ridge top that separates Atwell Creek on the west from Dean Creek on the east, both tributaries to the mainstem of the Eel River. The surrounding area consists of heavily forested hillsides and pastures. The surrounding land use is predominantly timber production and livestock grazing. The County approved operations in 1995, but the site had been mined for road maintenance activities in the region since at least 1955. The rock to be quarried consists of mostly mudstone, siltstone and sandstone.

Due to the rural nature of the area and level of service on Monument Road, roadway congestion is not a concern in the project vicinity. The existing access/haul road was constructed and is maintained to accommodate the mining equipment and material transport vehicles used for the project. All vehicles and equipment transport will be highway approved.

The project will not affect any other emergency access route. Ample parking and room for equipment staging currently exists at the site. There is no evidence that the project will result in a significant adverse impact related to traffic and 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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
g) Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Discussion: The quarry has been permitted for the past 15 years. Water will be applied for dust abatement. Water for wetting the road and extraction area will be obtained off-site via water trucks. Minimal solid waste will be generated on 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. By nature of the excavation process, no wastewater is produced. Site runoff and water will be returned to the groundwater table via ground percolation. 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

Findings: 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.

Discussion:

17. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

	Potentially Significant	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorp.	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Discussion: There is no evidence that the project would substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species or cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels. There is no evidence that the project would restrict or reduce the range or number of rare or endangered plants or animals. As noted in Section 4. *Biological Resources*, the site will be reclaimed and revegetated to an end use consistent with the zone, general plan and surrounding uses.

Several factors contribute to the conclusion of no significant biological impacts. The area is located in a matrix of very similar forested habitats, which will continue to support wildlife use of the area. The quarry site is developed into a hillside outcrop of aggregate rock that has been mined since at least 1955 and used to supply County road maintenance activities for the past 50 years; and the project does not include expansion of the facility beyond its current footprint. Activities also do not include major vegetation removal.

Potential project impacts have been mitigated during the planning stage of the proposal. The project is designed to preclude the concentration of surface runoff from entering streams or erodable areas.

Important examples of California history or prehistory do not exist on the 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)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Discussion: 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. The project is designed and mitigated with these long-term goals in mind. The ultimate reclamation of the site 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 plan 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.

General Plan Consistency:

The project is consistent with general plan policies and standards. The General Plan recognizes the importance of surface mining operations. Consistency with these policies and standards assures to a large degree that

potential community-wide impacts are addressed in a cumulative manner within the context of the community or general plan and its companion environmental document.

Cumulative Impact Project List:

Recent projects or known proposed projects were considered as part of this cumulative impacts analysis. As evidenced throughout this document, the proposed project as mitigated, does not:

(1) have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment in a cumulative manner.

Discussion: The project does have impacts that by nature are potentially cumulative. These include: increased traffic, increased soil erosion from the site, increased storm water runoff, increased noise, the increase in particulate matter, and impact to plant and wildlife.

The potential increase in traffic is not cumulatively significant because the proposed project does not cumulatively result in a significant change in level of service for public roads as identified in the general plan environmental document. The site is located in a sparsely developed timber/agricultural setting and congestion on Monument is not a concern. Traffic increases on Monument Road during gravel mining activities, which are intermittent and temporary, constitute a very small increase in average daily traffic levels.

The potential increase in soil erosion and storm water runoff is not cumulatively significant because the proposed project does not cumulatively result in a significant change in level of storm water impacts as identified in the general plan environmental document and the hydrology discussion contained in Section 8 of this document. The project incorporates Best Management Practices, including berms and other erosion and sediment control measures.

The potential increase in noise is not cumulatively significant because the proposed project does not cumulatively result in exceeding the noise levels identified in the general plan environmental document and the noise discussion contained in Section 11 of this document. The site has been operational since the 1960s; the County originally permitted the site in 1995. The site is located in a sparsely developed timber/agricultural setting with the closest residence approximately over one-half (1/2) mile away.

The potential increase in air quality impacts (particulates) is not cumulatively significant because the proposed project does not cumulatively result in exceeding the threshold of significance for this category as determined by referral to the North Coast Air Quality Management District. The operations shall comply with the Asbestos Airborne Toxic Control Measure for Construction, Grading, Quarry and Surface Mining Operations. Air quality impacts for the current project and all project listed for the cumulative analysis have individually been mitigated to levels of insignificance and cumulatively as mitigated are not considered to be a significant contributor.

Based on the planned land use and zoning of the parcel, the potential environmental effects of these designations analyzed in the general/community plan review, and the recommended mitigation, the cumulative environmental effects of these categories are considered less than significant.

(2) substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species; (3) cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self sustaining levels; (4) threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community; and (5) reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal;

Discussion: Please refer to Section 4. *Biological Resources*. Project impacts have been identified in this section. The proposed project does not include expansion of the facility beyond its current footprint. The quarry site lies in an area comprised of a mix of open prairie and redwood-fir forest. The dominant tree species are Coast Redwood and Douglas fir. The site contains no wetlands or riparian vegetation listed as threatened or endangered. There are two ephemeral wet areas located on the northeast edge of the processing area. The California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB) contains records for eight (8) sensitive species as ranked by the California Native Plant Society (CNPS). The working site is unvegetated; the site does not contain habitat for seven (7) of the 8 sensitive species, although habitat can be found in the vicinity of the project. This area includes habitat for the Siskiyou Checkerbloom. Siskiyou Checkerbloom has not been documented within the project area; however, Siskiyou checkerbloom has been documented 3.45 miles southwest of the project area. The Humboldt County Department of Public Works contracted with a certified botanist to perform a botanical survey of the quarry and the surrounding area. There were no special status species found during the survey. Activities do not include major vegetation removal. The project area is comparatively minor in scale. This matrix will continue to support wildlife and vegetation. There is minimal topsoil on this hilltop, as was the case when the original permit was issued. Habitat disturbance will be temporary and final reclamation will restore the area to prior conditions.

The project vicinity contains habitat for owls and murrelets. There is no marbled murrelet habitat in the project

area. The California Department of Fish & Game Biogeographic Information Systems (BIOS) contains one recorded marbled murrelet occurrence 1.0-mile radius of the site. BIOS contains four (4) records of northern spotted owl occurrences within a 1.0-mile radius of the project area. The impact on the northern spotted owls within the project vicinity will be less than significant because they are further than one-half mile away and the pit will be operated after their breeding season ends. No occurrences have been reported in the immediate vicinity of the project. The project does not involve removal of large trees and will not affect owl or murrelet habitat.

The surface mining activities and final reclamation of the site have no collective impact greater than any individual component. There is no evidence that the project would result in cumulative effects because the current project is consistent with the zone and general plan, and ultimately the site will be reclaimed and revegetated to an end use consistent with the zone and general plan.

(6) eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory;

Discussion: Please refer to section 5. Cultural Resources. As the project is not anticipated to have any impacts to cultural or historical resources, there is no potential for cumulative impacts to this category of resource.

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

Discussion: 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. The following is a list of Mitigation that addresses and mitigates potentially significant adverse impacts to a level of non-significance. Additional details regarding mitigation for reclamation of the site can be found in the Reclamation Plan.

Air Quality – Mitigation M -1:

1. The project shall employ Best Management Practices for Erosion and Sediment Control and Contractor Activities as identified in the California Storm Water Best Management Practice Handbook for Construction Activity, and shall comply with the Asbestos Airborne Toxic Control Measure for Construction, Grading, Quarry and Surface Mining Operations.
2. In the event NOA is discovered, the North Coast Unified Air Quality Management District will be notified immediately, and any areas left exposed will be encapsulated by re-soiling during final reclamation.

Biological Resources - Mitigation M-2:

1. Reclamation will include restoration of site to prior conditions consistent with the plan designation, zoning and surrounding agricultural and timber production uses when the quarry is no longer economically viable.
2. Hours of operation will be restricted to daylight hours, generally 6:00 am to 6:00 pm; with blasting from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm, as necessary.
3. The quarry will be operated after the end of the NSO breeding season.
4. The project shall be consistent with the County's General Plan policies re: sensitive and critical habitats.

Geology - Mitigation M-3:

1. 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.
2. Berms along the north and west sides of the quarry floor shall be maintained to keep rainfall from leaving the site, and runoff from the quarry face and floor shall be directed to the east of the center of the site where it will enter the detention basin and eventually percolate/evaporate into the ground.

Hazards and Hazardous Materials - Mitigation M-4:

1. All fueling, lubing and equipment maintenance will be performed per site specific Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasures Plan (SPCC Plan).
2. Blasting shall occur consistent with State and Federal operating standards and all safety regulations concerning the use, storage, transportation and disposal of explosives shall be strictly observed.
3. Fuel storage, if any, shall be consistent with the requirements of the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, and operations shall minimize potential impact from contaminants.

Hydrology - Mitigation M-5:

1. 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.
2. Berms along the east and west sides of the quarry floor shall be maintained to keep rainfall from leaving the site, and runoff from the quarry face and floor shall be directed to the detention basin at the east side of the quarry floor for percolation and evaporation.

Noise - Mitigation M-6:

1. Operations will be conducted during daylight hours, generally 6:00 am to 6:00 pm; with blasting from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm, as necessary. The average time period from extraction to stockpiling will be about four to six weeks.
2. The quarry will be operated after the end of the NSO breeding season.

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

Items 1 and 2 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 were 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

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

California Natural Diversity Database, 2008

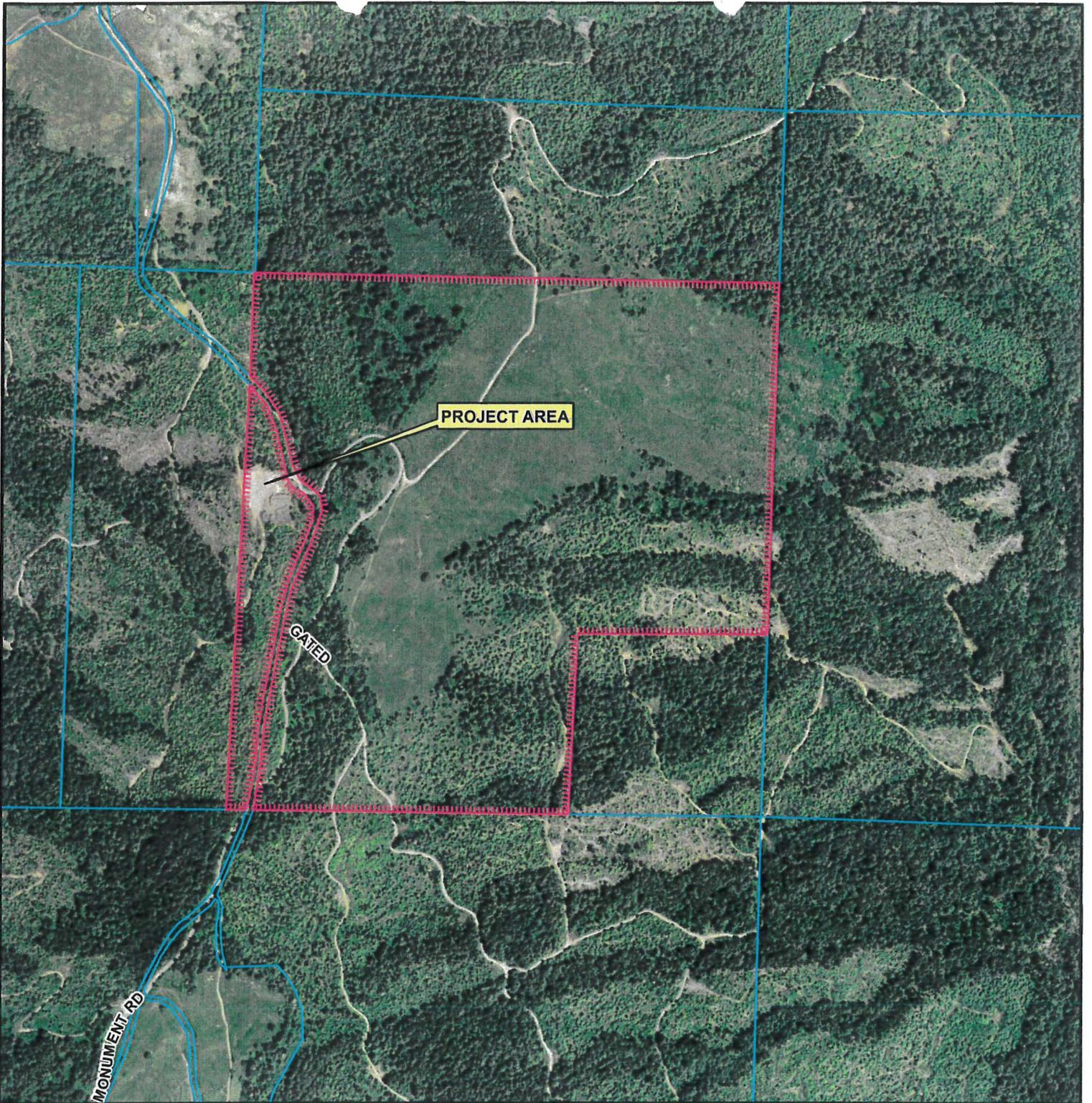
Dyett and Bhatia, Urban and Regional Planners, 2002. *Humboldt 2025 General Plan Update, Natural Resources and Hazards Report*

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

McLaughlin, H. and F. Harradine. 1965. *Soils of Western Humboldt County.*

Humboldt County. October 2010. *Monument Rock Quarry Plan of Operation, Reclamation Plan and Initial Study prepared by Humboldt County Department of Public Works.*

Humboldt County. 1994. *Initial Study and Negative Declaration – Monument Quarry.*



AERIAL MAP

**PROPOSED HUMBOLDT COUNTY,
 DEPT. OF PUBLIC WORKS
 CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT,
 SURFACE MINING PERMIT &
 RECLAMATION PLAN
 RIO DELL AREA
 CUP-10-11/SMP-10-04/RP-10-04
 APN: 205-031-049
 T01N R01W S13 H B & M**

Project Area = 

This map is intended for display purposes and should not be used for precise measurement or navigation. Data has not been completely checked for accuracy.



SEC 1, 13 & 14 & PTN SECS 2, 11 & 12 T1N, R1W H.B. & M. 205-03

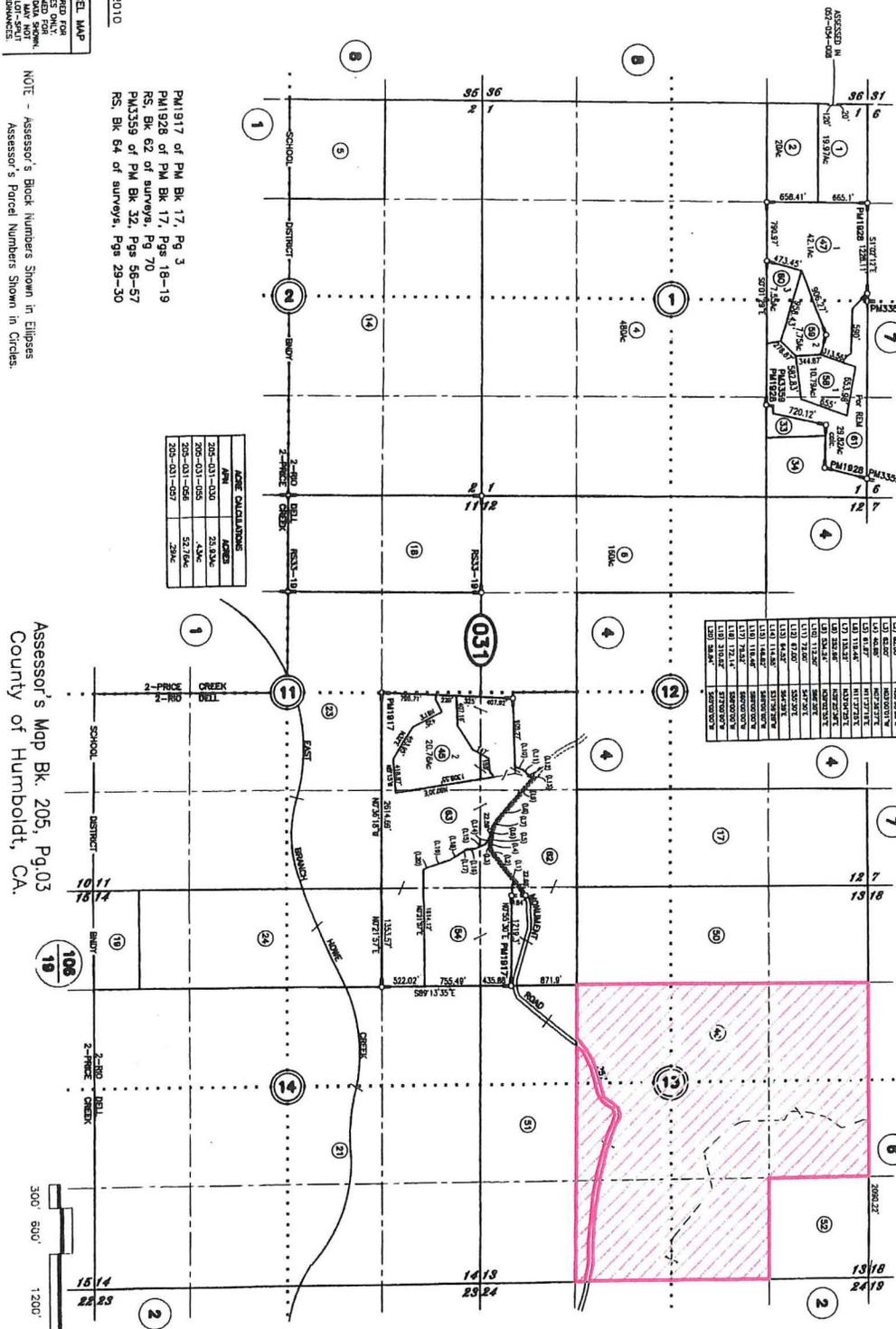
MAP WAS PREPARED FOR THE COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT, CALIFORNIA, BY THE ASSessor's OFFICE, 1000 MARKET STREET, HUMBOLDT, CALIFORNIA 99901. DATE: SEPT. 8, 2010.

NOTE - Assessor's Block Numbers Shown in Ellipses
Assessor's Parcel Numbers Shown in Circles.

PM1917 of PM Bk 17, Pg 3
PM1928 of PM Bk 17, Pgs 18-19
RS, Bk 62 of surveys, Pg 70
PM1359 of PM Bk 32, Pgs 56-57
RS, Bk 64 of surveys, Pgs 29-30

APN	ACRES
205-031-030	23.19Ac
205-031-031	52.79Ac
205-031-032	29Ac

LOT	ACRES	ADJACENT
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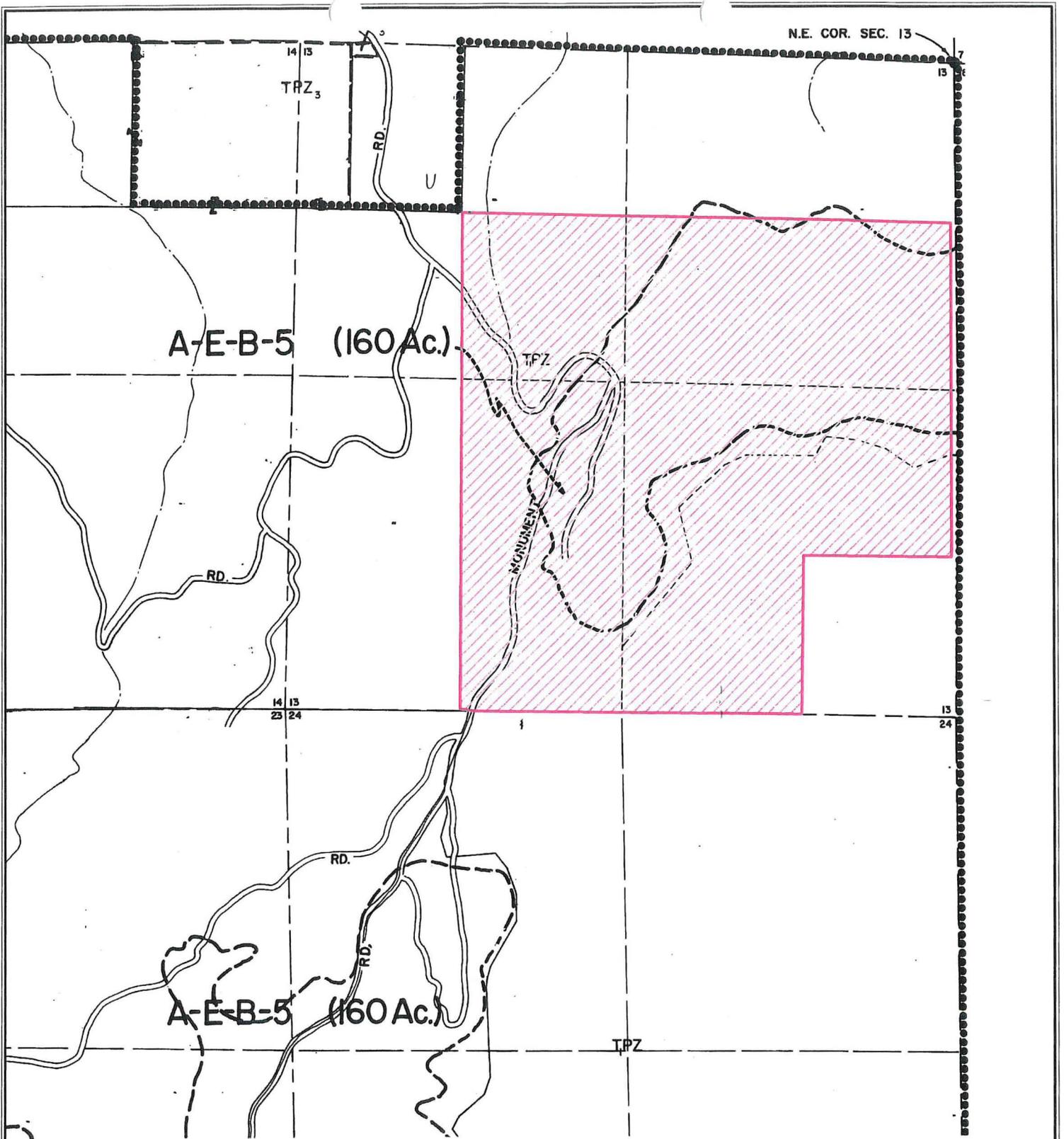
ASSESSOR PARCEL MAP

**PROPOSED HUMBOLDT COUNTY,
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CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT,
SURFACE MINING PERMIT &
RECLAMATION PLAN
RIO DELL AREA
CUP-10-11/SMP-10-04/RP-10-04
APN: 205-031-049
T01N R01W S13 H B & M**

PROJECT AREA =



MAP NOT TO SCALE



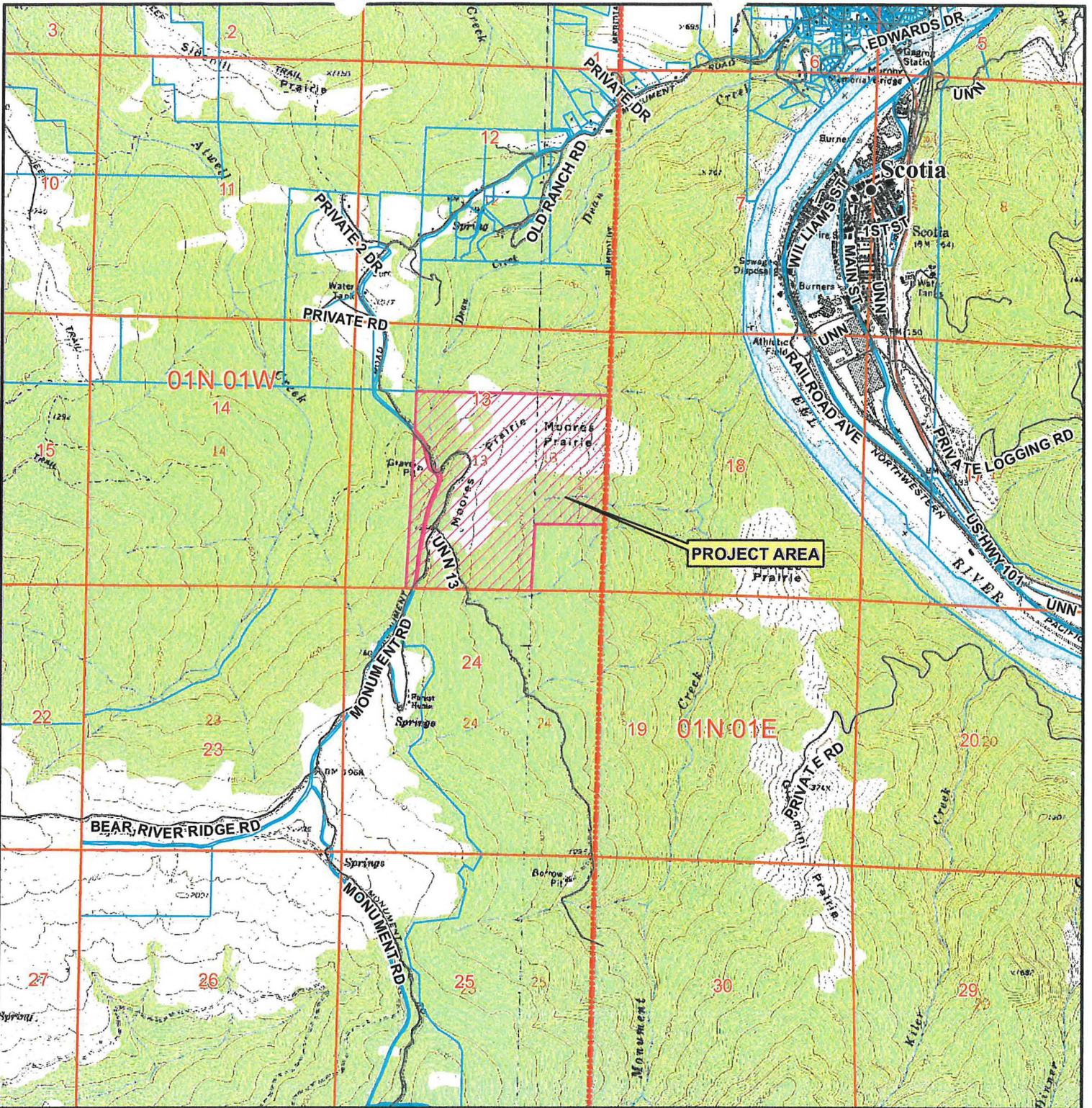
PROJECT AREA = 

ZONING MAP

**PROPOSED HUMBOLDT COUNTY,
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MAP NOT TO SCALE



TOPO MAP

**PROPOSED HUMBOLDT COUNTY,
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CUP-10-11/SMP-10-04/RP-10-04

APN: 205-031-049

T01N R01W S13 H B & M

Project Area = 

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