

**RESOLUTION OF THE ZONING ADMINISTRATOR
OF THE COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT**

Resolution Number 26-

Record Number PLN-2021-17298

Assessor's Parcel Numbers: 316-163-002

Making the required findings for certifying compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act and conditionally approving the Mason Quarry Conditional Use/Mining Permit and Reclamation Plan 15-year Renewal.

WHEREAS, Humboldt County Department of Public Works staff submitted an application and evidence in support of approving a 15-year renewal of the Mason Quarry Conditional Use/Mining Permit and Reclamation Plan (CUP-14-91XM/SMR-02-91X); and

WHEREAS, the Humboldt County Planning Division has reviewed the submitted application, PLN-2021-17298, and evidence and has referred the application and evidence to involved reviewing agencies for site inspections, comments and recommendations; and

WHEREAS, no further environmental review is required as no changes to the mining operation are proposed as part of this renewal; and

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

WHEREAS, a Mitigated Negative Declaration was adopted with the renewed and modified permit in 2012 (CUP-14-91X/SMR-02-91X); and

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

WHEREAS, on April 16, 2026, a public hearing was held to receive public testimony on the proposed project.

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

1. FINDING: **Project Description:** A 15-year renewal of an existing surface mining and reclamation plan permit SMR-02091X and conditional use permit CUP-14-91X for the Mason Quarry. The project includes intermittent and on demand extraction of heavy construction rock and rocky fill material. Mined material is used for road/highway maintenance and construction projects. The quantity of extracted materials is dependent upon state and county contracts as well as private sector demand and allows for up to 65,000 cubic yards of material per year. The permit term is 15 years and will expire June 21, 2036.

EVIDENCE: a) Project File: PLN-2021-17298

2. FINDING: **CEQA:** A Mitigated Negative Declaration was adopted with the renewed permit and modification in 2012. No further environmental review is required as no changes to the mining operation are proposed as part of this renewal.

EVIDENCE: a) No changes are proposed.

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

Mining Permit Approval

(Title III, Div. 9, Chapter 1, §391-4(b)(3), Term, of the Humboldt County Code)

3. FINDING: The application and supporting documents adequately describe the proposed surface mining operation, and adequate measures are incorporated to mitigate the probable or known significant environmental effects which have been or may be caused by the proposed operation.

EVIDENCE: a) The project has been reviewed by County Staff and outside agencies which have confirmed the operation has been designed to mitigate any environmental or health and safety concerns. The operation is inspected annually by County Planning staff for compliance with the Reclamation Plan and permit conditions. The last inspection report from December 2025 shows no violations or other issues as the quarry was not in operation due to permit renewal. The site has been in consistent operation for several decades.

4. FINDING: The proposed use and location of the surface mining operation is properly located in accordance with the General Plan and any relevant element thereof to the community as a whole, and to other land uses in the vicinity.

EVIDENCE: a) The location of the mining operation occurs in a Timber Zone (TPZ) and Agricultural Exclusive (AE) land use designations under the Current General Plan. Both the TPZ and AE designation are resource production land use designations, and the production of minerals is consistent with resource production (HCC 314-7.4). Affected agencies have reviewed the proposal and no new conditions of approval are proposed. There are no other known changes in the law or circumstances that warrant additions or changes to conditions that staff are aware of.

5. FINDING: The proposed development is in conformance with the County General Plan, Open Space Plan, and the Open Space Action Program.

EVIDENCE: a) The proposed use and location of the surface mining operation is properly located in accordance with the General Plan and any relevant element thereof to the community as a whole, and to other land uses in the vicinity. The location of the mining operation occurs in a Timber Production Zone and an Agricultural Exclusive designation area which are resource production designations. The TPZ designation is also an implementing designation in the county's Open Space Plan and Open Space Action Program, and the re-approval of this permit will not affect existing open space uses, as no additional ground disturbance is proposed beyond that considered with the original permit.

6. FINDING: The proposed development is consistent with the purposes of the existing zone in which the site is located, or when processed in conjunction with a zone reclassification, is consistent with the purposes of the proposed zone.

EVIDENCE: a) The property is zoned TPZ and AE which allows for surface mining with a Conditional Use Permit. The surface mining area is located within a rural portion of Humboldt County. Aside from agriculture, timber, and mining, development is limited.

7. FINDING: The proposed development conforms with all applicable standards and requirements of these regulations.

EVIDENCE: a) The proposed development is temporary and will be mitigated at the end of each season's operation and the end of the permit term if not renewed. All equipment will be winterized after each mining season. The operation is in conformance with all required setbacks and zoning restrictions and will be required to be approved and inspected by County and the California State representatives.

8. FINDING: The proposed development and conditions under which it may be operated or maintained will not be detrimental to the public health, safety, or welfare or materially injurious to properties or improvements in the vicinity.

EVIDENCE: a) The project has been reviewed by County Staff and outside agencies which have confirmed the operation has been designed to mitigate any environmental or health and safety concerns. The operation is inspected annually by County Planning staff for compliance with the Reclamation Plan and permit conditions. The last inspection report from December 2025 shows no violations or other issues.

9. FINDING: The proposed development does not reduce the residential density for any parcel below that utilized by the Department of Housing and Community Development in determining compliance with housing element law (the midpoint of the density range specified in the plan designation) unless the following written findings are made supported by substantial evidence and not have a detrimental effect of the housing of Humboldt County.

EVIDENCE: a) The parcel was not included in the 2019 adopted Housing Element Inventory. As the property and operation in question occurs in a Timber Production Zone, the parcel is principally permitted for a residence. Currently, there is no residence onsite and it will not have a detrimental effect on the housing stock in Humboldt County.

DECISION

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

- Adopt the findings set forth in this resolution; and
- Conditionally approves the 15-year renewal of the Mason Quarry Conditional Use/Mining Permit and Reclamation Plan subject to the conditions of approval attached hereto as Attachment 1A.

Adopted after review and consideration of all the evidence on **April 16, 2026**.

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

John H. Ford, Director
Planning and Building Department