

**RESOLUTION OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION
OF THE COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT**

Resolution Number 26-

Record Number PLN-2025-19390

Assessor's Parcel Numbers: 313-132-001

Making the required findings for certifying compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act and conditionally approving the Russ Quarry Conditional Use/Mining Permit and Reclamation Plan

WHEREAS, Humboldt County Department of Public Works staff submitted an application and evidence in support of approving a 15-year term for the Russ Quarry Conditional Use/Mining Permit and Reclamation Plan CUP-10-03/SMP-10-03/RP10-03); and

WHEREAS, the Humboldt County Planning Division has reviewed the submitted application, PLN-2025-19390, and evidence and has referred the application and evidence to involved reviewing agencies for site inspections, comments and recommendations; and

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

WHEREAS, a Negative Declaration was adopted with the original permit approval in 1995 (SCH#95053079) and an addendum in 2011 for a minor modification, and no changes are proposed to the project from the 2011 modification; and

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

WHEREAS, on March 19, 2026, a public hearing was held to receive public testimony on the proposed project.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Planning Commission makes all the following findings:

1. FINDING: **Project Description:** Reapproval of a 15-year term of a previously approved and recently expired Conditional Use Surface Mining Permit and Reclamation Plan and review of financial assurances for an existing quarry with a 15-year permit term to expire November 24, 2040. The gravel is to be used in County Road maintenance activities in the region. The current project proposes a total extraction volume of 30,000 cubic yards (cy) of rock over the 15-year permit term. Mining may consist of a single 25,000 cy extraction, or smaller extractions, as frequently as every 3- to 7-years. The County originally permitted the pre-existing rock quarry in 1995 for the extraction of up to 20,000 cubic yards, extracting no more than 10,000 cy every 5- to 7-years and approved a modification allowing the extraction of up to 30,000 cubic yards. For the current permit there are no proposed changes to the operations.

EVIDENCE: a) Project File: PLN-2025-19390

2. FINDING: **CEQA:** A Negative Declaration was adopted with the original permit in 1995. An Addendum to the Negative Declaration was prepared for the project in 2011. No further environmental review is required as no changes to the mining operation are proposed as part of this reapproval.

EVIDENCE: a) No changes are proposed from that which was reviewed under the previous CEQA determination.

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 November 2025 shows no violations or other issues. The site has been infrequently mined since 1995. By permitting a new 15-year permit term it will allow for the original entitlement of 30,000 cubic yards to continue to be available. No additional mining beyond that originally contemplated during the 2011 modification is proposed.

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 on a parcel zoned Agricultural General (AG) and Timber (T) under the Current General Plan. Both the Agricultural General and Timber designations are resource production land use designations and quarrying of minerals is consistent with resource production. 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 is 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 on a parcel that is zoned an Agricultural General and Timber.

These land designations are resource production designations. The Agricultural General and Timber designations are also an implementing designation in the county's Open Space Plan and Open Space Action Program and the re-approval of this expired permit will not affect existing open space uses, as no additional ground disturbance is proposed beyond that considered with the original permit.

- b) The quarry will be contoured as noted in the reclamation plan to promote drainage and help to establish vegetation growth. Prior to mining operations, the site was a large outcropping of exposed rock elevated above the surrounding meadowland. All material sourced from the site was useable and contained no topsoil.
- c) Revegetation will be established with native grass seed as recommended by a qualified botanist. The revegetation is to facilitate the proposed end use of agricultural grazing.

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 Agricultural Exclusive and Timber Production Zones which allow 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.
 - b) The remainder of the property is utilized for livestock grazing and timber production.

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

removed or winterized after each mining season. The operation is in conformance with all required setbacks and zoning restrictions and will be required to be inspected by Humboldt County year.

- b) The access road will be graded to course stormwater towards the inboard edge of the road each fall prior to the commencement of winter rains. Roadside ditches will be cleared of rocks and organic matter to assure functionality of two ditch relief culverts. The quarry floor will be finish graded to control stormwater by diverting it towards the center of the site.
- c) There are no known natural water courses or streamside management areas within 1500 feet of the quarry boundaries.

8. FINDING: The proposed development conforms with state regulations ensuring the financial assurances under Public Resource Code Section 2773.1 of the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act.

- EVIDENCE:**
- a) The proposed development has been in conformance of this act in regard to financial assurances since the original permit was granted in 1995.
 - b) The most recent Financial Assurance Mechanism was granted under Resolution 25-120 by the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors on June 24, 2025, as a Pledge of Revenue.

9. 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 November 2025 shows no violations or other issues.

10. 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 on a parcel zoned Agricultural General (AG) and Timber (T) under the Current General Plan. Timber Production Zone, the parcel is principally permitted for a residence. Currently, there is one residence on the 600+ parcel and 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 Planning Commission does hereby:

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

Adopted after review and consideration of all the evidence on **March 19, 2026**.

The motion was made by COMMISSIONER _____ and second by COMMISSIONER _____ and the following vote:

AYES: COMMISSIONERS:
 NOES: COMMISSIONERS:
 ABSENT: COMMISSIONERS:
 ABSTAIN: COMMISSIONERS:
 DECISION:

I, John H. Ford, Secretary to the Planning Commission 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 Commission at a meeting held on the date noted above.

John H. Ford, Director
 Planning and Building Department