PROPOSED MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION
Drewry Rock Quarry/Bell Springs Road
Surface Mining Permit Renewal

Humboldt County, California

March 10, 2008

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Project Description
The project is renewal of a surface mining permit to continue extraction of rock from a quarry for use in County road maintenance activities in the region. The permit renewal application proposes extraction and processing of up to 20,000 cubic yards of rock as frequently as annually for a period of 15 years. The total volume of rock extracted will not exceed 69,200 cubic yards.

Project Location
The Drewry rock quarry is located approximately 2.4 miles south of Harris (1,100 feet south of Island Mountain Road) on Bell Springs Road. It is in Section 16, Township 5 South, Range 5 East, HB&M and can be seen on the Harris 7.5' USGS Quadrangle Map. The quarry is located on Assessor Parcel #216-021-07.

Determination
This proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration is included to give notice to interested agencies ant the public that it is the County of Humboldt's intent to adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration for this project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The Natural Resources Division of the Humboldt County Department of Public Works has prepared an Addended Initial Study for this project. The Planning Division of the Community Development Department expects determination from this study that the proposed project would not have a significant effect on the environmental with mitigation measures incorporated into the project.

1.0 CEQA DOCUMENTATION BACKGROUND

(2008) In 1992, the Humboldt County Department of Public Works (HCPW) presented an Initial Study and Negative Declaration to the Humboldt County Planning Division with an application for a surface mining permit to operate a quarry on Bell Springs Road south of Harris (Drewry rock quarry). The Negative Declaration was approved by the Humboldt County Planning Commission on February 18, 1993, and the permit was issued on March 10, 1993.

The following information is an addendum to the 1992 Initial Study, to provide current information and analysis of potential environmental impacts associated with renewing the surface mining permit for the Drewry rock quarry for fifteen years (2008-2023).

2.0 LOCATION

(1992) This quarry is located on the parcel with APN#216-021-07 approximately 300 feet ***(ft)*** south of the junction of Bell Springs Road and Island Mountain Road, on the south and west side of Bell Springs Road, in the extreme southeast corner of Humboldt County. It may be located on the 7.5 minute Harris and 15 minute Alderpoint Quadrangle sheets. The site is in the northeast quarter of the southwest quarter of Section 16, T5S, R5E, H.B. & M.

(2008) The Drewry rock quarry is located approximately 2.4 miles south of Harris (1,100 ft south of Island Mountain Road) on Bell Springs Road. It is in Section 16, Township 5 South, Range 5 East and can be seen on the Harris 7.5' USGS Quadrangle Map. The quarry is located on Assessor Parcel #216-021-07 (Appendix 1, Figures 1 and 2).

3.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

(1992) The County Public Works Department has removed rock from this site for road maintenance over the past 40 years. Quarrying is done every three to four years and the volume removed each time is 6,000 to 8,000 cubic yards ***(cy)***. The equipment used includes a portable crusher, front-end loader and bulldozer. Rock is removed from the central area of the original mound, crushed, and stockpiled 300 feet north of the pit. The interior area of the pit is smoothed out following each extraction of material. The project area totals approximately two acres including the stockpile area.

(2008) The project is continued extraction, crushing, and stockpiling of rock from the Drewry rock quarry for County road maintenance and repair projects in the area. This permit renewal application proposes extraction of up to 20,000 cy of rock as frequently as annually for a period of 15 years. The total volume of rock extracted will not exceed 69,200 cy. See Appendix 1, Figure 3 and Appendix 2, Photographs for project area details.

3.1 Past Mining Activities

The surface mining permit issued in 1993 (Permit #CUP-19-92/SMP-02-92) approved the mining of rock from a previously existing rock quarry from 1993 to 2008. The Department of Public Works proposed to mine and crush up to 2,000 cy

of rock annually, for a total of 30,000 cy. The estimated total volume of rock contained in the site was 100,000 cy.

The site had been mined in the past and was already partially developed. A containment berm was constructed along the west side of the quarry floor and stockpile area. The entrance to the quarry is located midway between the stockpile location and the quarry floor/face. Vegetation on the hill above/behind the quarry face consisted of grass, which was left undisturbed. There was minimal topsoil on the site, so no topsoil was stockpiled.

Rock was removed from the quarry face by ripping and pushing it to the floor with a bulldozer. The excavated rock was pushed into temporary stockpiles on the floor. A portable crusher assembly (jaw crusher, conveyors, generator trailer) was located on the quarry floor between the face and permanent stockpiles. A front-end loader transported the piled rock to the crusher assembly for processing. Once processed, the crushed gravel was transferred to the permanent stockpiles on the north end of the site. Stockpiles were accessed throughout the year when needed for road maintenance and repair activities.

Over the period of 1993-2007, the face was mined three times for a total of 30,807 cy. Mining activity was most recently performed in 2007. Rock extraction from the quarry face and crushing were conducted during daylight hours, primarily on weekdays during the summer (dry) months.

The quarry face is currently approximately 20-25 ft high, with the elevation of the top of the face approximately three ft lower than the top of the hill (Appendix 2, Photograph #4).

3.2 Proposed Mining Activities

The Department of Public Works proposes mining, crushing, and stockpiling rock from the quarry face for the next 15 years. Up to 20,000 cy of rock will be taken from the quarry face as frequently as annually. The total extraction will be less than 69,200 cy (100,000 cy-30,807 cy).

Rock Extraction

The mining method to be used will be consistent with how the Department has conducted mining activities over the past 15 years (permit period). Extraction is expected to be accomplished by ripping and breaking up the rock with a bulldozer. The rock will be pushed into temporary stockpiles on the quarry floor. In the event localized graywacke boulders are encountered, small scale separation with charges may be performed. Rock extraction will continue to push the quarry face east, working into the hillside for an additional ~100 ft.

Mining and crushing occurring during the period of September 16 through January 31 will be done during daylight hours (sunrise to sunset). Mining and crushing occurring during the period of February 1 through September 15 will be limited to the daytime from two hours after sunrise to two hours before sunset. The average time period from extraction to stockpiling will be about four weeks. Dust control measures will consist of watering the quarry entrance and floor as needed with a water truck using an offsite water source.

Rock Processing

A portable crusher assembly, consisting of jaw and cone crushers, conveyors, and a generator trailer (see Appendix 1, Figure 4) will be temporarily located on the quarry floor between the quarry face and permanent stockpile area. Rock from the temporary stockpiles will be transported to the crusher via front-end loader. Crushed rock will then be transferred to the permanent stockpile. Once crushing activities are completed, the crusher assembly will be dismantled and removed from the area.

Following each extraction, the quarry face will be left with a slope of 1:1 (except for hard rock outcrops). The floor will be regraded flat as necessary, with a depression located in the center where rainfall runoff from the face and floor will accumulate and evaporate or percolate into the ground. Containment berms will be repaired or reconstructed as necessary to keep runoff from flowing down the west hillside toward Tom Long Creek (0.4 mile below the quarry). These berms will be revegetated as needed using fast-growing native grass seed and mulched.

Final site reclamation in accordance with the existing reclamation plan will be performed after mining at the site is completed.

4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

4.1 Aesthetics

(1992) The quarry is highly visible to southbound traffic on Bell Springs Road and appears as a bowl shaped depression within the rock mound. This is not visible to northbound traffic. The stockpiles are visible to traffic from both directions.

4.2 Air Quality

(2008) In 2002 the California Air Resources Board approved an Asbestos Airborne Toxic Control Measure (ATCM) for Construction, Grading, Quarrying, and Surface Mining Operations (Final Regulation Order Section 93105). Section 93105(b) states that the ATCM applies to any construction, grading, quarrying or surface mining operation that is located in a geographic ultramafic rock unit, any portion of the area to be disturbed has naturally-occurring asbestos (NOA), serpentine, or ultramafic rock as determined by the Air Pollution Control Officer (APCO), or NOA, serpentine, or ultramafic rock is discovered by the owner/operator, a registered geologist, or the APCO after the start of the operation. The Drewry rock quarry is not located in an ultramafic rock unit and does not appear to contain asbestos, serpentine, or ultramafic rock.

The North Coast District is in nonattainment for Particulate Matter smaller than 10 microns in diameter (PM10) according to State of California Standards. The areas of Humboldt County that typically are in nonattainment for PM10 and that have the greatest risk of public exposure are in the urban areas along the coast (e.g. Eureka, Arcata). Sources of PM10 in the project vicinity are from road and natural airborne dust, vehicle emissions, and occasionally forest fires.

4.3 Biological Resources – Vegetation

(1992) There is one large, picturesque oak tree immediately next to Bell Springs Road on the east side of the quarry; one large, dying Douglas fir tree immediately on the south slope; and several oak and bay trees along the west side of the quarry. Ground cover surrounding the site consists of perennial grasses. The trees are critical from an aesthetic standpoint and will be left intact.

The California Department of Fish & Game Natural Diversity Data Base listed no rare or endangered plant species at the project site as of September 15, 1992.

(2008) The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) list of threatened or endangered species or candidates for listing does not contain any plant species for the Harris and Jewett Rock 7.5' USGS quadrangles. The California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) contains records for three rare or sensitive plant and lichen species [one ranked List 1B-2 by the California Native Plant Society (CNPS)] in the area covered by the Harris and Jewett Rock quadrangles. Of these, the project area or vicinity may contain habitat for all three.

Beaked Tracyina

Beaked tracyina (Tracyina rostrata) is found in open grassy meadows within oak woodland and grassland habitats. It is ranked by CNPS as List 1B.2 (plants rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere). The closest recorded occurrence of beaked tracyina to the project is 3.7 miles north-northeast. The project area contains habitat for beaked tracyina.

Oval-Leaved Viburnum

Oval-leaved viburnum (Viburnum ellipticum) is found in chaparral, cismontane woodland, and lower montane coniferous forest. It is ranked by CNPS as List 2.3 (plants rare, threatened, or endangered in California but more common elsewhere). The closest recorded occurrence of oval-leaved viburnum is 3.3 miles north of the project. The project area does not contain habitat for oval-leaved viburnum. The project vicinity contains habitat.

Long-Beard Lichen

Long-beard lichen (Usnea longissima) is found in North Coast coniferous forest and broadleafed upland forest. It grows on a variety of trees including oaks and Douglas fir. The closest recorded occurrence of long-beard lichen is 1.7 miles northwest of the project. The project area does not contain habitat for long-beard lichen. The project vicinity contains habitat.

4.4 Biological Resources – Wildlife

(1992) No species were observed using the site during the field trip. However, falcons, turkey vultures and swallows were observed in the vicinity. Mammals expected to occur here would include deer, bear and rodents.

The California Department of Fish & Game Natural Diversity Data Base listed no rare or endangered animal species at the project site as of September 15, 1992.

(2008) The following species of wildlife are listed by the USFWS as threatened or are candidates for listing for the Harris and Jewett Rock 7.5' USGS quadrangles as of February 2008. Note some species were listed or critical habitat designated after the date of the 1992 Initial Study/Negative Declaration.

Table 1 - USFWS Species List
Harris and Jewett Rock 7.5' USGS quadrangles

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	STATUS	CRITICAL HABITAT
Fish			
Onchorynchus kisutch	S. OR/N. CA coho salmon	Threatened (1997)	Yes (1999)
Oncorhynchus mykiss	Northern California steelhead	Threatened (2000)	Yes (2005)
Oncorhynchus tshawytscha	CA coastal chinook salmon	Threatened (1999)	Yes (2005)
Birds			
Brachyramphus marmoratus	marbled murrelet	Threatened (1992)	Yes (1996) Revision Proposed (2006)
Coccyzus americanus	western yellow-billed cuckoo	Candidate	No
Strix occidentalis caurina	northern spotted owl	Threatened (1990)	Yes (1992)
Mammals			
Martes pennanti pacifica	Pacific fisher	Candidate	No

The quarry site does not contain habitat for any of these federally listed species.

Northern Spotted Owl

Northern spotted owls prefer old-growth or mixed-age stands of mature and old-growth trees. Superior habitat attributes include a multilayered, multispecies canopy dominated by large (30-inch diameter at breast height) conifer overstory with an understory of shade-tolerant conifers or hardwoods; moderate to high (60-80%) canopy closure; substantial decadence in the form of large live conifers with deformities (cavities, broken tops, mistletoe infection); numerous large snags; a large accumulation of logs and woody debris on the forest floor; and a canopy open enough to allow owls to fly within and beneath (Thomas 1990).

Owls nest in large live trees with broken tops or cavities. In northern California, owls roost in areas with moderate to high canopy closure (60-80%), multi-layered with multiple tree species. Foraging activities can take place in a wider array of forest types, including more open forests. While owls forage in dense forests, they also forage along the edges of dense forests and in more open forests for different prey (USFWS 2007). Nesting season is from February 1 through July 31 (USFWS 1998).

rolling to steep slopes whose vegetation is primarily grasses. There is no surface water at the site.

Geology
(1992) This mountain region of the Eel River basin consists of Franciscan melange which is a highly sheared unit composed of a matrix of sheared massive sandstone. The rock in the quarry itself consists of graywacke and sandstone which has been determined by the Material's Lab to be of excellent quality for road maintenance purposes. Typically, Franciscan melange consists of a rolling hummocky terrain highly susceptible to mass movement in which the melange boulders form scattered knobs that protrude out of grassland and grass-oak woodland.

Appendix 1, Figure ***5*** is a portion of the 7.5 minute Harris Quadrangle Map showing the project site. The SS symbol indicates the sandstone and shale rock types found here. There is an earthflow symbol shown to the south and west of the site. Quarrying activity here over the past 40 years has had no known effect on earth movement. This data was compiled by Thomas E. Spittler, Geologist, California Division of Mines & Geology, 1984.

(2008) The Humboldt County Seismic Safety Map (1979) (Appendix 1, Figure 6) identifies the area as Zone E: Bedrock. Characteristics of earthquake shaking consist of higher accelerations but of relatively short periods and shorter duration of shaking, and high slope instability. The nearest known earthquake fault is located about five miles west of the quarry.

Soils
(1992) The Pacific Southwest Forest and Range Experiment Station, in cooperation with the California Division of Forestry and the University of California at Berkeley, produced a soil vegetation map 29D-3 in May, 1952 which was revised in 1975. This map ***(Appendix 1, Figure 7)*** designates the soil at the quarry site as being in the Laughlin series with a depth of two to three feet. This soil is loam with parent material of sandstone and shale. It is slightly acid and found in rolling to steep uplands. This soil type is permeable with good drainage. It is rated as being unsuitable for growing timber and good to fair for grass.

4.7 Noise

(1992) Ambient noise levels would range from about 40 dBA to 65 dBA and would result from wind, bird calls, cattle and occasional automobiles. The nearest residence is located two miles from the site.

(2008) In 1998, US Fish & Wildlife Service conducted a noise study of HCPW crushing and associated activities in the stockpile portion of the Pacific Lumber Gravel Bar/Eel River at Dyerville, which is approximately 0.35 miles from Founders Grove. With noise monitoring equipment positioned adjacent to the stockpile area (within 300 ft), heavy equipment working around the crusher (front end loader, bulldozer, dump truck) produced noise readings in the low-80s dBA. The loudest noise came from the equipment backup horns. Noise levels from the crusher ranged from 71.2 to 74.4 dBA (Bosch 1998). It is expected that these noise levels are similar to those generated during mining and crushing activities at the Drewry rock quarry.

The project vicinity contains habitat for northern spotted owls. The CNDDB Biogeographic Information System (BIOS) contains one recorded occurrence of northern spotted owl approximately 1.6 miles east-southeast of the quarry. A pair of adult birds were observed there in 1994. Northern spotted owl designated critical habitat can be found about 0.73 miles east of the quarry. The nearest potential habitat is ~0.1 mile east of the quarry.

Marbled Murrelet
Marbled murrelets are long-lived seabirds that spend most of their lives in the marine environment, but fly inland to nest. Courtship, foraging, loafing, molting, and preening occur in near-shore marine waters. Nesting generally occurs in old-growth forests, characterized by large trees (typically Douglas fir and coastal redwood), multiple canopy layers, and moderate to high canopy closure (USFWS 2007). Nesting habitat is located close enough to the marine environment for the birds to fly to and from the nest site. Nesting season is March 24 through September 15 (USFWS 1998).

The project vicinity contains marbled murrelet habitat. There are records of marbled murrelet observances within 2 miles of the quarry. Marbled murrelet designated critical habitat can be found about 0.73 miles east of the quarry. The nearest potential habitat is ~0.1 mile east of the quarry.

Review of occurrences of rare and sensitive wildlife species recorded in CNDDB (February 2008) for the Harris and Jewett Rock 7.5' USGS quadrangles revealed no records of occurrences in either quadrangle. The USFWS and CNDDB species lists can be seen in Appendix 3.

4.5 Cultural Resources

(1992) This mound is located next to the Bell Springs Road, which is located on the ridge containing the original Indian trail used for 2,000 to 3,000 years. When the original environmental assessment was done in 1977, the Northwestern Indian Cemetery Protective Association was contacted and asked to make a field inspection of the area. They conducted a Phase I field inspection and notified the Department of Public Works that no evidence of an archaeologic resource was observed on the mound.

In addition, the archaeological site maps contained in the Environmental Data Bank of the Public Works Department were checked. They contain no known or recorded sites at the project site.

4.6 Geology and Soils

Geomorphology
(1992) This quarry is located on the top of the ridge which separates the Main Eel River and the South Fork Eel River drainages. Originally, the site consisted of a mound approximately 60 feet high and 150 feet in diameter. Quarrying over the past 40 years has reduced the height by about 50 feet over the central portion. Approximately 70% of the original exterior slopes of the mound are intact.

The quarry is located on top of the ridge which is the drainage divide between the Main Eel River and South Fork Eel River on the south and west side of Bell Springs Road at an elevation of approximately 2,400 feet above mean sea level. It occurs in an area of

The Humboldt County General Plan, Figure 3-2 identifies noise levels of 75-95 Ldn (Day-Night Noise Level) as normally acceptable for mining activity (Humboldt County Planning Division 1984).

5.0 MITIGATION MEASURES

(2008) The following measures have been incorporated into the project to ensure that there will not be a significant effect on the environment due to mining activities at the Drewry rock quarry.

- ***Extraction and crushing activities occurring during northern spotted owl and marbled murrelet nesting seasons (February 1 through September 15) will be limited to the daytime from two hours after sunrise to two hours before sunset.***

6.0 POTENTIAL IMPACTS

(2008) Of the 17 environmental factors considered for potential impacts from this project, the quarry operation is not likely to impact the following ten factors.

- ***Agricultural Resources***
- ***Cultural Resources***
- ***Hazards and Hazardous Materials***
- ***Land Use and Planning***
- ***Population and Housing***
- ***Mineral Resources***
- ***Public Services***
- ***Recreation***
- ***Utilities and Service Systems***
- ***Mandatory Findings of Significance***

These factors will not be further discussed in this study. Continuing to operate the Drewry rock quarry may have potential impacts on the other seven environmental factors as discussed below.

6.1 Aesthetics

(1992) The quarry is not visible from any residence. Although it is visible from Bell Springs Road, the volume of traffic is low (40 vehicles per day) and this is not considered to be a significant impact.

(2008)

a. ***Scenic Vista – As the quarry and associated permanent stockpile are located at the top of a ridge, they are visible from Bell Springs Road and residences in the project vicinity. However, residential development is minimal in this area, with one or two houses in view of the quarry. Traffic is also light and consists primarily of residents and commercial vehicles (e.g. ranch trucks, log trucks). The project does not involve expansion of the project area. Other than grasses, no additional vegetation will be removed. (Less Than Significant Impact).***

b. ***Scenic Resources – There are no historic buildings or state scenic highways in the project vicinity. No distinct rock outcroppings will be affected. No additional vegetation will be removed (No Impact).***

c. *Visual Character – The site was formerly grassland. Future extraction activities will push the quarry face east approximately 100 feet. Reclamation activities will result in topography of the site and final revegetation resembling the surrounding land, making the site barely noticeable in the future (Less Than Significant Impact).*

d. *New Source of Light/Glare – No structures will be constructed on the site. No work will be done at night (No Impact).*

6.2 Air Quality

(2008)

a. *Air Quality Plan – Operating the quarry will not conflict with or obstruct implementation of an air quality plan (No Impact).*

b. *Air Quality Standards – With dust control measures in place, the project will not violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation (No Impact).*

c. *Increase in Criteria Pollutants – The quarry is not located in a geologic ultramafic rock unit, does not contain naturally occurring asbestos, and therefore will not generate airborne asbestos. Mining during the summer months will generate airborne dust (PM10). Dust abatement measures used during operations, consisting of watering the haul road and quarry floor regularly, spraying rock during crushing, and wetting truckloads before hauling will minimize airborne dust (Less Than Significant Impact).*

d. *Exposure to Substantial Pollutant Concentrations – Personnel operating heavy equipment at the site will be exposed to airborne dust (PM10). The measures discussed in c. along with the use of facemasks will minimize the level of PM10 exposure to less than significant levels (Less Than Significant Impact).*

e. *Objectionable Odors – Odors created by the project consist of heavy equipment and crusher generator exhaust, which will be temporary in nature and dissipate (No Impact).*

6.3 Biological Resources (Vegetation)

(1992) Approximately 70% of the original exterior slopes of the mound are intact. These slopes and the trees growing on them will not be removed. The grasses which are established within the pit between periods of activity will be impacted. However, they cover an area of less than one acre and are surrounded by thousands of acres of identical plants and their loss is not considered a significant impact.

(2008)

a. *Sensitive Species Identified by Local, Regional, State or Federal – The hill above the quarry face contains potential habitat for beaked tracyina. Proposed mining activities will continue pushing the quarry face east a total of ~100 ft, resulting in the loss of 0.75 acres of potential habitat. The closest recorded occurrence of beaked tracyina to the quarry is approximately 3.7 miles away. It is unlikely that beaked tracyina occurs in the project area. Reclamation will include restoration of the open grassland/oak woodland habitat favored by beaked tracyina. The proposed project does not include expansion of the facility beyond its current footprint and will not affect habitat for oval-leaved viburnum or long-beard*

lichen that may be found in the project vicinity (Less Than Significant Impact).

b. ***Riparian Habitat – The quarry is located at the top of a ridge with no waterways or riparian habitat in the project area or immediate vicinity. The project will not affect riparian habitat or other sensitive natural communities (No Impact).***

c. ***Federally Protected Wetlands – There are no federally protected wetlands in the project area. The project will not affect federally protected wetlands (No Impact).***

d. ***Movement of Resident or Migratory Fish or Wildlife – This question applies to wildlife and is addressed in Section 6.4.d.***

e. ***Local Policies/Ordinances Protecting Biological Resources – The project will not conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance (No Impact).***

f. ***Conflict with a Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other Local Regional, or State Plan – The project will not conflict with a Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other local, regional, or state plan (No Impact).***

6.4 Biological Resources (Wildlife)

(1992) Some species of wildlife may not be tolerant of the relatively high levels of noise generated by the crusher. It will take six to eight working days to create the required volume of crushed rock. The crusher generates 90 dBA at a distance of 50 feet. There would be impacts on any nesting birds and fur bearers living in dens within a few hundred feet of the crusher during the breeding period of March 1st to June 15th. Birds set territories during March and April and communication is by sound. Any loud noise would disrupt this process. Impact would also occur relative to the individual populations of wildlife that are nocturnally active and attempt to rest during the day. Large game species such as mountain lion, bear and deer can temporarily move out of ear shot of the crusher for the 10-day period.

The predicted noise levels are recognized as being relatively high compared to the ambient noise levels in this area. By running the crusher in the fall the total number of individual species of wildlife impacted is very small. Therefore, it was determined that the impact did not reach a threshold level of significance. Also, since the crusher will operate for only six to eight days every three to four years between the hours of roughly 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and that many species living in the area can temporarily move, it was determined that the impacts were not significant.

On an infrequent basis, a front-end loader will load 10-yard dump trucks with rock from the stockpile next to Bell Springs Road. Impacts to wildlife from this activity are considered to be insignificant.

(2008)

a. ***Sensitive Species Identified by Local, Regional, State or Federal – There is no northern spotted owl or marbled murrelet habitat in the project area. The project vicinity contains habitat for owls and murrelets and they may be found in the vicinity of the project. Impacts from noise related to rock extraction, processing, and associated heavy equipment are discussed in***

Section 6.7. Noise. The project does not involve the removal of large trees and will not affect owl or murrelet habitat (No Impacts).

b. Riparian Habitat – This question applies to vegetation and is addressed in Section 6.3.b.

c. Federally Protected Wetlands – This question applies to vegetation and is addressed in Section 6.3.c.

d. Movement of Resident or Migratory Fish or Wildlife – The project may temporarily affect movement of wildlife through the disturbed area (quarry face, floor, permanent stockpile site) by disturbing migratory behavior. Habitat modification via ground disturbance will not produce a contiguous barrier to movement/migration (wildlife can move around the disturbed area). Extraction activities are temporary, during daylight hours only (Less Than Significant Impact).

e. Local Policies/Ordinances protecting Biological Resources – The project will not conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as tree preservation policy or ordinance (No Impact).

f. Conflict with a Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other Local, Regional, or State Plan – The project will not conflict with a Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other local, regional or state plan (No Impact).

6.5 Geology and Soils

(1992) The continuous removal of rock will enlarge the bowl shaped depression in the original mound. It is not expected to have any effect on earth movement.

(2008)

a. Exposure of People or Structures to Effects Involving:

i. Rupture of Known Earthquake Fault – There are no known earthquake faults in the project vicinity. No substantial exposure to earthquake fault rupture is anticipated (No Impact).

ii. Strong Seismic Ground Shaking – Due to the distance to the nearest earthquake fault (five miles), and based on the geologic structure of the project area, seismic ground shaking during an earthquake is not likely to expose people or structures to substantial adverse effects (No Impact).

iii. Seismic-related Ground Failure – As discussed in 6.5.a.iv. below, visual inspection shows the quarry face as stable at slopes varying from 1:1 to vertical. Substantial seismic events could result in the loss of that stability and subsequent landslide, exposing personnel and equipment to impacts from falling rock. Equipment working at the site will contain all required safety features. Equipment will also be well maintained and frequently inspected to minimize damage in the event of seismic-related landslide/falling rock. Personnel will follow all required safety procedures and safe working practices, including using and maintaining all personal safety gear.

There are no structures in the project area. The potential effect of seismic-related ground failure to the general public is minimal, as the site is on gated private property (Less Than Significant Impact).

iv. Landslides – The existing quarry face is 20-25 ft high. Slopes vary from 1:1 for broken rocky material to nearly vertical for hard rock. There is no evidence of surface erosion such as gullying or rilling on the face. The cut

slope does not contain evidence of ground water seeps or springs. While the underlying general geology of the quarry consists of Franciscan melange materials susceptible to mass movement, the existing cut slope stability indicates the site material is stable at existing slopes. There is no reason to expect the rock material to differ throughout the remainder of the unmined portion of the site. In the event of a seismic-related failure of the quarry face, the minimization measures noted in 6.5.a.iii. will minimize the potential impacts to personnel working at the site (Less than Significant Impact).

b. *Soil Erosion, Loss of Topsoil – Ground disturbance associated with the site from 1993 to present disturbed approximately 2.1 acres. This disturbed area constitutes the total area of the mine site, and no additional ground disturbance is anticipated. In 1992 it was determined that minimal topsoil existed on the site and therefore no topsoil was stockpiled for use in reclamation. During final reclamation, topsoil similar to that found in the area will be imported to the site. The resoiled area will be seeded with pasture grasses and quality grazing land will be re-established. The proposed project will not result in substantial soil erosion or topsoil loss (Less Than Significant Impact).*

c. *Geologic Unit or Soil Instability – As noted in 6.5.a.iv. the existing quarry face has demonstrated stability at slopes of 1:1 or greater over the past several years. As noted in 6.5.b. topsoil will be imported during site reclamation and stabilized via grading, compaction and revegetation. Given the historic stability of the site and method of reclamation, the project will not cause the site soils or geology to become unstable (Less Than Significant Impact).*

d. *Located on Expansive Soil – There are no expansive soils in the project area or vicinity (No Impact).*

e. *Soil Capability of Supporting Waste Water Disposal Systems – No septic or waste water disposal systems are associated with the project (No Impact).*

6.6 Hydrology and Water Quality

(2008)

a. *Violation of Water Quality Standards or Waste Discharge Requirements – There are no waterways in or adjacent to the project area. There are no Waste Discharge Requirements associated with the quarry operation (No Impact).*

b. *Depletion of Groundwater Supplies – The project does not involve excavation below the groundwater table (e.g. pit). The quarry face shows no evidence of groundwater seeps or springs (No Impact).*

c. *Alteration of Existing Drainage Patterns, Erosion or Siltation – The project does not involve work in a stream or other waterway/waterbody. Best management practices in the form of berms along the west side of the quarry floor and permanent stockpile area are in place to keep rainfall from leaving the site. Excavation of the quarry has resulted in minor changes in drainage patterns as the quarry face was excavated into the hillside. Runoff from the quarry face and floor will be directed to a depression ("detention basin") on the quarry floor for percolation and evaporation. Continued mining of the site will have a less than significant impact on*

existing drainage patterns and will not result in significant erosion or siltation (Less Than Significant Impact).

d. *Alteration of Existing Drainage Patterns, Rate or Amount of Surface Runoff – The drainage patterns of the site have been changed as rock has been extracted and the quarry face worked into the hillside. Drainage now collects on the quarry floor where it percolates or evaporates. As no paving is proposed, there will not be an increase in the amount of surface runoff to the quarry floor detention basin. Continued excavation of the quarry site will have a less than significant impact on drainage patterns, the rate, and amount of surface runoff (Less Than Significant Impact).*

e. *Runoff Exceeding Capacity of Stormwater Drainage Systems – The site does not contain a stormwater drainage system other than a graded detention basin in the quarry floor in which stormwater runoff collects to percolate or evaporate. This detention system has adequate capacity for current runoff volumes. No additional runoff volumes are anticipated (No Impact).*

f. *Substantially Degrade Water Quality – With the current berms in place around the quarry floor and stockpile location, no runoff will leave the site. The project will not substantially degrade water quality (No Impact).*

g. *Place Housing Within a 100-Year Flood Hazard Area – The quarry is not within a 100-year flood hazard area (No Impact).*

h. *Place Structures Within a 100-Year Flood Hazard Area – The quarry is not within a 100-year flood hazard area (No Impact).*

i. *Exposure of People/Structures to Risk of Loss, Injury, Death Involving Flooding – The quarry is on a slope in an upland area not subject to risk of flooding (No Impact).*

j. *Seiche, Tsunami, or Mudflow – The quarry is not located near the coast or in an area subject to mudflows (No Impact).*

6.7 Noise

(1992) The noise level resulting from the crusher operation will measure 90 dBA at a distance of 50 feet. Since the noise level will decrease by 6 dBA for each doubling of the distance from the source, the noise level will be 48 dBA at 6,400 feet from the site. The nearest residence is located two miles from the site and the predicted noise level outside that residence will be approximately 45 dBA which will not constitute a significant impact. Normal conversation noise level is about 62 dBA.

(2008)

a. *Exposure to Noise Levels in Excess of Standards – Quarry operations will not generate noise levels in excess of the standards established in the Humboldt County General Plan (No Impact).*

b. *Exposure to Excessive Groundborne Vibration or Noise Levels – Other than small scale separation of boulders if needed, no activities that would produce excessive groundborne vibration or noise above that typically produced with similar operations is anticipated with this project (No Impact).*

c. *Permanent Increase in Ambient Noise Levels – Quarry operations will occur intermittently (as frequently as annually) for approximately one month at a time. Operations, including rock crushing, will occur during*

daylight hours only. There will be no permanent increase in ambient noise levels (No Impact).

d. *Temporary Increase in Ambient Noise Levels – Quarry operations will result in a temporary increase in ambient noise levels. Noise generated by operations will not significantly impact residences in the surrounding area, as the nearest residence is approximately 0.4 mile away, and all other residences in the vicinity are at least 1 mile away.*
Noise generated by mechanized equipment including the rock crushing assembly is likely to impact wildlife activities in the area. Operations will be intermittent (as frequently as annually) and short term (up to one month) and have a less than significant impact on non-listed wildlife in the area. USFWS guidance for estimating the effects of auditory disturbance to northern spotted owls and marbled murrelets in northwestern California (USFWS 2006) estimates a sound level harassment distance of about 500 ft for activities generating high (81-90 dB) noise levels. The edge of the nearest potential owl/murrelet habitat is about 0.1 mile (528 ft) east of the quarry. Owls and/or murrelets may be present at this distance, however it is unlikely that owl or murrelet nests would occur at this distance, as this is the edge of habitat, along Bell Springs Road, and subject to intermittent disturbance from regular vehicular traffic. Extraction and crushing activities during the period of February 1 through September 15 will be restricted to daylight hours starting at least 2 hours after sunrise and ending at least 2 hours before sunset to avoid generating noise during dusk/dawn murrelet activities (Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation).

e. *Exposure to Excessive Noise Levels, Public Airports – The quarry is not within an airport land use plan area or within two miles of a public airport (No Impact).*

f. *Exposure to Excessive Noise Levels, Private Air Strips – The quarry is not within the vicinity of a private airstrip (No Impact).*

6.8 Transportation/Traffic

(2008)

a. *Increased Traffic – Traffic counts on Bell Springs Road reveal a traffic level of 155 Average Daily Trips (ADT). The number of vehicle (dump trucks, equipment transports, personnel transports) trips to set up and take down an extraction operation is approximately 10-12 over 2-4 days (increase of 8%/day). During operations, the estimated number of daily trips is four (increase of 2.5%/day) for a period of 3-4 weeks (Less Than Significant Impact).*

b. *Level of Service Standard – Due to the rural nature of the area, roadway congestion is not a concern in the project vicinity. Traffic increases on Bell Springs Road during gravel mining activities will constitute a small increase (2.5%) in average daily traffic levels. The quarry access was constructed and is maintained to accommodate the mining equipment and material transport vehicles used for the project. All vehicles and equipment transports will be highway approved (No Impact).*

c. *Air Traffic Patterns – The project is not located near an airport or airstrip. There are no aircraft that typically fly at low altitude over the area (No Impact).*

d. *Increased Hazards Due to Design Feature – No changes in site access are proposed. The existing site access was constructed to accommodate dump trucks, equipment transports, and personnel transport vehicles. No changes are proposed for site access. The project is not incompatible with other uses in the vicinity (No Impact).*

e. *Emergency Access – Current access to the site is adequate in emergencies. No changes in access are proposed (No Impact).*

f. *Parking Capacity – There is currently no designated parking on Bell Springs Road at the site and none is proposed (No Impact).*

g. *Conflict with Adopted Policies, Plans, Alternative Transportation Programs – The project will not conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation (No Impact).*

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(2008)

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(1992) PERSONS CONSULTED
Don Raffaelli, Deputy Public Works Director
Gordon Schuler, Road Superintendent
Karen Kovacs, Biologist, Department of Fish & Game

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 *Conditional 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 - Drewry Rock Quarry Conditional Use/Surface Mining Permits and Reclamation Plan**
   APN **216-021-07** (New Harris area)
   Case Nos.: CUP-19-92XM/SMP-02-92XM/RP-02-92XM

2. **Lead agency name and address**: Humboldt County Community Development Services, 3015 H Street, Eureka, CA 95501-4484; Phone: (707) 445-7541; Fax (707) 445-7446

3. **Contact person and phone number**: Anita Punla, Senior Planner (707) 268-3727

4. **Project location**: The project is located in Humboldt County, in the New Harris area, on both sides of Bell Springs Road, approximately 1000 feet south from the intersection of Island Mountain Road and Bell Springs, on the property known as 7828 Bell Springs Road.

5. **Project sponsor's name and address**:

APPLICANT	**OWNER(S)**	**AGENT**
HUMBOLDT COUNTY DEPT. OF PUBLIC WORKS	DREWRY, RICHARD & PHYLLIS	HUMBOLDT COUNTY DPW
1106 2nd Street	PO BX 226	c/o Ann Glubczynski
Eureka, CA 95501	Redway, CA 95560-0226	1106 2nd Street
Tel: (707) 445-7741		Eureka, CA 95501

6. **General plan designation**: Agriculture Grazing (AG); Framework Plan (FRWK).

7. **Zoning**: Agriculture Exclusive with a Special Building Site combining zone specifying a 160-acre minimum parcel size (AE-B-5(160)); Timberland Production Zone (TPZ).

8. **Description of project**: A modification and 15-year extension of a Conditional Use/Surface Mining Permits, approval of Reclamation Plan and review of financial assurance cost estimates for an existing surface mining operation known as the Drewry Rock Quarry and previously known as the Bell Springs Rock Quarry. The site has historically been mined since 1993 by the Humboldt County Department of Public Works for a total of 30,807 cubic yards. The original permit allowed for annual extraction of 2,000 cubic yards for a total of 30,000 cubic yards and periodic use of a portable crusher two weeks annually. The modification proposes an annual extraction of up to 20,000 cubic yards with the total amount of extraction not to exceed 69,200 cubic yards. Operations include extraction, crushing and stockpiling. No washing and no asphalt/cement batch processing will be conducted on site. In the event localized greywacke boulders are encountered, small scale separation with charges may be performed No new access roads to the quarry will be constructed. Heavy equipment to be used on site includes: an excavator, a front end loader; and a portable rock crusher. The Humboldt County Department of Public Works has a License Agreement with the owner for activities associated with mining, crushing and stockpiling.

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.

☑ Aesthetics	☑ Agriculture Resources	☑ Air Quality
☑ Biological Resources	☑ Cultural Resources	☑ Geology / Soils
☑ Hazards & Hazardous Materials	☑ Hydrology / Water Quality	☐ Land Use / Planning
☑ Mineral Resources	☑ Noise	☐ Population / Housing
☐ Public Services	☐ Recreation	☑Transportation / Traffic
☐ Utilities / Service Systems	☑ 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.

Anita Punla 2.4.09

Signature Date

Anita Punla, Senior Planner 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 was well as on-site, cumulative as well as project-level, indirect as well as direct, and construction as well as operational impacts.

3) Once the lead agency has determined that a particular physical impact may occur, then the checklist answers must indicate whether the impact is potentially significant, less than significant with mitigation, or less than significant. "Potentially Significant Impact" is appropriate if there is substantial evidence that an effect may be significant. If there are one or more "Potentially Significant Impact" entries when the determination is made, an EIR is required.

4) "Negative Declaration: Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated" applies where the incorporation of mitigation measures has reduced an effect from "Potentially Significant Impact" to a "Less Than Significant Impact." The lead agency must describe the mitigation measures, and briefly explain how they reduce the effect to a less than significant level (mitigation measures from Section XVII, "Earlier Analyses," may be cross-referenced).

5) Earlier analyses may be used where, pursuant to the tiering, program EIR, or other CEQA process, an effect has been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR or negative declaration. Section 15063(c)(3)(D). In this case, a brief discussion should identify the following:

   a) Earlier Analysis Used. Identify and state where they are available for review: The Conditional 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?	☐	☐	☑	☐
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	☐	☐	☑	☐
c) Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?	☐	☐	☑	☐
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare that would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	☐	☐	☑	☐

Discussion: The quarry has been in operation for the past 40 years. The County approved operations in 1993, but the site had been mined prior to that time. The project site is surrounded predominantly by timber and grazing lands. Views of the quarry are visible to the southbound traffic on Bells Springs; stockpiles are visible to traffic from both directions. The quarry and associated permanent stockpiles are located at the top of a ridge. However, residential development is minimal in this area. The volume of traffic on Bell Springs Road is low and consists primarily of residents and commercial vehicles, e.g. ranch and/or logging trucks. 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 0.4 miles from the site. Because of the intermittent nature of the operation and the limited hours of activity, impact on 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?	☐	☐	☐	☑
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	☐	☐	☐	☑
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?	☐	☐	☐	☑

Discussion: The quarry has been in operation for the past 40 years. The County approved operations in 1993, but the site had been mined prior to that time. The project site is surrounded predominantly by timber and grazing lands. The site does not consist of prime agricultural crop land but grazing land Operations occur only on the pre-existing, disturbed portion that comprises the historic area of operation. The quarry area is approximately 2.0 acres. The rock to be quarried consists of greywacke 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?	☐	☐	☐	☑
b) Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?	☐	☐	☐	☑
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)?	☐	☐	☑	☐
d) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	☐	☐	☑	☐
e) Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?	☐	☐	☐	☑

Discussion: The quarry has been in operation for the past 40 years. The site lies within the North Coast Air Basin (NCAB). No final attainment plan currently exists for Humboldt County. The site is located approximately 2.4 miles south of the community of New Harris on Bell Springs Road. The nearest residence is approximately 0.4 miles from the quarry operations. The quarry has been operational during the past 40 years.

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. 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.

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?	☐	☑	☐	☐
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?	☐	☑	☐	☐
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?	☐	☐	☐	☑
d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?	☐	☑	☐	☐

e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	☐	☐	☐	☑
f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?	☐	☐	☐	☑

Discussion: The quarry has been operational for the past 40 years. The project site is located in an area consisting of heavily forested hillsides and pastureland. The project area does not contain riparian vegetation or wetland areas.

The site does contain habitat for three rare or sensitive plant and lichen species. The hill above the quarry face contains potential habitat for *beaked tracyina*. Proposed mining activities will continue pushing the quarry face east resulting in the loss of approximately 0.75 acres of potential habitat. The closest recorded occurrence of the *beaked tracyina* to the quarry is approximately 3.7 miles away. It is unlikely that *beaked tracyina* occurs in the project area. Reclamation will include restoration of the open grassland/oak woodland habitat favored by the *beaked tracyina*. The proposed project does not include expansion of the facility beyond its current footprint and will not affect for habitat for *oval-leaved viburnum* or *long-beard lichen* that may be found in the project vicinity.

The project vicinity contains habitat for owls and murrelets. There is no northern spotted owl or marbled murrelet habitat in the project area. The project does not involve removal of large trees and will not affect owl or murrelet habitat. The edge of the nearest potential habitat is approximately 0.1 mile east of the quarry, and it is unlikely that owls and/or murrelets would be present at this distance since this is the edge of the habitat and is located along Bell Springs Road which is subject to intermittent disturbance from vehicular traffic.

The noise generated by mechanized equipment, including the rock crushing assembly, may affect wildlife. Operations are intermittent and temporary. Hours of operations from February 1 through September 15 will be restricted to daylight hours, starting at least two hours after sunrise and ending at least two hours before sunset.

The quarry is located at the top of a ridge with no waterways or riparian habitat in the project area or immediate vicinity. The project will not affect riparian habitat. There are no federally protected wetlands in the project area. The project will not affect federally protected wetlands. 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-1:

1. Reclamation will include restoration of the open grassland/oak woodland habitat favored by *beaked tracyina*.
2. Hours of Operation from February 1 through September 15 will be restricted to daylight hours, starting at least two hours after sunrise and ending at least two hours before sunset.
3. 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?	☐	☐	☐	☑
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?	☐	☐	☐	☑
c) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	☐	☐	☐	☑
d) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?	☐	☐	☐	☑

Discussion: The quarry has been operational for the past 40 years. The site is located on a ridge containing an original Indian trail. An environmental assessment was done in 1977 and the Northwestern Indian Cemetery Protective Association conducted a Phase 1 field inspection and found no evidence of archaeological resources. 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. No historical resources as defined in §15064.5 exist. The geology at the project site is not unique to the area nor is it a paleontological resource or site. There is no evidence that the project would impact archaeological resources.

6. GEOLOGY AND SOILS. Would the project:	Potentially Significant	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorp.	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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 in the Bell Springs area. The project site is located on top of a ridge that separates the Main Eel River and the South Fork Eel River drainages, in an area of rolling to steep slopes with grasses as the main vegetation. The surrounding land use is predominantly timber production and grazing. Quarry rock consists of greywacke 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 with the distance to the nearest fault approximately five miles away.

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. As much as is feasible, existing vegetation will be remained, with the overall drainage pattern of the area to be maintained as much as practical. Berms are placed along the west side of the quarry floor and permanent stockpile area to keep rainfall from leaving the site. Runoff from the quarry face and floor will be directed to a depression, i.e. a detention basin, on the quarry floor for percolation and evaporation. The detention system has adequate capacity for current runoff volumes. 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-2:

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 west side of the quarry floor and permanent stockpiles 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.

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?	☐	☐	☑	☐
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?	☐	☐	☑	☐
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	☐	☐	☐	☑
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?	☐	☐	☐	☑
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?	☐	☐	☐	☑
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?	☐	☐	☐	☑
g) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	☐	☐	☐	☑
h) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?	☐	☑	☐	☐

Discussion: The quarry has been in operation for the past 40 years. The County approved operations in 1993, but the site had been mined prior to that time. The project site is surrounded predominantly by timber and grazing lands.

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 California Regional Water Quality Control Board requires that fuel storage tanks exceeding 10,000 gallons must adhere to Above Ground Petroleum Storage Act Regulations. In general, fuel storage facilities should have impermeable secondary containment. Normal maintenance will include routine lubrication and adding fluids. Maintenance supplies shall be stored in locked storage sheds. Standards of operation minimize any potential impacts from the project. The potential for contaminants is limited to operation-related activities such as equipment leaks or spills. Such contaminants from equipment shall be controlled through proper equipment operation and maintenance. Major equipment maintenance work, i.e. repairs and changing of fluids or lubricants, will be conducted off-site. Any materials contaminated by equipment leaks will be properly disposed.

The project site is located in an area subject to risk from wildland fires. The site is within a State Responsibility Area and fire jurisdiction is by Cal Fire. Extraction activity will occur at the 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 greywacke boulders are encountered, small scale separation charges may be performed. The nearest residence is approximately 0.4 mile away. Blasting activities will use regulated explosives. Trained personnel will use dynamite and blasting caps at the site. 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-3:

1. Fuel storage shall be consistent with the requirements of the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, and operations shall minimize potential impact from contaminants.
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.

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?	☐	☐	☑	☐
b) Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?	☐	☐	☐	☑
c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?	☐	☑	☐	☐
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?	☐	☐	☑	☐
e) Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?	☐	☐	☑	☐
f) Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?	☐	☐	☑	☐
g) Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map?	☐	☐	☐	☑
h) Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures which would impede or redirect flood flows?	☐	☐	☐	☑
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 quarry has been operational for the past 40 years. There is no watercourse in or adjacent to the project area. 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 remained, with the overall drainage pattern of the area to be maintained as much as practical. Berms are placed along the west side of the quarry floor and permanent stockpile area to keep rainfall from leaving the site. Runoff from the quarry face and floor will be directed to a depression, i.e. a detention basin, on the quarry floor for percolation and evaporation. The detention system has adequate capacity for current runoff volumes. 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-4:

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 west side of the quarry floor and permanent stockpiles 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.

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?	☐	☐	☐	☑
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?	☐	☐	☐	☑
c) Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?	☐	☐	☐	☑

Discussion: The quarry has been in operation for the past 40 years. The County approved operations in 1993, but the site had been mined prior to that time. The project site is surrounded predominantly by timber and grazing lands. The project is located approximately 2.4 miles south of the community of New Harris on Bell Springs Road. The closest residence is approximately 0.4 miles away. 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?	☐	☐	☐	☑
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?	☐	☐	☐	☑

Discussion: The quarry area is a hillside outcrop of aggregate rock and has been used for County road maintenance activities over the past 40 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?	☐	☐	☑	☐
b) Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	☐	☐	☑	☐
c) A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	☐	☐	☐	☑
d) A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	☐	☑	☐	☐
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	☐	☐	☐	☑
f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	☐	☐	☐	☑

Discussion: The quarry has been operational for the past 40 years. The project is located approximately 2.4 miles south of the community of New Harris on Bells Springs Road.

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 0.4 miles away. All other residences are at least one mile 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 September 16 – January 31 during daylight hours (sunrise to sunset). Extraction and crushing occurring during the period of February 1 through September 15 will be limited to daylight hours starting at least two hours after sunrise and ending at least two hours before sunset. The average time period from extraction to stockpiling will be about four 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-5:

1. Operations will be conducted September 16 - January 31 during daylight hours (sunrise to sunset). Extraction and crushing occurring during the period of February 1 through September 15 shall be limited to the daylight hours starting at least two hours after sunrise and ending at least two hours before sunset.

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)?	☐	☐	☐	☑
b) Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	☐	☐	☐	☑
c) Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	☐	☐	☐	☑

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.				
a) Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:	Potentially Significant	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorp.	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
i. Fire protection?	☐	☐	☐	☑
ii. Police protection?	☐	☐	☐	☑
iii. Schools?	☐	☐	☐	☑
iv. Parks?	☐	☐	☐	☑
v. Other public facilities?	☐	☐	☐	☑

Discussion: The project is located approximately 2.4 miles south of the community of New Harris on Bell Springs Road. The quarry has been operational for the past 40 years. 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?	☐	☐	☐	☑
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?

Discussion: The project is located approximately 2.4 miles south of the community of New Harris on Bell Springs Road. The quarry has been operational for the past 40 years. The nearest residence is located approximately 0.4 miles away; all other residences are at least one mile 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)?	☐	☐	☑	☐
b) Exceed, either individually or oumulatively, a level of service standard established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?	☐	☐	☐	☑
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?	☐	☐	☐	☑
d) Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	☐	☐	☐	☑
e) Result in inadequate emergency access?	☐	☐	☐	☑
f) Result in inadequate parking capacity?	☐	☐	☐	☑
g) Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation (e.g., bus turnouts, bicycle racks)?	☐	☐	☐	☑

Discussion: The project is located approximately 2.4 miles south of the community of New Harris. The quarry has been operational for the past 40 years. The site is accessed via Bell Springs Road. Materials will generally be transported directly to Bell Springs Road from the quarry site then to Alderpoint Road and US Highway 101. The roads have been used intermittently for quarry operations and timber harvesting activities for at least the past 40 years.

Truck traffic generated by the project will vary with seasonal and market conditions. There will be long periods with little or no project-generated traffic. The existing traffic volume on Bell Springs Road is extremely light, and operation of the quarry is not expected to have a significant impact on this roadway.

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?	☐	☐	☐	☑
b) Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?	☐	☐	☐	☑
c) Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage	☐	☐	☐	☑

facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?				
d) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?	☐	☐	☐	☑
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?	☐	☐	☐	☑
f) Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?	☐	☐	☐	☑
g) Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	☐	☐	☐	☑

Discussion: The quarry has been operational for the past 40 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?	☐	☐	☑	☐

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. Also, reclamation will include restoration of the open grassland/oak woodland habitat favored by the *beaked tracyina*.

Several factors contribute to the conclusion of no significant biological impacts: (1) the area is located in a matrix of very similar forested habitats, which will continue to support wildlife use of the area; (2) the quarry site is developed into a hillside outcrop of aggregate rock that has been used to supply County road maintenance activities for the past 40 years; and the project does not include expansion of the facility beyond its current footprint. The project will not affect habitat for *oval-leaved viburnum* or *long-beard lichen* that may be found in the project vicinity.

Potential project impacts have been mitigated during the planning stage of the proposal. There are no watercourses in the project site. 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)?	☐	☐	☑	☐

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, including the Wallan Quarry, 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, i.e. the Wallan Quarry, 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 Bell Springs Road is not a concern. Traffic increase on Bell Springs Road during gravel mining activities, which are intermittent and temporary, constitute a small 2.5% 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 erosion and sediment control, and utilizes berms and a detention system that has adequate capacity to handle current runoff volume.

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 for the past 40 years. The site is located in a sparsely developed timber/agricultural setting with the closest residence approximately 0.4 mile away and all other residences at least one 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. 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 site does contain habitat for three rare or sensitive plant and lichen species. Reclamation will include restoration of the open grassland/oak woodland habitat favored by the *beaked tracyina.* The proposed project does not include expansion of the facility beyond its current footprint and will not affect for habitat for *oval-leaved viburnum* or *long-beard lichen* that may be found in the project vicinity.

The project vicinity contains habitat for owls and murrelets. There is no northern spotted owl or marbled murrelet habitat in the project area. The noise generated by mechanized equipment, including the rock crushing assembly, may affect wildlife. Operations are intermittent and temporary. Hours of operations from February 1 through September 15 will be restricted to daylight hours, starting at least two hours after sunrise and ending at least two hours before sunset.

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.

Biological Resources - Mitigation M-1:

1. Reclamation will include restoration of the open grassland/oak woodland habitat favored by *beaked tracyina*.

2. Hours of Operation from February 1 through September 15 will be restricted to daylight hours, starting at least two hours after sunrise and ending at least two hours before sunset.
3. The project shall be consistent with the County's General Plan policies re: sensitive and critical habitats.

Geology - Mitigation M-2:

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 west side of the quarry floor and permanent stockpiles 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.

Hazards and Hazardous Materials - Mitigation M-3:

1. Fuel storage shall be consistent with the requirements of the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, and operations shall minimize potential impact from contaminants.
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.

Hydrology - Mitigation M-4:

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 west side of the quarry floor and permanent stockpiles 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.

Noise - Mitigation M-5:

1. Operations will be conducted September 16 – January 31 during daylight hours (sunrise to sunset). Extraction and crushing occurring during the period of February 1 through September 15 shall be limited to the daylight hours starting at least two hours after sunrise and ending at least two hours before sunset.

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 ere addressed by mitigation measure based on a the earlier analysis.

See 19.a above

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

See 19.a above

20. SOURCE/REFERENCE LIST

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

California Natural Diversity Database, 2008

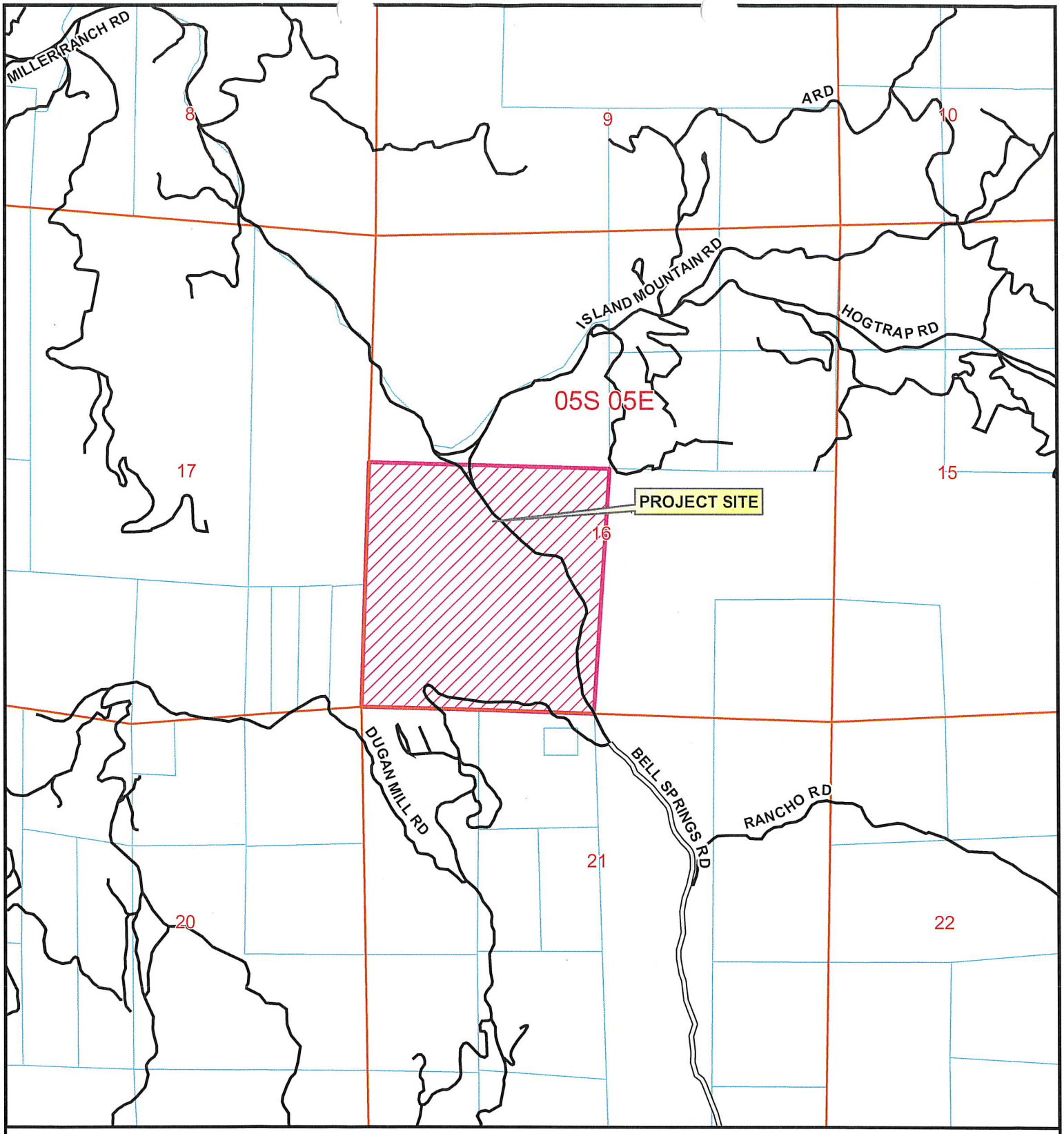
Dyett and Bhatia, Urban and Regional Planners, 2002. *Humboldt 2025 General Plan Update, Natural Resources and Hazards Report*

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

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

Humboldt County. March 2008. *Drewry Rock Quarry Plan of Operation, Reclamation Plan and Initial Study prepared by Humboldt County Department of Public Works*

.Humboldt County. 1992. *Initial Study and Conditional Negative Declaration – Bell Springs Rock Quarry.*

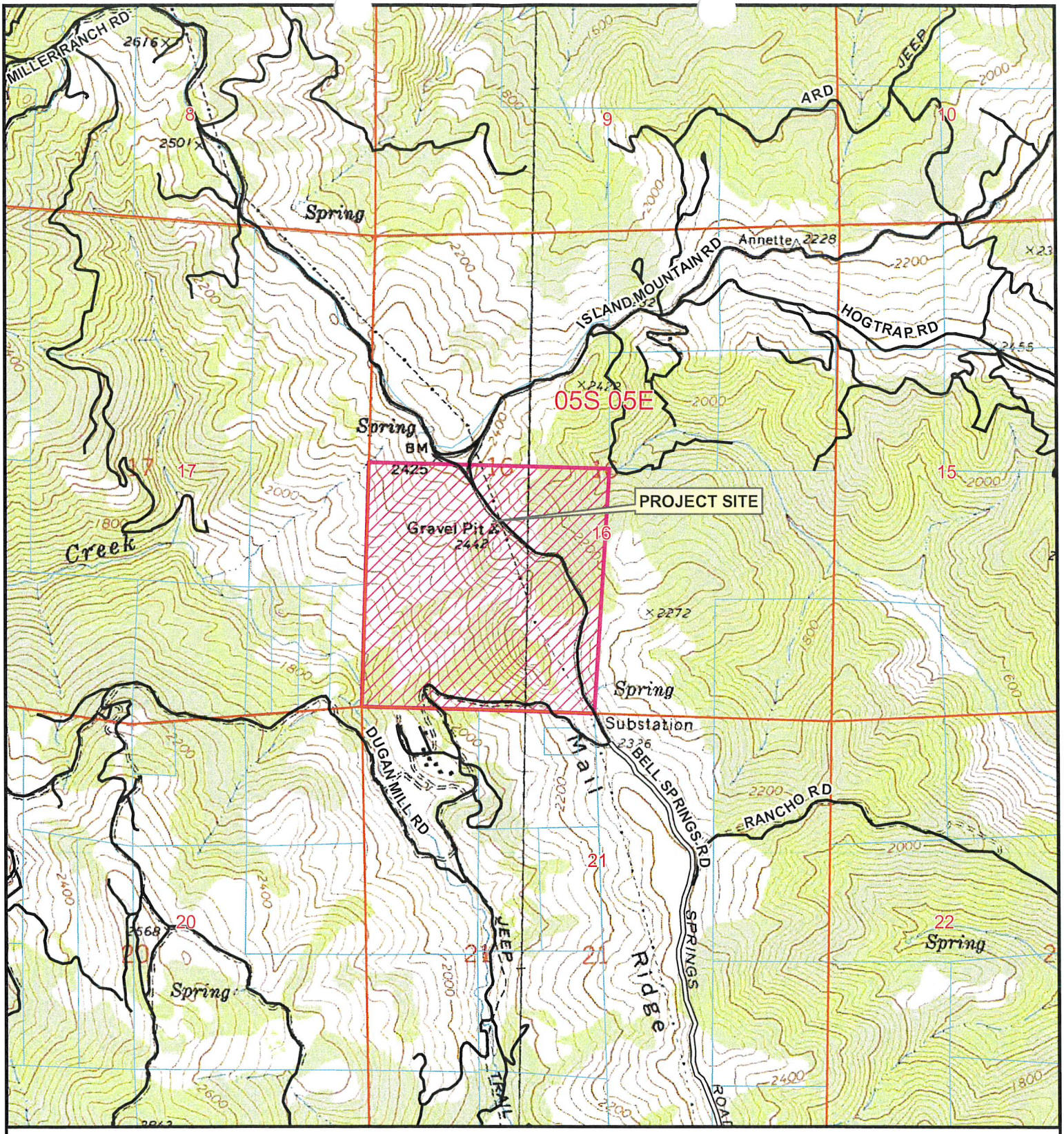


LOCATION MAP

PROPOSED HUMBOLDT COUNTY DEPT. OF PUBLIC WORKS
CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT, SURFACE MINING PERMIT &
RECLAMATION PLAN
HARRIS AREA
CUP-19-92MX/SMP-02-92MX/RP-02-92MX
APN: 216-021-07
T05S R05E S16 H B & M

Project Site =

0 0.25 0.5 Miles



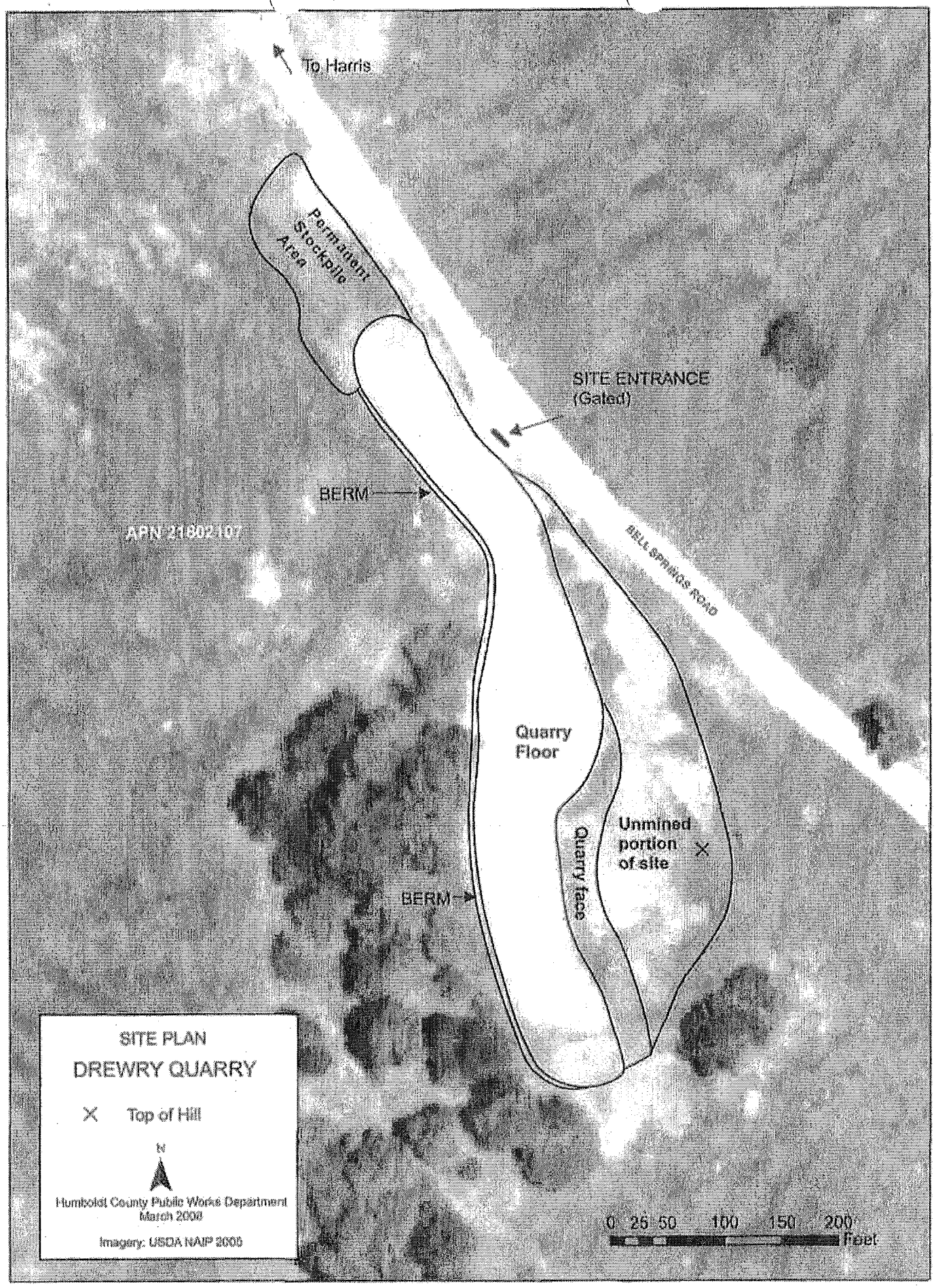
TOPO MAP

PROPOSED HUMBOLDT COUNTY DEPT. OF PUBLIC WORKS
CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT, SURFACE MINING PERMIT &
RECLAMATION PLAN
HARRIS AREA
CUP-19-92MX/SMP-02-92MX/RP-02-92MX
APN: 216-021-07
T05S R05E S16 H B & M

Project Site =

N

0 0.25 0.5 Miles


To Harris
Permanent Stockpile Area
SITE ENTRANCE (Gated)
BERM
APN 216-02-107
BELL SPRINGS ROAD
Quarry Floor
Quarry face
Unmined portion of site
BERM
SITE PLAN
DREWRY QUARRY
Top of Hill
N
Humboldt County Public Works Department
March 2008
Imagery: USDA NAIP 2005
0 25 50 100 150 200
Feet