



State of California • Natural Resources Agency  
Department of Conservation  
**Division of Mine Reclamation**  
801 K Street • MS 09-06  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
(916) 323-9198 • FAX (916) 445-6066

Edmund G. Brown Jr., Governor  
Pat Perez, Supervisor

August 30, 2017

**VIA EMAIL: mwheeler@co.humboldt.ca.us**  
**ORIGINAL SENT BY MAIL**



Mr. Michael Wheeler  
County of Humboldt  
Planning and Building Department  
3015 H Street  
Eureka, CA 95501

SIMPSON-GLENDALE BAR; CA MINE ID #TBD, CUP-16-204, SMP-16-003  
NEW RECLAMATION PLAN

Dear Mr. Wheeler:

The Division of Mine Reclamation (DMR) has reviewed the *Surface Mining and Reclamation Plan* (dated September 2016) for the Simpson-Glendale Bar. The applicant, GR Sundberg, Inc., has applied for a 15-year permit to annually extract up to 6,300 cubic yards of aggregate from 19 acres of gravel bars in the Mad River. The project site is located approximately ¼ mile west of downtown Glendale near State Hwy 299.

SMARA (Public Resources Code (PRC) Division 2, Chapter 9, Section 2710 et seq.) and associated regulations (California Code of Regulations (CCR) Title 14, Division 2, Chapter 8, Subchapter 1, Articles 1 and 9) require that specific items be addressed or included in reclamation plans. The following comments, prepared by a restoration ecologist and a geologist, are offered to assist in your review of this project. The reclamation plan (hereafter: RP) should be revised and/or supplemented to address these items.

#### **General Considerations**

(Refer to PRC Sections 2770, 2772, 2773 and 2776 and CCR Sections 3502, 3709, and 3713)

##### Comment 1-

The RP states that the applicant will stockpile extracted minerals on a two-acre area located adjacent to the extraction area and above the floodplain. According to PRC Section 2729, this area will be a part of the surface mining operation's "mined lands". Therefore, the RP should describe the proposed use or potential uses of the mined lands after reclamation a.k.a. the "end use" for this area pursuant to PRC Section 2772(c)(7). Additionally, the RP should describe reclamation that may be required for this area in accordance with SMARA and associated regulations.

##### Comment 2-

The *Plot Plan*, prepared by Trinity Valley Consulting Engineers (TVCE) and dated March 2017, only illustrates a "Proposed Gravel Extraction Area". We acknowledge that the shape of the gravel bar will change because it is part of an active surface mining operation and lies within an active geomorphic environment. However, pursuant to PRC 2772(c)(5)(B), the maps should include a reclamation plan boundary encompassing the "mined lands"—all areas that will potentially be impacted by the surface mining operation and require reclamation, including extraction and

Mr. Michael Wheeler  
August 30, 2017  
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stockpile areas. Additionally, if the applicant plans to operate on the far (southwest) side of the river, the reclamation plan boundary should also encompass those areas.

Comment 3-

The *Plot Plan* depicts an access road from the stockpile area to the gravel bar. To avoid confusion, we recommend that the RP clearly distinguish temporary roads to be reclaimed from any roads remaining for the approved end use (pursuant to PRC 2772(c)(5)(E)).

**Geology and Geotechnical Considerations**

(Refer to PRC Sections 2772 and 2773 and CCR Sections 3502 and 3704)

Comment 4-

We acknowledge that a portion of the surface mining operation will be located in a river (an active geomorphic environment) where the ground surface is in constant flux. However, areas of the operation outside of the influence of the river generally have static topographic features both at the time of permitting and at reclamation. Therefore, pursuant to PRC Section 2772(c)(5)(C), maps included in the RP should illustrate existing and final topography for mined lands outside of the influence of the river.

**Hydrology and Water Quality Considerations**

(Refer to PRC Sections 2770, 2772 and 2773 and CCR Sections 3502, 3503, 3706, 3710, and 3712)

Comment 5-

Pursuant to CCR 3503(a)(2), the RP should describe practices to ensure that stockpiles of minerals will be managed to minimize water and wind erosion, as necessary.

**Revegetation Considerations**

(Refer to PRC Section 2773 and CCR Sections 3503 and 3705)

Comment 6-

The RP states on page 43: "Native grass seed will be planted in select places as needed for drainage and/or erosion control." However, elsewhere the RP states that revegetation will *not* be required in the gravel bar extraction areas. To avoid confusion, we recommend that the RP clarify required revegetation and associated performance standards (pursuant to CCR Section 3705). Definitive revegetation performance standards will assist the lead-agency while conducting inspections, reviewing financial assurance cost estimates, and assessing the extent of reclamation.

Comment 7-

Pursuant to CCR Section 3705(k), the RP should ensure that noxious weeds are managed, as necessary.

**Updated Procedures:** The passage of Assembly Bill 1142 in 2016 (specifically, the newly-created PRC Section 2772.1) has changed the administrative requirements for submitting, reviewing, and approving a reclamation plan or reclamation plan amendment (hereafter: Plan). For your convenience, we have summarized the updated procedures, below. Please ensure that your agency allows adequate time in the approval process to meet these new requirements. For more detail, please consult the full text of the SMARA statute and regulations at this website: <http://www.conservation.ca.gov/index/Pages/lawsregs.aspx>.

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Pre-Approval Procedures:

1. Once DMR has provided comments, please provide a written response to the comments at least 30 days before you intend to approve the Plan.
  - a. The proposed response must include a description of how you propose to adopt DMR's comments; and/or
  - b. A detailed description of the reasons why you propose not to adopt DMR's comments.
  - c. Please send copies of DMR's comments and your responses to the operator.
2. Additionally, please provide DMR:
  - a. At least 30 days' notice of the time, place, and date of the approval hearing; or
  - b. If no hearing is required, please provide 30 days' notice to DMR before you approve the Plan.

Post-Approval Procedures:

1. Within 30 days following approval of the Plan, please notify DMR of the approval.
2. Within 60 days following the approval, please provide DMR an official copy of the approved Plan that incorporates all approved modifications. Additionally,
  - a. The Plan should include an *Appendix* containing copies of
    - i. any permit conditions of approval and
    - ii. any binding mitigation measures (pursuant to CEQA) that are needed to meet the requirements of SMARA.
  - b. These permit conditions of approval and binding mitigation measures (and their locations) should be shown in an *Index*.
  - c. All maps, diagrams, and calculations that require preparation in accordance with the California Business and Professions Code must include the licensed professional's license number, name, signature and seal/stamp [PRC Section 2772(c)(5)(f)].

**General Announcement:** We have developed a convenient checklist that DMR staff use to determine if reclamation plans meet the minimum content requirements of SMARA and associated regulations. You may find it helpful when preparing and reviewing draft proposed reclamation plans and amendments. It may also be helpful in fulfilling the new (as of January 2017) requirement that reclamation plans include a chart identifying the location of required contents as per SMARA section 2772(b). You may access the checklist under the *Forms* section of the DMR website at: [http://www.conservation.ca.gov/dmr/SMARA%20Mines/Documents/RP%20Content%20Checklist%20TEMPLATE 2017-01-30.pdf](http://www.conservation.ca.gov/dmr/SMARA%20Mines/Documents/RP%20Content%20Checklist%20TEMPLATE%202017-01-30.pdf)

If you have any questions on these comments or require any assistance with other mine reclamation issues, please contact either of us at (916) 323-9198.

Sincerely,



Beth Hendrickson, Manager  
Environmental Services Unit



Paul Fry, Manager  
Engineering Geology Unit



TRINITY VALLEY CONSULTING ENGINEERS, INC.

57 Walnut Way, Willow Creek, CA 95571  
P 530.629.3000 F 530.629.3011

Job No. 571

5 September 2017

Mr. Michael Wheeler,  
Humboldt County Building Department  
3015 H Street  
Eureka CA 95501

RE: Response to California Division of Mine Reclamation Comments dated August 30, 2017  
Simpson Glendale Bar New Reclamation Plan  
CA Mine ID #TBD, CUP-16-204, SMP-16-003

**General Considerations**

(Refer to PRC Sections 2770, 2772, 2773 and 2776 and  
CCR Sections 3502, 3709, and 3713)

Comment 1-

The RP states that the applicant will stockpile extracted minerals on a two-acre area located adjacent to the extraction area and above the floodplain. According to PRC Section 2729, this area will be a part of the surface mining operation's "mined lands". Therefore, the RP should describe the proposed use or potential uses of the mined lands after reclamation a.k.a. the "end use" for this area pursuant to PRC Section 2772(c)(7). Additionally, the RP should describe reclamation that may be required for this area in accordance with SMARA and associated regulations.

**Response**

**Please see revised project map indicating the location of the stock pile area. Currently the area proposed for the stock pile area is a graded flat located adjacent to an existing graveled flat utilized for parking and storage. Reclamation of the proposed stock pile site shall consist of retuning the site to its current condition as a gravel flat no further reclamation activities are required.**

Comment 2-

The *Plot Plan*, prepared by Trinity Valley Consulting Engineers (TVCE) and dated March 2017, only illustrates a "Proposed Gravel Extraction Area". We acknowledge that the shape of the gravel bar will change because it is part of an active surface mining operation and lies within an active geomorphic environment. However, pursuant to PRC 2772(c)(5)(B), the maps should include a reclamation plan boundary encompassing the "mined lands"-all areas that will potentially be impacted by the surface mining operation and require reclamation, including extraction and stockpile areas. Additionally, if the applicant plans to operate on the far (southwest) side of the river, the reclamation plan boundary should also encompass those areas.

**Response**

**Please see revised project map indicating the boundaries “Mined Lands”**

Comment 3-

The *Plot Plan* depicts an access road from the stockpile area to the gravel bar. To avoid confusion, we recommend that the RP clearly distinguish temporary roads to be reclaimed from any roads remaining for the approved end use (pursuant to PRC 2772(c)(5)(E)).

**Response**

**Please see revised project map indicating the access road that “shall remain in place” following reclamation activities**

**Geology and Geotechnical Considerations**

(Refer to PRC Sections 2772 and 2773 and CCR Sections 3502 and 3704)

Comment 4-

We acknowledge that a portion of the surface mining operation will be located in a river (an active geomorphic environment) where the ground surface is in constant flux. However, areas of the operation outside of the influence of the river generally have static topographic features both at the time of permitting and at reclamation. Therefore, pursuant to PRC Section 2772(c)(5)(C), maps included in the RP should illustrate existing and final topography for mined lands outside of the influence of the river.

**Response**

**Please see revised project map indicating existing topography outside the river current area of influence**

**Hydrology and Water Quality Considerations**

(Refer to PRC Sections 2770, 2772 and 2773 and  
CCR Sections 3502,3503,3706,3710, and 3712)

Comment 5-

Pursuant to CCR 3503(a)(2), the RP should describe practices to ensure that stockpiles of minerals will be managed to minimize water and wind erosion, as necessary

**Response**

**Erosion control for the Stock Pile areas shall include the following:**

**Surface runoff and drainage from Stockpile site shall be controlled by silt fences, sediment basins, (weed free) hay bales and/or other erosion control measures, to ensure that**



surrounding land and water resources are protected from erosion, gulying, sedimentation and contamination. Erosion control methods shall be designed to handle runoff from not less than the 20 year/1 hour intensity storm event.

**Revegetation Considerations**

(Refer to PRC Section 2773 and CCR Sections 3503 and 3705)

Comment 6-

The RP states on page 43: "Native grass seed will be planted in select places as needed for drainage and/or erosion control." However, elsewhere the RP states that revegetation will *not* be required in the gravel bar extraction areas. To avoid confusion, we recommend that the RP clarify required revegetation and associated performance standards (pursuant to CCR Section 3705). Definitive revegetation performance standards will assist the lead-agency while conducting inspections, reviewing financial assurance cost estimates, and assessing the extent of reclamation.

**Response**

**Annual re-vegetation activities will consist of erosion control consistent with operational BMP's for the access road (See map). Re-vegetation activities shall be within the drainage structures "Water Bar" if installed in the access road area of disturbance will be grass seeded with native seed and straw mulched with sterile straw.**

Comment 7-

Pursuant to CCR Section 3705(k), the RP should ensure that noxious weeds are managed, as necessary.

**Response**

**The applicant shall utilize weed free straw and native grass seed for soil stabilization and erosion control. As for control of invasive species the re-vegetation of the site is designed specifically to establishing native species that are less susceptible to invasive weed competition. As the native species are establish and fully occupy the site the effect from invasive spices will be insignificant. The establishment and successional development of a native species will support the development of a native understory and provide habitat for endemic wildlife species.**

Please contact if you have further questions.

Sincerely,

Josh McKnight, P.E.



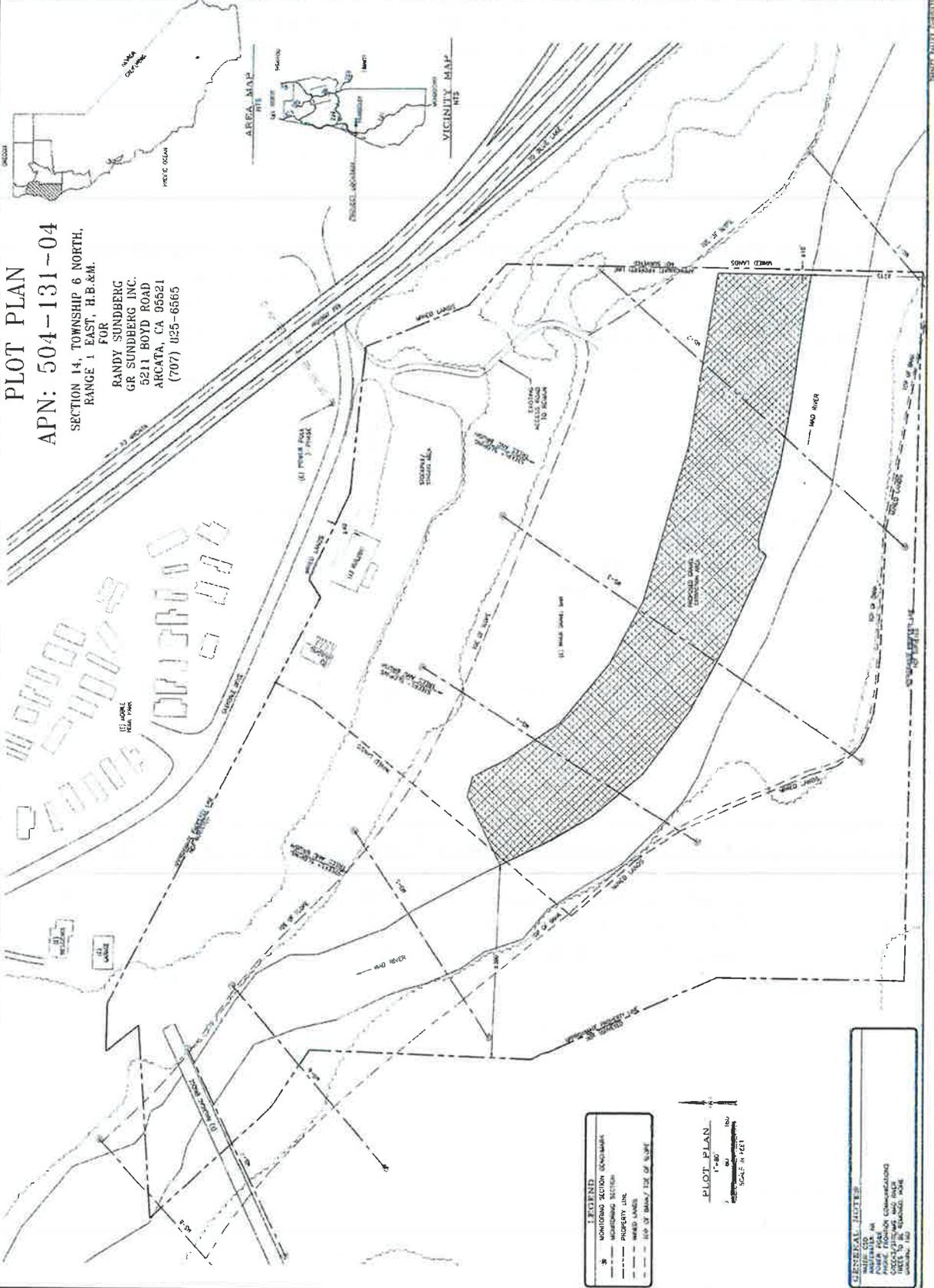


APN	504-131-04
OWNER	RANDY SUNDBERG INC.
DATE	SEPTEMBER 2017
SCALE	1" = 80'
PROJECT	LOT 1
DATE	09/20/17
BY	10/10/17
DATE	10/10/17
BY	10/10/17
DATE	10/10/17
BY	10/10/17
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**PLOT PLAN**  
 GR SUNDBERG INC  
 1226 GLENDALE DR  
 APR 504-131-04  
 PLUMBLIST COUNTY - CALIFORNIA

**PLOT PLAN**  
**APN: 504-131-04**  
 SECTION 14, TOWNSHIP 6 NORTH,  
 RANGE 1 EAST, H.B.&M.  
 FOR  
**RANDY SUNDBERG**  
**GR SUNDBERG INC.**  
 5211 BOYD ROAD  
 ARCATA, CA 95521  
 (707) 025-6565



**LEGEND**  
 - - - - - UNDEVELOPED SECTION  
 - - - - - UNDEVELOPED SECTION  
 - - - - - PROPERTY LINE  
 - - - - - WATER LANS  
 - - - - - TOP OF BANK / TOP OF SLOPE

**PLOT PLAN**  
 1" = 80'  
 SCALE IN FEET

**GENERAL NOTES**  
 1. ALL LOTS ARE 100' WIDE.  
 2. ALL LOTS ARE 100' DEEP.  
 3. ALL LOTS ARE 100' WIDE.  
 4. ALL LOTS ARE 100' DEEP.