Los Angeles County
Department of Regional Planning

Planning for the Challenges Ahead

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Director of Planning

DATE: May 17, 2005

TO: Supervisor Gloria Molina, Chair
Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

FROM: James, E. Hartl, AICP, Director
Department of Regional Planning

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO BOARD ON PACIFIC INDUSTRIAL MINERALS SURFACE MINING PERMIT NO. 00-90
(Motion of May 10, 2005 – Syn. # 133-A)

On May 10, 2005, the Board directed the Department of Regional Planning to provide the scope and status of Pacific Industrial Mineral's Surface Mining Permit No. 00-90 currently under review by this department.

Pacific Industrial Minerals is proposing to reopen a quarry and processing plant located at 11554 Soledad Canyon Road. The subject property is entirely within the Angeles National Forest in the unincorporated Santa Clarita Valley. Both the county and the U.S. Forest Service are responsible for permitting the mining operation. The U.S. Forest Service must approve a plan of operation while the county must approve a surface mining permit pursuant to the State Mining and Reclamation Act (SMARA). Environmental review is subject to both CEQA and NEPA and is being conducted pursuant to a memorandum of understanding between the state and the Federal Government.

The subject project is an existing mine that was established in the 1950s which was approved by the U.S. Forest Service. The county was not involved in the previous approval because the project predated SMARA. With the adoption of the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1975, all mining and reclamation plans within county jurisdiction now require approval of a surface mining permit from the county. Since the previous plan of operation for the current project has expired, the new plan of operation being requested is subject to county approval.

The subject site is approximately 160 acres of which 17 acres is proposed for the mining and reclamation operation; the quarry is 10 acres and the processing plant, including roads, is 7 acres. The processing plant has a stockpile area, a water tank, a propane tank, a generator, a portable toilet, four parking spaces, and nine structures including an office building, a milling & processing building, a maintenance building, and six storage structures. The quarry area will have a "top soil" stockpile area as well as a portable

self-powered crushing/screening plant to crush and screen the mined material into market specification.

A maximum of 3,000,000 tons of material is proposed to be mined over a 20 year period in three phases at an annual rate of 150,000 tons. Mining will be accomplished by the typical drill and blast method. Dust generated by the project and access roads will be controlled by use of a dust-suppression agent and water which will be imported from a local water purveyor at a volume of 10,000 gallons per day which will be stored in an above-ground water tank. The proposed mining operation will generate a maximum of 12 truckloads (50 tons each) per day moving mined material from the quarry to the processing site and a maximum of 25 highway truckloads per day transporting mined material offsite to customers. Because access to the mining site must cross the Santa Clara River, construction of a new bridge over the river is proposed with the pending mining and reclamation plan.

Reclamation of the quarry and the processing plant will be completed by the end of the project life. Once five acres have been mined, reclamation will begin on that area which must be completed before any new mining can commence on the next five acres of the project site. All mining and reclamation activity will take place from 6:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

The environmental review of the above-referenced project is currently pending. At the moment, the Department of Regional Planning (DRP) is still waiting for additional information and material from the applicant in order to clarify the project description and enable DRP to consult with additional agencies and recommend an appropriate environmental document required for the project. DRP staff has met with the National Forest Service (FS) and the applicant twice in an effort to coordinate the review and processing of this project for a possible CEQA/NEPA document. DRP will continue to coordinate the environmental review and remain in regular contact with FS and will participate in any upcoming scoping meeting.

Please contact me if you have any additional questions regarding this project.

JEH:DLK:cdt

Cc: Executive Office, Board of Supervisors
County Counsel
Chief Administrative Office