

**Lead Agency:
Department of
Conservation and
Development**

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**Contra
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County**



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March 23, 2020

*****EXTENDED COMMENT PERIOD*****

**NOTICE OF PREPARATION
FOR A DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT
ON THE PROPOSED CLAYTON QUARRY RECLAMATION PLAN AMENDMENT**

TO: RESPONSIBLE AND TRUSTEE AGENCIES, AND OTHERWISE INTERESTED AGENCIES, ORGANIZATIONS, AND INDIVIDUALS

The Contra Costa County Department of Conservation & Development (DCD) has received CEMEX Construction Materials Pacific, LLC's (CEMEX's) application for a Reclamation Plan Amendment through the adoption of a revised Reclamation Plan (the "Revised Reclamation Plan") for the Clayton Quarry (the "project"), which requires amendments to its current land use, drainage, and encroachment entitlements (**County File Number: LP15-2030/31**) to allow for current state reclamation standards to be achieved during reclamation and updated grading and drainage plans. DCD is the lead agency for preparation of the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for this project and is issuing this Notice of Preparation pursuant to Section 15082 of the CEQA Guidelines.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The applicant, CEMEX (2365 Iron Point Road, Suite 120 Folsom, CA 95630, (916) 521-0222), is requesting approval of a Revised Reclamation Plan, which includes the following components:

- Reclamation over an anticipated period of 50 years to a post-mining land use of open space;
- Reduction of the surface mining disturbance footprint that leaves the east rim of the quarry intact, providing a visual buffer between the quarry and viewsheds to the east;
- Permanent overburden fill areas;

- Final grading contours reflecting a maximum depth of excavation at elevation 110 feet mean sea level with finish slope angles that achieve adequate factors of safety;
- A final drainage plan that provides for the quarry pit to slowly fill with stormwater following reclamation to form a quarry lake with a controlled outflow that conveys stormwater to natural drainage courses and human-made drainage facilities;
- Revegetation of the quarry east rim, overburden fill areas, and processing plant site to a combination of chaparral and grassland habitats that feature California native seed mixes;
- Elimination of requirements to backfill, grade, and compact the quarry floor and benches, given that the planned open space end use will provide for a future quarry lake;
- Clarification of pre-1976 (pre-California Surface Mining and Reclamation Act (SMARA)) disturbance areas, including any areas disturbed outside the boundaries of the 1983 Reclamation Plan; and
- Achievement of current State reclamation standards during reclamation.

In addition, and in response to stakeholder input, CEMEX has incorporated into the Revised Reclamation Plan a new screening berm (between the existing processing plant site and residential communities to the north) and an alternate driveway for accessing the site farther north along Mitchell Canyon Road.

PROJECT LOCATION

The project site is located at 515 Mitchell Canyon Road, on the east side of Mount Zion, approximately one-half mile south of the city of Clayton in an unincorporated portion of the County. See attached Figure 1, "Vicinity Map." Surface mining disturbances are planned on approximately 167 acres of two parcels (Assessor's Parcel Numbers 112-020-007 and 112-020-013) totaling approximately 335 acres, the remainder of which would be left undisturbed or reserved for other uses allowed under existing zoning, in unincorporated western Contra Costa County, see Figure 2, "Reclamation Plan Overview."

Latitude/Longitude: 37° 55' 15.90"/121°56 46.53"

ANTICIPATED IMPACTS

Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15060(d), DCD will not prepare an Initial Study before beginning work on the EIR. Based on knowledge of the project site and nearby uses, we anticipate that the project may result in potentially significant impacts in the following CEQA topic areas:

- Aesthetics: Reclaiming the project site to open space with a quarry lake with a controlled outflow will alter the aesthetics of a site that is currently planned for high-density residential, business park, or grazing land.
- Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Emissions: Reclamation-related activities would cause an increase in emissions of criteria pollutants and greenhouse gases.
- Biological Resources: Reclamation-related activities may result in impacts to a variety of protected plant and animal species and their habitats.
- Geology and Soils: Reclamation-related activities may result in impacts to soil conditions and slope stability at the project site.
- Hydrology and Water Quality: The proposed altered drainage plan and end use as an open pit lake may result in impacts to hydrology and water quality.
- Noise: Ambient noise levels may increase during reclamation-related activities.
- Land Use and Planning: Reclaiming the project site to open space would alter the land use designations of a site that is currently planned for high-density residential, business park, or grazing land.

SCOPING MEETING AND EXTENSION OF COMMENT PERIOD

All responsible and trustee agencies, and interested agencies, organizations, and individuals are invited to submit comments that address environmental concerns resulting from the implementation of the proposed project.

A noticed scoping meeting was held on **Monday, March 16, 2020, at 3:30 p.m.**, at 30 Muir Road, Martinez, California. At this meeting, interested agencies, organizations, and individuals were able to submit oral and written comments pertaining to environmental concerns related to the proposed project. As not everyone was able to attend that meeting, the comment period has been extended.

Correspondence must be received at the following address by 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 15, 2020:

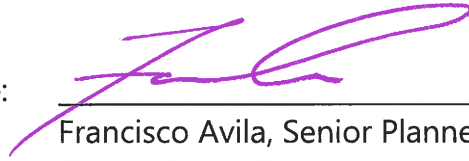
**Contra Costa County
Department of Conservation & Development
Community Development Division
30 Muir Road
Martinez, California 94553
Attention: Francisco Avila**

The County File Number stated above should be included in all correspondence.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

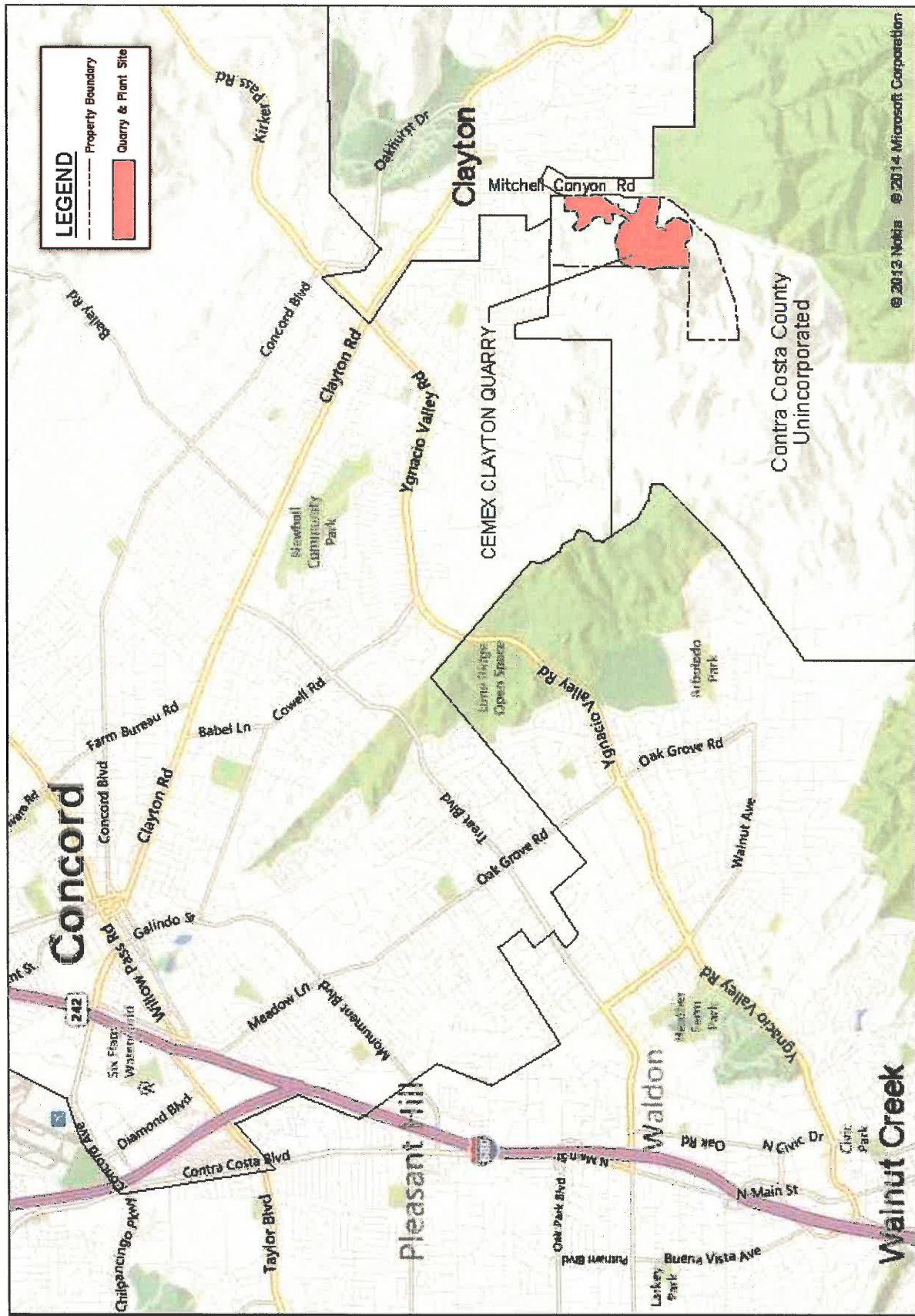
The Reclamation Plan Amendment application and supporting documents are available for review at the Department of Conservation & Development, Community Development Division. If you wish to obtain a copy of any documents related to this project, please contact me at (925) 674-7801 or Francisco.Avila@dcd.cccounty.us.

Signature: _____



Francisco Avila, Senior Planner
Contra Costa County
Department of Conservation & Development

Att: Figure 1, "Vicinity Map"
Figure 2, "Reclamation Plan Overview"
Figure 3, "Reclamation Plan"

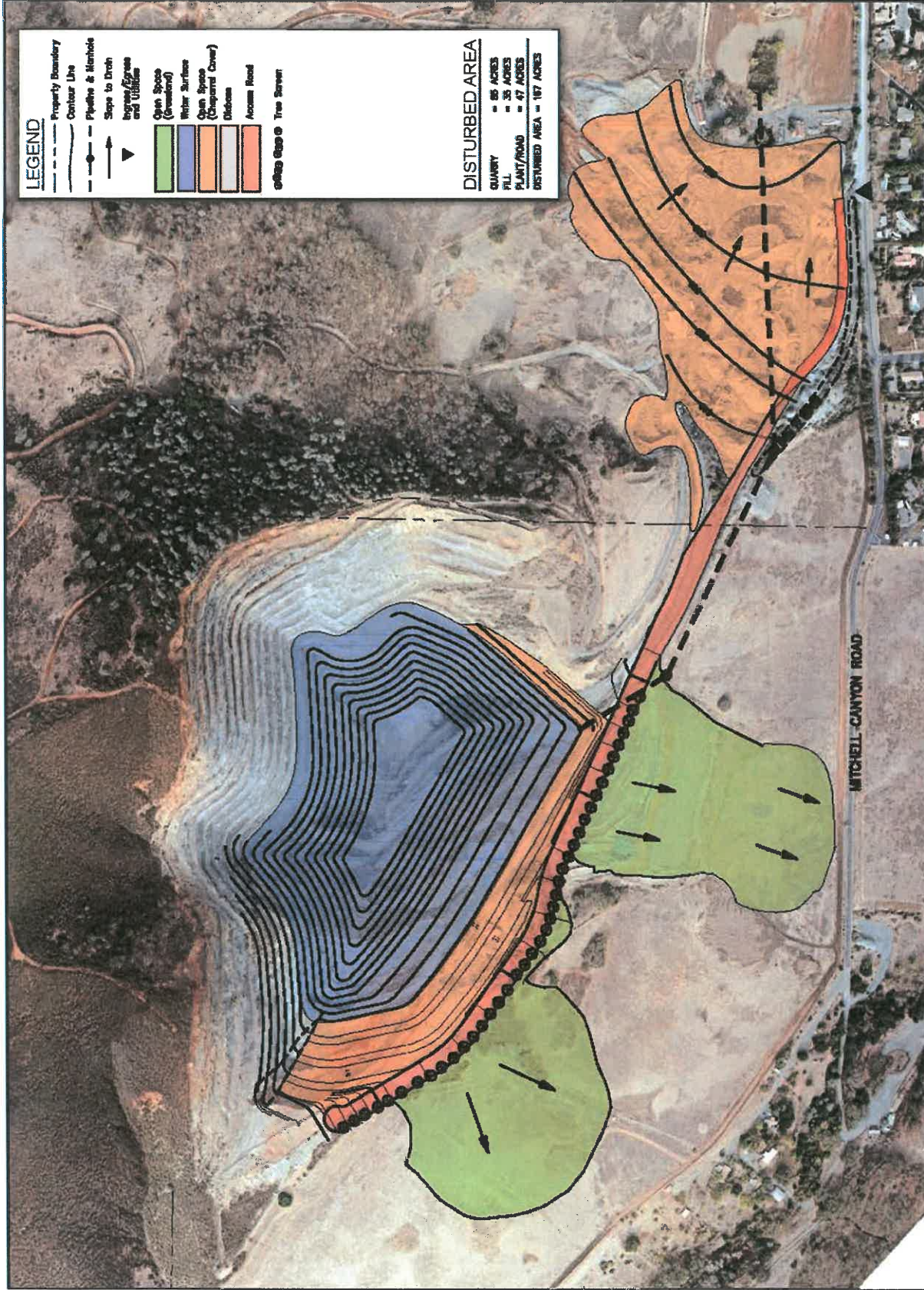


SOURCE: Clayton Quarry Reclamation Plan Amendment Project Application Package (June 2017)

NOTES: This image is not printed to scale.



Vicinity Map
 CLAYTON QUARRY RECLAMATION PLAN AMENDMENT DEIR NOP
 Figure 1



SOURCE: Clayton Quarry Reclamation Plan Amendment Project Application Package (June 2017)
 NOTES: This image is not printed to scale.



Reclamation Plan Overview
 CLAYTON QUARRY RECLAMATION PLAN AMENDMENT DEIR NOP
 Figure 2

