

In response to comments received on the SEIR, the cumulative analysis was revised to include:

- Expansion of the Casino to include 200,000 square feet of additional casino facilities and a 300-room hotel by 2027;
- A 6 percent increase in annual growth rate in daily traffic volumes and intersection turning movements;
- An average development rate of 50 residential units per year in Esparto.

The results indicate that future impacts will be worsened under the revised cumulative assumptions, but none of the conclusions of the SEIR change.

Noise Control

Pursuant to 1996 Condition of Approval #8 and the text of the 1996 project EIR, the approved hours of operation for the Granite facilities are:

“Mining activities are generally planned to be scheduled from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. (12 hours per day), five-days per week (Monday through Friday), with occasional operations occurring in the evening until 10:00 p.m., and weekends as necessary to fulfill contract requirements. Processing operations conducted at the Cache Creek Aggregates Plant are scheduled for the same periods as mining. However, Cache Creek Aggregates has indicated that 24-hour loadout (including loading and scale house) are proposed to be conducted periodically, Monday through Saturday.”

These hours were modified only by 1996 Conditions of Approval #50 through 55. Occasional 24-hour operations are allowed within the regulations established in Section 10-4.421 of the mining ordinance. The EIR examined the project for noise impacts and found the potential for impact to be fully mitigated. This is accomplished primarily due to the early relocation of the plant facilities from the current site to the east site, which is further away from all sensitive receptors. The closest sensitive receptor to the east plant site is the Stephens residence located approximately 1,270 feet northeast.

Currently, no other operator is precluded from occasional 24-hour processing. Restrictions on mining were imposed on the Syar project revision in 1998, due to concerns about the proximity of Syar's Phase B mining to the town of Esparto. Syar's hours of excavation for Phase B were restricted to Monday through Saturday, 6:00am to 6:00pm.

The staff recommends that there be no further restrictions on hours of operation for the Granite project beyond those already in place. However, the staff does recommend that the record regarding hours of operation be clarified with a conditions that restates the approved hours of operation.

Asphalt Plant

There are five permitted plants in the area, four active and one inactive. The active plants are all batch flow plants. They are operated by Syar, Solano, Teichert (Esparto), and Teichert (Woodland). The applicant has requested an asphalt plant in order to be on parity with the capabilities of their competitors in the region. Asphalt plants are allowed operational facilities so long as the County's regulatory framework for mining is met.

AGENDA ITEM 6.7