

## CHAPTER 1.0 INTRODUCTION

This document contains all comments received during the public review period on the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the Granite Esparto Mining and Reclamation Project.

### **1.1 Project Description**

The property is located on 390 acres in central Yolo County, adjoining County Road 87, approximately one mile north of the town of Esparto. The project site is comprised of two adjacent parcels, APN 048-220-022 (286.4 acres) on the north and APN 048-220-015 (103.6 acres) on the south. The site encompasses the active channel of Cache Creek and a portion of the relatively flat terrace north of the creek.

Aggregate mining and processing is proposed on 313 acres of the 390-acre total. The applicant, Granite Construction Company, proposes the mining of about 30 million tons (26.1 million tons sold maximum) of aggregate over a 30-year period at a rate of about one million tons per year (870,000 tons sold maximum).

The project requires the following approvals from the County: Rezoning of the property to change the Sand and Gravel Reserve (SGR) combining zone to the Sand and Gravel (SG) combining zone, approval of an Off-Channel Mining Permit, approval of a Reclamation Plan, approval of 20 percent exceedance under Section 10.4-405 of the County Code, relinquishment of existing mining entitlements on the Woodland "Reiff" Site (APN 025-300-005, 025-300-032, and 025-350-009), authorization to execute a Development Agreement, approval of a Demolition Permit, approval of a Streambank Stabilization Plan to allow mining within setbacks established under Section 10-4.428(d) of the County Code, and approval of a Flood Hazard Development Permit (FHDP).

### **1.2 Public Review**

The County used several methods to solicit public input on the project and environmental analysis. These methods included the distribution of a Notice of Preparation on February 13, 2009; a scoping meeting before the Esparto Community Advisory Committee (ECAC) on February 25, 2009; release of the DEIR on December 11, 2009 to various public agencies, responsible agencies, and interested individuals; circulation of the Notice of Availability of the DEIR on December 11, 2009; a meeting before the ECAC on January 19, 2010 to review and discuss the DEIR; a hearing before the Planning Commission on January 28, 2010 to receive oral comments on the DEIR; release of the Responses to Comments document in October of 2010; and subsequent project meetings and hearings.

### **1.3 Responses to Comments**

The County received 8 timely comment letters and another 6 late comment letters on the DEIR. Chapter 2.0 provides a list of all commenters.

Responses to twelve letters are provided in Chapter 3.0. If the subject matter of one letter overlaps that of another letter, the reader may be referred to more than one group of comments and responses, in order to review all information on a given subject. Where this occurs, cross-references are provided.

Text Changes to the DEIR are presented in Chapter 4.0 of this Response to Comments document. Text changes include clarifications, amplifications, and corrections that have been identified since publication of the DEIR (including those identified in the responses to comments). Changes to impacts and mitigation measures are reflected in a Revised EIR Summary Table in Appendix A.

The Mitigation and Monitoring Plan (MMP) for the project is provided in Chapter 5.0

## CHAPTER 2.0 LIST OF COMMENTERS

The table that follows identifies all comment letters received on the DEIR. Each letter is numbered, and the author, agency, and date received are provided.

<u>Comment Letter</u>	<u>Date Rec'd by County</u>
1) Esparto Community Advisory Committee, oral comments	1-19-10
2) Central Valley Flood Protection Board, James Herota	1-21-10
3) Department of Fish and Game, Jeff Drongesen	1-27-10
4) Federal Emergency Management Agency, Gregor Blackburn	1-27-10
5) Pacific Gas and Electric, Donald Kennedy	1-27-10
6) Planning Commission, oral comments	1-28-10
7) Granite Construction, Ben Adamo	1-28-10
8) Taylor and Wiley, Jesse Yang	1-28-10
	<b>Late Letters*</b>
9) Yolo-Solano Air Quality Management District, Matthew Jones	1-29-10
10) Caltrans, Alyssa Begley	1-30-10
11) Department of Conservation, James Pompy	1-30-10
12) Governor's Office of Planning and Research, Scott Morgan	1-30-10
13) Governor's Office of Planning and Research, Scott Morgan	2-05-10
14) Yolo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, Tim O'Halloran	3-03-10

\* Pursuant to Section 15207 of the State CEQA Guidelines, the County is directed to assume that any agency or person that fails to comment within the established period has "no comment to make". Letters received after the close of the comment period on January 28, 2010 may be responded to at the discretion of the lead agency. The County has chosen as a courtesy to respond to letters 9 through 14.