TSCHUDIN

DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT for
OFF-CHANNEL MINING PLAN
for LOWER CACHE CREEK

SCH #95113034

Yolo County

March 26, 1996

County of Yolo

COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
625 Court Street, Room 202 Woodland, CA 95695 (916) 666-8150 FAX (916) 666-8147

ROY PEDERSON
County Administrative Officer

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY AND PUBLIC HEARING
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT for the
YOLO COUNTY OFF-CHANNEL MINING PLAN

TO: Interested Agencies and Individuals

FROM: Heidi Tschudin, Contract Planner

DATE: March 26, 1996

The County of Yolo has prepared and is analyzing the Off-Channel Mining Plan (OCMP), one of two key plans to manage the resources of the mining reach of Cache Creek. The planning area for the OCMP extends approximately 14.5 miles, from the Capay Dam to the Town of Yolo, covering approximately 23,174 acres. The OCMP was developed pursuant to the Statement of Goals, Objectives, and Policies for the Off-Channel Mining Plan adopted by the Board of Supervisors in June of 1994.

The draft OCMP identifies 216 million tons of aggregate on 2,887 acres of the 23,174 acre study area, as feasible to mine over the next fifty years. Control of this mining would occur through the OCMP and implementing ordinances, and project-specific conditional use permits for which consistency with the OCMP and CCRMP would be required. A total of 179.5 million tons of aggregate would be mined on 2,211 acres over the next thirty years. Reclamation of the 2,211 acres would be as follows: agriculture including row crop, tree crop, and pasture land - 988 acres (45%); open water areas - 771 acres (35%); wildlife habitat - 273 acres (12%); and slopes and maintenance roads - 179 acres (8%). It is estimated that 36.5 million tons of aggregate are contained on the remaining 667 acres, which would be rezoned with a Sand and Gravel Reserve (SGR) overlay to delineate properties appropriate for mining in the next 30-50 years.

The draft OCMP is organized into an introduction and six "elements," including an Aggregate Resources Element, a Water Resources Element, a Floodway and Channel Stability Element, an Agricultural Resources Element, a Biological Resources Element, and an Open Space and Recreation Element. These elements are similar to the organization of the OCMP adopted by the Board of Supervisors in June of 1994. Each of the six "elements" includes an introduction and a list of goals, objectives, actions, and performance standards.

In order to implement the OCMP, draft mining and reclamation ordinances have been prepared. The ordinances have been revised to include the performance standards recommended in the OCMP, new procedures and requirements established in the California Surface Mining and Reclamation Act (SMARA), and policy documents issued by both the State Department of Conservation and State Mining and Geology Board. All new mining and reclamation permits will be required to conform with the implementing ordinances. The OCMP also proposes to amend the County Zoning Code to allow commercial mining within the Agricultural Preserve (A-P) Zone, in conformance with the requirements of the State Williamson Act.

The County and its consultant, EDAW Inc., have prepared a Program-level Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) which fulfills the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The County Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors will consider this information when deliberating the project. Following certification of the EIR, in order to allow the project to proceed, the County must approve the Off-Channel Mining Plan, the revised Mining and Reclamation Ordinances, and amendments to the Zoning Code.

The DEIR identifies significant effects anticipated as a result of this project and alternatives, in the areas of land use and planning, geology and soils, hydrology and water quality, agriculture, biological resources, air quality, traffic and circulation, noise, aesthetics, cultural resources, public services and utilities, and hazards. All identified significant impacts can be eliminated or reduced to a less than significant level through the implementation of recommended mitigation measures, except agriculture, biological resources, air quality, and aesthetics. These four impact areas remain significant and unavoidable.

The DEIR is now available for public review at the public counter of the Community Development Agency, at 292 West Beamer Street, Woodland, California 95695. The document is also available for public review at the Davis, Esparto, Woodland, and Yolo Branch County Libraries. The project file, including all documents referenced in the DEIR, may be reviewed upon request at the Community Development Agency public counter. The Community Development Agency requests your comments on the DEIR during the 45-day public review period which begins March 28, 1996 and ends on May 10, 1996. Written comments postmarked by May 10, 1996 will be accepted and should be directed to David Morrison, Resource Management Coordinator, Yolo County Community Development Agency, 292 West Beamer Street, Woodland, California 95695. A **public hearing** in front of the County Planning Commission will be held on April 17, 1996 in the Commission Chambers located at 292 West Beamer Street in Woodland, to accept oral comments from the public regarding the DEIR.

For more information regarding this project, please contact Heidi Tschudin at (916) 447-1809 or David Morrison at (916) 666-8020.

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