



# County of Yolo

## PARKS AND RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

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### NOTICE OF PREPARATION (NOP) AND NOTICE OF SCOPING MEETING FOR THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT ON THE GRANITE ESPARTO MINING AND RECLAMATION PROJECT

The County of Yolo has determined that a project-level Environmental Impact Report (EIR) will be prepared for the **GRANITE ESPARTO MINING AND RECLAMATION PROJECT**. Yolo County is the lead agency and will need to know the views of your agency as to the scope and content of the EIR based on your agency's area of statutory responsibility as related to the project. Your agency will need to use this EIR when considering relevant permits or other approvals for the project. The County is also seeking the views of residents, property owners, and concerned citizens regarding issues that should be addressed in the EIR. The project description is summarized below. A meeting to discuss the appropriate scope of the EIR has been scheduled, as indicated below.

**COMMENT PERIOD:** Comments can be sent anytime during the 30-day NOP review period. The NOP review and comment period begins February 13, 2009 and ends March 14, 2009 at 4 p.m. All comments should be directed to the Yolo County Parks and Resources Department, Attention: Kent Reeves, Principal Natural Resources Planner, 120 West Main Street, Suite C, Woodland, CA 95695. Comments may also be emailed to [kent.reeves@yolocounty.org](mailto:kent.reeves@yolocounty.org). Please include the name of a contact person for your agency, if applicable.

**SCOPING MEETING:** Oral comments may be provided at the Scoping Meeting to be held Wednesday, February 25, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. at the Esparto Library Public Meeting Room, 17065 Yolo Avenue, Esparto, CA 95627

**PROJECT NAME:** Granite Esparto Mining and Reclamation Project.

**PROJECT LOCATION:** The Site is comprised of two adjacent parcels, APN 048-220-151 (286.4 acres) on the north and APN 048-220-221 (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. Mining is proposed on 313 acres of the 390-acre total. The property is located in central Yolo County, adjoining County Road 87, approximately one mile north of the town of Esparto (see Figure 1, Location Map).

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** The Project 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) (see Figure 2, Mining Plan). 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, authorization to execute a Development Agreement, and approval of a Flood Hazard Development Permit (FHDP).

**LEAD AGENCY:** Yolo County Parks and Resources Department, Kent Reeves, Principal Natural Resources Planner, 120 West Main Street, Suite C, Woodland, CA 95695, (530) 406-4888, [kent.reeves@yolocounty.org](mailto:kent.reeves@yolocounty.org).

**ALTERNATIVES ANALYSIS:** The EIR will develop and analyze alternatives to the proposed Project that would eliminate or reduce environmental impacts identified for the proposed Project. The alternatives are expected to include the following: No Project Alternative (Existing Conditions), Reduced Mining Tonnage/Acreage Alternative, Alternate Location Alternative, Sequential Mining Alternative. For each of these alternatives, the EIR will comparatively analyze the environmental impacts of the alternatives relative to the proposed Project.

**PROBABLE ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS OF THE PROJECT:** At this time the County believes that implementation of the project may result in impacts in the areas summarized below. The EIR has been scoped to address these issue areas. An Initial Study has been prepared to substantiate this determination. The conclusions of the Initial Study are presented Table 1. That Initial Study may be attached. If it is not attached, a hard copy may be viewed or purchased by making arrangements through the Parks and Resources Department, or it may be viewed and/or printed online at [www.yolocounty.org/Index.aspx?page=1624](http://www.yolocounty.org/Index.aspx?page=1624).

Table 1. Summary of Initial Study Analysis

Environmental Topic	Conclusions of Initial Study	EIR Analysis Required
Aesthetics	Potential impacts related to visibility of mining operations, facilities, and landform alterations.	Yes
Agricultural Resources	Potential impacts related to the conversion of agricultural land to non-agricultural uses.	Yes
Air Quality	Potential impacts associated with emissions contributing to air quality violations and exposure of sensitive receptors to pollutants.	Yes
Biological Resources	Potential disturbance of candidate, sensitive or special status species; potential disturbance of wetlands and riparian habitat.	Yes
Cultural Resources	Potential disturbance of historical, archeological or paleontological resources.	Yes
Geology and Soils	Potential for slope failure or adverse erosion.	Yes
Greenhouse Gas Emissions/Climate Change/Energy Conservation	Potential to contribute to greenhouse gas emissions as the result of increased vehicle/equipment use and increased energy use.	Yes
Hazards and Hazardous Materials	Potential impacts related to encounter or handle hazardous materials.	Yes
Hydrology and Water Quality	Potential to violate Basin Plan requirements for mercury TMDL; potential for "pit capture" of mining areas; impacts of grading for stream bank stabilization.	Yes
Land Use and Planning	Potential conflict with zoning; full review of compliance with Yolo County Code and General Plan.	Yes
Mineral Resources	Potential loss of availability of aggregate resources.	Yes
Noise	All potential noise related are mitigated to less-than-significant levels based on project design and existing regulatory requirements.	Not required
Population and Housing	All potential impacts are mitigated to less-than-significant levels based on existing regulatory requirements.	Not required
Public Services (including Recreation)	All potential impacts are mitigated to less-than-significant levels based on existing regulatory requirements and project description.	Not required
Transportation and Traffic	Potential impacts related to increased vehicle trips and potential damage to roadways.	Yes
Utilities and Service Systems	All potential impacts are mitigated to less-than-significant levels based on existing regulatory requirements and project description.	Not required

Date: February 9, 2009  
 Name and Title: Kent Reeves, Principal Natural Resources Planner  
 Parks and Resources Department, Yolo County  
 Contact: (530) 406-4888  
 kent.reeves@yolocounty.org.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Attachments: Figures 1 (Location map) and 2 (Mining Plan)