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Agenda Date: 7/1/2009

Agenda Placement: 9B

Napa County Planning Commission Board Agenda Letter

TO: Napa County Planning Commission
FROM: Melissa Gray for Gitelman, Hillary - Director
Conservation, Development & Planning
REPORT BY: DONALD BARRELLA, PLANNER III - 707-299-1338
SUBJECT: Public Scoping Meeting on Syar Napa Quarry Project - P08-00337-SMP

RECOMMENDATION

SYAR INDUSTRIES INCORPORATED - NAPA QUARRY PROJECT - SURFACE MINING PERMIT P08-00337-SMP

CEQA Status: A Notice of Preparation (NOP) of an EIR was issued June 15, 2009. Members of the public and public agencies are invited to provide comments in writing as to the scope and content of the proposed EIR. The 30-day public comment period on the NOP closes July 14, 2009.

Request: That the Planning Commission receive public testimony and provide Commission comments on items to be addressed in the project specific Environmental Impact Report (EIR). The purpose of the proposed project is to provide for an approximate 291-acre expansion of the surface mining and reclamation plan associated with aggregate processing, production, and sales, as currently permitted by UP-128182 and UP-27374 of the existing 472-acre Syar Napa Quarry which includes: 1) a 35 year term, 2) an increase in the mining depth from 150 feet above mean sea level to 0 feet mean sea level, and 3) an increase in sales of aggregate and aggregate related materials from current levels of approximately 1 million tons per year up to approximately 2 million tons per year. Other activities associated with the proposed project include the relocation and improvement of two Skyline Wilderness Park's trails (Buckeye Trail and Skyline Trail), that were originally constructed on the quarry property, back onto Skyline Park lands. The approximate 870-acre Syar Napa Quarry holding is located in the southern portion of Napa County on the east side of State Highway 221 (Napa-Vallejo Highway) at its intersection with Basalt Road. The site has the following zoning designations, Industrial (I), Agricultural Watershed (AW), and Agricultural Watershed: Airport Compatibility Combination District (AW:AC); with the following General Plan designations, Industrial (I), Agricultural Watershed, Open Space (AWOS), Public Institutional, Open Space (PI), and Mineral Resource overlay. Assessor's Parcel Numbers: 045-360-005, 046-370-012, -013, -015, -022, 025, 046-390-002, -003, and 046-450-057.

Staff Recommendation: No formal action required. Staff requests that the Commission receive and provide comments.

Staff Contact: Don Barrella 707-299-1338, dbarrell@co.napa.ca.us

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Commission's public hearing is intended to allow for public testimony and Commission input into the scope and content of a project specific Environmental Impact Report (EIR). Comments regarding environmental issues of concern that should be studied in the EIR are encouraged. Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), an EIR must be prepared and certified before decision-makers can consider approval of the proposed surface mining permit.

FISCAL IMPACT

Is there a Fiscal Impact? No

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

A Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) is in the process of being prepared. A Notice of Preparation (NOP) was issued June 15, 2009. Members of the public and public agencies are invited to provide comments in writing as to the scope and content of the EIR. The 30-day public comment period closes July 14, 2009. A public scoping session before the Napa County Planning Commission will also be held July 1, 2009 at the County Administration Building, 1195 Third Street, Suite 305, Napa.

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION

At the March 3, 2009 Board of Supervisors hearing, the Napa County Board of Supervisors approved a Professional Service Agreement with Winzler and Kelly Consulting Engineers for the preparation of a project specific Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

An Initial Study has been prepared and concluded that there may be potentially significant adverse environmental impacts due to the proposed project in the following areas: Aesthetics, Agricultural Resources, Air Quality, Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Geology & Soils, Hazards & Hazardous Materials, Hydrology & Water Quality, Land Use & Planning, Noise, Population & Housing Recreation, Transportation & Traffic, and Utilities & Service Systems. The Initial Study is available for inspection, along with copies of all documents which relate to the above described project, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:45 p.m., Monday through Friday, at the County Administration Building, Conservation, Development & Planning Department, 1195 Third Street, Suite 210, Napa, California.

To ensure that the EIR for this project is thorough, adequate and meets the needs of all agencies and citizens reviewing it, the County is soliciting comments on specific issues to be included in the environmental review. Comments on the scope of issues to be evaluated in the EIR are also encouraged.

In order for public comments to be considered responses should be sent at the earliest possible date but not later than **4:45 p.m., Tuesday, July 14, 2009 to:**

Donald Barrella, Project Planner
Napa County Conservation, Development and Planning Department
1195 Third Street, Suite 210, Napa, CA 94559
Fax: (707) 299-4491 Email: dbarrell@co.napa.ca.us

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

A . Notice of Preparation, Project Information and Initial Study

Napa County Planning Commission: Approve

Reviewed By: Melissa Gray