



**Planning Department
168 North Edwards Street
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Independence, California 93526**

**Phone: (760) 878-0263
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AGENDA ITEM NO.:

6 (Action Item – Public Hearing)

**PLANNING COMMISSION
MEETING DATE:**

October 27, 2026

SUBJECT:

**Amendment to Reclamation Plan 1996-10
New Death Valley Junction MS#286A
California Department of Transportation.**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) has submitted an application to amend the approved Reclamation Plan for Material Site #286A (Mine ID 91-14-0046), commonly known as the New Death Valley Junction Material Site. The material site is located on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land approximately 5.5 miles west of Death Valley Junction along State Route 190. The proposed amendment would extend the approved reclamation plan through 2046 to allow Caltrans to continue using the site as a source of sand and gravel for highway maintenance, emergency repairs, and road construction projects within the region. The amendment maintains an estimated annual production of approximately 7,500 cubic yards and a maximum extraction volume of 150,000 cubic yards over the extended life of the operation. The amended reclamation plan also updates the revegetation component of the plan by incorporating a site-specific native seed mix developed from a 2026 vegetation survey while maintaining the post-mining land use as open space and wildlife habitat. Upon completion of mining, the site will be reclaimed in accordance with the approved reclamation plan and applicable SMARA performance standards.

PROJECT INFORMATION.

Supervisory District: 5

Project Applicant: California Department of Transportation (Caltrans).

Property Owner: Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

Site Address/ The project is located approximately 5.5 miles west of Death Valley Junction, south side of SR 190 near PM 135.5.

Community: Death Valley Junction

A.P.N.: 043-070-03

General Plan: State and Federal Lands (SFL)

Zoning: Open Space (OS)

Size of Parcel: Approximately 5,962.48-acres

Surrounding Land Use:

Location:	Use:	Gen. Plan Designation	Zoning
Site	Mine	State and Federal Lands (SFL)	Open Space - 40 acre minimum (OS-40)
North	Vacant/Open Space	State and Federal Lands (SFL)	Open Space - 40 acre minimum (OS-40)
East	Vacant/Open Space	State and Federal Lands (SFL)	Open Space - 40 acre minimum (OS-40)
South	Vacant/Open Space	State and Federal Lands (SFL)	Open Space - 40 acre minimum (OS-40)
West	Vacant/Open Space	State and Federal Lands (SFL)	Open Space - 40 acre minimum (OS-40)

Staff Recommended Action:

1.) Approve the Amendment to Reclamation Plan 96-10 Death Valley Junction MS #286A, Caltrans, with the Findings and Conditions as identified in the Staff Report and find the project is exempt under CEQA.

Alternatives:

1.) Deny Amendment to Reclamation Plan 1996-10 Death Valley Junction Material Site #286A. Caltrans, thereby not allowing the applicant to update its Reclamation Plan, or move forward with the closure of the site

2.) Approve the Amendment Reclamation Plan 1996-10 Death Valley Junction Material Site #286A. Caltrans with additional Conditions of Approval.

3.) Continue the public hearing to a future date and provide specific direction to staff regarding what additional information and analysis is needed.

Project Planner:

Ryan Standridge, Associate Planner

STAFF ANALYSIS

Background and Overview

In 1997, Caltrans prepared Reclamation Plan #96-10 for Material Site #286A (Mine ID 91-14-0046), also known as the New Death Valley Junction Material Site. The plan identified an approximately 7.7-acre site on BLM-administered land, with approximately 7.2 acres identified for intermittent extraction of sand and gravel for road maintenance and construction. The plan anticipated approximately 150,000 cubic yards of material extraction over a 20-year period and reclamation of the site to open space and wildlife habitat. On June 25, 1997, the Inyo County Planning Commission approved Reclamation Plan #96-10 subject to Conditions of Approval.

Caltrans has now submitted an amendment to extend the term of Reclamation Plan #96-10 through 2046 to correspond with its anticipated continued use of Material Site #286A, subject to applicable BLM authorization. Caltrans anticipates removal of approximately 7,500 cubic yards of material annually, not to exceed 150,000 cubic yards over the extended 20-year period. Material would continue to be used primarily for emergency road repair and highway maintenance, with potential use for road construction.

The proposed amendment does not expand the existing disturbance area, increase the established excavation depth, or change the approved post-mining land use. The amendment also updates the revegetation provisions based on vegetation surveys conducted in 2026, including incorporation of a site-specific native seed mix. Reclamation would continue to return disturbed areas to open space and wildlife habitat through recontouring, decompaction, replacement of salvaged growth media, revegetation with native species, and implementation of erosion-control measures.

Inyo County Code

Surface Mining and Land Reclamation in Inyo County are governed by Chapter 7.70 of the Inyo County Code which incorporates California's Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1975 ("SMARA", Public Resource Code Section [PRC] 271 et seq. and California Code of Regulations Section 3500 et seq.). The County is the "lead agency" (ref. PRC Section 2728) with State Mining and Geology Board-certified Surface Mining and Reclamation Ordinance (ref. PRC Section 2774.)

General Plan Consistency

The project site is designated State and Federal Lands (SFL) by the Inyo County General Plan. The SFL designation recognizes lands under State or federal ownership and allows resource-related uses consistent with the requirements of the applicable land management agency. The project site is located on land administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and continued mining is subject to applicable BLM authorization and the requirements of the approved Reclamation Plan. The proposed amendment is consistent with the General Plan's goals and policies for mineral resources. Section 8.4.4 of the General Plan identifies the objective of protecting the current and future extraction of mineral resources important to the County's economy while minimizing impacts to the

public and the environment. The proposed amendment would allow continued intermittent extraction of sand and gravel from the existing Caltrans material site for highway maintenance, emergency repairs, and road construction while maintaining reclamation requirements for the site

Zoning Ordinance Consistency

The project site is zoned Open Space (OS) under the Inyo County Zoning Ordinance. The OS district allows mining and the processing of natural resources as a conditional use. The existing Caltrans material site has historically been used for the intermittent extraction of sand and gravel for highway maintenance, emergency repairs, and road construction.

The proposed amendment would extend the operational life of Material Site #286A through 2046 and update the reclamation provisions, including the revegetation requirements. The amendment does not propose an expansion of the existing disturbance area or a change in the established mining depth or post-mining land use.

Upon completion of mining, the site would be reclaimed in accordance with the Reclamation Plan to a post-mining use of open space and wildlife habitat. The proposed continued mining and subsequent reclamation are therefore consistent with the uses contemplated within the Open Space .

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

The proposed amendment is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines §15301, Existing Facilities (Class 1). Material Site #286A is an existing Caltrans material site used intermittently for the extraction of sand and gravel for highway maintenance, emergency repairs, and road construction. The amendment would extend the operational term through 2046 and update reclamation and revegetation provisions. It does not propose an expansion of the existing disturbance area, an increase in the established mining depth, or a change in the existing use or ultimate reclaimed land use. Therefore, the amendment involves negligible or no expansion of the existing use. Staff has reviewed the exceptions to categorical exemptions under CEQA Guidelines §15300.2 and found no evidence that an exception applies that would preclude use of the Class 1 categorical exemption.

NOTICING & REVIEW

Amendment to Reclamation Plan 96-10 Death Valley Junction MS#286A California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) was noticed in the Inyo Register and sent to all property owners within 300 feet of the project ten days before the Planning Commission Hearing. No public comments have been received to date.

RECOMMENDATION

Planning Department staff recommends the approval of the Amendment to Reclamation Plan 96-10 Death Valley Junction MS#286A, California Department of Transportation with the following Findings and Conditions of Approval:

FINDINGS

1. The proposed Amendment to Reclamation Plan #96-10 is exempt under CEQA Guidelines 15301, Existing Facilities – Class 1 and the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act have been satisfied.
[Evidence Material Site #286A is an existing Caltrans material site used intermittently for the extraction of sand and gravel for highway maintenance, emergency repairs, and road construction. The amendment extends the term of Reclamation Plan #96-10 through 2046 and updates reclamation and revegetation provisions. The amendment does not propose an expansion of the existing disturbance area, an increase in the established excavation depth, or a change in the existing use or ultimate reclaimed land use. Therefore, the amendment involves negligible or no expansion of the existing use. Staff reviewed the exceptions to categorical exemptions under CEQA Guidelines §15300.2 and found no evidence that an exception applies that would preclude use of the Class 1 categorical exemption..].
2. The proposed Amendment to Reclamation Plan 96-10 Death Valley Junction MS#286A CALTRANS is consistent with the Inyo County General Plan Land Use designation of State and Federal Land (SFL).
[Evidence: The project site is located on land administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and is designated State and Federal Lands (SFL) by the Inyo County General Plan. The SFL designation recognizes lands under State or federal ownership and allows resource-related uses consistent with the requirements of the applicable land management agency. Continued use of Material Site #286A is subject to applicable BLM authorization and the requirements of the approved Reclamation Plan. General Plan Section 8.4.4 establishes the objective of protecting the current and future extraction of mineral resources important to the County's economy while minimizing impacts to the public and the environment. The amendment extends the term of Reclamation Plan #96-10 through 2046 and maintains reclamation of the site to the approved post-mining land use of open space and wildlife habitat.]
3. The proposed Amendment to Reclamation Plan 96-10 Death Valley Junction MS#286A CALTRANS is consistent with the Inyo County Zoning Ordinance, which permits “Mining Uses” as a Conditional Use in the Open Space Zoning District.
[Evidence: The project site is zoned Open Space – 40-acre minimum (OS-40). The Open Space zoning district provides for mining and the processing of natural resources as a conditional use. Material Site #286A is an existing Caltrans material site located on BLM-administered land and has historically been used for the intermittent extraction of sand and gravel. The proposed amendment does not expand the existing disturbance area, increase the established excavation depth, or change the approved post-mining land use. Upon completion of mining, the disturbed area will be reclaimed to open space and wildlife habitat in accordance with Reclamation Plan #96-10, as amended.]
4. The proposed Amendment to Reclamation Plan 96-10 Death Valley Junction MS#286A, CALTRANS is necessary or desirable.

[Evidence: Material Site #286A is an existing Caltrans material site that provides sand and gravel for highway maintenance, emergency repairs, and road construction in the Death Valley region. The amendment extends the term of Reclamation Plan #96-10 through 2046 to correspond with Caltrans' anticipated continued use of the existing material site, subject to applicable BLM authorization. The amendment also updates the reclamation and revegetation provisions while maintaining the existing disturbance limits, established excavation depth, and approved post-mining land use of open space and wildlife habitat. The amendment therefore provides for continued implementation of an approved reclamation plan consistent with applicable SMARA requirements.]

5. The proposed amendment is properly related to other uses and transportation and service facilities in the vicinity.

[Evidence: Material Site #286A is an existing Caltrans material site located adjacent to State Route 190 and has historically provided sand and gravel for highway maintenance, emergency repairs, and road construction. The proposed amendment does not expand the existing disturbance area or require new access or service facilities.]

6. The proposed Amendment to Reclamation Plan 96-10 Death Valley Junction MS#286A CALTRANS would not, under all the circumstances of this case, affect adversely the health or safety of persons living or working in the vicinity or be materially detrimental to the public welfare.

[Evidence: Material Site #286A is an existing Caltrans material site used intermittently for the extraction of sand and gravel. The proposed amendment does not expand the existing disturbance area, increase the established excavation depth, or change the existing use or approved post-mining land use. The amended Reclamation Plan and Conditions of Approval require implementation of erosion control, revegetation, noxious weed control, monitoring, and other reclamation measures intended to stabilize the site and return disturbed areas to the approved post-mining land use of open space and wildlife habitat..]

7. Reclamation requirements necessitate the amendment for the site.

[Evidence: Reclamation Plan #96-10 was approved for a 20-year term and requires amendment to address Caltrans' anticipated continued use of Material Site #286A through 2046. The amendment extends the term of the Reclamation Plan, updates the revegetation provisions based on the 2026 vegetation survey, and maintains requirements for reclamation of the site to the approved post-mining land use of open space and wildlife habitat. The amendment does not expand the approved disturbance area or increase the established excavation depth. Continued use of the site remains subject to applicable BLM authorization..]

CONDITIONS OF APPROVAL

Term of Plan and Timing of Reclamation

1. The term of Reclamation Plan #96-10, as amended, shall extend through 2046. The Reclamation Plan is based on the removal of approximately 7,500 cubic yards of material annually, not to exceed 150,000 cubic yards over the extended 20-year period. The approved reclamation area shall remain limited to the existing approximately 7.2-acre material site and 0.2-acre access area, and the established maximum excavation depth shall remain 30 feet below existing ground surface. This amendment does not authorize an expansion of the approved disturbance area or an increase in the established excavation depth. Reclamation shall be completed in accordance with the approved Reclamation Plan, this amendment, the Conditions of Approval, and applicable SMARA requirements. Continued use of the site is subject to applicable authorization from the Bureau of Land Management.

Interim Management Plan

2. During periods of idle operation, the approved Interim Management Plan shall be implemented in accordance with SMARA and the approved Reclamation Plan.

Mapping

3. Within two (2) years of approval of this amendment, Caltrans shall submit an updated Reclamation Plan map to the Inyo County Planning Department depicting current site conditions, including current topography and elevations, existing disturbance limits, reclamation limits, drainage features, and the proposed final reclamation configuration. The updated map shall be consistent with Reclamation Plan #96-10, as amended, and shall not authorize an expansion of the approved disturbance area or an increase in the established mining depth.

Salvage of Growth Media (Topsoil)

4. The top six inches (6") of growth media (topsoil), shall be collected from areas to be disturbed (Borrow pits and internal access roads). This (topsoil) shall be stockpiled in the active work site until final phase reclamation.

5. After the site is recontoured, the salvaged topsoil shall be respread to a depth of six inches over the recontoured pit. (See condition #7)

Erosion Control

6. Pit slopes shall be contoured to a minimum of 3: 1 (H: V). These slopes shall be in established during times of intermittent operation, times the interim management plan is in affect, and during final reclamation.

Earthwork

7. All compacted areas shall be scarified. Road berms shall be brought back into the roadway after scarification.

Noxious Weed Control

8. During mining and reclamation activities and during idle periods noxious weeds shall be controlled on site.

Seed Sources and Mixtures

9. Seed used for revegetation shall be collected on or near the site. Plant materials shall be obtained from the Mojave Creosote Bush Scrub plant community between 1,500 and 3,500 feet elevation, east of the Funeral Mountains and Greenwater Range, and within a 20-mile radius of Material Site #286A. If sufficient seed is not available from the identified source area, seed may be purchased.

The following site-specific native seed mixture, identified in the May 11, 2026 Seed Mix Justification Memorandum, shall be used for revegetation:

Scientific Name	Common Name	PLS lbs/acre
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<i>Larrea tridentata</i>	Creosote Bush	5
<i>Ambrosia salsola</i>	Cheesebush	3
<i>Ambrosia dumosa</i>	Burroweed	3
<i>Bebbia juncea</i>	Sweetbush	1
Total		12

Revegetation Methods

10. Following final grading and replacement of salvaged growth media, areas to be revegetated shall be decompacted and the seedbed prepared by roughening the surface to create microsites, consistent with the approved Reclamation Plan. The approved native seed mixture identified in Condition 9 shall be applied by hydroseeding at the specified application rate. Hydroseeding shall be performed at an appropriate time to take advantage of seasonal precipitation and promote successful establishment of native vegetation. Revegetation shall be monitored and evaluated in accordance with the performance standards established by these Conditions of Approval.

Revegetation Performance Standard

11. Reclamation will not be considered successful or complete until vegetative density reaches 20 percent (number of plants per unit area) of the surrounding undisturbed land, with a 50 percent diversity (species richness) of the perennial species on surrounding undisturbed land. New perennial plants must be at least two years old before being considered viable plants. Once any portion of this Reclamation Plan is implemented by commencing of mining, all of its conditions and limitations shall be operative, and violation of any part shall constitute a violation of this reclamation plan and Chapter 7.70 of Inyo County Code.

Revegetation Monitoring

12. Revegetation shall be monitored from the time of initial seeding until the revegetation performance standards identified in Condition 11 have been achieved. During the first two years following seeding, revegetation monitoring shall be conducted **twice annually**.

Monitoring shall continue thereafter as necessary to demonstrate that the performance standards have been met.

Remedial Measures

13. If revegetation monitoring indicates that the performance standards identified in Condition 15 are not being achieved, appropriate remedial measures shall be implemented. Remedial measures may include, but are not limited to, reseeding, supplemental irrigation, planting, fertilization, soil analysis and amendment, and pest or weed control, as appropriate to address the cause of unsuccessful revegetation. Monitoring and remedial measures shall continue until the revegetation performance standards have been achieved.

Reporting and Annual Inspections

14. Caltrans shall comply with applicable SMARA annual reporting and inspection requirements. Annual reporting shall continue until reclamation has been completed and financial assurances have been released. Revegetation monitoring shall continue until the County determines that the applicable revegetation performance standards have been satisfied.

Reclamation Responsibility Statement

15. Within 30 days of approval of this amendment, Caltrans shall submit an updated notarized statement to the Inyo County Planning Department accepting responsibility for reclaiming the lands in accordance with Reclamation Plan #96-10, as amended, and these Conditions of Approval, as required by Public Resources Code §2772(c)(10).

Financial Assurances

16. Caltrans shall maintain financial assurances sufficient to complete reclamation in accordance with the approved Reclamation Plan, applicable SMARA requirements, and the financial assurance mechanism approved by the County and other applicable agencies.

Financial Assurance Cost Estimate

17. The Financial Assurance Cost Estimate shall be reviewed and updated annually in accordance with SMARA. Caltrans shall submit an updated Financial Assurance Cost Estimate to the County within the timeframe required by SMARA following the annual inspection.

Release of Financial Assurances

18. Financial assurances may be released or reduced as reclamation requirements are completed and applicable reclamation standards are achieved, in accordance with SMARA. Financial assurances necessary to cover revegetation and monitoring shall not be released until the applicable revegetation performance standards have been satisfied.

Other Agency Authorizations

19. Approval of this Reclamation Plan amendment does not constitute authorization by

Inyo County for activities requiring approval or authorization from the Bureau of Land Management or any other federal, state, or local agency. Caltrans shall obtain and maintain all other permits and authorizations required for its activities at Material Site #286A.

HOLD HARMLESS

20. The applicant, landowner, and operator shall defend, indemnify, and hold harmless Inyo County, its agents, officers, and employees from any claim, action, or proceeding against the County, its agents, officers, or employees to attack, set aside, void, or annul any approval of the County, its advisory agencies, appeal boards, or legislative body concerning Reclamation Plan #96-10, as amended, for Death Valley Junction Material Site #286A (Mine ID #91-14-0046).

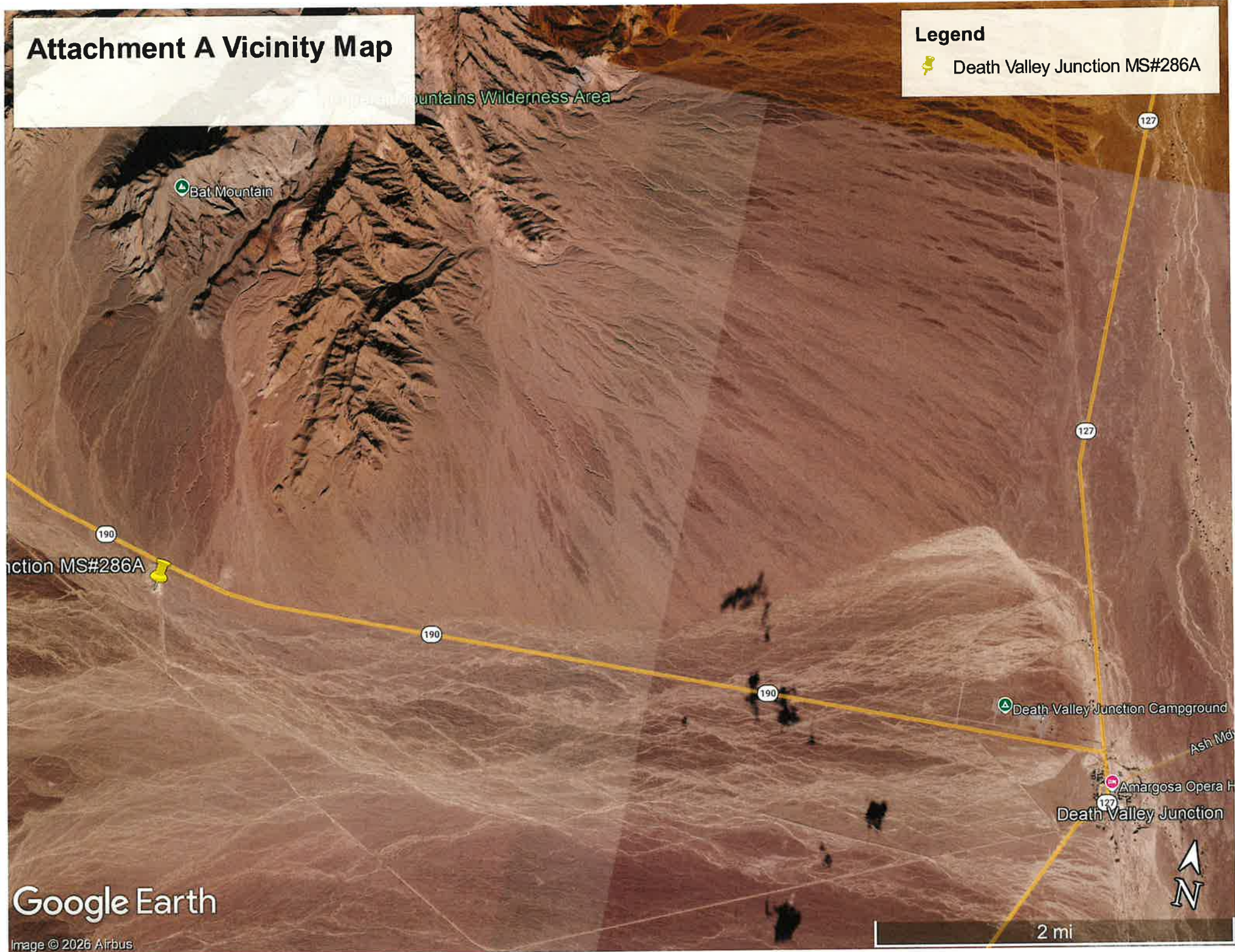
Attachments:

- A. Vicinity Map
- B. Approved Reclamation Plan
- C. Proposed Amended Reclamation Plan Text

Attachment A Vicinity Map

Legend

 Death Valley Junction MS#286A



Google Earth

Image © 2026 Airbus



County of

RECEIVED INYO

PLANNING COMMISSION

Drawer L • INDEPENDENCE • CALIFORNIA 93526 • (714) 878-2111 (Ext. 30) AM 9 48

August 3, 1979

Mr. R.F. Yeager
CALTRANS
P.O. Box 847
Bishop, CA 93514

RE: CUP #79-14

NOTICE OF DECISION

On August 1, 1979, the Inyo County Planning Commission held a public hearing to consider your agency's Conditional Use Permit application (CUP #79-14). The Commission adopted the Conditional Negative Declaration certifying that the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act have been satisfied. The Commission voted to approve Conditional Use Permit #79-14 for the following described project, subject to the conditions listed below which incorporate a Reclamation Plan required by the State Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1975.

DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT:

The project involves the establishment of a 40 acre materials borrow site located on the north side of Highway 190 approximately five miles west of Death Valley Junction. The project site is zoned OS-40 (Open Space-40 acres) and is under the jurisdiction of BLM. The project involves the extraction of sand, gravel and cobbles for use on local highway construction.

CONDITIONS OF APPROVAL:

1. The Conditional Use Permit shall expire ten (10) years from the date of approval unless an extension of time is granted by the Planning Commission prior to the expiration date.
2. No excavation shall occur within 200 feet of the centerline of Highway 190.
3. Fugitive dust will be controlled by applying water to access roads and exposed surfaces whenever needed during the operation of the borrow site.

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Ans
Rice

4. If the site is utilized for any temporary rock crushers and/or hot asphalt plant the applicant shall submit evidence to the Planning Department that it has been approved by BLM and that it has been reviewed by the Great Basin Air Pollution Control District. Compliance with any condition and/or regulation of the Air Pollution Control District shall be a condition of this permit.
5. The applicant shall construct and maintain the excavation operation in such a manner as to minimize soil erosion and maintain the surface runoff water quality.
6. Within 60 days following termination of the project either by reason of cessation of use or as the result of the expiration of this Use Permit the applicant shall rehabilitate the site including but not limited to the following:
 - a. All piles of waste materials shall be leveled.
 - b. All cut slopes shall be graded to slopes of 2:1 or flatter.
 - c. All graded slopes shall be ripped horizontally in order to retain moisture.
 - d. All structures, fixtures, containers and other physical objects associated with the project shall be removed from the area.
 - e. The excavated area shall be graded to drain.
7. The County shall reserve the right to periodically inspect the project site with prior notification to the applicant to determine that the above conditions are being complied with.
8. The applicant shall submit a statement to the Planning Department accepting responsibility for reclaiming the mined lands as per conditions specified herein.
9. This permit shall be valid only for the use of CALTRANS and/or agencies and operator duly authorized by CALTRANS to utilize materials from the site.
10. Any expansion of the proposed use beyond that described in the application shall require an amendment to the Conditional Use Permit.

Attachment B

Failure to comply with the conditions stated above will result in the proposed use being in violation of the Inyo County Code. Please be advised that, pursuant to the County Code (Section 18.81.140), the proposed use must be "... established or construction necessary and incident to its establishment..." begun within six months of the Commission's conditional approval. This Conditional Use Permit becomes void if this time requirement is not met.

This Conditional Use Permit will become effective fifteen days after the Planning Commission's action. During that time, pursuant to Inyo County Code Section 18.81.270, any concerned person may appeal the decision or any condition of this approval.

In regard to Condition #8, which requires that a statement be submitted by CALTRANS to the Planning Department accepting responsibility for reclaiming the mine site, we have enclosed a statement we wish to have signed by an authorized representative of CALTRANS.

If you have any questions regarding the above, please feel free to contact this office.

Sincerely,



Roger DeHart
Associate Planner

ENCL: Reclamation Statement

cc: Assessor's Office



County of
INYO

PLANNING COMMISSION

Drawer L • INDEPENDENCE • CALIFORNIA 93526 • (714) 878-2411 (Ext. 318)

July 17, 1979

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Inyo County Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, August 1, 1979, at 10:35 a.m. in the Board of Supervisors Room, Courthouse, Independence, to consider a Conditional Use Permit submitted by CALTRANS (No. 79-14) for a 40 acre material borrow site situated on property zoned OS-40 (Open Space-40 acres) located on the north side of Highway 190 approximately 5 miles west of Death Valley Junction; also to be considered is a reclamation plan submitted pursuant to the State Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1975.

Planning Comm.

8/1/79

ITEM 6 - CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT NO. 79-14/CALTRANS

A proposal for a 40 acre material borrow site situated on property that is presently zoned OS-40 (Open Space-40 acres) located on the north side of Highway 190 approximately 5 miles west of Death Valley Junction; also to be considered is a reclamation plan submitted pursuant to the State Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1975.

Associate Planner Roger DeHart indicated that an Initial Study had found that no significant effects would occur on the environment. However, a Conditional Negative Declaration was prepared requiring that an archeological survey be done prior to the disturbance of this site. Mr. DeHart noted that Death Valley National Monument was in agreement with this request and also expressed concern about visual impacts. It was the recommendation of the Planning Department to approve the project.

Mr. Gene Ryder, representative of BLM, stated that BLM would not allow a hot batch plant as this property was in a wilderness study area. He advised that BLM felt the Death Valley National Monument comments were unwarranted.

Mr. Otto Mikes, CALTRANS representative, that it would be more costly to transport the materials for processing rather than have a hot batch plant on the site.

MOTION: "Moved by Commissioner Sorrells, seconded by Commissioner Boyd, that the Planning Commission adopt the Conditional Negative Declaration certifying that the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act have been satisfied and approve CUP No. 79-14/CALTRANS subject to conditions 1-10 inclusive which incorporate the reclamation plan as required by the State Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1975."

Motion carried. (5-0)

Attachment B

STATE OF CALIFORNIA—BUSINESS AND TRANSPORTATION AGENCY

EDMUND G. BROWN JR., Governor

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



500 So. Main
P.O. Box 847
Bishop, CA 93514
(714) 873-8411

Date: July 27, 1979

File: Responsible Agency

Mr. Douglas Sherburne, Director
Inyo Co. Planning Dept.
Drawer L
Independence, CA 93526

RECEIVED

JUL 30 1979

INYO CO. PLANNING DEPT.

Dear Mr. Sherburne:

Re: Conditional Use Permit No. 74-14
CALTRANS and Condition Use Permit
No. 74-15/CALTRANS

We have reviewed the above-referenced document and have the following comments.

- () We have no comments.
- () CALTRANS is not a Responsible Agency.
- () CALTRANS is a Responsible Agency pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act, since Encroachment Permits will be required to install driveways, utilities or other facilities within the right of way for State Highway Route _____. As a Responsible Agency, CALTRANS will rely on the Lead Agencies environmental document for CEQA clearance of any such Encroachment Permits.
- () In accordance with Section 15161.5(2) of the State Environmental Impact Report Guidelines, the environmental document should be submitted to the State Clearinghouse for review by State agencies.
- () The environmental document appears to be adequate with respect to any areas of concern where CALTRANS has jurisdiction by law or has special expertise.
- (✓) See attached sheet for additional comments.

Allan H. Hendrix
Deputy District Director
Transportation and
Environmental Planning

NR:ac

Attachment B

The archeological studies done by the Bureau of Land
Mangement and CALTRANS have been submitted to the Inyo
County Planning Department by CALTRANS.



County of
INYO

NOTICE OF DETERMINATION

PLANNING COMMISSION

P.O. BOX 37 • INDEPENDENCE • CALIFORNIA 93526 • (714) 878-2411 (Ext. 318)

TO: ☐ Secretary for Resources
1416 Ninth Street, Room 1311
Sacramento, California 95814

☒ County Clerk
County of Inyo
Independence, California 93526

PROJECT TITLE: Conditional Use Permit No. 79-14/CALTRANS

STATE CLEARING HOUSE NUMBER: _____

CONTACT PERSON: Roger DeHart TELE: 878-2411

PROJECT LOCATION: Project site is situated on 40 acres located on the
north side of Highway 190 approximately 5 miles west of Death
Valley Junction.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Project involves the establishment of a material
borrow site for CALTRANS for use in local highway construction.
The material would be excavated by scraper or bulldozer. No
permanent equipment will be located at the site. Project also
involves the approval of a reclamation plan pursuant to the
State Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1975.

This is to advise that the COUNTY OF INYO PLANNING COMMISSION has approved the above described project and has made the following determinations.

The project ☐ will, ☒ will not, have a significant effect on the environment.

☐ An Environmental Impact Report was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA and was certified as required by Section 15085 (g).

☒ A Negative Declaration was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.

☐ Mitigation measures were adopted to reduce the impacts of the approved project and are attached.

☐ A statement of Overriding Considerations was adopted for this project.

All EIRs and Negative Declarations are on file with the Inyo Co. Planning Dept.

Date: August 3, 1979

By Roger De Hart
for D. Sherburne, Planning Director

Reference: California Administrative Code, Title 14, Sections 15035, 15083 (f), 15085 (h), 15085.5 (i).



County of
INYO

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Drawer L • INDEPENDENCE • CALIFORNIA 93526 • (714) 878-2411 (Ext. 318)

PLANNING DEPARTMENT STAFF REPORT

AGENDA ITEM NO. 6
AUGUST 1, 1979

RE: CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT NO. 79-14/CALTRANS

BACKGROUND:

The applicant, CALTRANS, is proposing to establish a material borrow site on 40 acres located on the north side of Highway 190 approximately 5 miles west of Death Valley Junction. The project site as well as all the adjacent lands are zoned OS-40 (Open Space-40 acres) and are under the jurisdiction of the BLM. The site is located on an alluvial fan of the Funeral Mountains at an elevation of 3,480 feet. The sedimentary material at this site is composed of medium to fine gravels. Drainage is primarily by infrequent sheet flow. Cresote bush and assorted desert cacti occupy the project site. No rare or endangered plants or animals are known to exist in the immediate vicinity. An old material borrow site (partially revegetated) is located in the southeast portion of the project site as well as a large stockpile of gravel.

An Initial Study was prepared by the Planning Department which indicated that the proposed project would not have a significant adverse effect on the environment. However, information as to the presence of archaeological resources and the impact the project would have on them, if they did exist, was unknown. It was determined that this unknown potential impact could be properly mitigated if an archaeological reconnaissance was conducted prior to the site's disturbance. Therefore, a Conditional Negative Declaration was issued for public review and comment which stated that the project would not have a significant impact on the environment if an archaeological reconnaissance was conducted. The review period for the Conditional Negative Declaration ended on July 26, 1979.

We have received one comment on the Conditional Negative Declaration, from Death Valley National Monument (attached). It concurred with the County's requirement that an archaeological reconnaissance be performed. It also expressed concern regarding the projects visual impact and the impact it would have on the proposed scenic highway program. This will be discussed under the Project Analysis section.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The project involves the extraction of sand, gravel and cobbles for use in local highway construction. A highway construction project would require 100,000 to 300,000 cubic yards of material. The material would be excavated by scraper or bulldozer, screened and then transported to the construction site. No permanent equipment will be located at the site. CALTRANS has requested that the Conditional Use Permit be approved for a ten year period with provisions for renewal.

The reclamation statement submitted by CALTRANS indicates that any piles of isolated piles of material will be leveled and that any cut slopes will be leveled to 2:1 or flatter and graded to drain. Slopes will be ripped horizontally and a thin veneer of soil will be spread over the excavation site to promote revegetation.

PROJECT ANALYSIS:

The project is located on property zoned OS-40. The regulations of the OS-40 zone permits mining activity upon the granting of a Conditional Use Permit. The project is consistent with the Open Space designation of the General Plan providing appropriate reclamation measures are implemented in order to revert the area back to its former use (open space).

The project should have no impact on the area's residents as the nearest dwellings are located in Death Valley Junction, 5 miles to the east. The ownership pattern (BLM) precludes any future development within the immediate area.

An archaeological reconnaissance of the site was performed by the staff of BLM. No archaeological or historic resources were found on the project site.

There will be some adverse visual impact to the travelers on Highway 190. As previously mentioned, a portion of the project site had been used as a borrow site in the past and is now partially revegetated. In addition, a large stockpile of gravel is located adjacent to the highway. The site therefore, has already been visually impacted by the previous mining activity.

Highway 190 is a "nominated" scenic highway in the Inyo County General Plan however, until a Scenic Highway Corridor Plan is adopted by the County there are no specific regulations restricting the use of properties adjacent to these highways (Page 13, Scenic Highway Element).

Attachment B

The applicant has submitted a reclamation plan as required by the State Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1975. The reclamation conditions have been reviewed by the staff and the reclamation plan has been incorporated into the recommended conditions of approval. The conditions will insure that the project site will be reclaimed to a usable condition upon termination of the project.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Planning Department recommends that the Planning Commission approve the conditional use permit by taking the following actions:

- A. Adopt the Conditional Negative Declaration certifying that the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act have been satisfied.
- B. Approve Conditional Use Permit No. 79-14 for CALTRANS subject to the following conditions which incorporate the reclamation plan as required by the State Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1975:
 1. The Conditional Use Permit shall expire ten (10) years from the date of approval unless an extension of time is granted by the Planning Commission prior to the expiration date.
 2. No excavation shall occur within 200 feet of the centerline of Highway 190.
 3. Fugitive dust will be controlled by applying water to access roads and exposed surfaces whenever needed during the operation of the borrow site.
 4. If the site is utilized for any temporary rock crushers and/or hot asphalt plant the applicant shall submit evidence to the Planning Department that it has been approved by BLM and that it has been reviewed by the Great Basin Air Pollution Control District shall be a condition of this permit.
 5. The applicant shall construct and maintain the excavation operation in such a manner as to minimize soil erosion and maintain the surface runoff water quality.

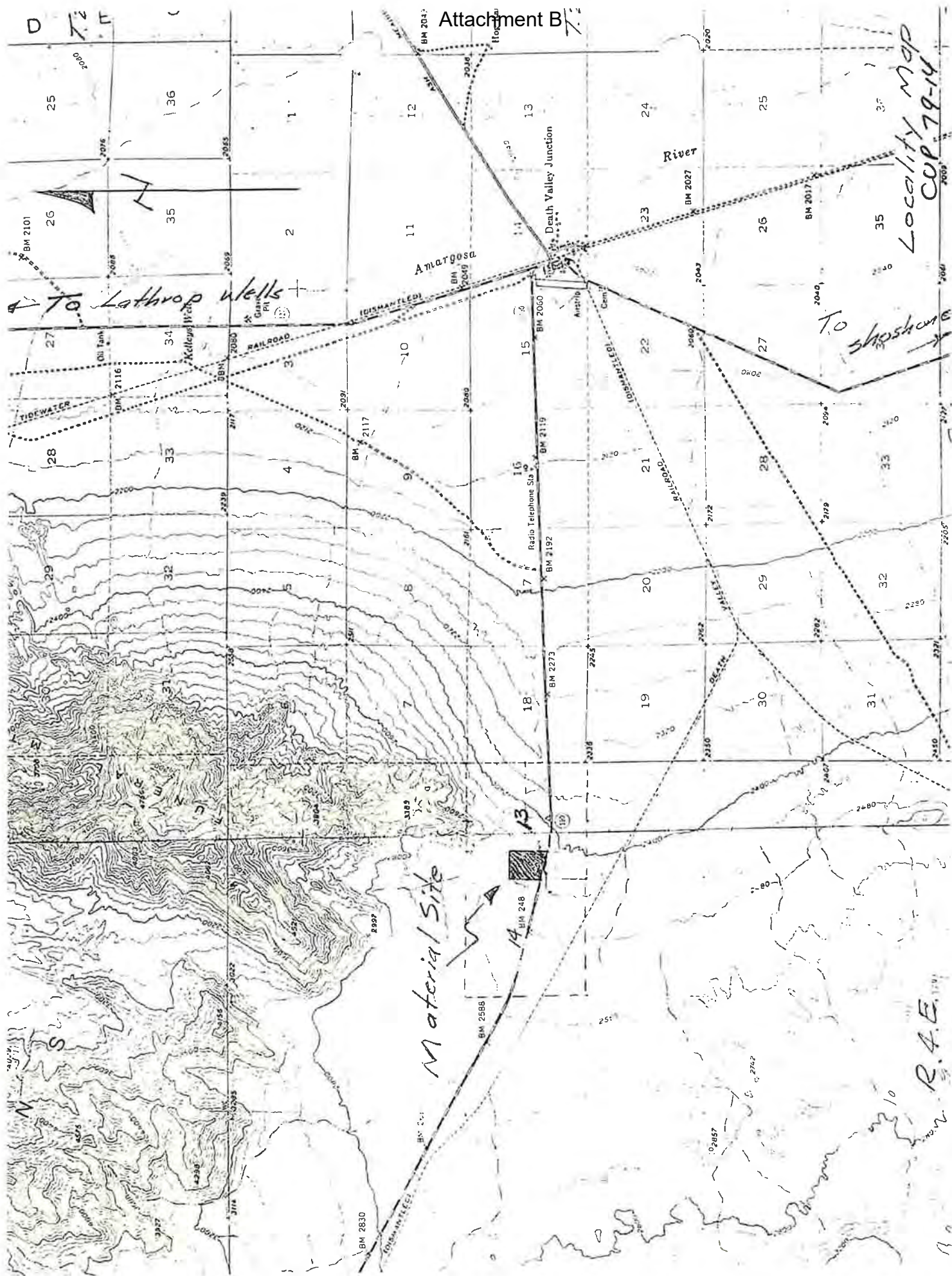
Attachment B

6. Within 60 following termination of the project either by reason of cessation of use or as the result of the expiration of this Use Permit the applicant shall rehabilitate the site including but not limited to the following:
 - a. All piles of waste materials shall be leveled.
 - b. All cut slopes shall be graded to slopes of 2:1 or flatter.
 - c. All graded slopes shall be ripped horizontally in order to retain moisture.
 - d. All structures, fixtures, containers and other physical objects associated with the project shall be removed from the area.
 - e. The excavated area shall be graded to drain.
7. The County shall reserve the right to periodically inspect the project site with prior notification to the applicant to determine that the above conditions are being complied with.
8. The applicant shall submit a statement to the Planning Department accepting responsibility for reclaiming the mined lands as per conditions specified herein.
9. This permit shall be valid only for the use of CALTRANS and/or agencies and operator duly authorized by CALTRANS to utilize materials from the site.
10. Any expansion of the proposed use beyond that described in the application shall require an amendment to the Conditional Use Permit.

RDH/mss

Attachments: Locality Map
Death Valley National Monument letter of July 17, 1979

Attachment B



Attachment B

Surrounding Property Owners-CUP 79-14/CALTRANS

Applicant - R.F. Yaeger
CALTRANS
500 So Main
Bishop, CA 93514

(Mailed public hearing notices 7/17/79)

BLM
1415 North Norma
Ridgecrest, CA 93555

241A?

STATE OF CALIFORNIA—BUSINESS, TRANSPORTATION AND HOUSING AGENCY

GEORGE DEUKMEJIAN, Governor

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

500 SOUTH MAIN STREET
P.O. BOX 847
BISHOP, CALIFORNIA 93514

(619) 872-0662

RECEIVED
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

1987 NOV -9 PM 2:15

BARSTOW RESOURCE AREA
BARSTOW, CA.

November 5, 1987

Proposed Death Valley
Jct. M.S.United States Department
of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Barstow Resource Area
831 Barstow Road
Barstow, CA 92311

Attention Mr. Alden Sievers

Dear Mr. Sievers:

On December 19, 1986 we filed a "Free Use Application and Permit" with your office covering a portion of Section 13, T.25N, R.4E., about five miles west of Death Valley Junction on State Route 190 in Kern County for use as a materials site. On July 1, 1987, I met with Mr. Mark Davis and Mr. Ken Schulte of your office on the site to determine an area within Section 13 which could be used. Approximate boundaries were agreed on with the understanding that markers would be set by Caltrans and located by survey methods.

This has been done, and the attached sketch map shows the points set. The proposed corners have been tied to an old material site corner, as well as to Post Mile Marker 135.5 on Route 190.

We request that the sketch map be made a part of the Free Use Permit and that the permit be granted covering this portion of Section 13.

Very truly yours,

R. F. Yeager
District Materials EngineerRFY:ml
Attachment
cc: B. CowanKEN SCHULTE
GEOLOGISTBUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
CALIFORNIA DESERT DISTRICT
BARSTOW RESOURCE AREA
150 COOLWATER LANE
BARSTOW, CA 92311
TELEPHONE (619) 256-3591
FTS 796-6736

Attachment B

INY - 190 - PM 135.5+/-
SECTION 11 T.25N. R.4E. S.B.B. & M.

OLD MATR'L SITE #286

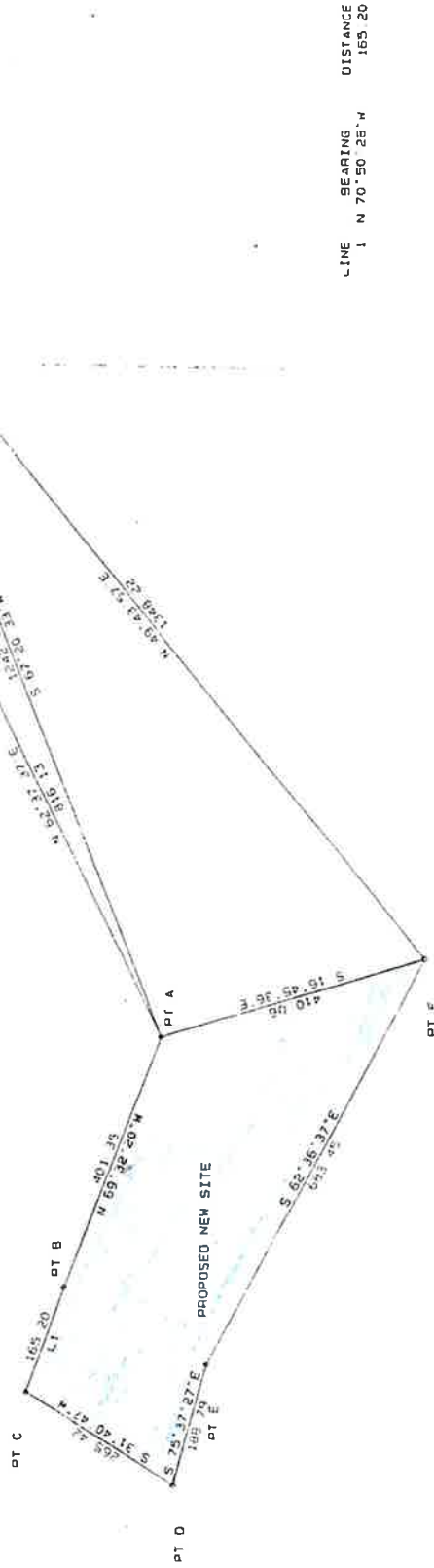
NOTE: POINTS A THRU F ARE 1/4 SECTION 11 T.25N. R.4E. S.B.B. & M.

EA data for
Free Use Appln
CA-19745.

For general location;
map, see Example
EA for old site in
General Mtns WSA.

SMC286

PT 135.5
CL 135.5



0.117 ACRES

Memorandum

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Barstow Resource Area
150 Coolwater Lane
Barstow, CA 92311
(619) 256-3591

Albiston 3/17/87
IN REPLY REFER TO:
CA 19745
3600(CA-068.28)

To : Geologist, Barstow

Date: March 17, 1987

FROM : Natural Resource Specialist, Barstow

SUBJECT: Caltrans Free Use Application, Death Valley Junction

The subject site was visited on February 11, 1987. The area contains a creosotebush scrub plant assemblage of low density. The area does not contain any known state or federally listed plants or animals. The proposed action should not have more than negligible impact on the resident wildlife. It will result in the total loss of about six acres of vegetation and associated wildlife habitat. To counter this loss the following mitigation is proposed.

1. Require that any area that is not being used in their current operation not be cleared of vegetation until necessary. If already cleared but activity is not anticipated for a lengthy period (1-2 years) then the disturbance should be smoothed over and scarified to promote revegetation.
2. Upon completion of their operations under this authorization the permittee should be required to smooth over any remaining disturbance to blend in with the surrounding terrain and scarify to a depth of at least six inches.
3. Require that the disturbance once reclaimed be seeded with a mix of desert annuals and perennials approved by this office. I would suggest that the approval of the seed mix be delayed until the site is reclaimed. This will allow us the opportunity to utilize the most current information and sources for assisting the operator in compiling the seed mix.

DARYL ALBISTON

Albiston/kms/03-17-87

Memorandum

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Barstow Resource Area
150 Coolwater Lane
Barstow, CA 92311
(619) 25603591

Barker 2/5/87

IN REPLY REFER TO:

CA-19745
(CA-068.24)

TO : Geologist, Barstow Resource Area
FROM : Archaeologist, Barstow
SUBJECT : P.O.O. from Cal Trans

Date: February 4, 1987

On January 29, 1987, the proposed permit area was given a 100% pedestrian survey. There were no cultural resources located during the survey and none were noted on existing site records. Thus, the proposed activity will have no impact on cultural resources and no mitigation measures are needed.

Pat Barker

Barker/kms/02-04-87



United States Department of the Interior (3620) CA-010(R)-10
(C-017.3)

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
1415 No. Norma Street
Ridgecrest, CA 93555
Office Hours: 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Phone: (714) 446-4526

AUG 30 1979

Mr. Robert O. Watkins
District Director, Caltrans
500 So. Main Street - Box 847
Bishop, CA 93514

Re: CA-010(R)-1019
Attachment C

Dear Mr. Watkins:

The Free Use Permit authorizing Caltrans to extract gravel from the existing pit approximately five miles west of Death Valley Junction, CA., is amended as follows:

A "hot-batch" facility may be placed and operated on the site, subject to the following stipulations:

1. No mixing table is allowed.
2. No oil or asphaltic material will be dumped or buried on the site. Accidental spills will be cleaned-up immediately.
3. The facility will be temporary and is subject to the time limitation for the authorized gravel extraction.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Kris Hayes
Kris Hayes

Ridgecrest Area Manager



Save Energy and You Serve America!

*Bob Clark
from HQ*

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Attachment B

Inyo County Planning Department
Drawer L
Independence, CA 93526

RE: CUP #79-14/CALTRANS

Gentlemen:

In accordance with the conditions placed on Conditional Use Permit #79-14 issued to CALTRANS by the Inyo County Planning Commission on August 1, 1979 and as stated in the Notice of Decision dated August 3, 1979, we agree to accept the responsibility for reclaiming the mined lands as stated therein.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "R. L. Prager", is written over a horizontal line.

Attachment B

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Barstow Resource Area
831 Barstow Road
Barstow, CA 92311

IN REPLY REFER TO:

CA-060-FP1-9
3620 (C-068.25)
CA-068-1-59
1791

Date: APR 29 1981

RECEIVED

MAY 18 1981

INYO CO. PLANNING DEPT.

To : Acting Area Manager, Barstow

FROM : Geologist, Barstow

SUBJECT: Application from California Department of Transportation
for Free Use Permit for Sand and Gravel

The environmental impacts associated with the proposed action have been assessed. I recommend approval of the application with the stipulations in Exhibits 1 and 2 of the attached EAR. I do not consider the proposed action to be a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment within the meaning of NEPA; therefore, an environmental impact statement is not required.

K. C. Schulte

I (do) ~~(do not)~~ concur: *[Signature]*
Acting Area Manager, Barstow

4/30/81
Date

Enclosures

Schulte/ps/04-28-81

Attachment B

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Barstow Resource Area
851 Barstow Road
Barstow, CA 92311

IN REPLY REFER TO:

CA-060-IP1-9
3620 (C-068.25)
CA-068-1-59
1791

To : Acting Area Manager, Barstow

Date: *Schulte* 4-29-81
APR 29 1981

FROM : Geologist, Barstow

SUBJECT: Application from California Department of Transportation
for Free Use Permit for Sand and Gravel

The environmental impacts associated with the proposed action have been assessed. I recommend approval of the application with the stipulations in Exhibits 1 and 2 of the attached EAR. I do not consider the proposed action to be a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment within the meaning of NEPA; therefore, an environmental impact statement is not required.

KEN SCHULTE

I (do) ~~(do not)~~ concur: KEN MOORE
Acting Area Manager, Barstow

APR 30 1981

Date

Enclosures

Schulte/ps/04-28-81

Attachment B

CA-060-FP1-9
3620 (C-068.25)
CA-068-1-59
1791

Environmental Assessment Record

and

Technical Examination Report

State Department of Transportation

Free Use Permit #CA-060-FP1-9

Sand and Gravel

California Desert District
Barstow Resource Area
Planning Unit #42

H.C. Schulte
Geologist,
Barstow Resource Area

4-29-81
Date

[Signature]
Acting Area Manager,
Barstow Resource Area

4/30/81
Date

Attachment B

CA-060-FP1-9
3620 (C-068.25)
CA-068-1-59
1791

I. BACKGROUND:

A. Location and Status of Lands Affected:

Inyo County, California
T. 25 N., R. 4 E., S.B.M.
Section 13: SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$

The proposed 80-acre site is located on an alluvial fan north of Highway 190 about 5 miles west of Death Valley Junction (see Exhibit A).

The site is on public lands classified for multiple use under #R-1250, which segregates the lands from entry only under agricultural land laws and from sales under #RS-2455.

There are no grazing leases or mining claims in the area.

The site is crossed in an east-southeast by west-north west direction by two utility rights-of-way: #R-01247 (12.5' from centerline) power transmission line and #LA-092906 (20' from centerline) telephone line. Between the utility lines lies Highway 190, S-0 31950 (200').

B. Adjoining Land Uses:

The only use appearing to take place in the area is sightseeing and transportation along Highway 190.

C. BLM Plans for Affected Area:

In the plan for the CDCA the site is shown as Class L (limited). Class L guidelines provide for continued use of existing areas of sand and gravel extraction subject to permit from the authorized officer. The subject site also falls within a non-recommended wilderness study area. Sand and gravel extraction in WSA's is authorized subject to meeting the wilderness non-impairment criteria.

D. Present and Projected Demand for Mineral Materials:

Bureau of Mines figures show that in 1978 103,694 short tons of sand and gravel worth \$252,996.00 were produced in Inyo County. The subject application is for 100,000 cubic yards (150,000 tons) per year. This represents an estimate of the maximum amount that would be used in case of a construction job. In reality, the total probably will not exceed 100,000 cubic yards during the 5-year period. Demand may increase in the future for sites such as this where impacts have already occurred. This is because most deposits fall into Class L which requires a time consuming EIS on new sites in excess of 5 acres.

Attachment B

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II. DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES:

A. Proposed Action:

The State Department of Transportation has applied for a Free Use Permit for 100,000 cubic yards per year of gravel. The proposed action represents a renewal of #CA-010-(R)-1019. The figure of 100,000 cubic yards represents the maximum amount that would be used for construction work. The actual amount used will probably be much less than this and will be used mostly for repair work. Cal-Trans would like the permit for a 5 year period. The gravel will be used as aggregate and fill material for road rebuilding material.

The mining will be done with a bulldozer and front-end loader. Temporary structures may include a screen, hot plant and small asphalt pile.

The site will be reclaimed by leveling piles and cutting slopes to 2H:1V or flatter with the area graded to drain. The slopes will be ripped horizontally to promote revegetation.

B. Alternative Actions:

1. Amend the application by selecting an alternate site.
2. Reduce the size of the application area.
3. Deny the permit

III. DESCRIPTION OF THE EXISTING ENVIRONMENT:

A. Non-Living Components:

The climate is warm-arid, and temperatures exceed 100 degrees F during summer. Air quality is good and precipitation averages 4 to 5 inches per year.

The application covers 80 acres on an alluvial fan (bajada) slopping 2 to 3 degrees to the south.

Soils in the area are sandy and gravelly with a silt-clay matrix. The soil sensitivity is shown as low to medium on Map #3 of the desert plan.

The material to be mined is pebbly sand with a high proportion of granules and cobbles suitable as aggregate and fill materials. There are local concentrations of gravel with boulders up to 16 inches in diameter, although most particles are under 12 inches (see Photo #3). Subsoils contain developed "B" horizons, calcium carbonate accumulations or stratified horizons of different textures. Some surfaces have a developed pavement formation.

There is no water on or near the subject site.

Attachment B

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B. Living Components:

The site consists primarily of a creosote bush (Larrea tridentata) community, which is a characteristic of many of the alluvial fan areas in the region. This community is dominated by creosote bush, with bursage (Ambrosia dumosa) having equal numbers, but not dominating because of a smaller size. A number of other shrubs also occur along with several cactus species. Part of the site has been previously used as a gravel site and has been partially revegetated (see Photo #4). Except for the absence of cactus, the species present on the disturbed area are similar to the undisturbed areas. The disturbed area is dominated by bursage, desert holly (Atriplex hymenelytra), cheese bush (Hymenoclea salsola), and desert alyssum (Lepidium fremontii). No Federal or State listed endangered or rare plants are known to occur on the site or in the vicinity.

No Federal or State listed endangered wildlife species are known to inhabit the area. An inspection revealed that species inhabiting the site are the Merriam kangaroo rat (Dipodomys merriami), deer mouse (Peromyscus maniculatus), little pocket mouse (Perognathus longimembris), White-Crowned Sparrow (Zonotrichia leucophrys), Black-Throated Sparrow (Amphispiza bilineata), and Horned Lark (Eremophila alpestris). The Raven (Corvus corax) and the side-blotched lizard (Uta stansburiana) are probably present but were not observed at the time the site was inspected.

C. Ecological Interrelationships:

The flow of energy and nutrients through the food chain associated with the subject area is basically the same as elsewhere, but the volumes are somewhat reduced. Of the primary non-living components of an ecosystem, the lack of water is probably the greatest limiting factor. This along with high temperatures and the lack of soil development limit the number and variety of plants which in turn limit the number and variety of animals. No significant ecological interrelationships are known to exist in the area.

D. Human Values:

The site is on a large alluvial fan about one mile south of the southeast terminus of the Funeral Mountains. The area is regarded as having high scenic quality. It is dominated by the Funeral Mountains, which received high-medium scores for landform, color, vegetation, and uniqueness. The scenery quality is B (Visual Polygon B-31). The visual management Class is III. Since the site is visible in the foreground middle zone, the sensitivity would be of medium concern.

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The site falls within Wilderness Study Area 143 which includes the rugged and colorful southern extension of the Funeral Mountains, Pyramid Peak, and the enclosed valley called Red Amphitheater. The portion of the roadless area where man's work is substantially unnoticeable, includes the Funeral Mountains and bajadas north and south of the mountains. This portion of the area has retained its primeval character and influence.

Opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation are outstanding. Narrow winding canyons and large, rugged peaks and ridges create solitude. Primitive types of recreation are enhanced by being adjacent to a proposed national monument wilderness area which encompasses the majority of the Funeral Mountains, a part of the Amargosa Range. These opportunities are further enhanced by adjacent wilderness values in Death Valley National Monument.

The area has been examined by an Archaeologist, and it was found that there are cultural values in the general vicinity of the site: The Tidewater and Tonopah Railroad 6 miles to the east, and the berm for a narrow-gage railroad half a mile to the south. The region contains many cultural sites from pre-historic Indian habitation. There are no archaeological values indicated on the site.

IV. ANALYSIS OF PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES:

A. Impacts From the Proposed Action:

About 10 percent of the site has been disturbed by previous mining conducted by Cal-Trans. As shown in Exhibit B, this area is located just north of the powerline right-of-way. The disturbed area is a shallow pit that was abandoned years ago and is now reclaimed (Photo #4). Recent gravel removal from the site has been from the highway right-of-way immediately north of Highway 190 (Photos #1 & 2). This active pit measures 160 X 210 feet with a maximum depth of 10 feet. Adjacent to it is a gravel pile 40 feet wide by 160 feet long.

The pit as shown on Exhibit B may be enlarged from 7.3 acres to an additional 18.4 acres, or an enlargement of 60 percent. The depth would range from 3 to 10 feet. The pit can not be taken below this depth because of a hard pan layer. The proposed action would eliminate existing vegetation and wildlife habitat where the pit is expanded.

A small amount of dust and noise will be produced by trucks and equipment.

A weak-to-moderate visual impact would result from the gravel pit excavation and mixing site. The impacts would probably not be noticeable for more than half a mile in either direction from Highway 190. The site is somewhat obscured from sight by the distance and topography. Also, the contour of the subject area after mining will be very similar to the surrounding terrain and, thus, will blend into the background.

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Since the site is already disturbed, the activity meets visual resource management Class III objectives for the interim management.

The proposed project would not impair the overall suitability of the Wilderness Study Area for preservation as wilderness since it involves a relatively small area (18 acres), is located at the edge of the WSA, occupies a site of which 7 acres have already been disturbed by previous gravel and sand mining by Cal-Trans, and currently has two active rights-of-way crossing it. The impact on the entire Wilderness Study Area would be insignificant.

B. Alternatives:

1. Select an alternate site. This would only relocate the impacts to another area and might result in mining an inferior deposit of sand and gravel.

Use of the historical gravel site at the present American Borate Company's millsite would result in no known environmental impacts because the site has been totally disturbed by the existing mining operations. This site is about 11 miles farther west of the proposed site. However, the Bureau's legal position is doubtful in the case of the site, as the land is currently under a millsite patent application by American Borate Company.

Use of a potential gravel material area east of the proposed site would not have an impact on the WSA, but would result in a greater impact to the surface resources (plants, animals, visual), because the area has not been previously disturbed.

2. Reduce the size of the application area. This alternative would not allow Cal-Trans the latitude they seek for choosing the quality of material they need. If a shallow hard pan is encountered, the pit may be restricted to a depth of only 3 feet.

3. Deny the permit. This alternative would be inconsistent with the Bureau's philosophy and would likely increase highway repair costs.

C. Possible Mitigating Measures:

All cutslopes could be graded to 3:1 (run:rise) or more gentle.

All sand and silt left as residue on the site could be graded to blend with the natural contour.

All disturbed areas could be scarified to encourage natural revegetation.

The permittee's access could be restricted to the existing haul road.

Attachment B

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The permittee could be required to use water as necessary to control fugitive dust.

Surface disturbance could be restricted to the north side of Highway 190.

The pit could be contoured as directed by BLM.

The permittee could be required to cover an existing 15-foot-diameter asphalt oil pool located in a shallow depression.

BLM could exercise the right to terminate the permit at any time in case the area is designated as wilderness.

Not all 80 acres will be used simultaneously. The site will probably go unused for as long as a year at a time. Reclamation measures will be employed as mining progresses through the site. About 25 acres of the parcel lie south of Highway 190 and will not be impacted or used.

D. Residual Impacts:

See Part IV, A above. The mined area will be denuded for many years after the pit is closed, but should significantly revegetate in 50 to 100 years. Although the site falls within a Wilderness Study Area, the impacts are minor since the site is not highly visible.

V. RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SHORT-TERM USE AND LONG-TERM PRODUCTIVITY:

The removal of mineral material is considered a short-term use of the land. The loss of plants and wildlife habitat would be a long-term, but localized disturbance. Natural recovery of the site would likely exceed 50 years.

VI. IRREVERSIBLE AND IRRETRIEVABLE COMMITMENTS OF RESOURCES:

Approximately 100,000 cubic yards of sand and gravel will be removed. A pit will remain, but will not be conspicuous from Highway 190. Eighteen acres of plant and wildlife habitat will be lost.

VII. PERSONS, GROUPS, AND AGENCIES CONSULTED:

Cal-Trans

VIII. INTENSITY OF PUBLIC INTEREST:

No adverse public interest is anticipated.

CA-060-FP1-9
3620 (C-068.25)
CA-068-1-59
1791.

IX. PARTICIPATING STAFF:

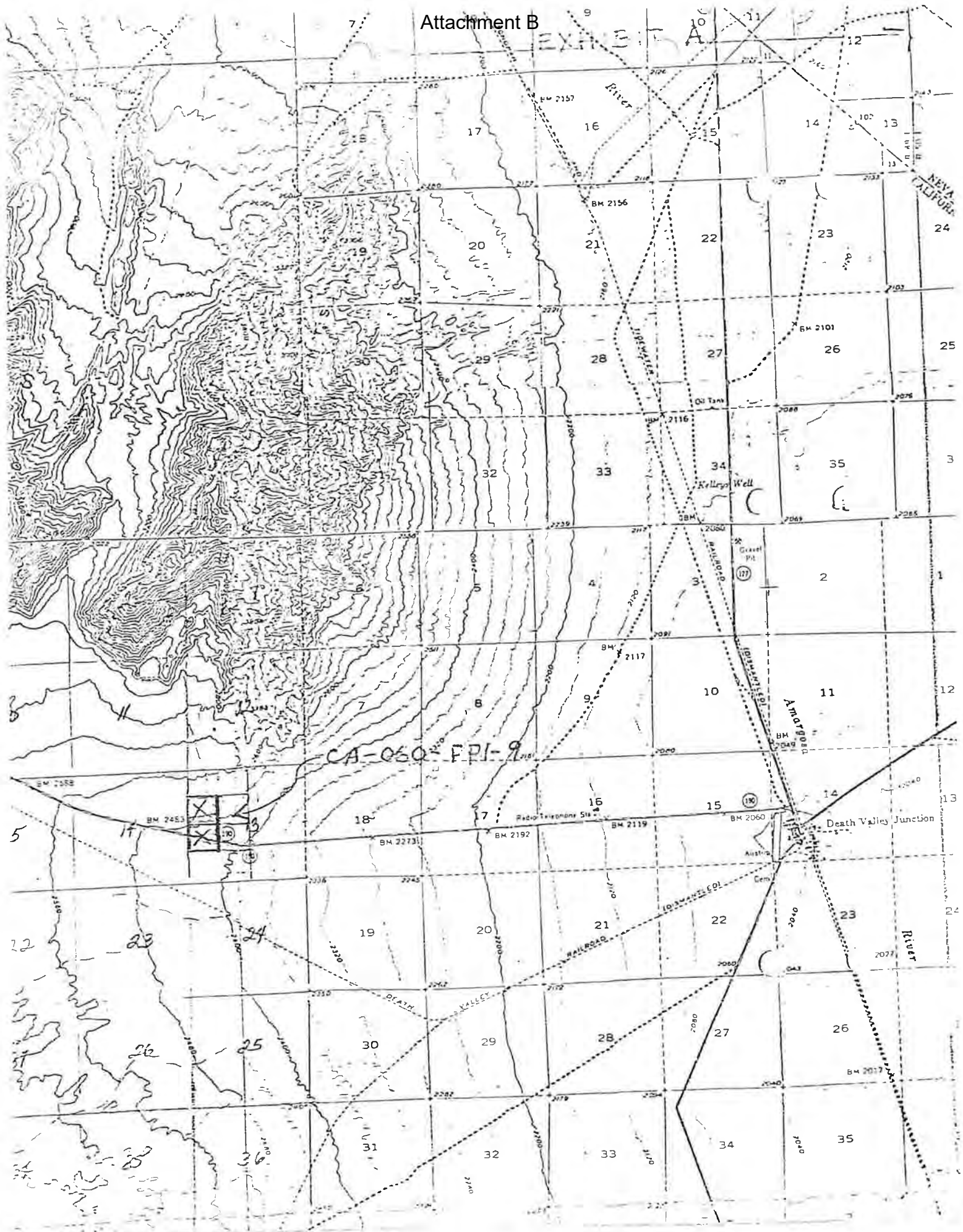
Ken Schulte, Geologist and Team Leader

Stan Zuber, Outdoor Recreation Planner

Jeffrey Aardahl, Wildlife Biologist

Kelly Strahan, Archaeologist

Glenn Harris, Range Conservationist

$$B \quad \text{---} \quad A$$


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24.50

R/W Line

To Lino
05/10/150

Solid Lines are
Existing Conditions

55

14

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06/20

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1086⁷⁴

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⑤ 4-3

并

2450

~~EXISTING~~
~~EXCAVATION~~

SCd/e 1"-200

11/27/2015

Ms. #286

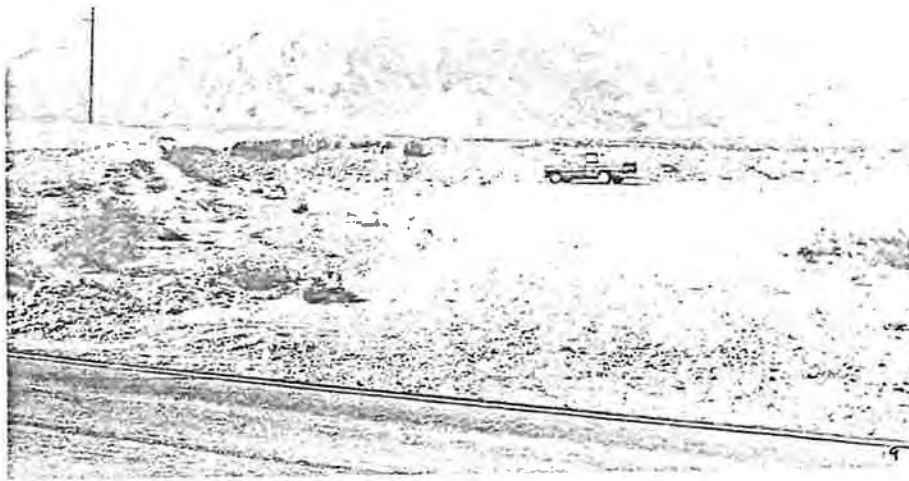
Material Site 5.4 - miles West of
Death Valley Junction (37th Acres)
S. 1/2, SW 1/4 NW 1/4, NE 1/4, SE 1/4, S.W. 1/4 (B)

20/11/20

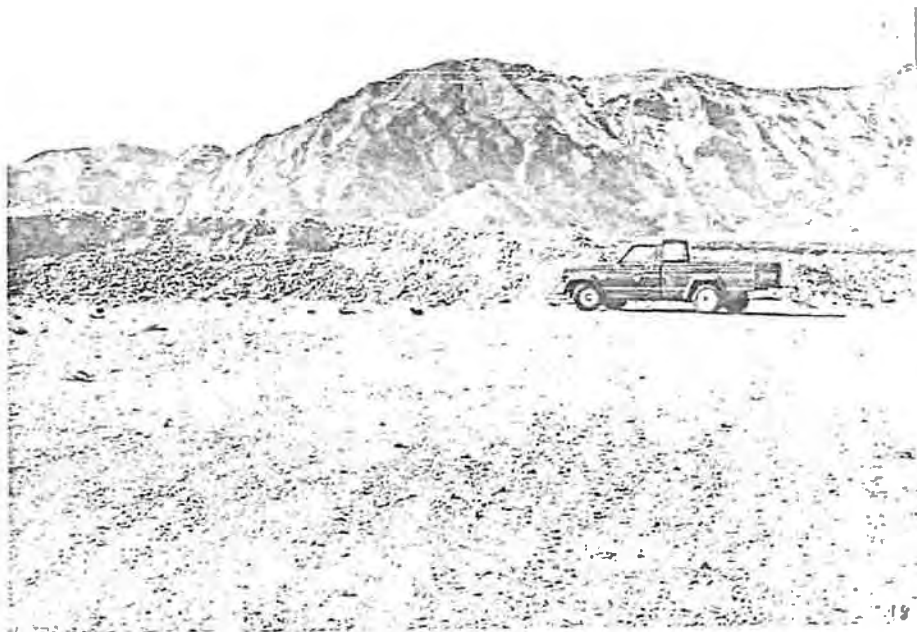
4

Material Site 5.4 - 1000' West of
Death Valley Junction (37°N, 115°W)
5. 1/2, SW 1/4 of NW 1/4, NW 1/4, SW 1/4, (37°N, 115°W)

Attachment B



4-8-81 Photo #1 Looking north at gravel stockpile within right-of-way for Hwy. 190.



4-8-81 Photo #2 Close-up of above photo.

Attachment B

Photo #3 4-8-81

Close-up view of stockpiled gravel. There are occasional boulders up to 16" in diameter, but few clasts are over 12".

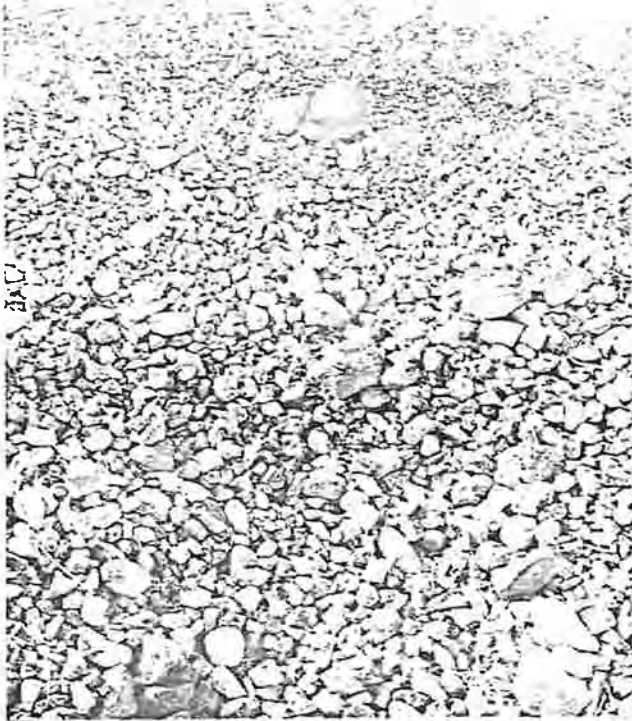


Photo #4 4-8-81 Looking north at 15-ft-diameter asphalt oil pool in reclaimed pit. Note how vegetation has returned to the disturbed area.

Attachment B

Exhibit 1

FREE USE PERMIT STIPULATIONS

1. The permittee will effect a minimum of vegetative or soil disturbances consistent with practical construction operations and will smooth all disturbed areas to conform as near as practical with the adjacent terrain, provide adequate water drainage for any roads constructed to minimize erosion and maintain any service roads in good condition for use by automotive vehicles and permit the free use of any such service roads by employees of the Federal government or their authorized agents. The permittee will correct any deficiencies as determined to be necessary by the District Manager, Bureau of Land Management.
2. Proper precaution will be taken at all times to prevent and suppress fires. The permittee will be held responsible for suppression costs for any fires on public lands caused through negligence of his employees, contractors or subcontractors. No debris burning will be allowed without specific permission from the District Manager in charge of administration of the public lands involved.
3. That no holes, pits, equipment or facilities be maintained on the ground during extraction or upon termination of the permit which would endanger human life, livestock or wildlife.
4. Operations will be conducted in such a manner so as not to interfere with utilities.
5. Following removal of earth, sand or gravel, all cut slopes will be graded to a SH to IV slope or more gentle.
6. Any affected natural drainages are to be reestablished upon completion of excavation in any one area.
7. All disturbed areas will be scarified a minimum of 3 inches and a maximum of 6 inches to encourage natural revegetation upon termination of the permit.
8. The permittee will notify the BLM area Archaeologist immediately if any artifact or object of historical, paleontological or archaeological significance is found on the subject site.
9. That the authorized officer or his delegate be allowed to examine at any time the mineral material area so described, the records and books of the permittee to determine the quantity of mineral material removed, and inspect the described area for compliance with the provisions of the permit.
10. That on Oct. 1st of each year and upon termination of the permit the

Attachment B

permittee will submit an accounting of the total mineral material removed under the terms of the permit.

11. That all mineral material (raw material, processed material, excess or reject material) remains the property of the United States Government until used on a public project, that it cannot be bartered or sold by the grantee or his agent, and that no part of the materials so enumerated may be used in payment for services in obtaining or processing it.
12. That the authorized officer will be consulted prior to the disposition of any excess or reject mineral material obtained from this Free Use Permit for purposes other than a public project or set forth in this instrument.
13. Only authorized structures shall be located on the site; such as stockpiles, scales, portable toilets and operating equipment. Mobile homes, trailers, or any permanent or temporary living quarters shall be considered unauthorized.
14. No dumping of trash, old asphalt, etc., shall occur on the site.
15. The permittee will notify the Barstow Resource Area Geologist prior to commencing any surface disturbance, and prior to and upon completion of surface restoration.
16. The permittee will follow the mining plan or any approved revision thereof.
17. All personnel working within the permit area (permittee, contractors, subcontractors) will be familiar with the terms and conditions of the approved permit.

Attachment B

CA-060-FPI-9

Exhibit 2 Special Provisions

1. The permittee shall grade all loose or stockpiled sand and silt on the site to blend with surrounding contours prior to inactivity periods of six months or longer.
2. The permittee's access shall be limited to the existing entrance.
3. The permittee shall use water as necessary to control fugitive dust.
4. The permittee shall restrict mining and surface disturbance to the north side of Highway 190.
5. The permittee shall contour the pit as directed by the Area Manager or a designated representative.
6. Before any activity takes place under this permit, the permittee shall cover the existing 15-foot-diameter asphalt oil pool located in one of the shallow depressions.
7. BLM may exercise the right to terminate the permit at any time in case the subject area is designated as wilderness.

Attachment B

☆ U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1979 678-3.

Form 5510-1
(January 1979)UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENTFORM APPROVED
OMB NO. 42-R0875FREE USE APPLICATION AND PERMIT
VEGETATIVE OR MINERAL MATERIAL
APPLICATIONPermit Number
CA-060-FPI-9
Expiration Date
District

Name of applicant Department of Transportation State of California			Address (include zip code) P. O. Box 847 Bishop, CA 93514		
Kind of material Aggregate			Estimated quantity 100,000 cy/yr		
Give legal land description					
TOWNSHIP	RANGE	SECTION	SUBDIVISION		

25N 4E 13 SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of NW $\frac{1}{4}$ and
NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of SW $\frac{1}{4}$

(State M/S No. 286)

State of California	County of Inyo
------------------------	-------------------

Materials are to be used for

Repairing and construction of highways

I HEREBY AGREE TO COMPLY WITH the special conditions as set forth below. I CERTIFY That the: (a) materials to be removed are to be used for the purpose noted above; (b) none of the materials removed are to be sold or bartered; (c) removal of materials can begin only upon receipt of an approved copy of this permit; and, (d) the authorized officer is to be notified upon completion of removal.

I CERTIFY That I am twenty-one years of age or older, a citizen of the United States, and resident of the State of

I FURTHER CERTIFY That the statements made by me in this application are true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief and are made in good faith.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

[Signature]



Planning Department
168 North Edwards Street
Post Office Drawer L
Independence, California 93526

Phone: (760) 878-0263
(760) 872-2706
FAX: (760) 872-2712
E-Mail: InyoPlanning@telis.org

91-14-006

September 2, 1997

NOTICE OF DECISION

Luis Elias
CalTrans
500 South Main St.
Bishop, CA 93514

RE: Reclamation Plan #96-10/ New Death Valley Borrow Pit/MS #286A

Dear Mr. Elias:

On June 25, 1997, the Inyo Planning Commission held a public hearing to consider your Reclamation Plan 96-10/New Death Valley, located in Section 14, Township 25N, Range 4E, (S.B.B.&M.), 5.5 miles east of the community of Death Valley Junction, South of Highway 190. The project is a request to reclaim the Death Valley Borrow Pit at the Conclusion of mining.

The Planning Commission approved your project based on the following findings:

Staff recommends the Planning Commission **approve** Reclamation Plan # 96-10 Death Valley Junction Borrow Pit/MS #286A by taking the following actions:

- A. Based upon the Initial Study and all written and verbal comments received, adopt the Mitigated Negative Declaration of Environmental Impact and certify the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act have been satisfied.

[Evidence: In accordance with the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act, an Initial Study and Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration of Environmental Impact were prepared and circulated for public comment.]

- B. Find the proposed reclamation plan conforms and meets the requirements of Chapter 7.70 (Mining & Reclamation) of Inyo County Code and State Mining Reclamation Act of 1976.

- C. Find the potential loss of native vegetation and wildlife habitat to be greater than the standards set by the Fish and Game Code for potential habitat loss. Because of the potential loss of native vegetation and wildlife habitat, however sparse, Section 711.4 of the Fish and Game Code requires the payment of \$1,250.00 fee before this project is deemed "operative, vested, or final." The potential impact is greater than *de minimus* standard of section 711.4. Said \$1,250.00 shall be paid by the applicant at the time the Notice of Determination is filed by the Planning Department (15 days after the reclamation plan approval).

[Evidence: The subject property has not been disturbed and contains native vegetation and wildlife as documented by the photographic evidence.]

D. Approve Reclamation Plan No.96-10/Death Valley Junction Borrow Pit, MS #286A

CONDITIONS OF APPROVAL:

Term of Plan and Timing of Reclamation

1. The term of the reclamation plan shall not exceed twenty years from the date of approval, or no later than August 31, 2017. Total amount of usable aggregate and waste material that can be removed from this pit is 150,000 cubic yards. If 150,000 cubic yards are removed prior to the termination date, reclamation shall proceed within six months of the removal of the 150,000 cubic yards. The Planning Commission may grant an extension. The applicant must submit a complete reclamation plan application for an amended reclamation plan. To assure continued operation, the above application should be received prior to the expiration date and prior to removal of 150,000 cubic yards of material..

Interim Management Plan

2. Throughout the 20-year life of this project, the interim management plan shall be implemented during periods of "idle" operation. If zero production occurs for a period of five consecutive years, the reclamation plan shall be implemented immediately. Mining can not occur until an amended reclamation plan is submitted and approved by the Inyo County Planning Commission.
3. At the conclusion of each period of mining interim reclamation shall take place. This shall consist of regrading all slopes to 3:1 (H: V) or less.
4. During times of inactivity, Caltrans shall prevent public access to the pit.
5. During periods of inactivity all equipment and trash shall be removed from the area. No asphalt may be buried onsite.

Mapping

6. Caltrans shall provide the County with a contour map with two-foot contours within three years of approval of this reclamation plan.

Salvage of Growth Media (Topsoil)

7. The top six inches (6") of growth media (topsoil), shall be collected from areas to be disturbed (Borrow pits and internal access roads). This (topsoil) shall be stockpiled in the active work site until final phase reclamation.
8. After the site is recontoured, the salvaged topsoil shall be respread to a depth of six inches over the recontoured pit. (See condition #7)

Erosion Control

9. Pit slopes shall be contoured to a minimum of 3:1 (H: V). These slopes shall be in established during times of intermittent operation, times the interim management plan is in affect, and during final reclamation.

Earthwork

10. All compacted areas shall be scarified. Road berms shall be brought back into the roadway after scarification.

Noxious Weed Control

11. During mining and reclamation activities and during idle periods noxious weeds shall be controlled on site.

Seed Sources and Mixtures

12. Seed used for revegetation shall be collected on or near the site. If sufficient seed is not available, it may be purchased. A seed mix of plant species in the Mojave Creosote Bush Scrub plant community shall be used. Below is the recommended seed mix:

Scientific Name	Common Name	PLS Pounds/acre
PERENNIALS		
(<i>Larrea tridentata</i>)	Creosote bush	3
(<i>Ephedra nevadensis</i>)	Nevada joint-fir (Mormon Tea)	3
(<i>Hymenoclea Salsola</i>)	Cheese bush	3
(<i>Atriplex hymenolytra</i>)	Desert holly	3
(<i>Ambrosia dumosa</i>)	Burrobush	3
ANNUALS		
(<i>Chaenactis stevioides</i>)	Esteve's pincushion	4
(<i>Mirabilis Bigelovii</i>)	four-o'clock	4
(<i>Eriogonum inflatum</i>)	Desert Trumpet	5
Total pounds live seed per acre		28

These native species may only be obtained from seed stock found within five miles of the borrow site and within the Mojave Creosote Bush Scrub plant community. If purchased, the seed shall be certified originating in the Amargosa Valley. Reseeding shall take place during the fall.

Mulching

13. A mulch of native vegetative material and straw shall be applied at a rate of 1000 lbs. per acre into the seeding program. This mulch shall be crimped into the slope to provide both wind and water erosion control and seed holding. This will enhance revegetation.

Revegetation Methods

14. After scarification, the approved seed mix shall be broadcast and then mixed into the top one-half inch (½") of the substrate by either raking or dragging a chain across the seedbed. This shall be done perpendicular to the slope of the pit.

Revegetation Performance Standard

15. Reclamation will not be considered successful or complete until vegetative density reaches 20 percent (number of plants per unit area) of the surrounding undisturbed land with a 50 percent diversity (species richness) of the perennial species on surrounding undisturbed land. New

perennial species shall be at least two years old before considered viable plants. This shall be verified based upon visual calculations and substantiated by past photographs of the site including off site photographs of the surrounding undisturbed lands.

Monitoring

16. From initial seeding, the project shall be monitored until performance standards are met. Remedial measures may be implemented any time to insure revegetation success. For the first two years, monitoring shall be performed twice a year.

Remedial Measures

17. If it appears the site will not meet the performance standard, the applicant shall consult with the Planning Department for recommendations on remedial measures. The remedial measures listed below shall be considered if reclamation problems are observed during annual monitoring:
 - a. Mulching and/or fertilizing to supplement growth media;
 - b. Reseeding;
 - c. Irrigation;
 - d. Planting of appropriate plants and protection of these plants.
 - d. If irrigation is used the plants must make it on their own for two years.
 - e. Analysis of soil for problems;
 - f. Measures to reduce pest problems, including fencing individual plants.

Reporting and Annual Inspections

18. Each year the applicant shall file an annual mining report with the State. These reports shall be filed until financial assurances are released. Monitoring activities will continue until the County is satisfied that performance standards have been met. In accordance with SMARA Section 2774 (b), Inyo County as the Lead Agency shall inspect the site and file annual inspection reports with the State.

Inyo County Road Department

19. Caltrans shall allow Inyo County Road Department to remove material from this site. Caltrans shall be responsible for all reclamation requirements, including bonding and reporting. When Inyo County Road Department uses this pit, they shall adhere to the conditions of approval for this reclamation plan. Inyo County shall report the quantity of material to Caltrans each calendar quarter.

Reclamation Responsibility Statement

20. The applicant shall submit a notarized statement to the Inyo County Planning Department accepting responsibility for reclaiming lands as per the conditions specific herein.

Financial Assurances

21. Financial assurances in the sum of \$11,355.29 are required in the form of a surety bond, irrevocable letter of credit, cash or certificate of deposit. Government agencies may also use budget set asides, or pledge of revenue to post their financial assurances. Financial assurances shall be posted with the Inyo County Planning Department. Said assurances shall be made payable to the County of Inyo and the Director of the California Department of Conservation and The Bureau of Land Management.

Attachment B

Financial Assurance Recalculation

22. Financial assurances shall be recalculated each year in accordance with Section 2773.1(a)(3) of SMARA and Inyo County Code. This shall occur at the time of annual inspection.

Release of Financial Assurances

23. As required reclamation standards are achieved, that portion of financial assurances covering the completed activity may be released. The remainder of financial assurances covering revegetation and monitoring shall not be released until the revegetation performance standards is met.

Hold Harmless

24. The applicant, landowner, and operator shall defend, indemnify and hold harmless Inyo County, its agents, officers and employees from any claim, action, or proceeding against the County, its agents, officers and employees to attack, set aside, void, or annul any approval of the County, its advisory agencies, appeal boards, or its legislative body concerning Reclamation Plan No. 96-10/ Death Valley Junction Borrow Pit, MS 286A.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Earl H. Gann".

Earl H. Gann
Mine Reclamation Planner

Received by
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

SEP 22 1997

Office of Mine Reclamation

**MATERIAL SITE #286A
(NEW DEATH VALLEY JUNCTION SITE)
RECLAMATION PLAN**

DOC # 91-14-0046

Thu, Jan 30, 1997

**California State Department of Transportation
(Caltrans) District 09
500 South Main Street
Bishop, California 93514**

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4.10-1: REMEDIAL MEASURES

MAP SHEETS (in back pockets)

1. Existing Site Conditions
2. Reclamation Features
3. Final Reclamation Configuration

MATERIAL SITE #286A RECLAMATION PLAN

1.0.0 INTRODUCTION

Caltrans under a permit with the U. S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) intends to mine sand and gravel on federal lands about five miles west of Death Valley Junction, California. The site encompasses approximately 7.7 acres, and is currently undisturbed. Approximately 7.2 acres of this site will be mined intermittently over a 20-year period to provide material for road maintenance, and construction.

Approval of this reclamation plan is sought from the SMARA lead agency, Inyo County. This reclamation plan describes a process that will implement reclamation activities as soon as possible, returning land disturbed by mining to a condition suitable of supporting open space and wildlife habitat.

1.1.0 APPLICANT

California State Department of Transportation (Caltrans) District 09
500 South Main Street
Bishop, California 93514
(619) 872-0734

1.1.1 Representative

David B. Grah Senior Transportation Engineer
California State Department of Transportation (Caltrans), District 09
500 South Main Street
Bishop, California 93514
(619) 872-0734

1.2.0 LANDOWNER

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
150 Coolwater Lane,
Barstow, California 92311
(619) 256-3591

1.3.0 OPERATOR

California State Department of Transportation (Caltrans) District 09
500 South Main Street
Bishop, California 93514
(619) 872-0734

1.4.0 LESSEE

California State Department of Transportation (Caltrans) District 09
500 South Main Street
Bishop, California 93514
(619) 872-0734

1.5.0 LOCATION

Material Site #286A is located in Inyo County on BLM land approximately 5.5 miles west of the town of Death Valley Junction, California, on the south side of Highway 190 at Post Mile 135.5 (Figure 1).

1.5.1 Assessor's Parcel Number

The site occupies a portion of the land designated as Assessor's Parcel Number 43-070-00 (Figure 2).

1.5.2 Township, Range, Section, Quadrangle

The project site is located in the eastern portion of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute East of Ryan, California, Quadrangle Topographic Map (Provisional edition, 1988). The site is located in a portion of unsurveyed Section 14, Township 25 North, Range 4 East, San Bernardino Baseline and Meridian.

1.5.3 Latitude, Longitude

The mine site is located at Latitude 36 18' 13" North, Longitude 116 30' 39" West.

1.5.4 Claim Descriptions

The project site is known by Caltrans District 09, BLM, and the County of Inyo as State Material Site (MS) #286A. The site is also known as the New Death Valley Junction Material Site. The project name used for the purposes of this document will be MS #286A.

2.0.0 DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

2.1.0 SITE ACCESS

MS #286A is located approximately 5.5 miles west of the community of Death Valley Junction on the south side of Highway 190 at post mile 135.5. Currently, access to the site is from an unimproved dirt road created by the grading required to form the adjoining drainage berm (Figure 3).

2.2.0 TOPOGRAPHIC MAP

Figure 4 depicts the site's location in the eastern portion of the USGS 7.5-minute East of Ryan Quadrangle (Provisional Edition 1988); the site is not designated on the map. An old gravel pit is shown on the topographic base map approximately 0.5-mile east of the site to the north of Highway 190. The mine site boundaries have been transposed onto the map in Figure 4. Because the contour interval for the map is 40 feet, the topography of the site is not well defined. However, additional contour lines have been added to Map Sheet 1 (Existing Site Conditions) using the topographic map assuming a constant map distance for 10-foot intervals between the 40-foot intervals. Photo 1 depicts a view of the expected extraction area.

As shown on Figure 4, the site is located on the distal portion of the alluvial fan emanating from the Funeral Mountains to the north. Elevations at the site range from approximately 2,455 feet in the west to about 2,435 feet in the southeast corner of the site, producing approximately 20 feet of topographic relief. The topography steepens toward the mountains to the north, and flattens toward the valley to the southeast.

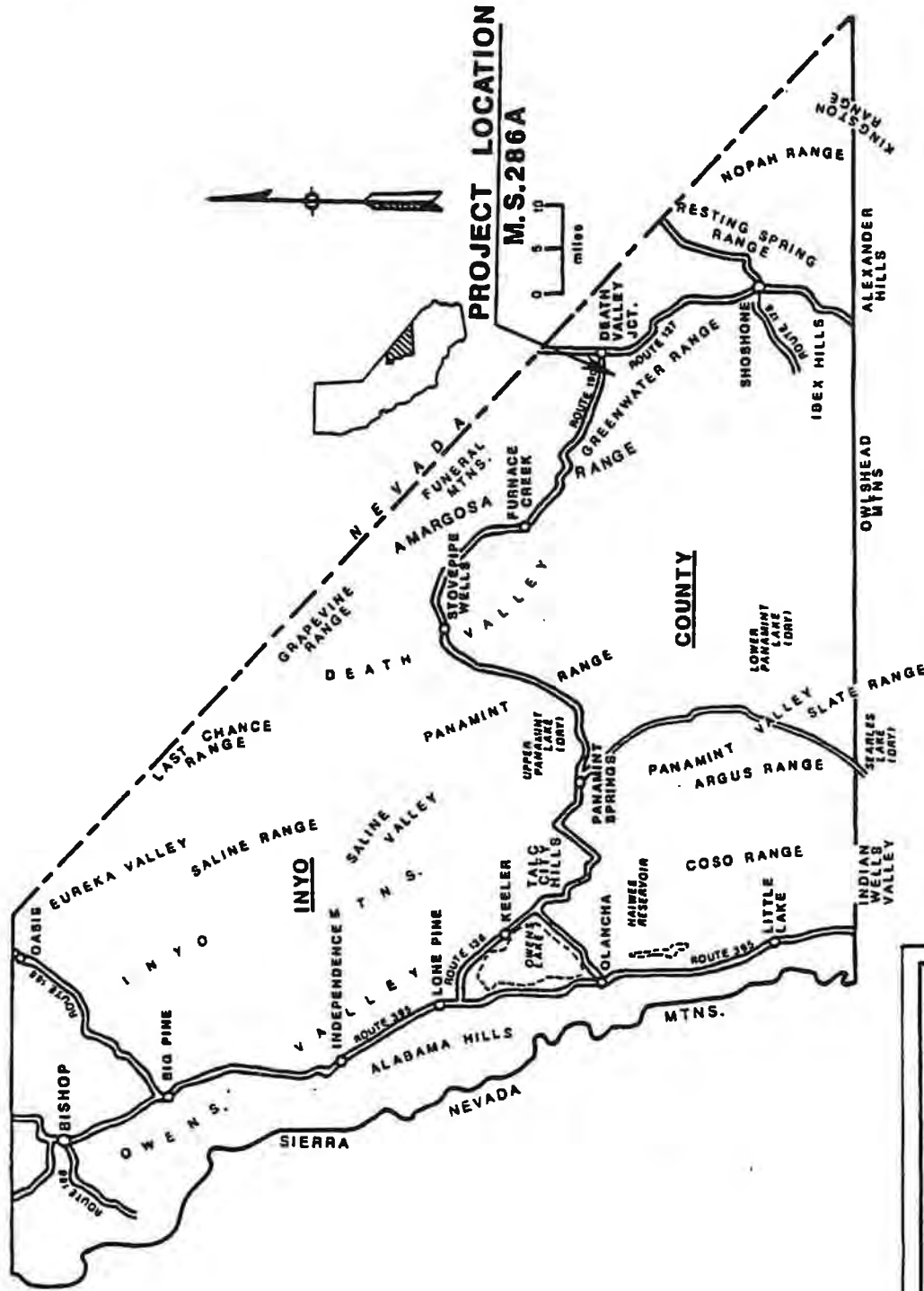


Figure 1: Regional Location
Caltrans Material Site #286A

1.1.0 APPLICANT

California State Department of Transportation (Caltrans) District 09
500 South Main Street
Bishop, California 93514
(619) 872-5204

1.1.1 Representative

Luis Elias, Senior Transportation Engineer
California State Department of Transportation (Caltrans), District 09
500 South Main Street
Bishop, California 93514
(619) 872-5204

1.2.0 LANDOWNER

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
150 Coolwater Lane,
Barstow, California 92311
(619) 256-3591

1.3.0 OPERATOR

California State Department of Transportation (Caltrans) District 09
500 South Main Street
Bishop, California 93514
(619) 872-5204

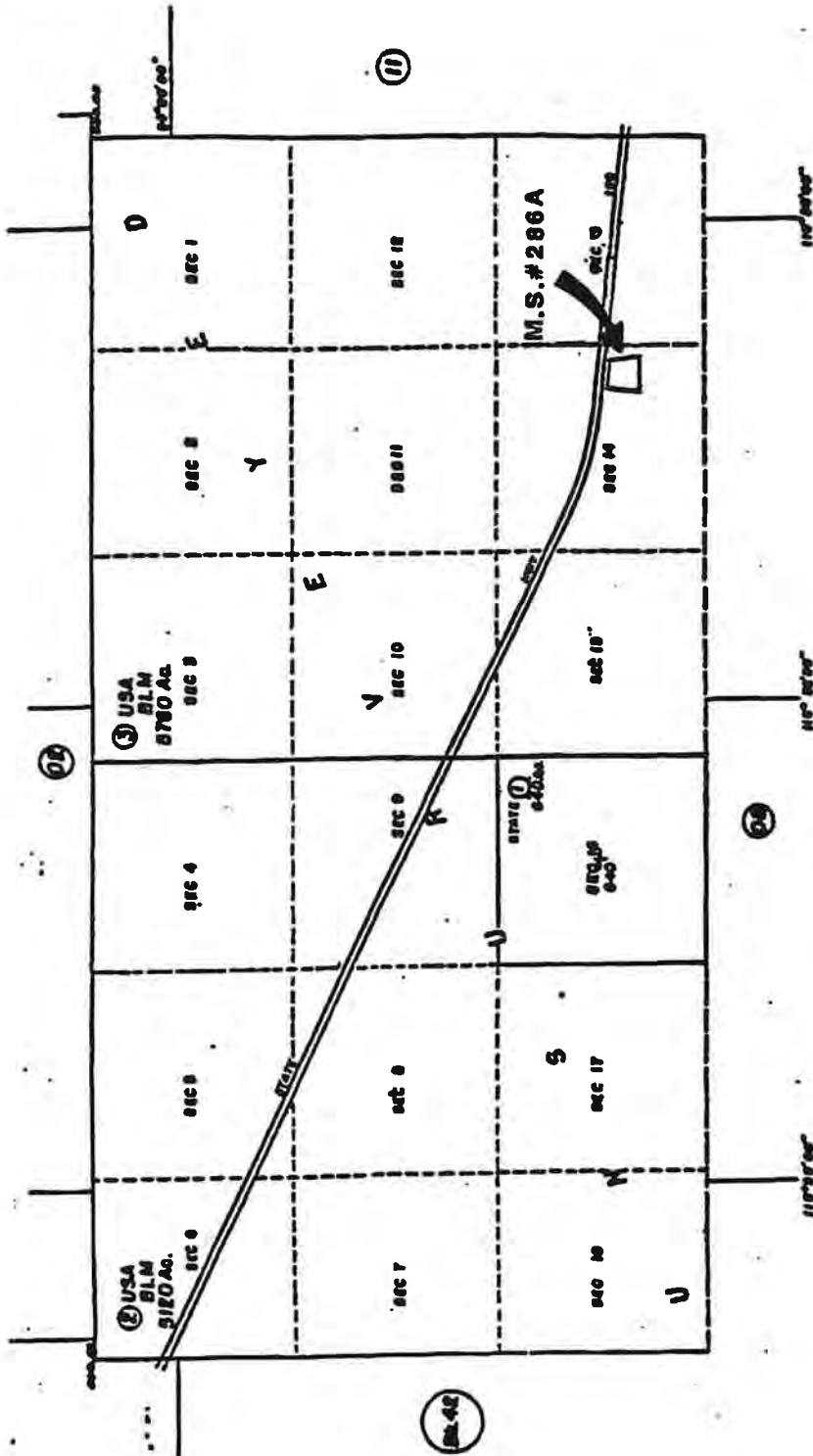
1.4.0 LESSEE

California State Department of Transportation (Caltrans) District 09
500 South Main Street
Bishop, California 93514
(619) 872-5204

43-07

N $\frac{1}{2}$ T25N, R.4E, S22E.M.

1/4 SEC AREA
66-000



Assessor's Map No. 43 Pg 07

County of Inyo, Calif

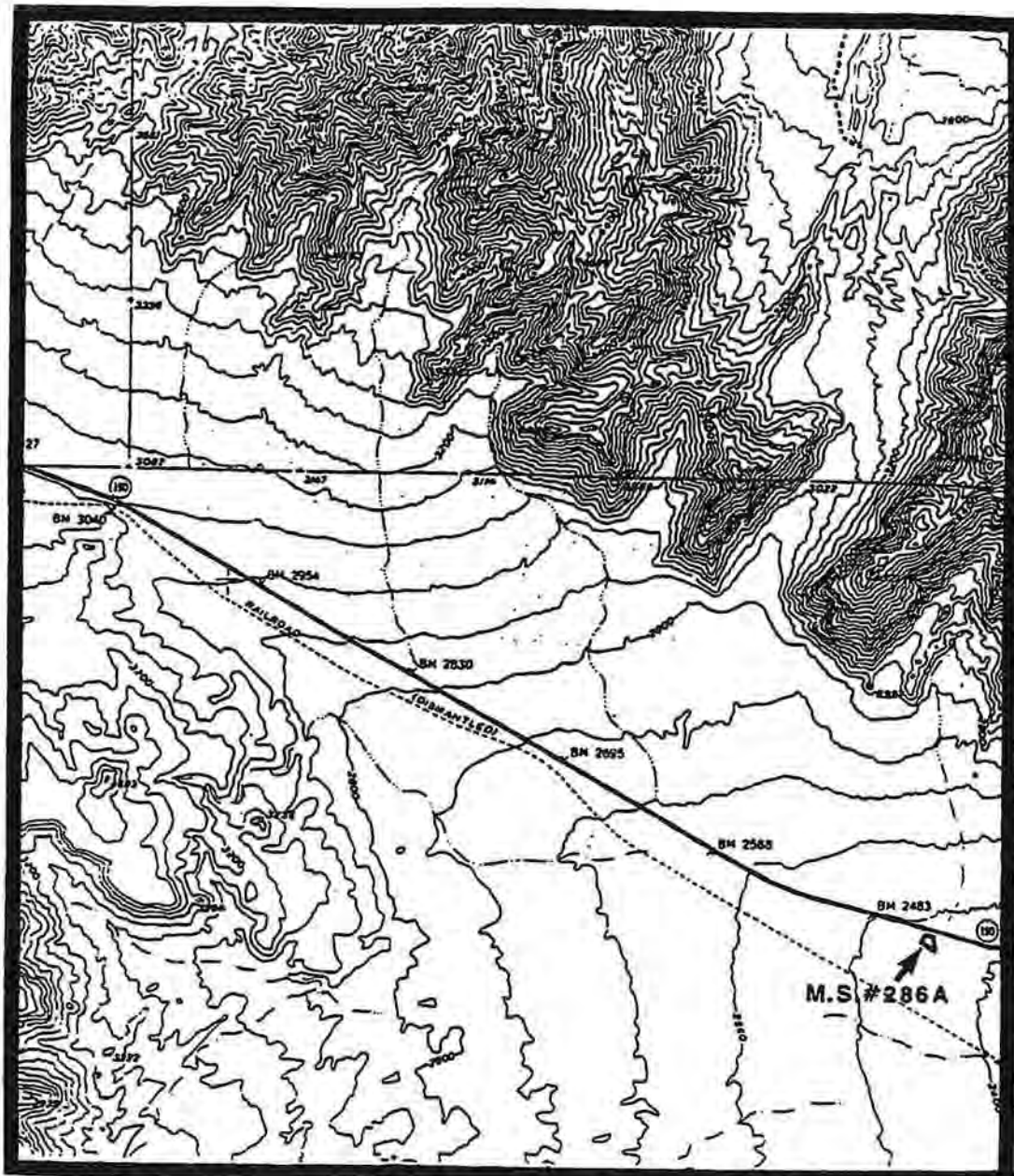
1980



CALIFORNIA PROPOSITION 13, 13.3 AND 13.5
APPLY TO THIS MAP AND NO PROPERTY INTEREST OF RECORD
IS AFFECTED BY THIS MAP



Figure 2: Assessor's Parcel Map
Caltrans Material Site #286A

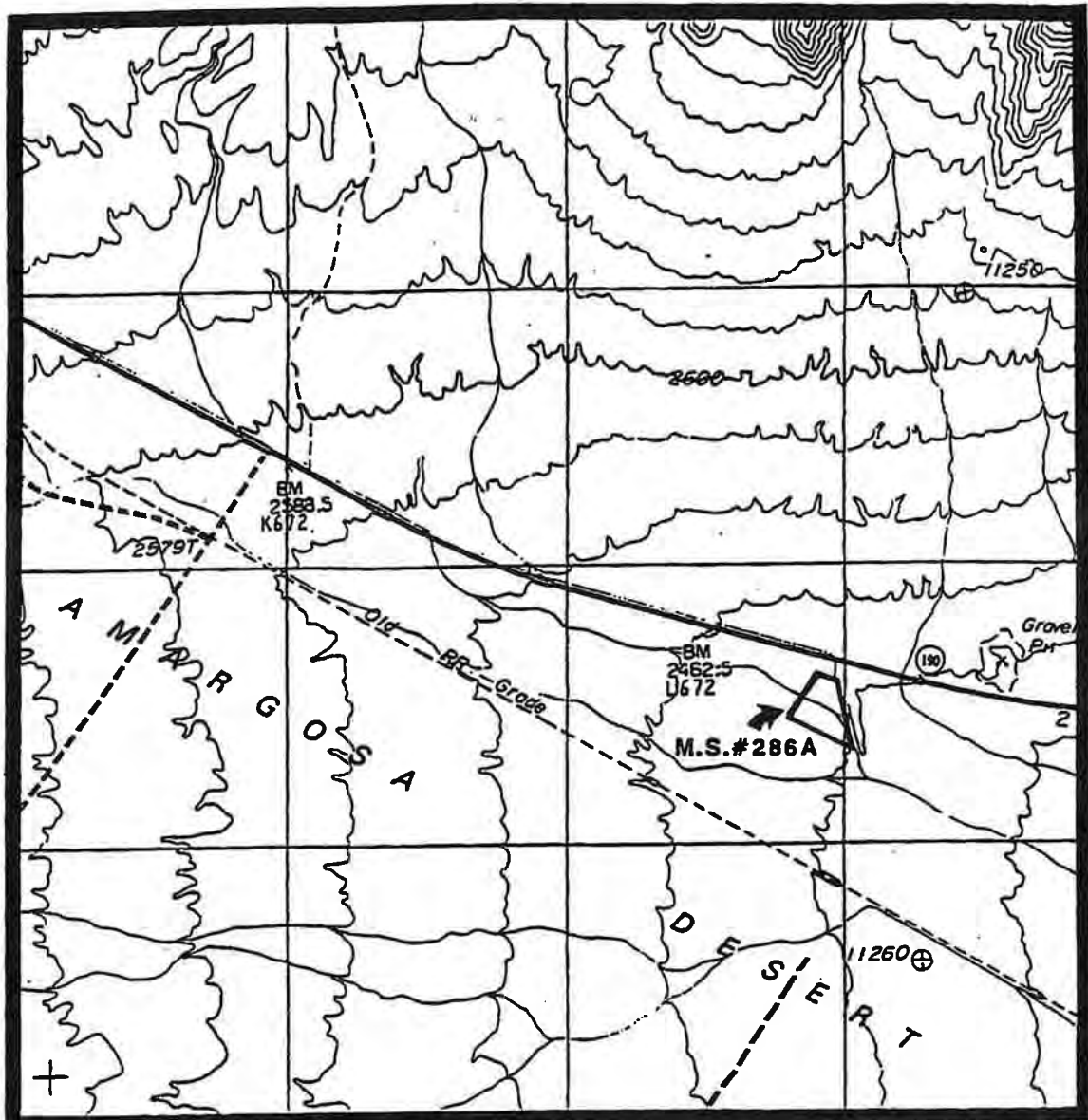


Modified from USGS Ryan, CA-NV, 15-minute quadrangle (1952)

Figure 3: Project Location and Access.
Caltrans Material Site #286A

0 1 Mile
SCALE





Modified from USGS 7.5-minute East of Ryan, Ca, topographic map (provisional edition, 1988)

Figure 4: Topographic Map
Caltrans Material Site #286A

2.3.0 GENERAL GEOLOGY

The site is located within a valley that enters the Amargosa River Valley between the Funeral Mountains to the northeast and the Greenwater Range to the southwest. The site is within a region known as the Basin and Range Geomorphic Province which is characterized by parallel and elongate north-to northwest-trending mountain ranges and valleys, known structurally as horsts and grabens, respectively. The Amargosa River Valley is a structural (graben-like) depression created by extension of crustal blocks within the region (Burchfiel et al. 1983).

Rock types within the area are dominated by Quaternary alluvial and basin deposits, Cenozoic volcanic rocks, and Paleozoic sedimentary and metasedimentary rocks.

2.3.1 Site Specific Geology and Geologic Cross Section

A reconnaissance geologic assessment of the site was performed January 20, 1994. As shown in Figures 5 and 6 (modified from McAllister 1971), MS #286A is located on younger alluvial fan deposits that are at least 50 feet thick beneath the site. As shown in the cross section, it is unknown what the depth to bedrock is, as well as the type of bedrock that underlies the site.

2.3.2 Ore Body/Deposit Being Mined

This mine site will be developed by Caltrans as a source of sand and gravel for road construction and maintenance. The surficial alluvial fan deposits are the source for this sand and gravel. These types of deposits are typically composed of an unsorted, loose mixture of sand and gravel. Samples from the material being mined consist of poorly graded sands with gravel (Unified Soils Classification System designations of SP).

2.3.3 Slope Stability

The slope of the existing topography at the site is approximately three percent, which is relatively flat-lying (Map Sheet 1). Under the existing conditions, there are no slope stability problems because of the nearly flat-lying configuration of the site.

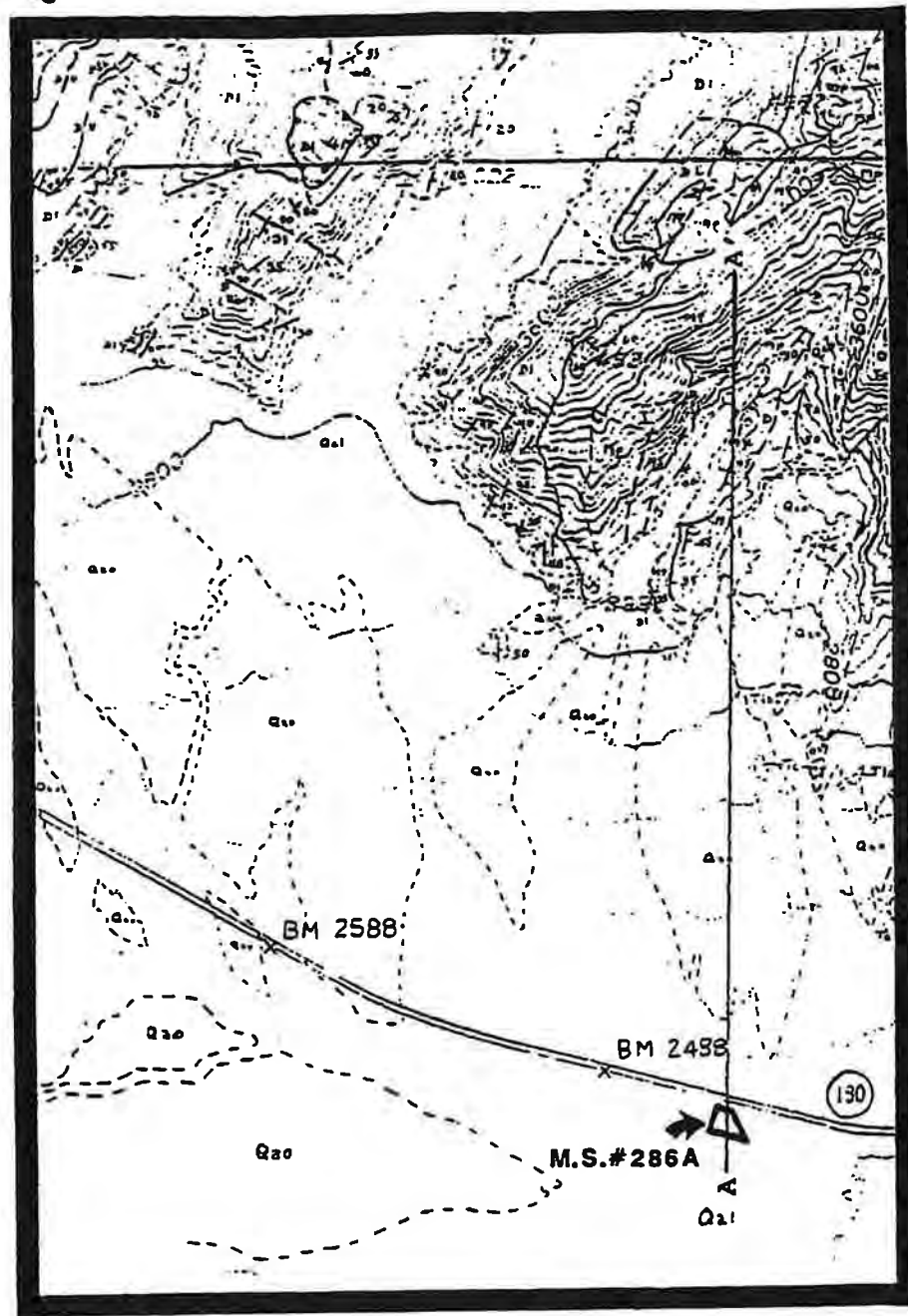
2.3.4 Seismicity

The site is located within an area of active seismicity. The closest faults to the site are just to the north, as shown in Figure 5, and are considered pre-Quaternary, non-active faults (Jennings 1992). According to Jennings (1992), the closest active fault is the Northern Death Valley-Furnace Creek fault zone (NDV-FCFZ), which is approximately 13 miles west of the site. Based on fault lengths given in Hart, et al. (1989) and Jennings (1992), maximum credible earthquake magnitudes of 8 can be expected for the NDV-FCFZ.

2.4.0 GENERAL HYDROLOGY

The character of the surface- and ground-water regimes at the site are directly related to the existing topography, geology, and climate of the region. Surface waters drain from the Funeral Mountains, to the north, and the Greenwater Range, to the south, into the Amargosa River Valley which eventually drains into Death Valley. Ground waters generally follow the flow direction of the surface waters. In loose alluvial deposits, the water-table gradient is a subtle expression of the land surface, unless there are changes in the subsurface stratigraphy or structure. The predominant source for ground water in the region is infiltration of surface water within the mountainous areas.

Figure 5.



Modified from McAllister (1971)

0 1 Mile
SCALE

Figure 5 and 6: Map and Cross Section.
Caltrans Material Site #286A

* Figure 6 and Legend
for both figures on
following page

LEGEND FOR FIGURES 5 AND 6:

Qal Quaternary younger alluvium
Qoa Quaternary older alluvium

Ts Tertiary sandstone and mudstone
Tls Tertiary limestone and marlstone
Tc Tertiary conglomerate

Mp Mississippian Perdido Formation (limestone, conglomerate, and chert)

Mt Mississippian Tin Mountain Limestone

Dl Devonian Lost Burro Formation (limestone and dolomite)

Dsh Devonian Hidden Valley Dolomite

----- Contact, dashed where approximate
 $\Rightarrow \frac{U}{D} \frac{70}{5} \rightarrow ? \dots$ Fault, dashed where approximate, queried where unknown, dotted where covered, U = upthrown side, D = downthrown side, dip in degrees

▲▲▲▲▲ Thrust fault, dashed where approximate

$\angle 60$ Strike and dip of beds (in degrees)

$\angle 33$ Overturned beds (dip in degrees)

⊗ Landslide fracture, dashed where approximately located

A ————— A' Cross Section line (see Figure 6)

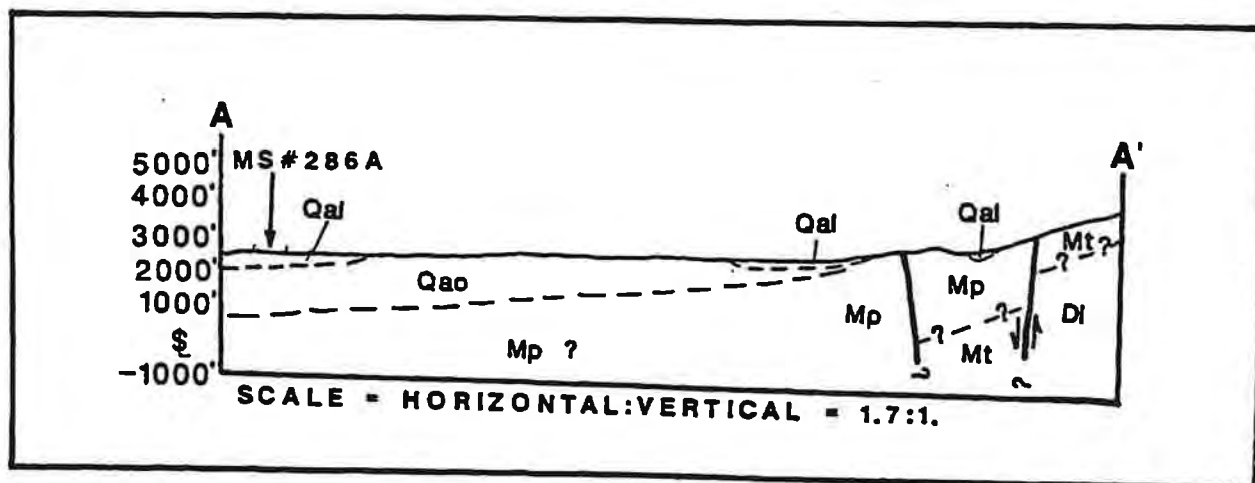


Figure 5 & 6 continued
from previous page

Figure 6.

2.4.1 Site Specific Hydrology

Figure 7 shows the two watersheds that contribute surface-water runoff to the mine site. The drainage area of Watershed #1 is approximately 1152 acres. The drainage for Watershed #1 crosses Highway 190 approximately one mile west of the site and then three braided tributaries of this drainage enter the site from the west (see Map Sheet #1). The drainage area of Watershed #2 is approximately 2080 acres. The drainage for Watershed #2, which has been channelized into a large ditch north of Highway 190, crosses the highway to the north of the site and drains mainly into the wash to the east of the site; only a minor portion of this drainage enters the mine site from the north (Map Sheet #1).

Using the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service (USDA-SCS 1986) TR-55 Tabular Hydrograph method and the California Department of Water Resources Bulletin 195 (DWR 1976) method, peak flows for a 20-year return period storm were calculated for Watersheds #1 and #2 at 14.4 and 23.4 cubic feet per second, respectively. Because of the braided and multiple tributary drainage pattern that exists on the site, the above peak surface-water flow amounts will not be concentrated in any individual drainage and, therefore, these amounts should be subdivided between the many drainages that enter the site.

2.4.2 Area Hydrogeology

The dominant ground-water aquifer underlying the site is found within alluvial and basin deposits. According to Langer, et al. (1984), ground water is approximately 150 feet beneath the site. Although there is the potential for perched ground water to occur at a more shallow depth, this is unlikely because the area's arid climate produces only a small amount of rain water that can directly infiltrate from the surface. Ground water will not likely be exposed during mining operations.

According to Thompson, et al. (1984), ground-water quality in the Amargosa River Valley is considered borderline poor. The natural chemistry of the ground water classes it as a sodium bicarbonate type with a total dissolved-solids concentration between 1,000 and 3,000 milligrams per liter.

2.4.3 Water and Land Uses

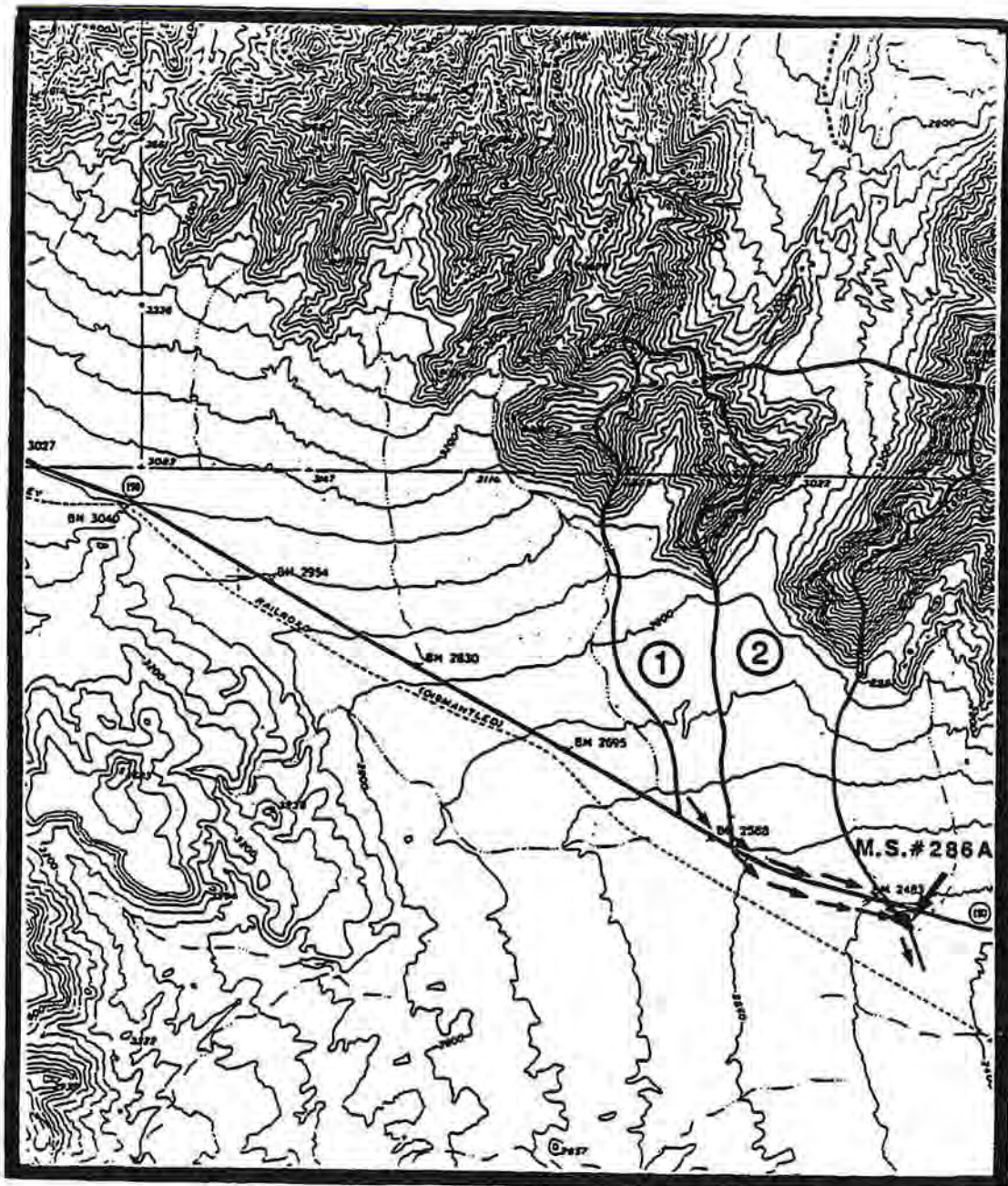
The land at the mine site is controlled by BLM for the U.S. Department of the Interior. The ground water and land at and near the site have not yet been developed.

2.5.0 SOIL RESOURCES

Soils that develop on alluvial deposits are controlled by a number of factors, including: 1) the type of parent material from which the deposits originated, 2) the age of the various depositional units within the fan, and 3) the grain-size distributions of the fan deposits. Alluvial fans typically have coarse textured soils with little pedogenic development. The A-horizon, if present, is generally less than five-inches thick and is directly underlain by a thick C-horizon, essentially unaltered alluvium. The alluvial material at the site originates from sedimentary and metasedimentary rock sources.

2.5.1 Analysis of Soil Samples

Two soil samples were taken during the reconnaissance geotechnical survey of the site. Figure 8 shows grain-size distribution curves from sieve analyses performed on the



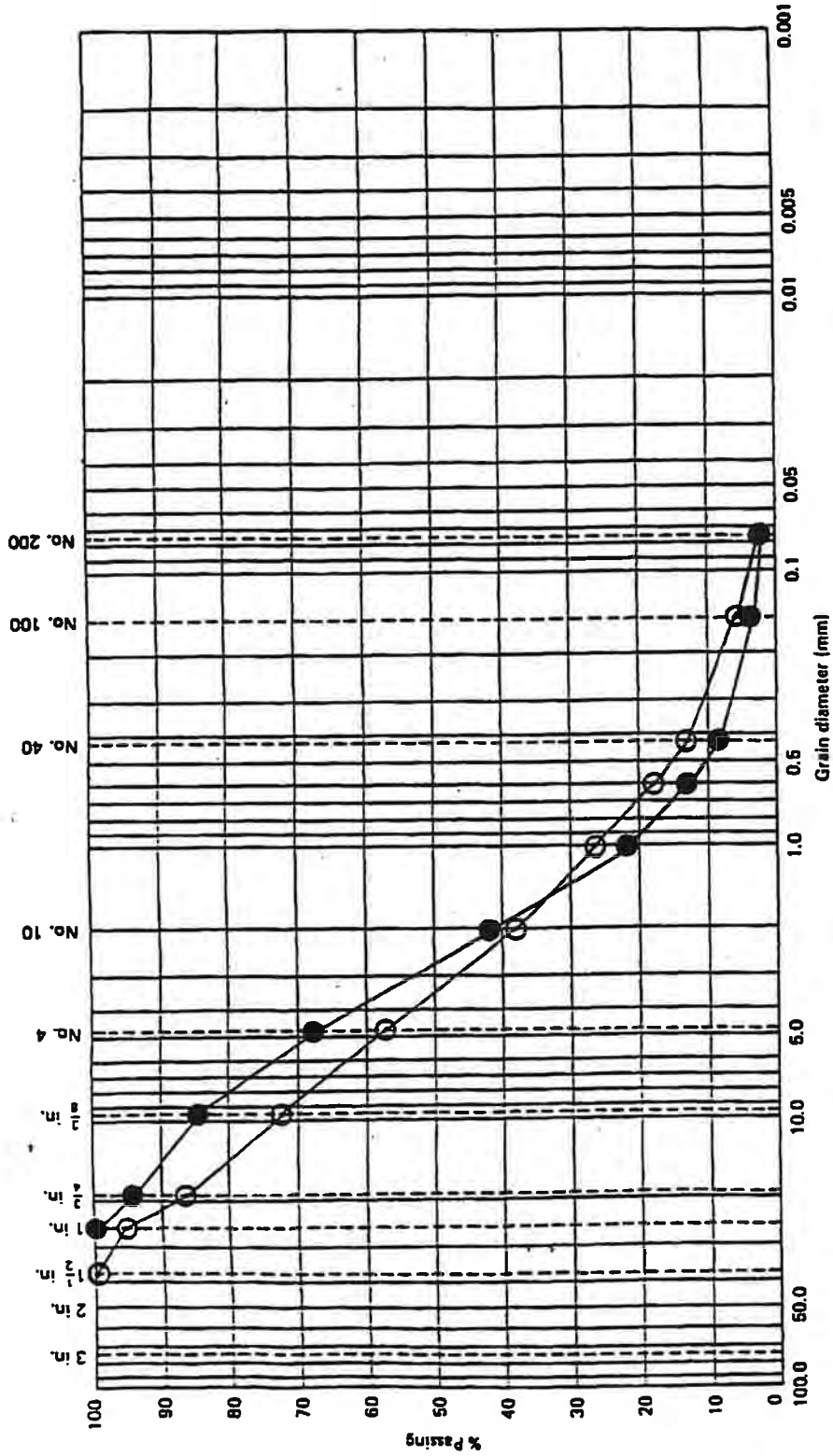
① and ② represent
watersheds in text

Figure 7: Watershed Map.
Caltrans Material Site #286 A

0 1 Mile
SCALE



2.0-12



SAMPLE #1: Stream channel / mined material -
poorly graded SAND with gravel (SP)*
SAMPLE #2: Native Soil - poorly graded SAND
with gravel (SP)*

*Unified Soils Classification System designation

Figure 8: Grain size distribution curve.
Caltrans Material Site #286 A

samples. The samples are described according to the Unified Soil Classification System, a system used in engineering work to emphasize the engineering properties of soils. Sample 1 was taken from a streambed on the site and will likely be representative of the material that will be mined. Sample 2 was taken from a older alluvial surface and represents the native soil at the site. Both samples are composed of poorly graded sand with gravel (SP); the native soil sample (Sample 2) contains a slightly higher amount of fine-grained sand than the streambed material. Both samples are composed of very loose material and are brownish-gray in color. Gravels were predominantly composed of angular clasts of gray and black limestone and dolomite.

2.5.2 Erosion Potential

Soils in the high desert regions of California are generally susceptible to erosion due to high winds, intense scattered precipitation, and lack of soil structure. The soil analysis information gathered indicates that due to the relatively high fine-grained sand content, soils will likely be susceptible to wind and sheet erosion, and also to rill erosion on sloped areas.

2.5.3 Reclamation Potential

The site consists of alluvial fan deposits, with medium-textured soils that have a low water-holding capacity. Well-developed soil horizons are not present at the site; therefore, distinct soil horizons will not need to be reestablished in order to revegetate the site. Revegetation of these soils will need to be limited to native species that are adapted to droughty conditions.

2.6.0 VEGETATION

Standard methodologies (Mueller-Dombois and Ellenberg 1974, Nelson 1988) were used to survey the site for sensitive plant species, to map existing vegetation, and to determine the appropriate revegetation strategies. MS #286A was visited on May 5, 1992. The site is located in the central portion of the Hot Desert Floristic Province (Barbour and Major 1988). Classification of natural communities is after Holland (1986). Taxonomy follows Hickman (1993) and common names are from Jaeger (1969).

2.6.1 Description of Affected Area

The proposed extraction area occurs within a large bajada in the Mojave Creosote Bush Scrub vegetation type and is dominated by various shrub species such as creosote bush (*Larrea tridentata*), shadscale (*Atriplex confertifolia*), cheese-bush (*Hymenoclea salsola*), burrobush (*Ambrosia dumosa*), sweetbush (*Bebbia juncea* var. *aspera*), leather-leaved viguiera (*Viguiera reticulata*), desert asylum (*Lepidium fremontii*), desert holly (*Atriplex hymenolytra*), and desert mallow (*Sphaeralcea ambigua*). Three cactus species occur sporadically on the site, beavertail cactus (*Opuntia basilaris* var. *basilaris*), cottontop cactus (*Echinocactus polycephalus*), and Biglove cholla (*Opuntia biglovei* var. *biglovei*).
Leupifol *try Echinocarp*

This site is currently relatively undisturbed. Total cover of the shrub layer is approximately 30 percent. The shrub canopy is approximately two to six feet in height.

There is a high diversity of herbaceous species on this site. The total cover of herbaceous species was ten percent, which is dense for a desert site. Common species included Esteve's pincushion (*Chaenactis stevioides*), four-o'clock (*Mirabilis bigelovii* var. *retrorsa*), desert trumpet (*Eriogonum inflatum*), rigid spineflower (*Chorizanthe rigida*), red brome (*Bromus madritensis* ssp. *rubens*), woolly plantain (*Plantago ovata*), fluff grass

(*Erioneuron pulchellum*), phacelia (*Phacelia crenulata*), Bigelow mimulus (*Mimulus bigelovii*), linanthus (*Linanthus demissus*), evening primrose (*Camissonia cardiophylla* ssp. *robusta*), desert star (*Monoptilon bellioides*), and various species of forget-me-not (*Cryptantha pterocarpa*, *C. angustifolia*, *C. echinella*).

2.6.2 Unique/Critical Communities

The California Department of Fish and Game Natural Diversity Data Base (CNDDB 1994) lists no unique or critical communities on the East of Ryan 7.5-minute quadrangle.

2.6.3 Special Plant Species

According to the CNDDB (1994), no sensitive plant species occur in the vicinity of the extraction area. In addition, none were observed during the site visits.

2.6.4 Invasive Exotics

No invasive exotics are currently found on this site.

how about
Browns

2.6.5 Revegetation Potential

Revegetation of arid lands is often difficult; constraints to revegetation are natural and human-induced. Re-establishment of vegetation on this site will be somewhat limited due to the droughty nature of the soil and the arid climate. The vegetative shrub cover is sparse; therefore, the coarse fragments (gravel) present on the surface of this alluvial fan, rather than the vegetation, provide the protection from wind and water erosion. Therefore, the goal of revegetation at this site will be to reestablish components of the native Mojave Creosote Bush Scrub vegetation on native, coarse soils; thereby integrating the site with the surrounding area.

2.7.0 WILDLIFE

The site was visited on March 23, 1994. Classification of wildlife habitats relies on descriptions of vegetation types described by Holland (1986), and on wildlife habitats described in Mayer and Laudenslayer (1988).

2.7.1 Description of Habitats

This site contains a native Mojave Creosote Bush Scrub plant community (Holland 1986). The site is surrounded by a large contiguous area of similar native vegetation that is interrupted only by Highway 190 and roughly north-south running berms. Shallow dry washes extend across the site. The Funeral Mountains can be seen to the north and northwest.

The site supports an assemblage of arthropods, reptiles, birds, and mammals typical of the Mojave Desert. Animals associated with or requiring large amounts of water (e.g., fish and amphibians) are notably scarce in this and other arid regions. There is no water on the site and no aquatic or semi-aquatic organisms are expected to live there.

2.7.2 Unique/Critical Habitats

The California Natural Diversity Data Base has no records of unique or critical habitats for the USGS 7.5-minute East of Ryan, California, Quadrangle (CNDDB 1994). No unique or critical habitats were identified on the site during the site survey.

2.7.3 Game Range

Wild Horse and Burro-- The site is within the Chicago Valley wild horse and burro herd management area (USDI 1980). In the California Desert Conservation Area Plan (USDI 1980), range quality was deemed sufficient to retain both species at then current populations of 28 horses and 28 burros. A group of about eight wild horses were observed approximately one to two miles east of the site on one occasion during site visits. Wild burros on BLM lands are protected by federal law (Wild and Free Roaming Horse and Burro Act 1971). Within Class-M BLM lands, horses and burros are maintained in stable herds subject to control to protect sensitive resources. The site is likely habitat for both of these protected species.

2.7.4 Special Animal Species

According to the CNDDDB (1994), one special animal species is known from the East of Ryan Quad:

Nelson's bighorn sheep (*Ovis canadensis nelsoni*)

Analysis: CDFG estimated that approximately 35 individuals made up the Funeral Mountains population of this species in 1988. At that time, sightings were made approximately 20 miles northwest of the proposed mine site. It is possible though unlikely that this species would be found on or using the site. Areas closer to and within the Funeral Mountains (northwest of the site) are more likely habitat, especially in the vicinity of water sources.

The site is also within the range of the Mojave population of the desert tortoise (*Xerobates (=Gopherus) agassizii*), which is listed as a threatened species both by the State of California and by the federal government (Zeiner, et al. 1988, USFWS 1993). MS #286A is at the northern end of the proposed Eastern Mojave Recovery Unit, but is not within any designated proposed Desert Wildlife Management Area (USFWS 1993). Creosote bush scrub, like that found on the mine site, is a listed desert tortoise habitat type (USFWS 1993).

The area of the mine site is not listed as a critical area for desert tortoise by BLM (USDI 1980). Evidence of the presence of desert tortoises was not observed on the site during the site visits. However, the site visits were short and were not specifically designed to detect tortoises or tortoise sign. Also, no attempt was made to cover the entire site or to employ systematic search procedures for evidence of tortoises. Tortoise surveys are under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). Surveys are to be conducted by authorized personnel using approved methodology with the consent and advice of the USFWS in order to be valid under the provisions of the Federal Endangered Species Act. In addition, CDFG requires specific procedures for dealing with impacts on desert tortoises and their habitat under the California Endangered Species Act and the Fish and Game Code. Caltrans' standard tortoise mitigations are included in Appendix D.

2.8.0 AIR RESOURCES/CLIMATOLOGY

Precipitation data are from the town of Shosone (elevation 1,570 feet), approximately 20 miles south of the mine site. Temperature data are from the nearest location to the site where such data are regularly collected: Death Valley (elevation -19 feet, about 22 miles west of the site).

2.8.1 Precipitation

The mean annual precipitation at Shoshone over a nine-year period, 1974-1982, is 4.6 inches per year. In 1992, a maximum rainfall of 3.4 inches was recorded during the month of March. Less than one inch of rain was recorded for the months of July through November of the same year (NOAA 1992).

2.8.2 Temperature

The mean annual temperature in Death Valley in 1992 was 76.8°F. The monthly mean temperatures at Death Valley for the months of January and July are 50° and 98°F, respectively. The highest temperature in 1992 was 125°F (August), and the lowest temperature was 27°F (December). The last spring minimum of 32°F or below was January 27, and the first fall minimum of 32°F or below was December 17. The length of the frost free season in 1992 was 325 days (NOAA 1992).

2.8.3 Prevailing Winds

High winds can accompany the periodic thundershowers that are seasonally common in this area. Wind is a primary agent of erosion in arid regions because rainfall is only sufficient to allow for a sparse vegetative cover of the land surface, leaving much of the surface soil exposed to wind erosion. The rocky alluvial deposit protects the native soil from wind erosion by forming a lag layer of gravel, cobble, and rock on the surface of the soil.

2.8.4 Air Quality

Air quality in the region is typically excellent.

2.9.0 LAND USES AND AESTHETICS

All lands within the California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA) under BLM management have been classified into one of four multiple-use classes based on sensitivity of resources and land-use for each area. The four multiple-use classes are used to designate different levels of permitted land-use and different kinds of resource management within an area. In addition county planning agencies classify lands according to county land-use plans.

2.9.1 Existing and Surrounding Land Uses

MS #286A is within the California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA). The site is classed as open space (40-acre minimum) by Inyo County, and is contained within a larger area designated Multiple-use Class-M by BLM (USDI 1980). Class-M areas are those that are classed for moderate uses. The Class-M designation is based on a controlled balance between higher intensity uses and protection of public lands. Class-M designated lands are open to many uses such as mining, livestock grazing, recreation, energy and utility development. Class-M management is also designed for conservation of desert resources and mitigation of damage to those resources that may be caused by permitted uses (USDI 1980).

Motorized vehicle use in the area of the site is limited to existing routes of travel with provisions for seasonal access restrictions.

There is no grazing allotment on or near the site, and the surrounding lands are owned by BLM. There are no towns, houses, or other structures in the vicinity of the site.

2.9.2 Visually Sensitive Areas

BLM has developed draft Visual Resource Management (VRM) standards for all BLM lands. The mining site is designated VRM II/BHFG. BLM describes the objectives of the VRM II designation as follows:

"The objective of this class is to retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be low. Management activities may be seen from key observation points, but should not attract the attention of the casual observer. Any changes must repeat the basic form, line, color, and texture found in the predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape (USDI 1991)."

The scenic quality of the area is rated good (B). Highway 190 is well traveled by tourists; therefore, the sensitivity of the area, determined by the number of people that are likely to encounter the area and the frequency of use, is rated high (H). The scenic and sensitive qualities of the region are concentrated in the foreground (Fg).

2.9.3 Visual Impact of Reclamation to These Uses

The extraction area will be visible from Highway 190. The contrast on the site that will result from mining will be caused by removal of the coarse ground-surface layer, and a decrease in the density of the vegetation due to vegetation removal. In addition, the topography of the mined area will be changed by the excavation of the pit. These topographic and vegetative changes will be moderated somewhat by the side-slope shaping and revegetation done during reclamation. Revegetation with native species and resoiling will eventually integrate the site with the surrounding area. However, for the duration of the mine and reclamation plan, the mine site will remain visible to the casual observer.

3.0.0 DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED MINING OPERATION

3.1.0 DIMENSIONS, ACREAGE

MS #286A occupies approximately 7.7 acres on BLM land. The site is an irregular-shaped polygon, with sides ranging in length from 869 feet to 273 feet. The site has not yet been disturbed by mining (Map Sheet 1). Approximately 7.2 acres of the site will be mined, 0.7 acres of which will be utilized as the mining operations area. Approximately 0.2 acres will be disturbed off-site for an access road entering the site from the north.

3.2.0 INITIATION AND TERMINATION DATES

Mining at this site will take place on an intermittent basis over a 20-year period (1997 to 2017). The termination date for this reclamation plan will be the year 2022, 25 years from the date of reclamation plan approval, thereby allowing for five years of final monitoring. Renewal of this plan approval may be sought from the County after the termination date if the anticipated demand for the minerals is delayed. A description of the management of the site during idle phases, if they occur, can be found in Appendix C, Interim Management Plan.

3.3.0 PRODUCTION SCHEDULE

The site will be mined for material to be used primarily for emergency road repair and road maintenance, and possibly for road construction. It is estimated that the annual extraction volume will be about 7,500 cubic yards. However, the maximum annual extraction volume may be as high as 40,000 cubic yards if the site is used to provide construction material. In any case, no more than 150,000 cubic yards will be removed over the 20-year life of the mine. At the end of this 20-year period, final site reclamation will be implemented.

3.4.0 MINING PLAN

Material from this site will be used for road maintenance and construction on an as-needed basis. Refer to Map Sheet 2 for the configuration of the site.

3.4.1 Description of Operations

Mining will initiate in the western portion of the site, a minimum of 50-feet from the western boundary. As shown in Map Sheet 2, mining will encompass most of the mine site. Excavations within the pit will be no deeper than 30 feet below the existing ground surface. The pit slopes within the mining area will be no greater than 3:1 (Horizontal: Vertical), with a relatively flat-lying base, sloping gently (three percent) to the southeast; the cut for the access road will be no greater than 2:1 (H:V). There will be a minimum 20-foot setback for mining from the northern, eastern, and southern boundaries of the site. Material storage, stockpiles, and screening equipment will be concentrated in the materials operations area to be located within the pit, as shown on Map Sheet 2. Material will be screened and stored on-site, and will be transported off-site by truck when needed.

3.4.2 Access Roads

The site will be accessed from the northwest via a dirt road constructed within the southern half of the 400-foot-wide Caltrans right-of-way for Highway 190.

3.4.3 Topsoil Handling

Topsoil (defined as the upper six inches of the native surface) will be salvaged and stockpiled within the 50-foot setback zone along the western boundary. Approximately 4,150 cubic yards of topsoil will be salvaged. Additionally, approximately 500 cubic yards of waste fines will be used for resoiling portions of the site. Waste fines and topsoil will be stockpiled separately.

3.4.4 Minerals, Overburden and Waste

All useable and waste material excavated during mining will be stored and stockpiled on-site in the mining operation area. Waste is estimated to compose five percent of the extracted volume, or approximately 7,500 cubic yards. A portion of these waste fines will be used to resoil a small portion of the site, approximately 0.3 acre, during the post-mining reclamation phase.

3.4.5 Water Impoundments and Diversions

The following erosion and sediment control measures will be implemented to help reduce potential slope instability problems and minimize erosion and off-site sediment discharge:

Grade-stabilization structures: As shown on Map Sheet 2, several drainages enter the site from north and west. To help reduce erosion of the pit slopes by these drainages, three grade-stabilization structures will be constructed along the western slope of the pit (refer to Appendix F for general construction specifications). The chutes for these structures will be 10 feet wide and will be protected by rip-rap at their tops where the drainages enter and at their bases where they enter small sediment basins. The sediment basins will be connected by a south-flowing drainage ditch, and the southern basin will feed into an east-flowing drainage ditch approximately 300 feet long. These structures will be constructed as mining proceeds and will be cleaned out and repaired after major storm events.

Drainage-diversion berm: As discussed previously, a five-foot high berm was previously constructed to the east of the site to divert channelized drainage water away from the highway. In order to keep this diverted drainage from entering the pit, a five-foot high material berm will be constructed along the northern and eastern boundaries of the site within the 20-foot mining setback zone. The berm will be approximately 1,000 feet long and will have side slopes no greater than 2:1 (H:V). Once mining begins at the site, this drainage berm will be constructed in the location shown on Map Sheet 2.

Outlet structure: In case the mining area becomes inundated by flood waters, an rock-protected outlet channel will be constructed in the southeast corner of the pit, the point where flood waters would drain from the pit. The outlet structure will be cut approximately four-feet deep with a drainage apron, 50-feet long and 50-feet wide, in the southern corner of the site.

3.5.0 PROCESSING EQUIPMENT

A portable screening operation will be moved onto the site during periods of operation. If the site is used for construction, a portable asphalt plant will be moved onto the site. No permanent buildings or equipment will be constructed on site as part of the mining operation.

3.6.0 WATER REQUIREMENTS

Water requirements for this site will be limited to that needed for screening, crushing, washing, and for dust control. Water will be trucked to the site, most likely from Shoshone.

3.6.1 Waste Water

The only type of waste water to be produced by this mining operation will be screening water that will be collected in the operations area and allowed to evaporate or infiltrate. Water use during intermittent operational phases is estimated at 2,000 gallons per day.

3.6.2 Drinking Water

Water will be trucked to the site to provide safe drinking water for site employees.

3.6.3 Sewage Disposal

During operations, portable toilets will be brought to the site and maintained.

3.7.0 ENERGY REQUIREMENTS

Electricity will be used by the plant for screening and washing operations. When electricity is needed for processing, it will be provided by a diesel generator. Diesel consumption will be approximately 800 gal/mth. Electricity will not be needed for reclamation activities.

3.8.0 NOISE & EMISSIONS

Mining operations will include the use of a D-9 cat, a five-yard loader, belly dumps, bobtail trucks, and pickups. Processing activities will include a screening plant, crushing operation and possibly an asphalt plant. This aspect of the mining operation will affect noise and emissions.

3.8.1 Noise

The noise emissions will be most heavily concentrated within the processing area of the pit, and will be shielded from surrounding receptors by the pit walls. Both the physical walls of the pit and the large distance to receivers will reduce the potential noise impact from mining.

Effective source strength of a rock plant is around 72-75 dB at 400 feet. Earth-moving activities would typically generate estimated noise levels of 75 and 80 dB at a distance of 50 feet with noise control devices for dozers and scrapers. In combination, the noise exposure at a distance of 2,000 feet would be reduced to approximately 60 dB, which is below most standards for noise-sensitive land-uses. Noise generated from the concurrent reclamation activities will not be perceivable against the noise generated by the mining activities. Noise generated from reclamation activities following the termination of mining will be minimal. There are no towns, dwellings, or buildings within 2,000 feet of the proposed mining area.

3.8.2 Dust, Odors, Vehicular Emissions

Air quality parameters that are potentially affected by aggregate mining operations are vehicular emissions and suspended particulate, or dust. Operations of this magnitude (7,500-40,000 cubic yards/year) may cause a significant increase in vehicular emissions on Highway 190 during the intermittent road construction phases. Increased emissions would emanate from the pit during the active extraction phases. However, the site will be mined in a manner that will result very nearly in the final reclaimed landform; therefore, reclamation activities will not cause an increase in vehicular emissions.

Because the soil disturbance from materials screening, extraction, and hauling is a "fresh" disturbance, the major component of the produced dust will be of large particle size (greater than ten microns), which settles out rapidly. Best available control technology, such as maintaining a moist aggregate surface, will be used to suppress screening, extraction, and hauling dust sources. Reclamation activities, such as reseeded and resoiling with topsoil mixed with vegetative debris, will also help to control dust.

3.9.0 HOURS OF OPERATION/NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES

The hours of operation will be twelve hours per day during the hours of 6:00 am to 6:00 pm. It is estimated that this operation will employ between one and seven people during active mining and about two to three people for three to five days during final reclamation implementation.

3.10.0 TRANSPORTATION

Transportation to and from the site by maintenance and repair crews will not increase traffic on Highway 190; however, during construction mining operations, transportation by employees to the mine site may increase traffic on Highway 190. Transportation of aggregate resources to construction locations may increase traffic on those roads as well. It is estimated that during construction mining operations, haul trucks will make approximately fifty round-trips per week. Approximately three to ten 25-ton belly dump trucks and five to fifteen 10-ton bobtail trucks will be used in this operation. This may necessitate access road intersection improvement on Highway 190. These possible impacts are all mining related. Since mining will result in very nearly in the final reclaimed landform and much of the reclamation will be performed concurrent with mining phases, reclamation activities are not likely to cause an increase in vehicular traffic on Highway 190.

4.0.0 DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED RECLAMATION

This site will be used by Caltrans intermittently as a source of materials for road maintenance and construction. Reclamation of the site will be implemented according to the reclamation plan discussed below.

4.1.0 SUBSEQUENT USES

The land is zoned by Inyo County as open space (40-acre minimum). According to CDFG and BLM sources the site is not located within any area designated as critical habitat for any sensitive species. However, the site does provide general habitat values to various wildlife species and is within the range of the Chicago Valley wild horse and burro herd management area. The site is also within the range of the Mojave population of the desert tortoise, at the northern end of the Eastern Mojave Recovery Unit, but is not within any designated proposed Desert Wildlife Management Area (USFWS 1993). The site will be reclaimed to open space and wildlife habitat, which will leave the site in a productive end use that is readily adaptable to alternative end uses.

4.2.0 IMPACT ON FUTURE MINING

Reclamation of this site will not preclude mining at a future date. The aggregate resource likely extends beyond 50 feet deep; mining according to the current mining plan will not have exhausted on-site mineral resources.

4.3.0 RECLAMATION SCHEDULE

Reclamation treatments, such as the grade-stabilization structures, drainage ditches, and material berms, will be installed as mining proceeds. Reclamation treatments such as resoiling, using topsoil and amended waste fines, and revegetation will be initiated when final slopes are established. Once reclamation treatments have been implemented, they will be monitored until performance standards have been met. The monitoring plan is designed to evaluate site-specific criteria for slope stability, erosion and sediment control, and resoiling and revegetation.

4.4.0 POST-MINING ACTIVITIES AND SITE CONFIGURATION

Map Sheet 3 depicts the post-mining activities and reclaimed topography of the mined area. The final site configuration will be a 30-foot deep excavation with 3:1 (H:V) side slopes. The surface of the mine operations area and access roads (7.2 acres on-site and 0.2 acres off-site; 7.4 acres total) will be 1) decompacted, 2) resoiled using stockpiled topsoil and on-site waste fines, and 3) revegetated.

4.4.1 Slope Stability

Pit slopes for the mining phase and the final reclaimed site will not be steeper than 3:1 (H:V). The roadcut for the access road, that has a slope of 2:1 (H:V), will also remain but is not considered a major slope. The angle of repose for loose sediments on the site is approximately 32°. This angle can be considered to be representative of the angle of internal friction of the native slope material. Thus, pit slopes will be stable at the proposed angle under static conditions. Any slope failures that may occur would be retained within the pit.

4.4.2 Final Drainage Plan and Impoundments

Map Sheet 3 details the final drainage plan of the reclaimed site. The excavated pit will serve as sediment basin/trap for eroded sediment coming from upslope of the pit, and from within the pit itself. The grade-stabilization structures, drainage ditches, and material berm will not be maintained after final reclamation has been completed.

4.4.3 Disposition of Equipment

Any equipment brought onto the site will be removed from the site following termination of mining activity. No equipment will be stored permanently on-site. At final reclamation, there will be no equipment remaining on the mined site.

4.5.0 RESOILING

The native soil of this site is a poorly graded sand with gravel derived from the sedimentary and metasedimentary rock units found upslope. A native soil contains native seeds and soil microorganisms, and therefore, is preferred for site reclamation. The topsoil will be defined as the upper six inches of the substrate on the site. Topsoil will be salvaged prior to mining any area of the site. The topsoil will be placed in designated stockpiles within the western buffer zone.

Native surface materials will be kept separate from the processing fines. Processing fines will be placed in the stockpile area delineated on the site plans, and may be respread prior to (and beneath) topsoil application. Prior to spreading the topsoil, all compacted areas will be decompacted (ripped or disced) to facilitate root growth. The topsoil that was salvaged will be respread to a depth of six inches in all areas of the pit, inclusive of slopes outside of the drainage structures. The woody debris less than 0.5 feet, if stockpiled separately, will be distributed over the site in a random manner following the topsoil application. The large amount of coarse material (gravel) in the native topsoil will also serve as a gravel mulch, thereby armoring the revegetated site.

4.5.1 Mulches

Since the native coarse-grained topsoil will be used to resoil this site, a gravel mulch will not need to be added. The coarse fraction of the native soil will act as a protective lag layer, thereby guarding against wind and water erosion.

4.6.0 REVEGETATION

Revegetation will strive to achieve visual integration with the vegetation surrounding the site. Establishment of vegetation in the borrow pit area will provide some erosion control for the site, while creating cover and forage for wildlife.

4.6.1 Seedbed Preparation

After decompacting the growth medium, the area will be roughed to form a variety of microsites; this can be accomplished by "track walking" or imprinting the site. The growth medium will be prepared to provide a firm, but not overly compacted, bed.

4.6.2 Plant Materials and Planting Densities

Many plant species are comprised of local ecotypes that are highly adapted to local climate and edaphic conditions (Plummer et al. 1955, 1968). The plants that will have the best chance of survival on a site are those ecotypes that are growing on (or near) the site (Millar and Libby 1989). The use of nonlocal plant materials can result in the application of a poorly adapted ecotype, as well as the potential genetic contamination of the local ecotype through interbreeding with the introduced ecotype. The results of interbreeding between nonlocal and wild local native stock can be adverse and permanent.

The best policy is to collect plant materials from on or near the site. Therefore, plant materials for each of the designated species should be obtained from the same region as the mine site. For the purposes of MS #286A, the collection region will be defined as Mojave Creosote Bush Scrub vegetation that occurs between 1,500 and 3,500 feet elevation, east of the Funeral Mountains and the Greenwater Range, and within a 20-mile radius of MS #286A.

4.6.3 Cactus Transplanting

Approximately 15 cacti will be impacted by mining: four beavertail cacti, three cottontop cacti, and eight cholla. These cacti will be offered to the Park Service and/or BLM for salvage and transplanting in areas outside of the lease boundary as part of the reclamation activities.

4.6.4 Irrigation

Irrigation would only serve to aid the growth of invasive exotics and therefore is not recommended for this site.

4.6.5 Plant Eradication Measures

Plant eradication will not be necessary unless the presence of Russian thistle, or other invasive exotics, on the site becomes a limiting factor in the reestablishment of native vegetation. Remediation for invasive exotic species is discussed in Table 4.10-1.

TABLE 4.10-1: REMEDIAL MEASURES

FEATURE	OBJECTIVES	MONITORING FREQ	FINDINGS	ACTION
Wind Erosion	Soil stabilized, no nuisance dust from site.	Continuously during mining and reclamation implementation; annually following reclamation.	Soil drifts found behind plants and rises, blowing dust.	Consider additional soil stabilization, i.e., rock mulching and revegetation.
Water Erosion	Soil stabilized, no evidence of rilling or gullyng.	After first major storm event (>0.5 inch rain in a 24-hour period) following construction; once a year during annual monitoring of reclamation.	Rilling, gullyng, erosion, or evidence of washouts or erosion in established drainage ways.	Repair area, consider additional stabilization (waterbars, berms, diversion channels, rock lining, or mulches).
Slope Stability	No evidence of slope failures.	Monitor continuously during mining operations; and annually during reclamation.	Slope failures, slumping.	Reconstruct slope, lessen angle of slope, and implement erosion control measures.
Invasion by Russian thistle or other invasive exotics	No interference with establishment of native vegetation.	Once per year, note areas of infestation of Russian Thistle or other species.	Infestation of exotics interfering with establishment of native vegetation.	Apply weed eradication measures: hand-pulling, hand-cutting, and possibly hand-applied herbicide.
Revegetation	Perennial cover averages 10 percent.	Annually following implementation.	<10 percent perennial cover, signs of drought stress; signs of herbivory that may significantly affect outcome.	Consider fertilizing and irrigating individual plants; analyze soil for problems; analyze for pest problems (consider fencing individual plants that volunteered).
Resoiling	Decompacted native soils respread to a depth of 6 inches.	Monitor during implementation.	Fines absent from substrate surface or a compacted substrate.	Respread additional topsoil; rip or disc site to alleviate compaction.

4.7.0 EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL

Erosion and sediment control will be achieved by implementation of the previously described drainage and revegetation plans. Diversion of the drainage to the east of the mining and operations areas will limit the amount of flood waters entering these areas. Resoiling and revegetation will be performed according to the revegetation plan and will aid in reducing erosion.

4.8.0 PUBLIC SAFETY

The configuration of the mined lands, will not pose a hazard to the public. No hazardous materials will be stored on-site. In addition, the boulders at the access point to the site will help prevent uncontrolled access.

4.9.0 PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

The following discussion sets forth minimum site criteria, or performance standards, for the various aspects of site reclamation. Monitoring of reclamation performance standards will be agreed upon by Caltrans and Inyo County.

4.9.1 Erosion and Sediment Control

Erosion and sediment control monitoring will be completed at the same time and frequency that the used to vegetation monitoring is done. The drainage ditches and swale will be inspected following the season's first major storm event or at a minimum of annually. These structures will be cleaned out as needed to maintain a clear flow-path for flood waters. The results will be identify areas of potential failures and to trigger the implementation of remedial measures before problem areas cause widespread failures. Any observable reason for failure will be noted and the appropriate remedial measure suggested as part of the annual monitoring report.

4.9.2 Slope Stability

No large man-made slope within the pit shall be steeper than 3:1 (H:V), which has been determined to exceed the slope stability standard for this material for all except the most severe earthquake events.

4.9.3 Revegetation

The following performance standards will be applied to the site. Undisturbed, site-indigenous woody perennial cover was estimated at 30 percent. All phases of reclamation will achieve a minimum average density of herbaceous and woody perennial coverage of 10 percent. Areas found to be below these standards will be evaluated as set forth in the Remedial Measures Plan.

4.9.4 Other Species

The goal will be to transplant 15 individual cacti and to achieve 50 percent survival of these transplants (or seven individuals). If the survival rate falls below this standard, remedial measures will be taken.

4.10.0 MAINTENANCE, MONITORING, AND REMEDIAL MEASURES

Site maintenance and monitoring will continue until Inyo County deems reclamation complete.

4.10.1 Erosion and Sediment Control

All erosion and sediment control structures will be maintained and monitored annually for as long as mining and reclamation continues. This shall be done to ensure that the failure of one or more structures does not apply additional and unplanned stress on other structures.

If infilling or failure of a structure occurs, steps to repair the original structure will be taken. Infilled structures shall be cleaned out without causing damage.

4.10.2 Slope Stability

All slopes will be assessed, on a form such as the one supplied in Appendix B, during annual monitoring to ensure that they are stable. If excess slope erosion is observed, or failures noted, as discussed in the performance standards section, the appropriate remedial measures will be implemented.

4.10.3 Revegetation

Revegetation of the site will be monitored following implementation on each phase. Monitoring activities will take place during the peak flowering season, approximately April to May. Once the monitoring date is set following these initial reclamation activities, monitoring of the site during the later years will occur within two weeks of that original date. This scheme will assure that the data will be comparable over time.

Revegetation monitoring will consist of visual assessments and recording the progress of reclamation with photographs. The species composition, shrub cover, and shrub density will be recorded on a form (an example is included in Appendix B). If it appears that the site will not meet the performance standards set forth, then the investigator shall suggest remedial measures. Appropriate remedial measures are listed in Table 4.10-1.

4.10.4 Other Species

If Russian thistle invades revegetated areas to the point that it is impacting the germination and/or growth of desired species, then this invasive exotic will be manually removed from the site as a remedial measure as detailed in Table 4.10-1.

4.11.0 REPORTING

Once the reclamation activities have been completed, monitoring activities will commence and will continue until the County is satisfied that performance standards have been met. Reporting of the progress of reclamation will be transmitted to Inyo County on an annual basis. This annual report will, at a minimum, consist of the name and credentials of the investigator(s), a summary of the work accomplished, the date of the visit(s), the methods and materials used, the data collected, an analysis of the data and performance standards, and any suggested remedial measures.

5.0.0 COST OF RECLAMATION

A reclamation cost estimate is provided in Appendix A.

6.0.0 APPLICANT STATEMENT OF RESPONSIBILITY

An Applicant Statement of Responsibility can be found on Page 2 of Appendix A-1.

7.0.0 REFERENCES

Burchfiel, B.C., G.S. Hamill IV, and D.E. Wilhelms. 1983. Structural geology of the Montgomery Mountains and the northern half of the Nopah and Resting Spring Ranges, Nevada and California. Geological Society of America Bulletin, Volume 94 (pages 1359-1376).

California Department of Water Resources (DWR). 1976. Rainfall Analysis for Drainage Design Volume I: Short Duration Precipitation Frequency Data. DWR Bulletin 195.

Hart, E.W., W.A. Bryant, C.J. Wills, J.A. Treiman, and J.E. Kahle. 1989. Summary Report: Fault Evaluation Program, 1987-1988, Southwestern Basin and Range Region and Supplemental Areas. California Division of Mines and Geology Open-File Report 89-16.

Jennings, C.W. 1992. Fault Activity Map of California. California Division of Mines and Geology Open-File Report 92-03. Scale 750,000.

Joyner, W.B. and D.M. Boore. 1982. Measurement, Characterization, and Prediction of Strong Ground Motion in Earthquake Engineering and Soil Dynamics II - Recent Advances in Ground-Motion Evaluation. ASCE Geotechnical Special Publication No. 20 (pages 43-102).

Langer, W.H., W.R. Moyle, L.R. Woolfenden, and D.A. Mulvihill. 1984. Maps showing ground-water levels, springs, and depth to ground water, Basin and Range Province, Southern California. U. S. Geological Survey Water-Resources Investigation (WRI) 83-4116-B. Scale 1:500,000.

McAllister, J.F. 1971. Preliminary geologic map of the Funeral Mountains in the Ryan Quadrangle, Death Valley region, Inyo County, California. U.S. Geological Survey Open-File Map. Scale 1:24,000.

State of California Department of Water Resources (DWR). 1976. Bulletin 195.

Stoddart, L.A., A.D. Smith, and T.W. Box. 1975. Range Management, Third Edition. McGraw-Hill, New York, N.Y.

Thompson, T.H., J. Nuter, W.R. Moyle, and L.R. Woolfenden. 1984. Maps showing the distribution of dissolved solids and dominant chemical type in ground water, Basin and Range Province, California and Nevada. U. S. Geological Survey Water-Resources Investigation (WRI) 83-4116-C. Scale 1:500,000.

U. S. Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service. 1986. Urban Hydrology for Small Watersheds. Technical Release 55.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 1993. Draft recovery plan for the desert tortoise (Mojave population). U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Portland, Oregon. 170 pp. plus appendices.

U. S. Geological Survey. 1988 (Provisional Edition). Ryan Quadrangle, 7.5-minute Topographic Map. Scale 1:24,000.

APPENDIX A
COUNTY OF INYO
MINING RECLAMATION PLAN APPLICATION

PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE INFORMATION DATE: 01-23-97 USE ADDITIONAL SHEETS IF NECESSARY

This application is for a: [check the appropriate box(es)]

☒ Mining Operation ☒ Sand/Gravel Pit ☒ Screening Plant
☐ Milling Operation ☐ Concrete Batch Plant ☒ Asphalt Batch Plant
☐ Exploration ☒ Other (describe) RECLAMATION PLAN

1. APPLICANT

Name: California Dept. of Transportation (Caltrans) Phone: (619) 872-0601

Address: 500 South Main Street

City: Bishop State: California Zip: 93514

2. REPRESENTATIVE

Name: David B. Grah Phone: (619) 872-0734

Caltrans District 09

Address: 500 South Main Street

City: Bishop State: California Zip: 93514

3. LANDOWNER

Name: U.S. Dept. of Interior, Bureau of Land Mgmt. (BLM) Phone: (619) 384-5400

Address: 300 S. Richmond Road

City: Ridgecrest State: California Zip: 93555

4. OPERATOR

Name: California Dept. of Transportation (Caltrans) Phone: (619) 872-0734

Address: 500 S. Main Street

City: Bishop State: California Zip: 93514

5. LESSEE

Name: California Dept. of Transportation (Caltrans) Phone: (619) 872-0734

Address: 500 S. Main Street

City: Bishop State: California Zip: 93514

6. ASSESSOR'S PARCEL NO(S): 43-070-000

Section(s): E1/2 of Section 14 Township(s): 25N Range(s): 4E

Latitude: 17° 30' 35"N

Longitude: 116° 30' 43"W

7.	CLAIM DESCRIPTION(S)			
	Name	TYPE (lode,placer,millsite)	RECORDED VOL PG	BLM ID #
	State Material Site #286A (New Death Valley Junction Pit)	Borrow Pit (Placer)		
8.	GEOLOGY See Section 2.3.0 Describe the geologic setting of the area with a more detailed geologic description of the mineral deposit to be mined and principle minerals or rock types present. If referenced in a geologic report please attach a copy.			
9.	ENVIRONMENT See Section 2.0.0			
10.	MINING OPERATION			
	A. <u>Proposed Starting Date:</u> 1997 B. <u>Name of Mine or Project:</u> State Material Site #286A or New Death Valley Junction Pit C. <u>Minerals to be Mined:</u> Sand and gravel D. <u>Maximum Total Yearly Production:</u> <u>ORE:</u> 38,000 yd ³ <u>WASTE:</u> 2,000 yd ³ <u>TOTAL:</u> 40,000 yd ³ E. <u>Estimated Mine Life:</u> 20 yrs <u>Estimated Time to Complete Reclamation:</u> 30 yrs F. <u>Operation is:</u> Continuous Intermittent: X Seasonal: G. <u>Operation is:</u> New Site In Operation: Inactive: X H. <u>Days per Week:</u> 5 <u>Daily Operation Hours:</u> 6 am to 6 pm <u>Starting Time:</u> 6 am I. <u>Estimated Number of Employees:</u> 1-7 <u>Number of Shifts Per Day:</u> 1 J. <u>Type of Housing (if needed):</u> None			
11.	MINE DIMENSIONS			
	<u>Highest Elevation:</u> 2450' <u>Overall Slope:</u> Angle 3° <u>Maximum Depth:</u> 30' <u>Maximum Slope Angle:</u> 3:1 (H:V) 18° <u>Maximum Length:</u> 869' <u>Maximum Width:</u> 273' <u>Angle of Repose for Native or Host Material:</u> 32° <u>Bench Height:</u> NA <u>Bench Width:</u> NA			

12. SIZE OF OPERATION (In Acres)

Owned: _____ Leased 7.7 acres

Patented: _____ Sub-leased _____

Unpatented: 7.7 acres Other _____

Total Acres: 7.7 acres To be Reclaimed: 7.4 acres

13. MINE WASTE (See Map Sheets for phases)

Describe waste piles, stockpiles, tailings ponds, other ponds, and leach pads.

Answer for EACH pile, pond or pad where appropriate.

Highest Elevation: 2450' Overall Slope Angle: 3:1 (H:V)

Maximum Height: 15' Surface Area of Ponds: NA

Maximum Length: 300' Depth of Ponds: NA

Maximum Width: 50'

14. TYPE OF OPERATION

Open Pit		Single Bench
Borrow Pit	X	Multibench
Gravel/Sand Pit	X	Underground
Clay Pit		Hardrock
Hill Top		Waste Dump
Side Hill		Tailings Pond
Shovel/Truck		Quarry
Dragline		Other (describe)

15. OTHER CONSTRUCTION

Access Roads	X	Plant Site (portable)	X
Asphalt Batch Plant (port)	X	Screening (portable)	X
Bathhouse (Dry)		Settling Ponds	_____
Blasting		Sheds	
Concrete Batch Plant		Shops	
Conveyors		Stockpiles	X
Crushers (portable)	X	Tailings Dams	
Explosive Storage		Tanks (asphalt & diesel)	X
Office Site (portable)	X	Water Wells	
On-Site Living		Waste Dumps	
Sewage Disposal		Other (describe)	

16. PROCESSING**A. Check Box(es) that Describe Operation:**

Crushing (portable)	☒	Amalgamation	
Milling		Concrete Batch	
Washing	☒	Asphalt Batch (portable)	☒
Flotation		Precipitate	
Heap Leaching		Hand Sort	
Sizing		Smelting	
Other (describe)		Temporary Screening Plant (portable)	☒

B. List Chemicals Used in the Processing

Asphaltic Materials

17. ACCESS

Describe existing routes to the operation site. The site is 5.5 miles west of Death Valley Junction on Highway 190.

Describe any proposed new access roads to be constructed. 300' of access road to be extended into mining area from Highway 190.

18. AIR QUALITY

List Number and Types of Vehicles and Equipment Associated with the Project:

One D-9 CAT, one or more 5 cy FEL, Belly Dumps, Bobtail Trucks and Pickups, and a portable screening plant.

19. WATER QUALITY/SUPPLY:

Source of Fresh Water	Water truck (Shoshone or Death Valley Junction)
Gallons per Day Fresh	100 gallons/day (up to 2,000 gallons/day for processing)
Gallons per Day Recycled	None
Total Gallons Used per Day	100 gallons/day (up to 2,000 gallons/day for processing)
Chemicals Used	None
Method of Chemical Disposal	None
Proposed Sewage System	Portable toilets, Commercial Vendor

20. ENERGY:

To be Consumed by the Project/Month

ELECTRICITY Diesel Generator (see below)

NATURAL GAS

OTHER FUELS (type): Diesel, average 40 gallons per day, while processing aggregate, up to 800 gal/mth.

21.

Describe the site alterations that will be produced by your proposed project. For instance, describe topographic changes, storm flows that will have to be channelized, lengths of new roads and/or easements and other such changes:

See map sheet #3 for final site configuration

22.

If your project requires any permits from other agencies, please identify the agency and type of permits. Some of the Agencies or department that you may have to obtain permits from are listed below:

Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District	Operating Permit
Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board	
County Environmental Health Department	
County Building and Safety Department	
County Road Department	
Bureau of Land Management	Mining Permit
California Department of Fish and Game	
Inyo National Forest	
Inyo County	Reclamation Plan Approval

Note: All other agencies or contractors using the pit will be required to obtain their own permits.

23.

HAZARDOUS WASTES; AIR QUALITY; AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Pursuant to Section 65962.5(e) of the California Government Code the project site is

is not ☒ identified on the latest list prepared by the Secretary of Environmental Affairs as a hazardous waste site.

Pursuant to Section 65850.2(a)(1) of the California Government Code the applicant will

will not ☒ need to comply with Sections 25505, 25533, and 25534 of the California Health and Safety Code requiring a hazardous material business plan; hazardous materials registration forms; and the preparation of a Risk Management and Prevention Program (RMPP), respectively, and the requirements for a permit for construction or modification from the Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District.

Pursuant to Section 65850.2(a)(2) of the California Government Code the applicant will

will not ☒ handle acutely hazardous materials as defined by Section 25500 et. seq. of the California Health and Safety Code. If "will" is checked then a notice of requirement to comply with or determination of exemption for a Risk Management and Prevention Program (RMPP) from the Inyo County Environmental Health Department shall be attached to this application pursuant to Section 65850.2(b) of the California Government Code.

Pursuant to Section 65850.2(b) of the California Government code the applicant shall attach certification from the Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District that the project is in compliance with any disclosures required by Section 42303 of the California Health and Safety Code concerning information needed by them to determine air pollution resulting from the project.

24.	PROPOSED OR POTENTIAL USE OF THE LAND AFTER RECLAMATION																		
open space and wildlife habitat																			
25.	METHODS OF RECLAMATION: See Section 4.0.0																		
<table> <tr> <td>Backfilling</td> <td>_____</td> <td>Rehabilitation of drainage</td> <td>_____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Stabilization of slopes</td> <td><u>X</u></td> <td>Equipment and refuse removal</td> <td><u>X</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Resoiling and revegetation</td> <td><u>X</u></td> <td>Mitigate Hazards</td> <td>_____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Soil Augmentation</td> <td>_____</td> <td>Other (describe)</td> <td>_____</td> </tr> </table>				Backfilling	_____	Rehabilitation of drainage	_____	Stabilization of slopes	<u>X</u>	Equipment and refuse removal	<u>X</u>	Resoiling and revegetation	<u>X</u>	Mitigate Hazards	_____	Soil Augmentation	_____	Other (describe)	_____
Backfilling	_____	Rehabilitation of drainage	_____																
Stabilization of slopes	<u>X</u>	Equipment and refuse removal	<u>X</u>																
Resoiling and revegetation	<u>X</u>	Mitigate Hazards	_____																
Soil Augmentation	_____	Other (describe)	_____																
26.	TIMING OF RECLAMATION																		
Check One: <u>X</u> Mining and Reclamation is done simultaneously. _____ Reclamation will be done after mining complete. State sequence of mining and reclamation. See map sheets #1 -#3 and Section 3.0.0																			

27. RECLAMATION COST ESTIMATE SUMMARY SHEET MINING AND MILLING OPERATIONS

Section 2773.1 of the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act (SMARA) requires that financial assurance be established for each surface mining operation to ensure reclamation is performed in accordance with the surface mining operation's approved reclamation plan. The assurance is to be reviewed on an annual basis to account for new lands disturbed, inflation, and reclamation of lands completed in accordance with the approved reclamation plan.

Please provide an estimate of the actual cost of reclamation of your operation based on existing and/or anticipated disturbance resulting from your operation. This estimate should show a detailed break-down of cost to include, but not be limited to the following items:

A. Earthwork/Recontouring

	Manpower ¹	Equipment	Materials
1. Roads	<u>\$95.00</u>	<u>\$174.00</u>	<u>\$0</u>
2. Pits, Adits/Trenches	<u>\$95.00</u>	<u>\$174.00</u>	<u>\$0</u>
3. Process Ponds	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>
4. Heaps	<u>\$136.00</u>	<u>\$62.00</u>	<u>\$0</u>
5. Dumps (waste + landfills)	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>
6. Tailings	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>
7. Buildings and Equipment	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>
8. Drainage Control Plan	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>
9. Misc. (remove fence)	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>
Subtotal	<u>\$626.00</u>	<u>\$410.00</u>	<u>\$0</u>

B. Revegetation/Stabilization

1. Roads	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>
2. Pits, Adits/Trenches	<u>\$175.00</u>	<u>116.00</u>	<u>\$1300.00</u>
3. Process Ponds	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>
4. Heaps	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>
5. Dumps (waste + landfills)	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>
6. Tailings	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>
7. Buildings and Equipment	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>
8. Drainage Control Plan	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>
9. Misc. (describe)	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>
10. Monitoring	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>
(post reclamation)			
Subtotal	<u>\$175.00</u>	<u>\$116.00</u>	<u>\$1,300.00</u>

where is scarification or rip-rapping?

¹ County construction cost must use California prevailing wage law. Wage rates must include FICA, and other required coverage and benefits covering your work force.

27. RECLAMATION COST ESTIMATE SUMMARY SHEET MINING AND MILLING OPERATIONS (cont)
C. Detoxification/Disposal of Wastes

	Manpower ¹	Equipment	Materials
1. Process Ponds	\$0	\$0	\$0
2. Heaps	\$0	\$0	\$0
3. Dumps (waste + landfills)	\$0	\$0	\$0
4. Tailings	\$0	\$0	\$0
5. Drainage Control Plan	\$0	\$0	\$0
6. Misc. (describe)	\$0	\$0	\$0
7. Monitoring (post reclamation)	\$300.00	\$256.00	\$0
Subtotal	\$300.00	\$256.00	\$0

D. Removal

1. Structures	\$0	\$0	\$0
2. Equipment	\$0	\$0	\$0
3. Facilities	\$0	\$0	\$0
Subtotal	\$0	\$0	\$0

E. Insurance (on site liability (1.5%))	\$48.00
F. Contract Administration (15%)	\$477.00
G. Bond (performance & payment) (1.5%)	\$48.00
H. Profit (10%)	\$318.00

I. Grand Total **\$4,074.00**

J. Remarks

* All reclamation costs are to be calculated as third party contracts (the County will put the reclamation contracts out to bid in case of operator default). If you seek a bond reduction based upon your own "in house" equipment and personnel, submit a second cost analysis and a written request for the reduction to the County.

28. TYPE OF FINANCIAL ASSURANCE (check one):

☐ Surety Bond

☐ Irrevocable Letter of Credit

☐ Trust Funds (Cash)

☒ California Department of Transportation-Budget Set Aside

29. RECLAMATION COST ESTIMATE FOR EXPLORATION OPERATIONS**A. Earthwork/Recontouring**

	Manpower	Equipment	Materials
1. Roads	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
2. Drill Pads	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
3. Trenches	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
Subtotal	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____

B. Revegetation/Stabilization

	Manpower	Equipment	Materials
1. Roads	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
2. Drill Pads	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
3. Trenches	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
4. Monitoring (if required) (post reclamation)	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
Subtotal	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____

C. Insurance (on site liability) (1.5%) \$ _____

D. Contract Administration (15%) \$ _____

E. Bond (performance & payment) (1.5%) \$ _____

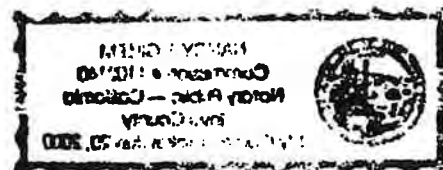
F. Profit (10%) \$ _____

G. Total \$ _____

H. Grand Total \$ _____

I. Remarks

* All reclamation costs are to be calculated as third party contracts (the County will put the reclamation contracts out to bid in case of operator default). If you seek a bond reduction based upon your own "in house" equipment and personnel, submit a second cost analysis and a written request for the reduction to the County.

30. TYPE OF FINANCIAL ASSURANCE (check one):☐ Surety Bond☐ Irrevocable Letter of Credit☐ Trust Funds (Cash)☒ Not Applicable

31. NOTIFICATION OF RESPONSIBILITY

I, The SMARA Coordinator, the undersigned representing (the) California Dept. of Transportation, (state agency) legal holder of the possessory interest, mineral and/or surface rights to the property commonly known as the Material Site #288 located in Township 21S, Range 37E Section(s) 36 (MDBM), do hereby acknowledge to abide by the Reclamation Plan as submitted with the application.

David B. Grah
David B. Grah, SMARA Coordinator

3 FEB 97
Date

Corporation Acknowledgment

State of Cal. F.R. 1997

County of Inyo

On Feb 3 1997 before me, Nancy J. Gillem, Notary Public
DATE NAME, TITLE OF OFFICER-E.G., "JANE DOE, NOTARY PUBLIC"

personally appeared David Beuhrs Grah
NAME(S) OF SIGNER(S)

personally known to me-OR- proved to me on the basis of satisfactory evidence to be the person(s) whose name(s) is/are subscribed to the within instrument and acknowledged to me that he/she/they executed the same in his/her/their authorized capacity(ies), and by his/her/their signature(s) on the instrument the person(s), or the entity upon behalf of which the person(s) acted, executed the instrument.

WITNESS my hand and official seal.

Nancy J. Gillem
SIGNATURE OF NOTARY



32. APPLICANTS CERTIFICATION OF FILING: (Legal owner of the property must sign)

NOTE: If more than one person is involved in the ownership of the property or mineral rights a separate page must be attached to this application which lists the names and All applicants for surface mining permits who are not also the recorded owner(s) of

I certify under penalty of perjury that I am the owner of record, or as noted below and the owner of record has knowledge of and consents to the proposed surface mining reclamation plan application for this property. I further certify that the information contained is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Lin Mgr USDI/BLM

 Owner or Possessory Interest or Mineral Rights

 Legal Owner(s) (all individual owners must sign as their names appear on the deed to the land)

 Corporate Officer(s) empowered to sign for the Corporation.

 Owner's legal Agent having Power of Attorney for this action (a Certified Power of Attorney document must accompany the application form).

Date 4/1/97

Tim Read

 Signature

Tim Read

 Print Name

Bureau of Land Management

 Company
Bastow Area Mgr

Individual Acknowledgment

Corporation Acknowledgment

NOTE: THIS APPLICATION REQUIRES A PUBLIC HEARING BEFORE THE INYO COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION. YOU OR A REPRESENTATIVE MUST BE PRESENT TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS. FAILURE TO APPEAR MAY RESULT IN THE PUBLIC HEARING BEING CONTINUED OR THE APPLICATION DENIED.

Attachment B

State of _____ ,

County of _____ ,

On _____ before me, _____

DATE

NAME, TITLE OF OFFICER-E.G., "JANE DOE, NOTARY PUBLIC"

personally appeared _____

NAME(S) OF SIGNER(S)

personally known to me-OR- proved to me on the basis of satisfactory evidence to be the person(s) whose name(s) is/are subscribed to the within instrument and acknowledged to me that he/she/they executed the same in his/her/their authorized capacity(ies), and by his/her/their signature(s) on instrument the person(s), or the entity upon behalf of which the person(s) acted, executed the instrument.

WITNESS my hand and official seal.

SIGNATURE OF NOTARY



APPENDIX A-3**Financial Assurance Cost Estimate Worksheets**

The following is a generalized format for the Financial Assurance cost estimate worksheets. Note, some of the items may not be applicable for all sites.

DATE: 01/02/97

Mine Name: NEW DEATH VALLEY JCT MS #286 A Mine ID# : 91-14-0046

Financial Assurance Worksheets prepared by: J. R. Stahl

Financial Assurance Summary Costs Totals

<u>Item</u>	<u>Total Amount</u>
<u>Direct Costs:</u>	
1. Removal of Roads	\$269.00
2. Regrading Pit Areas	\$269.00
3. Regrading Mine Spoils	\$198.00
4. Topsoil Replacement	\$291.00
5. Seeding Costs	\$1,300.00
6. Channel Grading	
7. Removal of Structures/Buildings	
<u>Direct Cost Sub-Total</u>	<u>\$2,327.00</u>
8. Supervision (2% to 7% of Direct Costs)	\$105.00
9. Profit & Overhead (3% to 15% of Direct Costs)	\$209.00
10. Contingencies (2% to 10% of Direct Costs)	\$140.00
11. Mobilization (1% to 5% of Direct Costs)	\$70.00
Total Financial Assurance Amount =	<u>\$2,851.00</u>

1. Removal of Roads**Description of Task:**

This task includes the removal of roadways per the conditions of the approved reclamation plan. This estimate should include a listing of assumptions including: length of the roadway, total cubic yards of asphalt and/or concrete surfaces to be removed, production rates for scarifying road bed, and grading required for the removal of roadside ditches and drainage structures. All disposal costs should be listed.

Describe the task required to meet the conditions of the approved reclamation plan:

Rip gravel road 1 hr. W/D8, fine grade 1 hr. W/12G

Length of Road: 750' Width of Road: 20'

Total Pavement Materials (cy/hr.): 0CY Total Acres: 0.34

A. Equipment: List all equipment, operating costs, total hours and total cost for each category.

Item	Quantity	\$/hour	Total \$/hour	Total Hours	Total Cost(\$)
1) Cat 966 FEL		\$73.00	\$0		\$0
2) Cat D8L Dozer w/ ripper	1	\$104.82	\$104.82	1	\$105
3) Water Truck	1	\$30.93	\$30.93	1	\$31
4) Cat 12G Blade	1	\$38.40	\$38.40	1	\$38
5) Ford F-700 Truck		\$25.00	\$0		\$0

Total Equipment Cost

\$174

B. Labor: List all labor categories to complete the job requirements.

Item	Quantity	Labor Rate \$/hour	Total \$/hour	Total Hours	Total Cost(\$)
1) Heavy Equip. Operator (G-13)	1	\$32.99	\$32.99	1	\$33
2) Heavy Equip. Operator (G-13)	1	\$32.99	\$32.99	1	\$33
3) Heavy Equip. Operator (G-13)		\$32.99	\$32.99		\$
4) Truck Driver (G-5)	1	\$29.41	\$29.41	1	\$29
5) Laborer (G-1)		\$25.12	\$25.12		\$0

Total Labor Cost

\$95

C. Materials: List all materials required to complete job requirements (including disposal costs).

Item	Quantity	Cost/Unit	Cost	Unit #Units	Total Cost(\$)
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1) Asphalt Disposal(loads)		\$100	\$100		\$0
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Total Materials Cost

\$0

D. Calculations:

Equipment Cost + Labor Cost + Materials Costs = Total Direct Cost

\$269

2. Regrading Pit Areas**Description of Task:**

The reduction of highwalls and final grading for mine pit areas. Cross-sections and reclamation maps should be used to develop this information provided operators have submitted sufficient data.

Describe the task required to meet the conditions of the approved reclamation plan:

Rough Grading Pit 1hr. W/D8L. Fine Grade 1hr. W/12G

Production Rate(s) (cy/hr): 800

Total Acres: 1.66

A. Equipment

Instructions: List all equipment required to complete final highwall grading for pit areas. You may want to separate mine areas for ease of accounting.

Item	Quantity	\$/hour	Total \$/hour	Total Hours	Total Cost(\$)
1) Cat 631 Scraper		\$134.38	\$134.38		\$
2) Cat D8L Dozer	1	\$104.82	\$104.82	1	\$105
3) Water Truck	1	\$30.93	\$30.93	1	\$31
4) Cat 12G Blade	1	\$38.40	\$38.40	1	\$38

Total Equipment Cost

\$174

B. Labor: List all labor categories to complete the job requirements.

Item	Quantity	Labor Rate \$/hour	Total \$/hour	Total Hours	Total Cost(\$)
1) Heavy Equip. Operator (G-13)	1	\$32.99	\$32.99	1	\$33
2) Heavy Equip. Operator (G-13)	1	\$32.99	\$32.99	1	\$33
3) Truck Driver (G-5)	1	\$29.41	\$29.41	1	\$29

Total Labor Cost

\$95

C. Materials: List all materials required to complete job requirements (including disposal costs).

Item	Quantity	Unit Cost	Total Cost(\$)
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1)

Total Materials Cost

D. Calculations:

Equipment Cost + Labor Cost + Materials Costs = Total Direct Cost \$269

3. Regrading Mine Spoils**Description of Task:**

grade all mine spoil areas to final approval reclaimed contour. Include scarifying all regraded slope areas where applicable. Cross-sections and reclamation plan maps should be used to develop this information. This item does not include the reduction of highwalls (see item No. 2).

Attachment B

Describe the methods used to regrade spoil piles to meet final approved reclaimed contours.

Rip & flatten areas 1hr. W/D8

Total Acres: 1.66 Production Rate(s) (cy/hr): 1200

A. Equipment

Instructions: List all equipment to complete final highwall grading for pit areas. You may want to separate mine areas for ease of accounting.

Item	Quantity	\$/hour	Total \$/hour	Total Hours	Total Cost(\$)
1) Cat D8L Dozer	1	\$104.82	\$104.82	1	\$105
2) Water Truck	1	\$30.93	\$30.93	1	\$31

Total Equipment Cost \$136

B. Labor: List all categories to complete the job requirements.

Item	Quantity	Labor Rate \$/hour	Total \$/hour	Total Hours	Total Cost(\$)
1) Heavy Equip. Operator (G-13)	1	\$32.99	\$32.99	1	\$33
2) Truck Driver (G-i)	1	\$29.41	\$29.41	1	\$29
3) Laborer (G-l)		\$25.12	\$25.12		\$

Total Labor Cost \$62

C. Materials: List all materials required to complete job requirements (including disposal costs).

Item	Quantity	Cost/Unit	Unit Cost	#Units	Total Cost(\$)

Total Materials Cost

D. Calculations:

Equipment Cost + Labor Cost + Materials Costs = Total Direct Cost \$198

4. Topsoil Replacement

Description of Task: *Replacement of topsoil or approved topsoil substitute on all reclaimed surfaces as described in the approved reclamation plan.*

Describe the topsoil replacement requirements of the reclamation plan:

Fine grade stockpiled material out over site

Total Topsoil (cubic yards): Total Acres: 2.0

Production Rate(s) (cy/hr):

Haul Distance (feet):

A. Equipment:

Instructions: List all equipment required to be used in the operation, operating costs with total co. per category. Total the cost of equipment

Attachment B

Item	Quantity	\$/hour	Total \$/hour	Total Hours	Total Cost(\$)
1) Cat 631 Scraper		\$134.38	\$134.38		\$
Water Truck		\$30.93	\$30.93		\$
3) Cat 12G Blade	1	\$38.40	\$38.40	2	\$77
4) 2-axle Dump Truck	1	\$19.50	\$19.50	2	\$39
Total Equipment Cost					<u>\$116</u>

B. Labor: List all labor categories to complete the job requirements.

Item	Quantity	\$/hour	Total \$/hour	Total Hours	Total Cost(\$)
1) Heavy Equip. Operator (G-13)	1	\$32.99	\$32.99	2	\$66
2) Heavy Equip. Operator (G-13)		\$32.99	\$32.99		\$
3) Heavy Equip. Operator (G-13)		\$32.99			\$
4) Truck Driver (G-5)	1	\$29.41	\$29.41	2	\$59
5) Laborer (G-1)	1	\$25.12	\$25.12	2	\$50
Total Labor Cost					<u>\$175</u>

C. Materials: List all materials required to complete job requirements (including disposal costs).

Item	Quantity	Cost/Unit	Unit Cost	#Units	Total Cost(\$)
1)					

Total Material Cost

\$0**D. Calculations:**Equipment Cost + Labor Cost + Materials Costs = Total Direct Cost \$291**5. Seeding & Revegetation Costs**

Description of Tasks

Includes the cost of revegetating all reclaimed areas identified in the approved reclamation plan. These costs may include, but are not limited to: seedbed preparation, seeding, hydromulching, seed and plant materials costs, fertilizers, mulching, irrigation and monitoring.

Describe the revegetation requirements of the approved reclamation plan:

Native seeding : 20.0lb./A (\$200.00 seed + \$200.00 application) /A on 2.0 A

List assumptions used in the estimate as described below:

Seeding Rate (lbs/ac): 20.0 Seeding Production Rate (ac/hr): _____Total Acres: 2.0 Monitoring Period: as needed**A. Equipment:**

Instructions: List all equipment required to be used in the operation, operating costs with total cost per category. Total the cost of all equipment.

Attachment B

Item	Quantity	\$/Unit	Total \$/acre	Total acres	Total Cost(\$)
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Total Equipment Cost

B. Labor: List all labor categories to complete the job requirements.

Item	Labor Rate \$/	Total \$/	Total Acres/Site	Total Cost(\$)
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1) Seed Application	\$200/A	\$200.00	2.0	\$400.00
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Total Labor Cost

\$400.00**C. Materials:** List all materials required to complete job requirements (including disposal costs).

Item	Quantity	Unit Cost/Acre	Total Acres	Total Cost(\$)
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1) Seed Costs	20.0lb./A	\$450.00	2.0	\$900.00
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Total materials Cost

\$900.00**D. Calculations:**

Equipment Cost + Labor Cost + Materials Costs = Total Direct Cost \$1,300.00

APPENDIX B

REVEGETATION MONITORING, SAMPLE DATA SHEET

Name _____ Date _____ Site # _____
Plot Size _____ Plot Number _____ Photo # _____
Treatment Received (i.e., type of mulch, resoiled?) _____

Plot Data: Total Plant Cover _____ Percent Bare Ground _____
Percent Litter _____ Percent Exposed Gravel or Cobble _____

Taxa: Shrubs Percent Cover Number (density) Height/Vigor

Herbs Percent Cover Number (density) Height/Vigor

Notes:

APPENDIX C

INTERIM MANAGEMENT PLAN (IMP)

RESPONSIBLE PERSON/PARTY:

David Grah
California State Department of Transportation (Caltrans)
District 09
500 S. Main Street
Bishop, California 93514
(619) 872-0734

SUMMARY

The purpose of an Interim Management Plan (IMP) is to prevent or minimize adverse environmental effects from an idle mining operation and to ensure that residual hazards to the public health and safety are eliminated while the mine is idle.

Idle Plan

The mining operation is carefully designed such that an idle period can be easily integrated into the site's management. The erosion control and drainage plan for the initial site reclamation phase and mining phase will also serve to protect the site during idle periods. Within 90 days of this operation becoming idle, Caltrans shall contact Inyo County requesting initiation of an idle period of up to five years in duration. If Caltrans plans to extract or transport minerals from the site during an idle period (which may not exceed 10 percent of the operation's previous maximum annual mineral production), the following information will be transmitted with the request for idle status:

- A description of any equipment, structures, and other facilities that will remain on-site while the operation is idle.
- The estimated annual production of overburden, mining waste, and ore while the operation is idle.

Attachment B

- A description of surface mining operations that will be conducted while the operation is idle.

Upon the County's approval of idle status, the following annual monitoring activities will be implemented:

- verification that all erosion control and drainage control structures have been installed for the mining phase and/or reclamation phase, as per Section 3.0 and 4.0 of the reclamation plan;
- cleaning out of sediment basins, run-off retention areas, straw check dams, and ditches (if any);
- clearing out of the up-gradient sides of the soil berms;
- maintenance of emplaced fill and fill slopes on site;
- maintenance and management of stockpiles; and,
- appropriate, off-site disposal of any illegally dumped materials found on the site.

APPENDIX D

Desert Tortoise Mitigation

In order to protect the desert tortoise from impacts during operations and restoration of the material site, the following measures will be implemented; 1) the material site will be fenced with tortoise proof fencing installed on a five strand barbed wire type fence; 2) a locked gate will be provided for security and to keep tortoises out of the pit site and a 25 mile per hour speed limit will be placed on the access road; 3) a qualified tortoise monitor will be present during the fencing on the project site to be sure that no tortoise are harmed; 4) after the fence has been installed, the entire pit site will be surveyed for tortoises. Any tortoise found during the clearance survey will be relocated outside of the fence; 5) educational classes will be given to the crews that are to use the site; and 6) the fence will be monitored each year during the active season to ensure that the fence is providing the desired protection for the desert tortoise.

The tortoise monitor shall hold a current Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the DFG and USFWS that authorizes handling on the desert Tortoise.

Any mortality or injury to a desert tortoise shall be reported to the DFG and USFWS within 24 hours.



**Planning Department
168 North Edwards Street
Post Office Drawer L
Independence, California 93526**

**Phone: (619) 878-0263
(619) 872-2706**

FAX: (619) 872-2712

E-Mail: InyoPlanning@telis.org

DRAFT MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

**PROJECT TITLE: Reclamation Plan # 96-10/ New Death Valley Junction Site - #286A-
California State Department of Transportation (CalTrans)**

PROJECT LOCATION:

The project is located on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands approximately 5.5 miles west of the community of Death Valley Junction (more specifically referenced as being on the south side of Highway 190 at post mile 135.5). The project is located in a portion of Section 14, Township 25 North, Range 4 East, SBBM.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

This is a mining project that will occupy approximately 7.7 acres of BLM lands. The site is an irregular-shaped polygon with sides ranging in lengths from 869 feet to 273 feet. The site has not yet been mined. Approximately 7.2 acres of the site will be disturbed by operations. Approximately 0.2 acres will be disturbed off-site for an access road entering the site from the north. The termination date for this reclamation plan shall be the year 2022 A. D. The site will be mined for material to be used for road repair and maintenance, and possible construction. It is estimated that the annual extraction volume will be about 7,500 cubic yards. There is a pre-existing borrow site 1,500 feet east (across State Highway 190) that has naturally reclaimed itself (1974).

FINDINGS:

An Initial Study and an Evaluation of Potential Impacts has been prepared by the Planning Department (attached). The Initial Study, including an environmental checklist, indicated that the proposed project, as mitigated, will not have a significant adverse impact on the environment for the following reasons:

- A. The proposed project is consistent with the goals and objectives of the Inyo County General Plan. Therefore, the project is consistent with the adopted General Plan Land Use designation of "Open Space - Natural Resources."
- B. The proposed reclamation plan is consistent with the requirements of the Inyo County Zoning Ordinance and the OS-40 (Open space-40 acre minimum) zone.
- C. The proposed Reclamation Plan is consistent with the requirements of Chapter 7.70 of the Inyo County Code.

D. Existing public and private services are adequate to meet the requirements of the proposed project without the need for their expansion.

E. Potential loss of native vegetation and wildlife habitat is considered to be in agreement with the standards set by the Fish and Game Code for potential habitat loss. Because of the potential loss of native vegetation and wildlife habitat, however sparse, Section 711.4 of the Fish and Game Code requires the payment of \$1,250.00 fee before this project is deemed "operative, vested, or final." The potential impact is greater than *de minimus* standard of section 711.4. Said \$1,250.00 shall be paid by the applicant at the time the Notice of Determination is filed by the Planning Department (5 days after the reclamation plan approval).

F. Based upon the information submitted, and the mitigation measures which will be required as a result of the Initial Study, it has been found that the project does not have the potential to create a significant adverse impact on the following:

1. Earth
2. Flora or fauna
3. Air Quality

This constitutes a Negative Finding for the Mandatory Findings required pursuant to Section 15065 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines. Mitigation measures that will be required are as follows:

1. EARTH:

PROBLEM:

Although the area is not in an identified FEMA flood zone, short-term high-intensity precipitation events have been known to occur in this area.

MITIGATION MEASURE: CalTrans shall recalculate the potential for flooding based upon 20-year flood data and design appropriate containment or diversion structures.

MITIGATION LEVEL: Mitigate to a less than significant level.

LEAD AGENCY: Inyo County Planning Commission

FUNDING SOURCE: Mining Operator/Applicant shall directly implement this measure at their expense.

IMPLEMENTING AGENCY: Mining Operator/Applicant.

TIMING: Mitigation measure is to be implemented prior to mining.

MONITORING AGENCY: Inyo County Planning Department.

2. EARTH:

PROBLEM:

CalTrans has requested that a temporary asphalt batch plant be authorized for the site.

MITIGATION MEASURE: CalTrans or the contractor shall not bury any asphalt on site.

MITIGATION LEVEL: Mitigate to a less than significant level.

LEAD AGENCY: Inyo County Planning Commission

FUNDING SOURCE: Mining Operator/Applicant shall directly implement this measure at their expense.

IMPLEMENTING AGENCY: Mining Operator/Applicant.

TIMING: Mitigation measures are to be implemented concurrently with operations, and at the time of final closure.

MONITORING AGENCY: Inyo County Planning Department.

3. FLORA and FAUNA:

PROBLEM:

CalTrans will be removing 15 cacti and donating them to the National Park Service, and replacing them during reclamation. Also, the area is within the range of the Desert Tortoise.

MITIGATION MEASURE: Conditions of approval shall include the following mitigation measures:

1. Replace the 15 cacti to be disturbed by mining.
2. CalTrans standard mitigation measures shall be followed to protect the Desert Tortoise.

MITIGATION LEVEL: Mitigate to a less than significant level.

LEAD AGENCY: Inyo County Planning Commission

FUNDING SOURCE: Mining Operator/Applicant shall directly implement this measure at their expense.

IMPLEMENTING AGENCY: Mining Operator/Applicant.

TIMING: Mitigation measures are to be implemented concurrently operations and closure.

MONITORING AGENCY: Inyo County Planning Department.

4. **AIR QUALITY:**

PROBLEM:

This project will create dust in the initial operations, start-up, operation and reclamation.

MITIGATION MEASURE: In the initial start-up and during operations CalTrans shall supply a water truck on-site to keep the dust down while these activities are being conducted. The County of Inyo of Inyo is not required to have a water truck on site as the County will not be operating either a screening plant or asphalt plant within the project area.

Should, in the future, the County wish to operate either the screening plant or the asphalt batch plant, the County (with permission from CalTrans) shall supply a water truck for dust suppression.

MITIGATION LEVEL: Mitigate to a less than significant level.

LEAD AGENCY: Inyo County Planning Commission

FUNDING SOURCE: Mining Operator/Applicant shall directly implement this measure at their expense.

IMPLEMENTING AGENCY: Mining Operator/Applicant.

TIMING: Mitigation measures are to be implemented concurrently operations and closure.

MONITORING AGENCY: Inyo County Planning Department.

5. **FLORA and FAUNA:**

PROBLEM:

Area will need to be reseeded at time of closure.

MITIGATION MEASURE: The project will disturb 7.7 acres of wildlife and plant habitat. However, the reclamation plan shall mitigate the disturbance by implementation of reclamation conditions.

MITIGATION LEVEL: Mitigate to a less than significant level.

LEAD AGENCY: Inyo County Planning Commission

FUNDING SOURCE: Mining Operator/Applicant (CalTrans) shall directly implement this measure at their expense.

IMPLEMENTING AGENCY: Mining Operator/Applicant.

TIMING: Mitigation measures are to be implemented concurrently operations and closure.

MONITORING AGENCY: Inyo County Planning Department.

The review period for this Negative Declaration expires on MAY 29, 1997 Inyo County is not required to respond to any comments received after this date.

Additional information is available from the Inyo County Planning Department. Please contact Project Planner, Curtis E. Kellogg, if you have any questions regarding this project.

INYO COUNTY PLANNING DEPARTMENT

4-29-97

Date

Peter Chamberlin

Peter Chamberlin
Planning Director

Attachments:

Initial Study,
Evaluation of Potential Impacts
Vicinity Map (from Rec. Plan)

Date	Reviewer	Initials
4/29	Project Planner	[Signature]
4/29	Review Planner	[Signature]
4/29	Planning Director	12
	Secretary	

INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST

I. BACKGROUND

1. Project Title: Reclamation Plan # 96-10/ New Death Valley Junction Site - #286A-
California State Department of Transportation (CalTrans)
2. Name of Project Applicant: California State Department of Transportation (CalTrans)
3. Address and Phone Number of Applicant: 500 South Main Street
Bishop, CA 93514
(760) 872-0734
4. Lead Agency Contact Persons: Earl H. Gann & Curtis E. Kellogg
5. Lead Agency Address and Phone Number: Inyo County Planning Department
P. O. Drawer "L"
Independence, CA 93526
(760) 878-02363
6. Date Checklist Completed: _____
7. Parties Completing Checklist: Earl H. Gann, Mine Reclamation Planner.
Curtis E. Kellogg, Associate Planner.
8. Project Location: The project is located on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands approximately 5.5 miles west of the community of Death Valley Junction (more specifically referenced as being on the south side of Highway 190 at post mile 135.5). The project is located in a portion of Section 14, Township 25 North, Range 4 East, SBBM.
9. General Plan Designation: Open Space / Natural Resources .
10. Zoning Classification: OS-40 (Open Space - Forty acres minimum).
11. Description of Project *(Describe the whole action involved, including but not limited to later phases of the project, and any secondary, support, or off-site features necessary for its implementation. Attach additional sheets if necessary):*

This is a mining project that will occupy approximately 7.7 acres of BLM lands. The site is an irregular-shaped polygon with sides ranging in lengths from 869 feet to 273 feet. The site has not yet been mined. Approximately 7.2 acres of the site will be disturbed by operations. Approximately 0.2 acres will be disturbed off-site for an access road entering the site from the north. The termination date for this reclamation plan shall be the year 2022 A. D. The site will be mined for material to be used for road repair and maintenance, and possible construction. It is estimated that the annual extraction volume will be about 7,500 cubic yards.
12. Surrounding Land Uses and Setting *(Briefly describe the project's surroundings):*

The surrounding land use is Open Space (across State Highway 190 to the north are lands designated as "Wilderness" by the BLM).
13. Other Agencies Whose Approval Is Required *(e.g., permits, financing approval, or participation agreement):*
Bureau of Land Management

II. EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

1. *A brief explanation is required for all answers except "No Impact" answers that are adequately supported by the information sources a lead agency cites in the parentheses following each question. A "No Impact" answer is adequately supported if the referenced information sources show that the impact simply does not apply to projects like the one involved (e.g., the project falls outside a fault rupture zone). A "No Impact" answer should be explained where it is based on project-specific factors as well as general standards (e.g., the project will not expose sensitive receptors to pollutants, based on a project-specific screening analysis).*
2. All answers must take account of the whole action involved, including off-site as well as on-site, cumulative as well as project-level, indirect as well as direct, and construction as well as operational impacts.
3. "Potentially Significant Impact" is appropriate if there is *substantial evidence* that an effect is significant.
4. Mitigation Identified: *Negative Declaration* applies where the incorporation of mitigation measures has reduced an effect from potentially significant to less than significant. The lead agency must describe the mitigation measures and briefly explain how they reduce the effect to a less-than-significant level.
5. No Mitigation Identified: *EIR* applies where there is substantial evidence that an effect is significant and no mitigation is identified or more analysis is needed. When this determination is made, an EIR is required.
6. Earlier analyses may be used where, pursuant to the tiering, program EIR, or other CEQA process, an effect has been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR or negative declaration. State CEQA Guidelines Section 15063(c)(3)(D).
7. References to information sources for potential impacts (e.g., general plans, zoning ordinances) should be provided. *Reference to a previously prepared or outside document should, where appropriate, include a reference to the page or pages where the statement is substantiated. A source list should be attached, and other sources used or individuals contacted should be cited in the discussion.*

III. ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

Include explanations for all answers by adding text to form or on attached pages.

	No Impact	Less-than- Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Impact	
			Mitigation Identified - Negative Declaration	No Mitigation Identified - EIR
1. Land Use and Planning				
a. Does the project conflict with adopted land use plans or policies that are applicable to the project site or to the project vicinity? [Note that on a project-specific basis, such applicable land use plans and policies may include those imposed by local agencies, by local or regional agencies, and by statewide land use agencies.] <i>This project will not conflict with any adopted land use plans or policies.</i>	X	_____	_____	_____
b. Would the project conflict with open space, low-income housing, or other adopted land use goals that are applicable to the project location? <i>This project will not conflict with any open space, low-income housing or land use goals because the project is located in a extremely remote area.</i>	X	_____	_____	_____
c. Would the project conflict with established recreational, educational, religious, or scientific uses at the project location? <i>This project will not conflict with the above uses.</i>	X	_____	_____	_____
d. Would the project require cancellation of Williamson Act agricultural contracts, or convert agricultural land to a non-agricultural use within an area designated as Important Farmland by the Department of Conservation, or an area designated as Prime Farmland by the Soil Conservation Service of the federal Department of Agriculture? <i>This project is not in any farming area and will not convert any agricultural land to non agricultural uses.</i>	X	_____	_____	_____
e. Would the project cause a nuisance to existing or planned land uses? Would existing or planned land uses cause a nuisance to the residents or users of the project? <i>This project is consistent with existing land use policies of the County in regards to mining.</i>	X	_____	_____	_____
2. Population, Employment, and Housing				
a. Does the project conflict with population, employment, or housing policies or projections established by government agencies with jurisdiction over the project? <i>This project is located in a remote area of the County and will</i>	X	_____	_____	_____

		Potentially Significant Impact		
		No Impact	Less-than-Significant Impact	Mitigation Identified - Negative Declaration
	<i>not affect any population, employment and housing policies or projections.</i>			
b.	Will the project directly or indirectly cause substantial growth or concentration in the population beyond current levels?	X		
	<i>Due to the small size of the project no substantial growth or population concentration will occur.</i>			
c.	Will the project directly or indirectly cause a net loss in the number of jobs in the community or cause substantial job or income losses by changing the employment opportunities in a community?	X		
	<i>Because of the nature of this project no net loss of jobs will occur.</i>			
d.	Does the project displace existing residences or otherwise create or exacerbate a housing shortage?	X		
	<i>No residential units are located in the area of this project. This project will not create a housing shortage.</i>			
3. Geology, Soils, and Seismicity				
a.	Would the project conflict with applicable legal requirements regarding geohazards and soil conservation?	X		
	<i>This project will not conflict with any legal requirements regarding geohazards and soil conservation.</i>			
b.	Is the project likely to expose people or structures to significant geohazards? In particular, is the project located within an Alquist-Priolo Special Studies Zone, within a known active fault zone, in an area characterized by surface rupture that might be related to a fault, or in an area designated as geologic hazard area or subject to geohazard safety measures in a local plan or ordinance?	X		
	<i>The project is not located in an earthquake Special Study Zone as identified in the Alquist-Priolo Special Studies Maps (no map printed).</i>			
c.	Does the substrate at the project site consist of material that is subject to liquefaction or other secondary seismic hazards in the event of groundshaking?	X		
	<i>The substrate is not subject to liquefaction or secondary hazards.</i>			
d.	Is there any evidence of static hazards, such as landsliding or slopes in excess of 15%, that could result in slope failure?	X		
	<i>The area has no slopes greater than 15% and is not subject to landsliding.</i>			

		Potentially Significant Impact			
		No Impact	Less-than-Significant Impact	Mitigation Identified - Negative Declaration	No Mitigation Identified - EIR
c.	Is the project located on or in the vicinity of soil that is likely to collapse or subside, as might be the case with fill, old mining properties, or areas of subsidence caused by groundwater drawdown? <i>Due to the nature of the project, no groundwater drawdown will occur.</i>	X	_____	_____	_____
f.	Are soils characterized by shrink/swell potential that might result in deformation of foundations or damage to structures? <i>Soils in the project area are not characterized by shrink/swell potential.</i>	X	_____	_____	_____
g.	Would the project result in substantial soil erosion or loss of topsoil? <i>Because of the nature of this project soil erosion may occur. However, the design of the project will mitigate this to a less than significant impact.</i>	_____	_____	X	_____
h.	Would the project result in loss of (or lost access to) mineral resources, including rock/sand/gravel resources, or other known resources such as those identified in a Mineral Resource Zone identified by the California Department of Mines and Geology? <i>The project will not result in the loss of a valuable mineral resource.</i>	X	_____	_____	_____
i.	Would the project result in loss of a unique geographical feature of statewide or national significance? <i>The project site does not have any unique geologic features.</i>	X	_____	_____	_____
4. Hydrology and Water Quality					
a.	Would the project conflict with applicable legal requirements relating to hydrology and water quality? <i>This project will not conflict with any legal requirements relating with hydrology or water quality.</i>	X	_____	_____	_____
b.	Would the project cause direct or indirect wastewater discharges that would result in acute or eventual exposures to levels of hazardous materials that would adversely affect human health, wildlife, or plant species? Would the project otherwise substantially degrade surface water quality? <i>This project will not cause direct or indirect wastewater discharges of hazardous materials to surface water.</i>	X	_____	_____	_____
c.	Would the project substantially degrade groundwater quality, interfere substantially with groundwater recharge, or deplete groundwater resources in a manner that would cause water-	X	_____	_____	_____

		Potentially Significant Impact			
		No Impact	Less-than- Significant Impact	Mitigation Identified - Negative Declaration	No Mitigation Identified - EIR
related hazards such as subsidence?					
<i>This project will not degrade groundwater. Groundwater in the area is not potable, and therefore, undrinkable.</i>					
d.	Would the project alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area in a manner that results in flooding, erosion, or siltation, on- or off-site?		X		
<i>Drainage may be affected. However, this will not be a significant impact.</i>					
e.	Is the project located in a flood-prone area, based on either historical flood records or potential risks relating to existing or planned changes to flood control measures?			X	
<i>This project location is possibly in a flood prone area. Due to the nature of the project, as conditioned/mitigated flooding should not affect the site. There is no FEMA flood map printed for the area.</i>					
<i>CalTrans shall recalculate the potential for flooding based upon 20-year flood data and design appropriate containment or diversion structures.</i>					
5. Biological Resources					
a.	Would the project violate any environmental law or regulation designed to protect wildlife, fisheries, plant species, or habitat areas?			X	
<i>The project will disturb 7.7 acres of wildlife and plant habitat. However, the reclamation plan shall mitigate the disturbance by implementation of reclamation conditions.</i>					
b.	Would the project directly harm a sensitive species or cause a net loss to the habitat of the species?			X	
<i>The short term impacts will harm species habitat. However, reclamation will restore damage to a less than significant impact (see standard CalTrans Mitigation Measures in the Reclamation Plan).</i>					
c.	Would the project interfere substantially with the movement of any resident or migratory fish or wildlife species, or with established resident or migratory corridors?	X			
<i>This project will not interfere substantially with the movement of any resident or migratory wildlife species.</i>					
d.	Would the project cause any fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels?	X			
<i>The size of this project will not cause any fish or wildlife</i>					

		Potentially Significant Impact			
		No Impact	Less-than-Significant Impact	Mitigation Identified - Negative Declaration	No Mitigation Identified - EIR
	<i>population to drop below self-sustaining levels.</i>				
e.	Would the project cause a net loss of any riparian lands, wetlands, marshes, or other environmentally sensitive habitat areas?	X	_____	_____	_____
	<i>No wetlands are in the area of this project.</i>				
f.	Would the project result in the loss of any "specimen tree" or tree with historic value?	X	_____	_____	_____
	<i>No trees are in the project area.</i>				
	<i>Wildlife mitigation measures for CalTrans shall be those standard measures imposed on all CalTrans projects as outlined in their reclamation plan.</i>				
6. Cultural and Historical Resources					
a.	Would the project conflict with the cultural and historic protection measures established by federal, state, or local regulatory programs?	X	_____	_____	_____
	<i>No Federal State or local cultural or historical protection regulatory programs have been established for this area.</i>				
b.	Would the project cause the physical disturbance of, or prevent future access to, a prehistoric, historic, or cultural site that is listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, the California Register of Historic Resources, or a Register of Historic Resources that has been adopted by resolution or ordinance of a local government?	_____	X	_____	_____
	<i>No prehistoric cultural resources were found within the proposed project area. However, evidence of previous mining activity was found east of the site and was deemed less than significant.</i>				
c.	Would the project cause the physical disturbance of, or prevent future access to, a structure, parcel, or other feature of historic or cultural significance to a community, ethnic, or social group?	X	_____	_____	_____
	<i>No.</i>				
d.	Would the project cause the physical disturbance of, or prevent future access to, a unique paleontological site?	X	_____	_____	_____
	<i>A previous Cultural Inventory (1974) found no paleontological sites in the project area.</i>				

		No Impact	Less-than- Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Impact	
				Mitigation Identified - Negative Declaration	No Mitigation Identified - EIR
c.	Would the project cause the disturbance of any human remains? <i>No human remains have been found in the project area (previous survey - 1974).</i>	X	_____	_____	_____
7. Traffic and Transportation					
a.	Would the project cause a new violation, or exacerbate an existing violation, of an applicable legal standard or goal relating to traffic levels of service (LOS) or volume/capacity (V/C) ratios, of a state or local agency? (LOS ratings range from "A" to "F", with many California agencies ranking "E" and "F" as unacceptable. V/C ratios range from 0 to 1.0, with many California agencies ranking an incremental worsening of 0.02 as unacceptable for intersections already operating at LOS E or F. These significance thresholds should be used to evaluate average and peak-hour project traffic impacts if the local agency has not adopted any particular significance standards for the project area.) <i>Due to the remote location of this project site, no legal standard relating to traffic levels will be violated.</i>	X	_____	_____	_____
b.	Does the project conflict with an applicable Congestion Management Plan, air quality plan, or other plan or policy relating to automobiles or transit systems, adopted by a federal, state, or local agency? <i>No congestion management plan is in effect for this area of the County.</i>	X	_____	_____	_____
c.	Would the project add traffic to a roadway that has design features (e.g., narrow width, roadside ditches, sharp curves, poor sight distance, inadequate pavement structure) or supports uses that would be incompatible with substantial increases in traffic (e.g., rural roads used by farm equipment, livestock, horseback riders, or pedestrians) that would result in safety problems with the addition of project-related traffic? <i>The nature of this project will not add any traffic to any road within the area.</i>	X	_____	_____	_____
d.	Does the project have adequate internal circulation capacity, including entrance and exit routes, to safely accommodate average and peak-hour traffic loads? <i>The remote location and the nature of this project will adequately accommodate the traffic loads created by this project.</i>	X	_____	_____	_____
e.	Does the project provide for safe pedestrian and bicycle circulation?	X	_____	_____	_____

		Potentially Significant Impact			
		No Impact	Less-than-Significant Impact	Mitigation Identified - Negative Declaration	No Mitigation Identified - EIR
	<i>Pedestrian traffic will not be a problem in this area due to the extremely remote location of the project site.</i>				
f.	Does the project provide sufficient parking capacity for the projected numbers of automobiles and bicycles? If not, is there sufficient commercial parking capacity available in the immediate project vicinity? If not, will unmet project parking demand worsen parking availability for existing residents or commercial enterprises?	X	_____	_____	_____
	<i>The small size and nature of this project precludes any parking problems associated in the area of this project.</i>				
g.	Is the project currently served by the community transit program? Is there sufficient capacity on the existing transit system for the project? If not, is there an adopted and funded plan to increase transit capacity to meet project demand?	X	_____	_____	_____
	<i>This project is not served by any community transit program. This project will not create any need to establish a community transit program for this area.</i>				
8.	Visual Quality and Aesthetics				
a.	Would the project conflict with the applicable vista protection standards, scenic resource protection requirements, and design criteria of federal, state, and local agencies?	_____	X	_____	_____
	<i>The visual qualities and vistas protection standards of the area will not be affected by this project. Reclamation will restore the project site close to its original configuration.</i>				
b.	Does the project alter or obstruct existing public viewsheds from or across the project site, including scenic features associated with designated scenic highways?	_____	_____	X	_____
	<i>The project, as submitted, will alter existing public viewsheds. However, reclamation of the site will restore the landscape.</i>				
c.	Does the project change the existing visual quality and character at the project site in a manner that is inconsistent with other uses that currently exist or have been approved for the area? Are such changes attributable to project size, massing, density, landscaping, regrading, or other changes to the physical environment?	X	_____	_____	_____
	<i>Reclamation will restore the project site close to its original configuration.</i>				
d.	Does the project increase light and glare in the project vicinity so as to cause a hazard or nuisance condition?	X	_____	_____	_____
	<i>The nature of this project will not alter light or glare in the</i>				

		Potentially Significant Impact			
		No Impact	Less-than-Significant Impact	Mitigation Identified - Negative Declaration	No Mitigation Identified - EIR
<i>project vicinity.</i>					
e.	Does the project significantly reduce sunlight or introduce shadows in public areas? Would loss of sunlight or increase in shadows adversely affect sensitive species or habitats?	X	_____	_____	_____
<i>The nature of this project will not alter the or reduce the sunlight or introduce any shadows in the area.</i>					
9. Air Quality					
a.	Would the project violate any law or regulation designed to achieve or maintain compliance with ambient air quality standards or protect against adverse health effects caused by air pollution?	_____	_____	X	_____
<i>The County is a non-compliance area for PM10 emissions. This project will create dust in the initial operations start-up and operation. Mitigation will require a water truck to be present to keep the dust down while operations are being conducted.</i>					
b.	Would the project violate any approved plan or policy regarding air pollution, including federal or state air quality management plans for achieving or maintaining compliance with applicable ambient air quality standards, local or regional growth or congestion management plans, and local or regional CEQA significance standards for air quality?	_____	_____	X	_____
<i>See 9a.</i>					
c.	Would the project result in a net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project area has not attained applicable federal or state ambient air quality standards? Would such a net increase exceed any of the specific parameters listed below?	_____	_____	X	_____
<i>See 9a.</i>					
d.	Using the approved or established risk assessment methodologies of the air quality control agencies, would project toxic air contaminant (TAC) emissions cause a significant short- or long-term health risk? Would project TAC emissions cause an increased cancer risk of greater than ten per million?	X	_____	_____	_____
<i>The project will not cause any toxic air contaminant to be released into the air.</i>					
e.	Would the project require the removal or demolition of building components containing asbestos, or the excavation or crushing of serpentine rock containing asbestos?	X	_____	_____	_____
<i>Asbestos is not found in the area.</i>					
f.	Would the project require the removal or movement of soils contaminated by hazardous materials that can cause adverse	X	_____	_____	_____

		Potentially Significant Impact			
		No Impact	Less-than- Significant Impact	Mitigation Identified - Negative Declaration	No Mitigation Identified - EIR
health impacts if airborne?					
<i>Soils to be moved in the road construction and the reclamation of said roads are not contaminated with hazardous materials. The soils do not contain any hazardous materials.</i>					
g.	Would the project concentrate vehicle trips or vehicle-related emissions in a localized area (e.g., intersections, parking areas), which would cause a violation of the carbon monoxide ambient air quality standard?	X	_____	_____	_____
<i>The small nature of this project will not violate any carbon monoxide ambient air standards.</i>					
h.	Does the project have the potential to cause an odor, visibility, or other problem that would create a public nuisance condition?	X	_____	_____	_____
<i>Because of the remote location and the nature of this operation no odors produced will create a public nuisance condition.</i>					
10. Noise and Vibration					
a.	Would the project violate any established noise or vibration law, regulation, or standard?	X	_____	_____	_____
<i>The project will not violate any established noise or vibration law regulation or standard. All equipment shall conform with the required standards set by both California Office of Safety and Health Administration and Mine Safety and Health Administration.</i>					
b.	Would the project cause a permanent increase in ambient noise or vibration levels that would be perceptible to humans in the project vicinity, and that is perceptibly greater than the noise or vibration levels caused by existing development in the project area?	X	_____	_____	_____
<i>No permanent increase in noise will be created by this project.</i>					
c.	Would the project cause a temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise or vibration levels that would be perceptible to humans in the project vicinity, and that is perceptibly greater than the noise or vibration levels caused by existing development and activity in the project area?	_____	X	_____	_____
<i>Road construction, mining and reclamation activities will cause a temporary increase in ambient noise levels. Workers in the immediate vicinity shall be required to wear hearing protection.</i>					
d.	Can the project noise and vibration level during construction activities be limited to daylight, weekday hours and be comparable to that required for construction of existing development in the project area?	_____	X	_____	_____

		Potentially Significant Impact			
		No Impact	Less-than-Significant Impact	Mitigation Identified - Negative Declaration	No Mitigation Identified - EIR
<i>Road construction, operations and reclamation activities may increase noise levels on a sporadic basis. However, this is an insignificant impact at the mine site.</i>					
11. Utilities and Infrastructure					
a.	<i>Electricity:</i> Will the project require expansions in existing electrical generating facilities and existing high-power transmission lines?	X	_____	_____	_____
<i>This project will not require any expansion of existing electrical generating facilities (portable diesel generator).</i>					
b.	<i>Water:</i> Will the project comply with water conservation and supply requirements imposed by state and local agencies? Will the project require expansions in existing water supply treatment facilities or trunk conveyance lines? Has the water purveyor determined that it has adequate treatment facilities, conveyance capacity, and water supplies to serve project demand? Will the water supply be drawn from a groundwater basin that is overdrawn in relation to demand and historical levels?	X	_____	_____	_____
<i>This project will comply with water conservation requirements. The project will not expand any water supply.</i>					
c.	<i>Wastewater Treatment:</i> Will the project comply with wastewater pretreatment standards enforced by federal, state, and local regulatory agencies? Will the project require expansions of the wastewater treatment facilities and trunk conveyance lines? Has the wastewater treatment provider determined that it has adequate treatment and conveyance capacity to serve project demand?	X	_____	_____	_____
<i>This project will not create any wastewater and will not require expansion of any wastewater facility.</i>					
d.	<i>Solid Waste:</i> Will the project comply with state and local requirements relating to recycling, litter control, and solid waste handling? Is a landfill available with sufficient capacity to accommodate on a long-term basis (10 or more years) solid waste generated by the proposed project?	X	_____	_____	_____
<i>This project will create insignificant amounts of solid waste. It will not impact any solid waste facility.</i>					
12. Public Services					
a.	<i>Sheriff:</i> Will the project require additional staff or equipment to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives?	X	_____	_____	_____
<i>The project will not require additional law enforcement</i>					

		No Impact	Less-than- Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Impact	
				Mitigation Identified - Negative Declaration	No Mitigation Identified - FIR
	<i>personnel or equipment to service this project.</i>				
b.	Fire: Will the project require additional staff or equipment to maintain an acceptable level of service (i.e., response time, equipment capacity)?	X	_____	_____	_____
	<i>This project will not require additional staff to maintain adequate fire protection.</i>				
c.	Schools: Will the project increase the population of school-age children in a K-12 school district that is or will be operating without adequate staff, equipment, or facilities?	X	_____	_____	_____
	<i>Schools will not be affected by this project.</i>				
d.	Parks and Recreation: Will the project increase use of existing park and recreational facilities, or require the creation of new park and recreational facilities, to comply with locally adopted park and recreational service standards?	X	_____	_____	_____
	<i>This project will not increase the use of any park or recreational facilities.</i>				
13. Energy					
a.	Does the project comply with applicable laws and regulations regarding energy conservation?	X	_____	_____	_____
	<i>This project will comply with all energy conservation regulations.</i>				
b.	Does the project require quantities of nonrenewable sources of energy in excess of quantities required by recent, similar projects?	X	_____	_____	_____
	<i>This project will not require inordinate amount of nonrenewable resources.</i>				
c.	Do the energy suppliers have the capacity to supply the project's energy needs with existing and planned energy sources and conveyance systems?	X	_____	_____	_____
	<i>Energy suppliers will have no problems in supplying this project.</i>				
14. Hazardous Materials					
a.	Will the project comply with applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and standards relating to hazardous materials?	X	_____	_____	_____
	<i>This project will not use any hazardous material, other than the usual fuel to operate mobile equipment.</i>				
b.	Is the soil or groundwater at the project site contaminated by hazardous materials? Is such contamination known to exist at	X	_____	_____	_____

		Potentially Significant Impact			
		No Impact	Less-than- Significant Impact	Mitigation Identified - Negative Declaration	No Mitigation Identified - EIR
another location that is within 2,000 feet of the project site?					
<i>The soil and groundwater are not contaminated with hazardous material. No such contamination is known to be located within 2,000 feet of the project site.</i>					
c.	Does the project create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	X	_____	_____	_____
<i>This project does not use hazardous materials in the operation of mining activities.</i>					
d.	Does the project create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the likely release of hazardous materials to the environment?	X	_____	_____	_____
<i>This operation does not use hazardous material.</i>					
e.	Will the project interfere with community emergency response plans or emergency evacuation plans in the event of a reasonably foreseeable emergency situation involving a hazardous material exposure or release?	X	_____	_____	_____
<i>This project is located outside the range of any emergency response plans.</i>					
f.	Are there hazardous material re-use, or one or more hazardous waste treatment or disposal, facilities available to lawfully accept and handle hazardous wastes generated by the project?	X	_____	_____	_____
<i>This site will not generate any hazardous waste.</i>					
15. Mandatory Findings of Significance					
a.	Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of fish or wildlife species, cause fish or wildlife populations to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal, or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	X	_____	_____	_____
b.	Does the project have the potential to achieve short-term, to the disadvantage of long-term, environmental goals? (A short-term impact on the environment is one that occurs in a relatively brief, definitive period of time while long-term impacts will endure well into the future.)	_____	X	_____	_____
c.	Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively significant when placed in the context of other reasonably foreseeable projects?	_____	_____	X	_____

Attachment B

	No Impact	Less-than- Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Impact	
			Mitigation Identified - Negative Declaration	No Mitigation Identified - EIR
d. Does the project have environmental effects that will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	X	_____	_____	_____

IV. DETERMINATION BASED ON ENVIRONMENTAL EVALUATION

On the basis of this Initial Study evaluation:

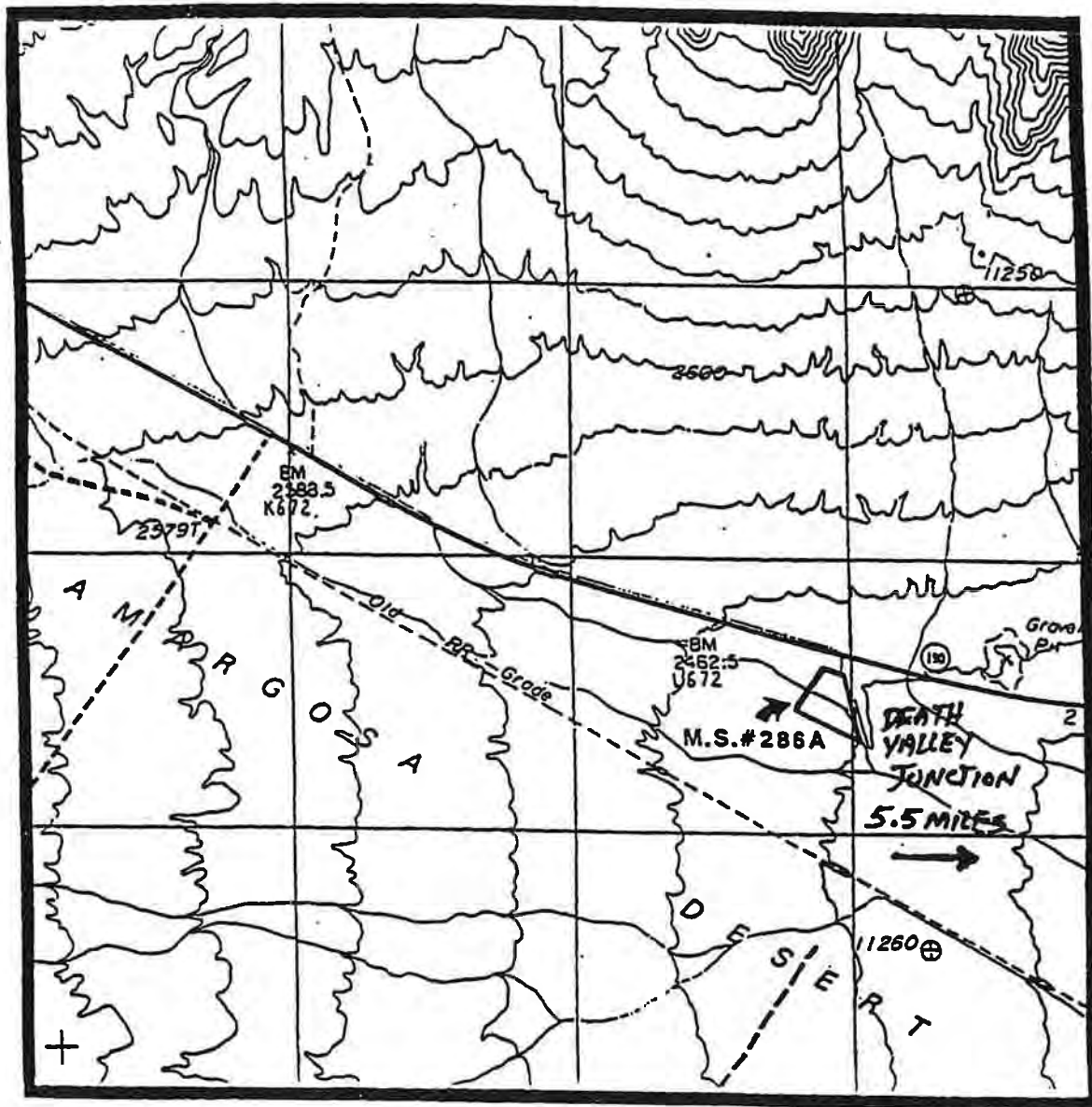
- ☐ The proposed project is CATEGORICALLY EXEMPT from CEQA under Class(es) _____, and there are no unusual circumstances or specified statutory conditions present that render reliance on such applicable Categorical Exemption(s) unlawful.
- ☐ The proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION should be prepared.
- ☒ Although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because the mitigation measures described [above/in the attached list] will be a required condition of project approval, and accordingly a MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION should be prepared.
- ☐ There is substantial evidence that the proposed project may have a significant adverse impact on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT should be required.

Date:

4/29/97

(Signature)

For PETER CHAMBERLIN
DIRECTION OF PLANNING



Modified from USGS 7.5-minute East of Ryan, Ca, topographic map (provisional edition, 1988)



Topographic Map
Caltrans Material Site #286A





Attachment B
STATE OF CALIFORNIA-DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
ENVIRONMENTAL FILING FEE CASH RECEIPT
DFG 753.5a (8-91)

43449

Lead Agency: Inyo Co Planning Dept Date: 9-2-97
County/State Agency of Filing: Inyo Document No.: 97-47
Project Title: Reclamation Plan 96-10/Death Valley Site
Project Applicant Name: Caltrans Phone Number: 760-872-0284
Project Applicant Address: 500 S Main Bishop CA 93514
Project Applicant (check appropriate box): Local Public Agency ☐ School District ☐ Other Special District ☐
State Agency ☒ Private Entity ☐

CHECK APPLICABLE FEES:

() Environmental Impact Report	\$850.00	\$	
(X) Negative Declaration	\$1,250.00	\$	<u>1250.00</u>
() Application Fee Water Diversion (State Water Resources Control Board Only)	\$850.00	\$	
() Projects Subject to Certified Regulatory Programs	\$850.00	\$	
() County Administrative Fee	\$25.00	\$	
() Project that is exempt from fees			

Signature and title of person receiving payment: Mary Raper Deputy Clerk TOTAL RECEIVED \$ 1250.00
FIRST COPY-PROJECT APPLICANT SECOND COPY-DFG/FASB THIRD COPY-LEAD AGENCY FOURTH COPY-COUNTY/STATE AGENCY OF FILING

To: ☒ Office of Planning and Research
1400 Tenth Street, Room 121
Sacramento, CA 95814

☒ County Clerk
County of INYO

From: (Public Agency) INYO COUNTY PLANNING

DEPARTMENT INDEPENDENCE CA

FILED

93526

SEP 02 1997

BEVERLY J. HARRY
INYO COUNTY CLERK
DEPUTY



Subject:

Filing of Notice of Determination in compliance with Section 21108 or 21152 of the Public Resources Code.

RECLAMATION PLAN #96-10/NEW DEATH VALLEY SITE/CALTRANS
Project Title

State Clearinghouse Number
(If submitted to Clearinghouse)

CURTIS E. KELLOGG

Lead Agency
Contact Person

(760) 878-0263
Area Code/Telephone/Extension

SOUTH OF STATE HIGHWAY #190, 5.5 MI. WEST OF DEATH VALLEY JUNCTION
Project Location (include county) INYO CO., CA.

Project Description:

RECLAMATION PLAN

This is to advise that the INYO COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION has approved the above described project on

6/25/97

(Date)

☒ Lead Agency ☐ Responsible Agency

and has made the following determinations regarding the above described project

1. The project ☐ will ☒ will not have a significant effect on the environment.
2. ☐ An Environmental Impact Report was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
☒ A Negative Declaration was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
3. Mitigation measures ☒ were ☐ were not made a condition of the approval of the project.
4. A statement of Overriding Considerations ☐ was ☒ was not adopted for this project.
5. Findings ☒ were ☐ were not made pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.

NEG DEC

This is to certify that the final EIR with comments and responses and record of project approval is available to the General Public at:

INYO COUNTY PLANNING DEPT. 168 NEDWARDS, INDEPENDENCE, CA. 93526

Earl H. Mann
Signature (Public Agency)

9/2/97

Date

MAINE RECLAMATION PLANNER

Title

Date received for filing at OPR:

97-47



**Planning Department
168 North Edwards Street
Post Office Drawer L
Independence, California 93526**

**Phone: (760) 878-0263
(760) 872-2706
FAX: (760) 872-2712
E-Mail: InyoPlanning@telis.org**

June 12, 1997

David Grah
Department of Transportation
Caltrans, District 9
500 South Main St.
Bishop, CA 93514

Dear Mr. Grah:

Enclosed find the draft staff report for the New Death Valley Borrow Pit, MS 286A RP 96-10. This is to go to the Planning Commission for the public hearing June 25, 1997. A representative of Caltrans needs to be at that meeting to answer any questions the Commissioners may have.

If you have any questions on this report please let me know prior to June 19, 1997. This is when the Planning Commissioners receive the staff report. If any changes need to be made they can be made prior to that date.

Also enclosed are the comments of the Office of Mine Reclamation on the Keeler Pit, MS#300 reclamation plan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Earl H. Gann".

Earl H. Gann
Mine Reclamation Planner

Enclosure (2) Death Valley Borrow Pit Staff Report
Office of Mine Reclamation comments on the Keeler Borrow Pit Reclamation Plan



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STAFF REPORT

AGENDA ITEM NO: 8

DATE: June 25, 1997

**SUBJECT: Reclamation Plan # 96-10/ New Death Valley Borrow
Site/MS#286A/ Caltrans**

SUPERVISORIAL

DISTRICT:

Fifth.

APPLICATION:

New Death Valley Borrow Site # RP 96-10.

APPLICANT:

Caltrans District 9
500 South Main
Bishop, CA 93514
(760) 872-0784

LANDOWNER:

Department of Interior Bureau of Land Management.

LOCATION:

The project is located 5.5 miles west of the community of Death Valley Junction, south of Highway 190 in Section 14, Township 25N, Range 4E, SBB&M.

A.P.N.:

43-070-000

ZONING:

OS-40 (Open Space - 40 acres minimum).

GENERAL PLAN:

"Open Space-Natural Resources".

SITE SIZE:

7.7 acres.

PROPOSAL:

The proposal is, at the conclusion of mining, to reclaim disturbance caused by mining a new borrow site. Mine life is expected to be twenty years.

PROJECT PLANNER:

Earl H. Gann, Mine Reclamation Planner.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The project is to reclaim a new borrow pit when mining is concluded. The borrow pit will be mined on an as needed basis. The total size of the project is 7.7 acres. The life of the project is expected to be twenty years. No more than 150,000 cubic yards of material will be removed from

this site. Approval of the reclamation plan is a discretionary action by Inyo County under Section 7.70.02 of Inyo County Code and Section 2710 *e.t. seq.* of Public Resources Code.

SUBJECT PROPERTY AND SURROUNDING LAND USES:

Surrounding land uses are all open space and zoned as follows:

	<u>Land Owner</u>	<u>Land Use</u>	<u>Zoning</u>
<u>North:</u>	Bureau of Land Management	Open	OS-40
<u>South:</u>	Bureau of Land Management	Open	OS-40
<u>East:</u>	Bureau of Land Management	Open	OS-40
<u>West:</u>	Bureau of Land Management	Open	OS-40

STAFF ANALYSIS:

The County's comments and analysis of the submitted reclamation plan are located after the proposed reclamation plan.

Reclamation Plan (As submitted by the Applicant, written in different font)

The site will be used by CalTrans intermittently as a source of materials for road maintenance and construction. Reclamation of the site will be implemented according to the reclamation plan discussed below.

SUBSEQUENT USES

The land is zoned by Inyo County as open space (40 acres minimum). According to CDFG and BLM sources the site is not located within any area designated as critical habitat for any sensitive species. However, the site does provide general habitat values to various wildlife species and is within the range of the Chicago Valley wild horse and burro herd management area. The site is also within the range of the Mojave population of the desert tortoise, at the northern end of the Eastern Mojave Recovery Unit, but is not within any designated proposed Desert Wildlife management Area (USFWS, 1993). The site will be reclaimed to open space and wildlife habitat, which will leave the site in a productive end use that is readily adaptable to alternative end uses.

IMPACT TO FUTURE MINING

Reclamation of this site will not preclude mining at a future date. The aggregate resource likely extends beyond 50 feet deep; mining according to the current mining plan will not have exhausted on-site mineral resources.

RECLAMATION SCHEDULE

Reclamation treatments, such as the grade-stabilization structures, drainage ditches, and material berms, will be installed as mining proceeds. Reclamation treatments such as resoiling, using topsoil and amended waste fines, and revegetation will be initiated when final slopes are established. Once reclamation treatments have been implemented, they will be monitored until performance standards have been met. The monitoring plan is designed to evaluate site-specific criteria for slope stability, erosion and sediment control, and resoiling and revegetation.

POST-MINING ACTIVITIES and SITE CONFIGURATION

Map Sheet 3 depicts the post mining activities and reclaimed topography of the mined area. The final site configuration will be a 30-foot deep excavation with 3:1 (H:V) side slopes. The surface of the mine operations area

and access roads (7.2 acres on-site and 0.2 acres off site: 7.4 acres total) will be 1) decompacted, 2) resoiled using stockpiled topsoil and on-site waste fines, and 3) revegetated.

Slope Stability

Pit slopes for the mining phase and the final reclaimed site will not be steeper than 3:1 (H:V). The roadcut for the access road, that has a slope of 2:1 (H:V), will also remain but is not considered a major slope. The angle of repose for loose sediments on the site is approximately 32°. This angle can be representative of the angle of internal friction of the native slope material. Thus, pit slopes will be stable at the proposed angle under static conditions. Any slope failures that may occur would be retained within the pit.

Final Drainage Plan and Impoundment's

Map Sheet 3 details the final drainage plan of the reclaimed site. The excavated pit will serve as sediment basin/trap for eroded sediment coming from upslope of the pit, and from within the pit itself. The grad-stabilization structures, drainage ditches, and material berm will not be maintained after final slope reclamation has been complete.

Disposition of Equipment

Any equipment brought onto the site will be removed from the site following termination of mining activity. No equipment will be stored permanently on-site. At final reclamation, there will be no equipment remaining on the mined site.

RESOILING

The native soil of this site is a poorly graded sand with gravel derived from the sedimentary and metasedimentary rock units found upslope. A native soil contains native seeds and soil microorganisms, and therefore, is preferred for site reclamation. The topsoil will be defined as the upper six inches of the substrate on the site. Topsoil will be salvaged prior to mining any area on the site. The topsoil will be placed in designated stockpiles within the western buffer zone.

Native surface material will be kept separate from the processing fines. Processing fines will be placed in a stockpile area delineated on the site plans, and may be respread prior to (and beneath) topsoil application. Prior to spreading the topsoil, all compacted areas will be decompacted (ripped or disced) to facilitate root growth. The topsoil that was salvaged will be respread to a depth of six inches in all areas of the pit, inclusive of slopes outside of the drainage structures. The woody debris less than 0.5 feet, if stockpiles separately, will be distributed over the site in a random manner following the topsoil application. The large amount of coarse material (gravel) in the native topsoil will also serve as a gravel mulch, thereby armoring the revegetated site.

Mulches

Since the native coarse-grained topsoil will be used to re-soil this site, a gravel mulch will not need to be added. The coarse fraction of the native soil will act as a protective lag layer, therefore guarding against wind and water erosion.

REVEGATION

Revegetation will strive to achieve visual integration with vegetation surrounding the site. Establishment of vegetation in the borrow pit will provide some erosion control for the site, while creating cover and forage for wildlife.

Seedbed Preparation

After decompacting the growth medium, the area will be roughed to form a variety of microsites; this can be accomplished by "track walking" or imprinting the site. The growth medium will be prepared to provide a firm, but not overly compacted, bed.

Seed Sources, Mixtures and Rates

Many Plant species are comprised of local ecotypes that are highly adapted to the local climate and edaphic conditions (Plummer et al. 1955, 1968). The Plants that will have the best chance of survival are those ecotypes that are growing on (or near) that site (Millar and Libby, 1989). The use of non local plant materials can result in the application of a poorly adapted ecotype, as well as the potential genetic contamination of the local ecotype through interbreeding with the introduced ecotype. The result of interbreeding between non local and wild local native stock can be adverse and permanent.

The best policy is to collect the material from or near the site. Therefore, plant materials for each of the designated species should be obtained from the same region as the mine site. For the purposes of MS #286A, the collection region will be defined as Mojave Creosote Bush Scrub between 1,500 and 3,500 feet elevation east of the Funeral Mountains and the Greenwater Range, and within a 20 mile radius of MS #286A.

Cactus Transplanting

Approximately 15 cacti will be impacted by mining: four beavertail cacti, three cottontop cacti, and eight cholla. These cacti will be offered to the Park Service and/or BLM for salvage and transplanting in areas outside of the lease boundary as part of the reclamation activities.

Irrigation

Irrigation would only serve to aid the growth of invasive exotics and therefore is not recommended for this site.

Plant Eradication Measures

Plant eradication will not be necessary unless the presence of Russian thistle, or other invasive exotics, on site become a limiting factor in reestablishment of native vegetation. Remediation for invasive species is discussed in table 4.10-1.

EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL

Erosion and sediment control will be achieved by implementation of the previously described drainage and revegetation plans. Diversion of the drainage to the east of the mining and operations will limit the amount of flood waters entering these areas. Resoiling and revegetation will be performed according to the revegetation plan and will aid in reducing erosion.

PUBLIC SAFETY

The configuration of the mined lands, will not pose a hazard to the public. No hazardous materials will be stored in-site. In addition, the boulders at the access point to the site will prevent uncontrolled access.

PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

The following discussion sets forth minimum site criteria, or performance standards, for the various aspects of site reclamation. Monitoring of reclamation performance will be agreed upon by Caltrans and Inyo County.

Erosion and Sediment Control

Erosion and sediment control monitoring will be completed at the same time and frequency that used to vegetation monitoring is done. The drainage ditches and swale will be inspected following the season's first major storm event or at a minimum of annually. These structures will be cleaned out as needed to maintain a clear flow path for floodwaters. The result will be identified areas of potential failures and to trigger the implementation of remedial measures before problem areas cause widespread failures. Any observable reason for failure will be noted and the appropriate remedial measure suggested as part of the annual monitoring report.

Slope Stability

No large man-made slope within the pit shall be steeper than 3:1 (H:V), which has been determined to exceed the slope stability standard for this material for all except the most severe earth quake events.

Revegetation

The following performance standards will be applied to the site. Undisturbed, site indigenous woody perennial cover was estimated at 30 percent. All phases of reclamation will achieve a minimum average density of herbaceous and woody perennial coverage of 20 percent. Areas found below these standards will be evaluated as set forth in the Remedial Measures plan.

MAINTENANCE, MONITORING, and REMEDIAL MEASURES

Site maintenance and monitoring will continue until Inyo County deems reclamation complete.

Erosion and Sediment Control

All erosion and sediment control structures will be maintained and monitored annually for as long as mining and reclamation continues. This shall be done to ensure that the failure of one or more structures does not apply additional and unplanned stress on other structures.

Slope Stability

All slopes will be assessed, on a form such as the one supplied in Appendix B, during annual monitoring to ensure that they are stable. If excess slope erosion is observed, or failures noted, as discussed in the performance standards section, the appropriate remedial measures will be implemented.

Revegetation

Revegetation of the site will be monitored following implementation on each phase. Monitoring activities will take place during the peak flowering season, approximately April to May. Once the monitoring date is set following these initial reclamation activities, monitoring of the site during later years will occur within two weeks of that original date. This scheme will assure that the data will be comparable over time.

Revegetation monitoring will consist of visual assessments and recording the progress of reclamation with photographs. The species composition, shrub cover, and shrub density will be recorded on a form (an example is included in Appendix B). If it appears that the site will not meet the performance standards set forth, then the investigator shall suggest remedial measures. Appropriate remedial measures are listed in Table 4.10-1.

Other Species

If Russian thistle invades revegetated areas to the point that it is impacting the germination and/or growth of desired species, then this invasive exotic will be manually removed from the site as a remedial measure as detailed in Table 4.10-1.

REPORTING

Once the Reclamation Activities have been completed, monitoring activities will commence and will continue until the County is satisfied that performance standards have been met. Reporting of the progress of reclamation will be transmitted to Inyo County on an annual basis. This annual report will, at a minimum consist of the name and credentials of the investigator(s), a summary of the work accomplished, the date of the visit(s), the methods and materials used, the data collected, an analysis of the data and performance standards, and any suggested remedial measures.

INTERIM MANAGEMENT PLAN:

Section 2727.1 defines "Idle" means to curtail for a period of one year or more surface mining operations by more than (90) percent of the operations previous maximum annual mineral production, with the intent to resume those surface mining operations in the future. Section 2770(h) (1) States that within 90 days of a surface mining operation becoming idle, the operator shall submit an interim management plan to the lead agency for approval. Because of the nature of borrow pit operation, Caltrans has submitted with the reclamation plan an interim management plan. The plan basically insures that public safety and reclamation standards are maintained during these idle periods of operation. This plan should be considered integral with the proposed plan.

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION - OFFICE OF MINE RECLAMATION (OMR) COMMENTS:

Pursuant to the State Mining and Reclamation Act of 1975 (SMARA), Inyo County has submitted the Reclamation Plan to OMR for a 30-day review and comment period on April 30, 1997.

Inyo County has reviewed OMR's comments (see attached) and prepared the following written responses to address the issues. Most of OMR's comments have been incorporated into the Reclamation Plan; many were incorporated prior to the receipt of comments on April 30, 1997. Comments were due April 30, 1997 but were not received until May 5, 1997 after the Planning Department asked for them. The last several reclamation plans the comments have been late. These late comments foul up staff's timing in bringing these reclamation plans to the Planning Commission in a timely manner.

Office of Mine Reclamation Comment May 23, 1997)

1. Section 2.4.1 addresses site specific hydrology and provides peak flows based on a 20-year return period. The information used to determine peak flows was obtained from the California Department of Water Resources bulletin 195 (1976). California has experienced "unusual" rainfall events since 1976 and the peak flow data may no longer be valid for watersheds in the project area.

County of Inyo Response June 6, 1997

1. County Staff concurs: Correct data is required to calculate the 20 year one hour intensity flows. However, it is felt that the difference of a few cfs should not affect the proposed structures for this borrow pit. The average twenty year one hour event should not have changed significantly over the past twenty years. If this data is so critical that a revision of the peak flow is required to calculate the flows onto this site,

the data to be valid would have to be very site specific. The data is not available to be site specific. The suggested life of this pit is twenty years. By the time the specific data would be derived the pit will be closed.

Office of Mine Reclamation Comment (May 23, 1997)

2. The project is located in a wash. To mitigate flows into the pit and the discharge of sediments off-site, the reclamation plan proposes to construct a drainage diversion berm on the north and east boundaries of the site and to install grade stabilization structures and outlets from the pit. No reference is made to the possible requirement of a Stream Bed Alteration Agreement for this project. We recommend that the applicant contact the California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) regarding the applicability of a this agreement to this project. Mitigation measures and management procedures recommended by DFG should be referenced in and appended to the reclamation plan [CCR Section 3710(b)].

County of Inyo Response June 6, 1997

2. County Staff concurs: The existing flows are currently concentrated by an established berm south of the Highway. The proposed borrow pit is just to the west of this berm. The proposed berms are to keep the flows between the existing berm and the proposed pit. It is felt that this does not require a Stream Alteration Permit. Most of the flow is concentrated at the existing berm. Mining will not interfere with area. The only flow that will be affected by mining would be sheet flow off the immediate area of the borrow pit and up slope from the pit and south of the highway.

Office of Mine Reclamation Comment May 23, 1997

3. Section 2.5.2 of the plan discusses erosion potential of site soils, stating that soils will "likely be susceptible to wind and sheet erosion." We recommend that the reclamation plan include provisions for mulching topsoil storage berms and processing fines to minimize loss of these materials. The use of gravel or rock mulch would be appropriate for this site [CCR Section 3503(a)(2), 3711(d)].

County of Inyo Response June 6, 1997

3. County Staff concurs. The operator has discussed rock mulching at this site. Therefore, this comment is addressed. However, the application of rock mulch can contaminate material and its use must be weighted very carefully.

Office of Mine Reclamation Comment May 23, 1997

4. Revegetation is discussed in Section 4.6.0 of the plan. The plan, however, does not include a revegetation plan. It appears that information on plant materials and planting densities was not included in section 4.6.2. A revegetation plan must be included in the reclamation plan to satisfy the requirements of Section 2773(a) and the CCR. The revegetation plan also must include specific performance standards for plant cover, plant density, and species richness [CCR Section 37505(m)]. Only a cover performance standard is proposed in Table 4.10-1.

Due to the extreme aridity of this site, use of containerized plants is strongly recommended. The plants should be grown from seed or cuttings obtained in the general project area discussed in Section 4.6.2. Plants should be watered on installation and then at least once monthly during the first growing season. The amount of water should approximate that of a normal spring rain and should be applied directly to the planting basin around the plant. Weed mats can be used if necessary to minimize the establishment of weeds. Planting techniques and irrigation frequency can be monitored in test plots during the life of the project so that the most effective techniques can be used during final reclamation. Deliberate over-planting of container stock will offset plant mortality [CCR Section 3705(b), 3705(h), 3705(i), 3705(j), 3705(k), 3705(l)].

County of Inyo Response June 6, 1997

4. County Staff concurs. The discussed items are missing in the proposed reclamation plan. With out a revegetation plan, the reclamation plan is lacking focus. These items will be covered in the proposed conditions of approval. The conditions of approval will also address performance standards as well as the required revegetation with a proposed plant mix.

This borrow site will be used on a very limited basis. Maintenance of nursery planted stock would be very labor intensive. The small size of this site also precludes establishing test plots. The idea of using weed mats is also an unnecessary requirement to implement on this reclamation plan. Some time in the future these weed mats would need to be removed. Removing these mats would cause damage to established plants. Every reclamation plan approved in the desert by the Planning Commission has required reseeding as the preferred method of establishing vegetative cover. It has been pointed out that the success of planting nursery stock is very limited. The success of seed planting appears to be relative good. In fact in this area natural revegetation appears to do a better than average job of revegetation of mine sites. Reseeding and seedbed preparation are the keys in revegetation of desert lands.

Office of Mine Reclamation Comment May 23, 1997

5. In addition to providing technical assistance and review of reclamation plans, the Office of Mine Reclamation is authorized to review cost estimates prior to lead agency approval of the financial assurances for reclamation per SMARA Section 2773, 1, Seeding and Revegetation Costs in the reclamation plan refer solely to seeding of 2 acres of the site. We recommend that the financial assurance estimate be revised to include revegetation of the entire mine site. These costs should also include the establishment and monitoring or revegetation test plots, propagation of containerized plants irrigation, and revegetation monitoring following implementation. An analysis of the reclamation cost estimate will be forwarded under separate cover.

County of Inyo Response May 5, 1997

5. County Staff concurs. Financial assurances will be reviewed by the lead agency. If OMR wishes to comment on the calculations at a later date this may be done. Calculations are scrutinized very carefully by the lead agency and adjusted when

necessary. All tasks involved in reclamation of the borrow site must have costs calculated. The Lead Agency also reviews the actual financial assurance mechanism to insure the validity of the instrument. The lead agency has reviewed the cost estimates provided by Caltrans was for 2 acres. Cost calculations for the entire site are considerably higher.

STAFF ANALYSIS:

Planning Department staff has reviewed the proposed reclamation plan as well as all comments received. Many requirements stated in the proposed reclamation plan were either incorrect or not included. The comments received from the Office of Mine Reclamation brought out many of the deficiencies in the proposed reclamation plan. The proposed reclamation plan along with the OMR comments and the Initial Study that was prepared, staff feels that the borrow pit can be reclaimed with the recommended conditions of approval below under Recommendations. The conditions of approval incorporate the comments submitted by the Office of Mine Reclamation. This proposed reclamation plan, with the conditions of approval, and the changes in the proposed reclamation plan can accomplish the required reclamation under the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1975 and the requirements of Chapter 7.70 of County Code (Inyo County Mine Reclamation Ordinance).

FINANCIAL ASSURANCES:

The applicant has formulated financial assurances for this reclamation plan, as required by SMARA. The Planning Department has reviewed the proposed reclamation procedures, costs and the proposed financial assurances in the amount of \$4,074.00. However, after review the Planning Department has determined financial assurances of \$11,355.29 are required. The difference is due to Caltrans calculating costs for 2 acres not the entire site of 7.4 acres. All labor and equipment costs used were Caltrans figures. Caltrans also failed to include contingencies in their calculations.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW:

An Initial Study and Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration was prepared and circulated for this project pursuant to the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). To date, the only comments received have been the comments from the Office of Mine Reclamation and the Department of Transportation. Comment period ended May 29, 1997.

PUBLIC NOTICE:

Notice of this public hearing has been published in the *Inyo Register* and mailed to all property owners within 300 feet of the subject property. To date, comments have been received from the California Department of Conservation, Office of Mine Reclamation and Caltrans (see attached). These comments are attached.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the Planning Commission **approve** Reclamation Plan # 96-10 Death Valley Junction Borrow Pit/MS #286A by taking the following actions:

- A. Based upon the Initial Study and all written and verbal comments received, adopt the Mitigated Negative Declaration of Environmental Impact and certify the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act have been satisfied.

[Evidence: In accordance with the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act, an Initial Study and Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration of Environmental Impact were prepared and circulated for public comment.]

- B. Find the proposed reclamation plan conforms and meets the requirements of Chapter 7.70 (Mining & Reclamation) of Inyo County Code and State Mining Reclamation Act of 1976.

- C. Find the potential loss of native vegetation and wildlife habitat to be greater than the standards set by the Fish and Game Code for potential habitat loss. Because of the potential loss of native vegetation and wildlife habitat, however sparse, Section 711.4 of the Fish and Game Code requires the payment of \$1,250.00 fee before this project is deemed "operative, vested, or final." The potential impact is greater than *de minimus* standard of section 711.4. Said \$1,250.00 shall be paid by the applicant at the time the Notice of Determination is filed by the Planning Department (15 days after the reclamation plan approval).

[Evidence: The subject property has not been disturbed and contains native vegetation and wildlife as documented by the photographic evidence.]

- D. Approve Reclamation Plan No.96-10/Death Valley Junction Borrow Pit, MS #286A

CONDITIONS OF APPROVAL:

Term of Plan and Timing of Reclamation

1. The term of the reclamation plan shall not exceed twenty years from the date of approval, or no later than August 31, 2017. Total amount of usable aggregate and waste material that can be removed from this pit is 150,00 cubic yards. If 150,000 cubic yards are removed prior to the termination date, reclamation shall proceed with in six months of the removal of the 150,000 cubic yards. The Planning Commission may grant an extension. The applicant must submit a complete reclamation plan application for an amended reclamation plan. To assure continued operation, the above application should be received prior to the expiration date and prior to removal of 150,000 cubic yards of material..

Interim Management Plan

2. Through out the 20-year life of this project, the interim management plan shall be implemented during periods of "idle" operation. If zero production occurs for a period of five consecutive years, the reclamation plan shall be implemented immediately. Mining

can not occur until an amended reclamation plan is submitted and approved by the Inyo County Planning Commission.

3. At the conclusion of each period of mining interim reclamation shall take place. This shall consist of regrading all slopes to 3:1 (H: V) or less.
4. During times of inactivity, Caltrans shall prevent public access to the pit.
5. During periods of inactivity all equipment and trash shall be removed from the area. No asphalt may be buried onsite.

Mapping

6. Caltrans shall provide the County with a contour map with two-foot contours within three years of approval of this reclamation plan.

Salvage of Growth Media (Topsoil)

7. The top six inches (6") of growth media (topsoil), shall be collected from areas to be disturbed (Borrow pits and internal access roads). This (topsoil) shall be stockpiled in the active work site until final phase reclamation.
8. After the site is recontoured, the salvaged topsoil shall be respread to a depth of six inches over the recontoured pit. (See condition #7)

Erosion Control

9. Pit slopes shall be contoured to a minimum of 3:1 (H: V). These slopes shall be in established during times of intermittent operation, times the interim management plan is in affect, and during final reclamation.

Earthwork

10. All compacted areas shall be scarified. Road berms shall be brought back into the roadway after scarification.

Noxious Weed Control

11. During mining and reclamation activities and during idle periods noxious weeds shall be controlled on site.

Seed Sources and Mixtures

12. Seed used for revegetation shall be collected on or near the site. If sufficient seed is not available, it may be purchased. A seed mix of plant species in the Mojave Creosote Bush Scrub plant community shall be used. Below is the recommended seed mix:

Scientific Name	Common Name	PLS Pounds/acre
PERENNIALS		
<i>(Larrea tridentata)</i>	Creosote bush	3
<i>(Ephedra nevadensis)</i>	Nevada joint-fir (Mormon Tea)	3
<i>(Hymenoclea Salsola)</i>	Cheese bush	3
<i>(Atriplex hymenolytra)</i>	Desert holly	3
<i>(Ambrosia dumosa)</i>	Burrobush	3
ANNUALS		
<i>(Chaenactis stevioides)</i>	Esteve's pincushion	4
<i>(Mirabilis Bigelovii)</i>	four-o'clock	4
<i>(Eriogonum inflatum)</i>	Desert Trumpet	5
Total pounds live seed per acre		28

These native species may only be obtained from seed stock found within five miles of the borrow site and within the Mojave Creosote Bush Scrub plant community. If purchased, the seed shall be certified originating in the Amargosa Valley. Reseeding shall take place during the fall.

Mulching

13. A mulch of native vegetative material and straw shall be applied at a rate of 1000 lbs. per acre into the seeding program. This mulch shall be crimped into the slope to provide both wind and water erosion control and seed holding. This will enhance revegetation.

Revegetation Methods

14. After scarification, the approved seed mix shall be broadcast and then mixed into the top one-half inch (1/2") of the substrate by either raking or dragging a chain across the seedbed. This shall be done perpendicular to the slope of the pit.

Revegetation Performance Standard

15. Reclamation will not be considered successful or complete until vegetative density reaches 20 percent (number of plants per unit area) of the surrounding undisturbed land with a 50 percent diversity (species richness) of the perennial species on surrounding undisturbed land. New perennial species shall be at least two years old before considered viable plants. This shall be verified based upon visual calculations and substantiated by past photographs of the site including off site photographs of the surrounding undisturbed lands.

Monitoring

16. From initial seeding, the project shall be monitored until performance standards are met. Remedial measures may be implemented any time to insure revegetation success. For the first two years, monitoring shall be performed twice a year.

Remedial Measures

17. If it appears the site will not meet the performance standard, the applicant shall consult with the Planning Department for recommendations on remedial measures. The remedial measures listed below shall be considered if reclamation problems are observed during annual monitoring:
 - a. Mulching and/or fertilizing to supplement growth media;
 - b. Reseeding;
 - c. Irrigation;
 - d. Planting of appropriate plants and protection of these plants.
 - d. If irrigation is used the plants must make it on their own for two years.
 - e. Analysis of soil for problems;
 - f. Measures to reduce pest problems, including fencing individual plants.

Reporting and Annual Inspections

18. Each year the applicant shall file an annual mining report with the State. These reports shall be filed until financial assurances are released. Monitoring activities will continue until the County is satisfied that performance standards have been met. In accordance with SMARA Section 2774 (b), Inyo County as the Lead Agency shall inspect the site and file annual inspection reports with the State.

Inyo County Road Department

19. Caltrans shall allow Inyo County Road Department to remove material from this site. Caltrans shall be responsible for all reclamation requirements, including bonding and reporting. When Inyo County Road Department uses this pit, they shall adhere to the conditions of approval for this reclamation plan. Inyo County shall report the quantity of material to Caltrans each calendar quarter.

Reclamation Responsibility Statement

20. The applicant shall submit a notarized statement to the Inyo County Planning Department accepting responsibility for reclaiming lands as per the conditions specific herein.

Financial Assurances

21. Financial assurances in the sum of \$11,355.29 are required in the form of a surety bond, irrevocable letter of credit, cash or certificate of deposit. Government agencies may also use budget set asides, or pledge of revenue to post their financial assurances. Financial assurances shall be posted with the Inyo County Planning Department. Said assurances shall be made payable to the County of Inyo and the Director of the California Department of Conservation and The Bureau of Land Management.

Financial Assurance Recalculation

22. Financial assurances shall be recalculated each year in accordance with Section 2773.1(a)(3) of SMARA and Inyo County Code. This shall occur at the time of annual inspection.

Release of Financial Assurances

23. As required reclamation standards are achieved, that portion of financial assurances covering the completed activity may be released. The remainder of financial assurances covering revegetation and monitoring shall not be released until the revegetation performance standards is met.

Hold Harmless

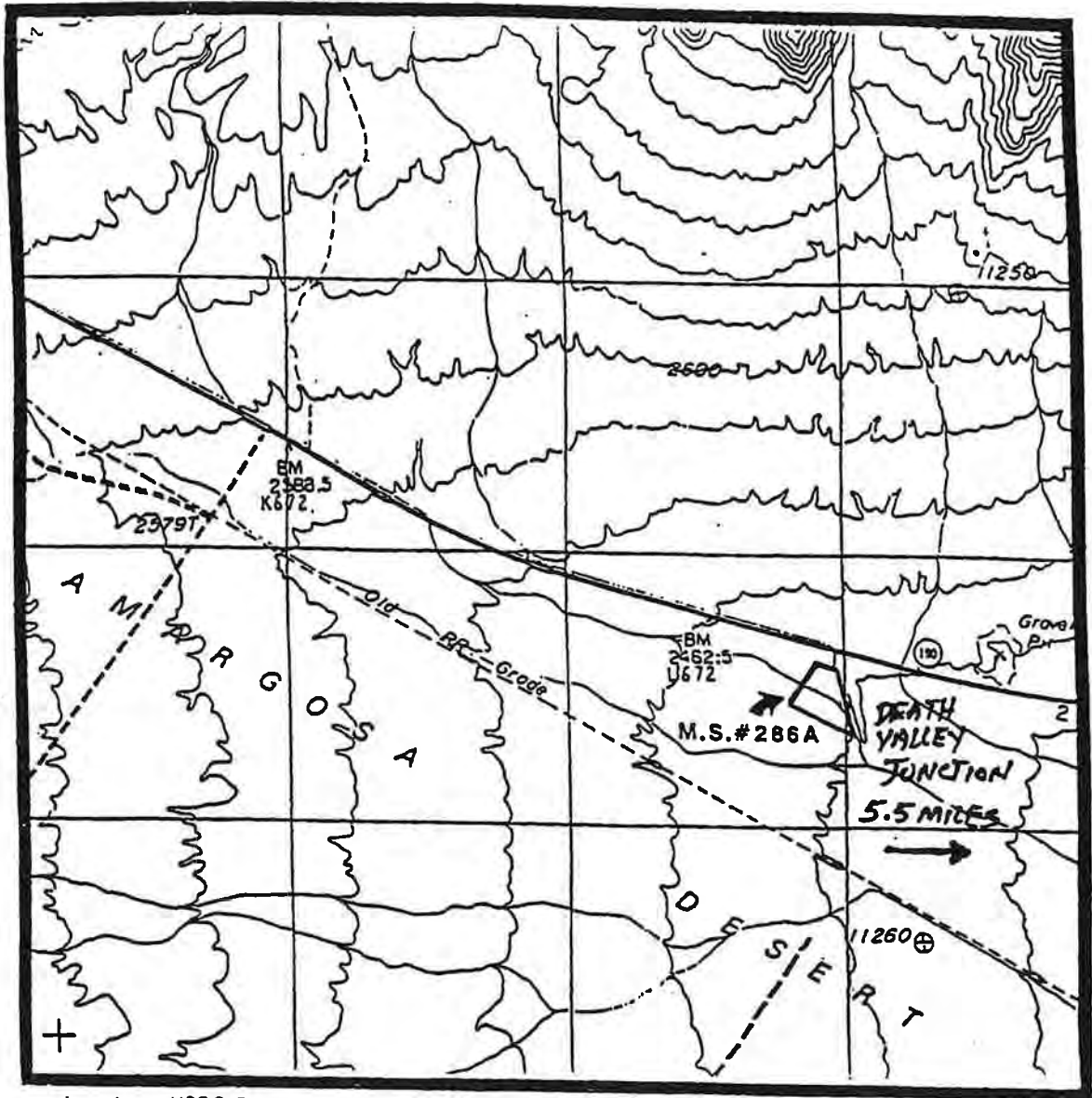
24. The applicant, landowner, and operator shall defend, indemnify and hold harmless Inyo County, its agents, officers and employees from any claim, action, or proceeding against the County, its agents, officers and employees to attack, set aside, void, or annul any approval of the County, its advisory agencies, appeal boards, or its legislative body concerning Reclamation Plan No. 96-10/ Death Valley Junction Borrow Pit, MS 286A.

Attachments: Vicinity Map

Department of Conservation, Office of Mine Reclamation, Comments of May 20, 1997,

Department of Transportation Comments of May 29, 1997

Date	Reviewer	Initials
6/18/97	Project Planner	EM
6/18/97	Review Planner	CS
6/18/97	Planning Director	PC
	Secretary	



Modified from USGS 7.5-minute East of Ryan, Ca, topographic map (provisional edition, 1988)

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SCALE

Topographic Map
Caltrans Material Site #286A



**DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
OFFICE OF MINE RECLAMATION**

Reclamation Unit
101 K Street, MS 09-06
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814-3529
PHONE: (916) 323-8567
FAX: (916) 322-4862



Telecommunications
Device for the Deaf
(916) 324-2555



May 20, 1997

Earl Gann
Inyo County Planning Department
168 North Edwards Street
Post Office Drawer L
Independence, CA 93526

Dear Mr. Gann:

**Negative Declaration and Reclamation Plan for Caltrans Material Site #286A
(New Death Valley Pit) SCH #97052004 - CA Mine ID# 91-14-0046**

The Department of Conservation's Office of Mine Reclamation (OMR), has reviewed the Negative Declaration and Reclamation Plan for Caltran's Material Site #286A (New Death Valley Pit). The mine is located approximately 5 miles west of Death Valley Junction on the south side of Highway 190. Approximately 150,000 cubic yards of sand and gravel would be removed from the 7.7-acre site over the next 20 years. The following comments prepared by Mary Ann Showers are offered to assist in your review of this project.

The reclamation plan addresses the majority of requirements of the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1975 (SMARA) (Public Resources Code Section 2710 et seq.) and the State Mining and Geology Board regulations for surface mining and reclamation practice (California Code of Regulations (CCR) Title 14, Chapter 8, Article 1, Section 3500 et seq., Article 9 Section 3700 et seq.). The following items, however, require additional information.

1. Section 2.4.1 addresses site specific hydrology and provides peak flows based on a 20-year return period. The information used to determine peak flows was obtained from the California Department of Water Resources Bulletin 195 (1976). California has experienced "unusual" rainfall events since 1976 and

Earl Gann
May 20, 1997
Page 2

the 1976 peak flow data may no longer be valid for the watersheds in the project area. The peak flow data used for this reclamation plan should reflect the most recent information available.

2. The project is located in a wash. To mitigate flows into the pit and the discharge of sediments off-site, the reclamation plan proposes to construct a drainage diversion berm on the north and east boundaries of the site and to install grade stabilization structures and outlets from the pit. No reference is made to the possible requirement of a Streambed Alteration Agreement for this project. We recommend that the applicant contact the California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) regarding the applicability of a this agreement to the project. Mitigation measures and management procedures recommended by DFG should be referenced in and appended to the reclamation plan [CCR Section 3710(b)].
3. Section 2.5.2 of the plan discusses erosion potential of site soils, stating that soils will "likely be susceptible to wind and sheet erosion." We recommend that the reclamation plan include provisions for mulching topsoil storage berms and processing fines to minimize loss of these materials. The use of a gravel or rock mulch would be appropriate for this site [CCR Sections 3503(a)(2), 3711(d)].
4. Revegetation is discussed in Section 4.6.0 of the plan. The plan, however, does not include a revegetation plan. It appears that information on plant materials and planting densities was not included in Section 4.6.2. A revegetation plan must be included in the reclamation plan to satisfy the requirements of SMARA Section 2773(a) and the CCR. The revegetation plan also must include specific performance standards for plant cover, plant density, and species richness [CCR Section 3705(m)]. Only a cover performance standard is proposed in Table 4.10-1.

Due to the extreme aridity of this site, use of containerized plants is strongly recommended. The plants should be grown from seeds or cuttings obtained in the general project area discussed in Section 4.6.2. Plants should be watered on installation and then at least once monthly during the first growing season. The amount of water should approximate that of a normal spring rain and should be applied directly to the planting basin around the plant. Weed mats can be used if necessary to minimize the establishment of weeds. Planting techniques and irrigation frequency can be monitored in test plots during the life of the project so that the most effective techniques can be used during final reclamation. Deliberate overplanting of container stock will

Earl Gann
May 20, 1997
Page 3

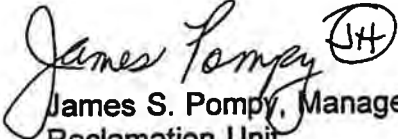
offset plant mortality [CCR Section 3705(b), 3705(h), 3705(l), 3705(j), 3705(k), 3705(l)].

5. In addition to providing technical assistance and review of reclamation plans, the Office of Mine Reclamation is authorized to review cost estimates prior to lead agency approval of the financial assurance for reclamation per SMARA Section 2773.1. Seeding and Revegetation Costs in the reclamation plan refer solely to seeding of 2 acres of the site. We recommend that the financial assurance estimate be revised to include revegetation of the entire mine site. These costs should include the establishment and monitoring of revegetation test plots, propagation of containerized plants, irrigation, and revegetation monitoring following implementation. An analysis of the reclamation cost estimates will be forwarded under separate cover.

Please send a copy of the approved reclamation plan, response to our comments, and permit issued by you as lead agency under SMARA to the Office of Mine Reclamation, Reclamation Unit at 801 K Street, M.S. 09-06, Sacramento, CA 95814-3529. The approved documents will be placed in the Office of Mine Reclamation files.

If you have any questions on these comments or require any assistance with other mine reclamation issues, please contact me at (916) 323-8565.

Sincerely,


James S. Pompy, Manager
Reclamation Unit

cc: Karen Yowell , OGER

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

500 SOUTH MAIN STREET

HOP, CA 93514

(760) 872-0658

May 29, 1997

File - Inyo - 190 - 135.5
SCH 97052004

Mr. Curtis E. Kellog
Inyo County Planning Department
P.O. Drawer L
Independence, CA 93526

DRAFT MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL
IMPACT

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the Reclamation Plan #96-10/New Death Valley Junction Site - #286A - California Department of Transportation (Caltrans). We note that the project area is not within the range of the Desert Tortoise. This has been confirmed with contacts with the Barstow Office of BLM. Being as there is no impact to the tortoise or other listed species or animals the project is de minimus in its effect on fish and wildlife. No filing fee should be required. If you have questions on this matter please call me at (760) 872-0658.

Sincerely,



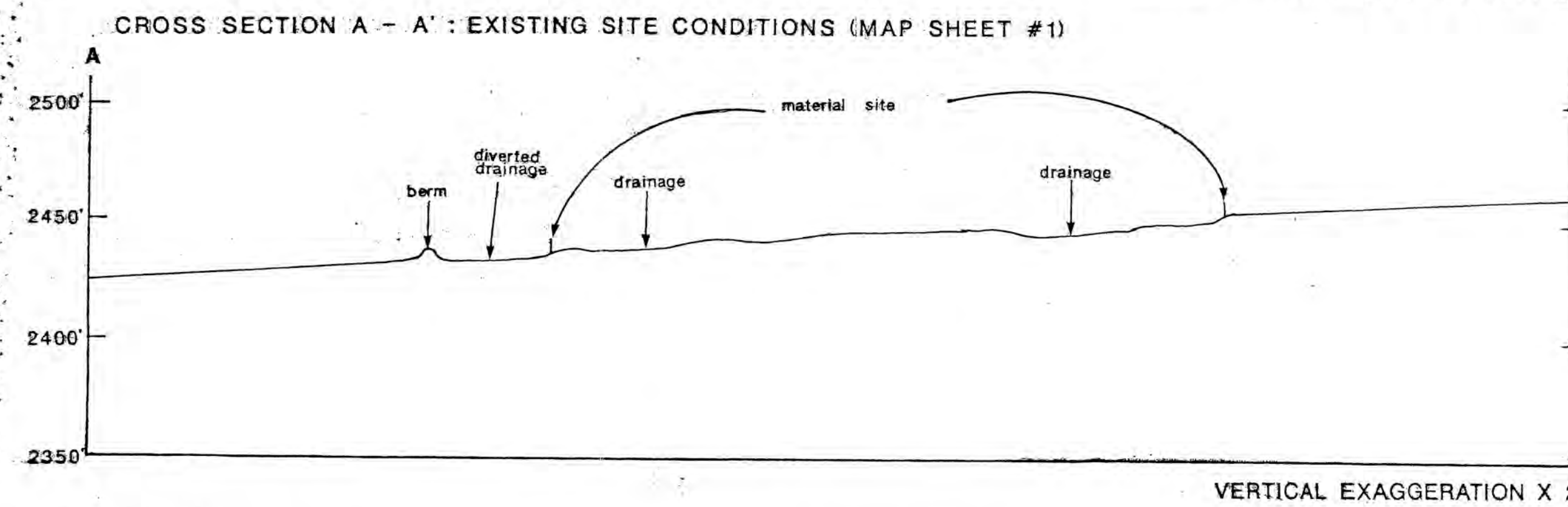
DENNIS MANNING
Chief, Branch of IGR/CEQA Reviews

DM:mam
cc: SCH - Angel Howell

PETER	
CHUCK	
CURTIS	
SANDY	
EARL	
FILE	

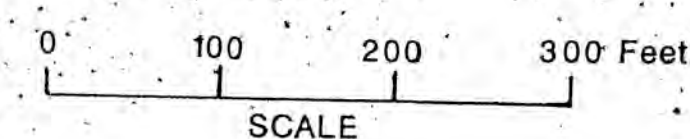
MAP SHEET #1
Caltrans Material Site #286A

INITIAL SITE CONDITIONS
2 FOOT CONTOUR INTERVALS
INTERPOLATED FROM USGS 7.5-MINUTE EAST OF RYAN, CA.
TOPOGRAPHICAL MAP (1988 EDITION)

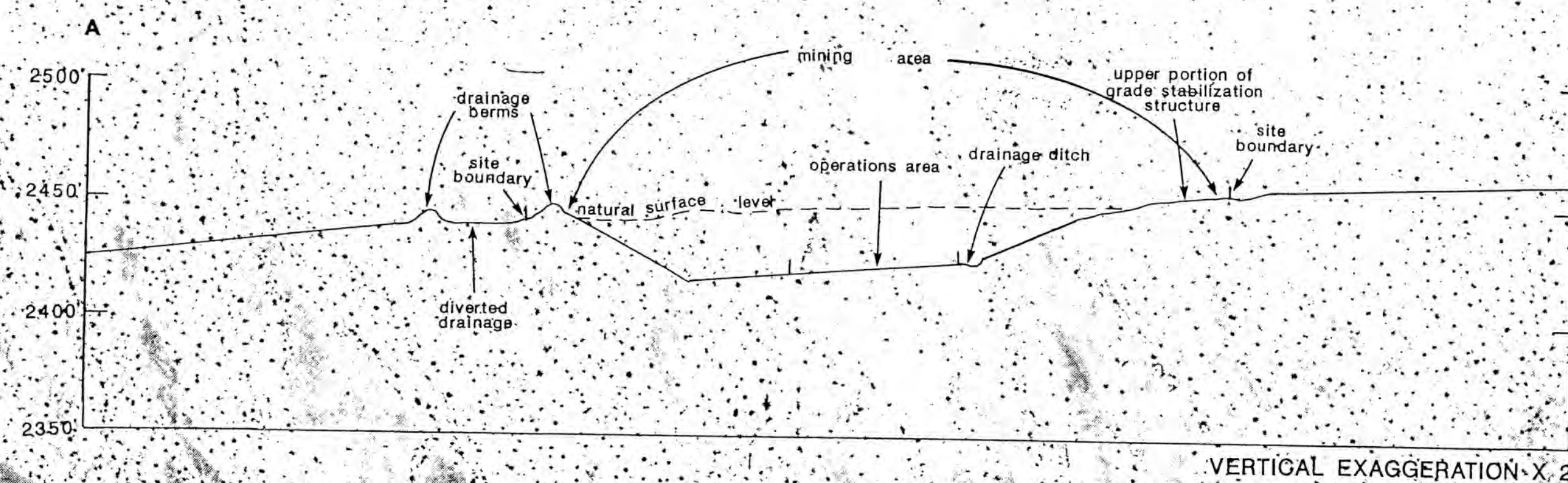


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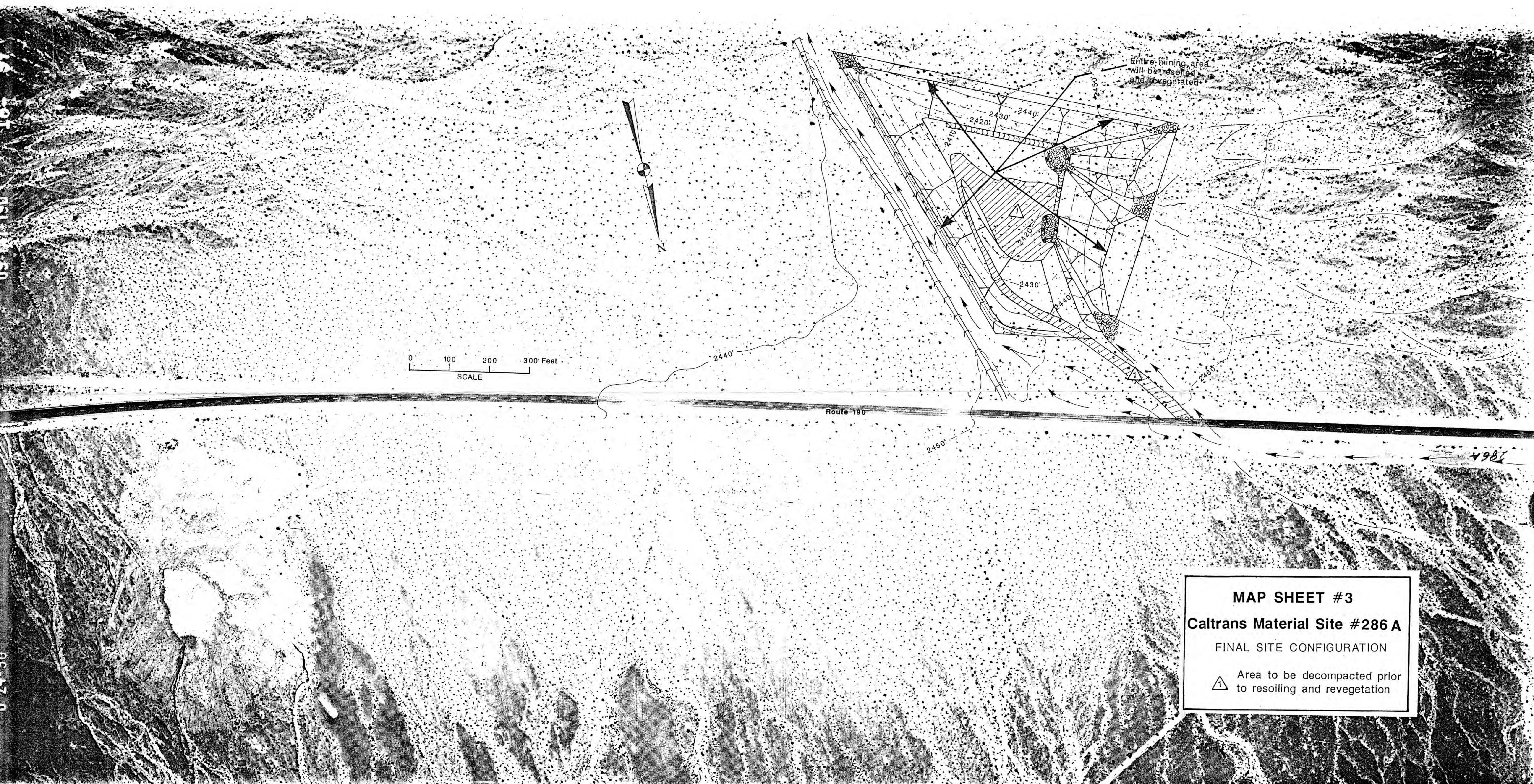


CROSS SECTION A - A' MINING PLAN (MAP SHEET #2)



MAP SHEET #2
Caltrans Material Site #286 A
 MINING PLAN
 ▲ Areas of topsoil stockpiling





Material Site #286A
(New Death Valley Junction Site)
Reclamation Plan

Mine Identification # 91-14-0046

Thursday, January 30, 1997

Amended May 2026

California Department of Transportation (Caltrans)
District 09
500 South Main Street
Bishop, California 93514

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- 2. Reclamation Features
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MATERIAL SITE #286A RECLAMATION PLAN

1.0.0 INTRODUCTION

Caltrans under a permit with the U. S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) intends to mine sand and gravel on federal lands about five miles west of Death Valley Junction, California. The site encompasses approximately 7.7 acres and is currently undisturbed. Approximately 7.2 acres of this site will be mined intermittently over a 20-year period to provide material for road maintenance, and construction. Approval of this reclamation plan is sought from the SMARA lead agency, Inyo County. This reclamation plan describes a process that will implement reclamation activities as soon as possible, returning land disturbed by mining to a condition suitable of supporting open space and wildlife habitat.

1.1.0 APPLICANT

California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) District 09
500 South Main Street
Bishop, California 93514
(760) 872-0601

1.1.1 Representative

Lana Morris, Engineering Geologist
California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) District 09
500 South Main Street
Bishop, California 93514

1.2.0 LANDOWNER

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
2601 Barstow Road
Barstow, California 92311
(760) 252-6000

1.3.0 OPERATOR

California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) District 09
500 South Main Street
Bishop, California 93514
(760) 872-0601

1.4.0 LESSEE

California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) District 09
500 South Main Street
Bishop, California 93514
(760) 872-0601

1.5.0 LOCATION

Material Site #286A is located in Inyo County on BLM land approximately 5.5 miles west of the town of Death Valley Junction, California, on the south side of Highway 190 at Post Mile 135.5 (Figure 1).

1.5.1 Assessor's Parcel Number

The site occupies a portion of the land designated as Assessor's Parcel Number 43-070-00 (Figure 2).

1.5.2 Township, Range, Section, Quadrangle

The project site is located in the eastern portion of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute East of Ryan, California, Quadrangle Topographic Map (Provisional edition, 1988). The site is located in a portion of un-surveyed Section 14, Township 25 North, Range 4 East, San Bernardino Baseline and Meridian.

1.5.3 Longitude Latitude

The mine site is located at Latitude 36 18' 13" North, Longitude 116 30' 39" West

1.5.4 Claim Descriptions

The project site is known by Caltrans District 09, BLM, and the County of Inyo as State Material Site (MS) #286A. The site is also known as the New Death Valley Junction Material Site. The project name used for the purposes of this document will be MS #286A.

2.0.0 DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENTAL SETTINGSITE ACCESS

MS #286A is located approximately 5.5 miles west of the community of Death Valley Junction on the south side of Highway 190 at post mile 135.5. Currently, access to the site is from an unimproved dirt road created by the grading required to form the adjoining drainage berm (Figure 3).

2.2.0 TOPOGRAPHIC MAP

Figure 4 depicts the site's location in the eastern portion of the USGS 7.5-minute East of Ryan Quadrangle (Provisional Edition 1988); the site is not designated on the map. An old gravel pit is shown on the topographic base map approximately 0.5-mile east of the site to the north of Highway 190. The mine site boundaries have been transposed onto the map in Figure 4. Because the contour interval for the map is 40 feet, the topography of the site is not well defined. However, additional contour lines have been added to Map Sheet 1 (Existing Site Conditions) using the topographic map assuming a constant map distance for 10-foot intervals between the 40-foot intervals. Photo 1 depicts a view of the expected extraction area.

As shown on Figure 4, the site is located on the distal portion of the alluvial fan emanating from the Funeral Mountains to the north. Elevations at the site range from approximately 2,455 feet in the west to about 2,435 feet in the southeast corner of the site, producing approximately 20 feet of topographic relief. The topography steepens toward the mountains to the north, and flattens toward the valley to the southeast.

Figure 2: Assessor's Parcel Map

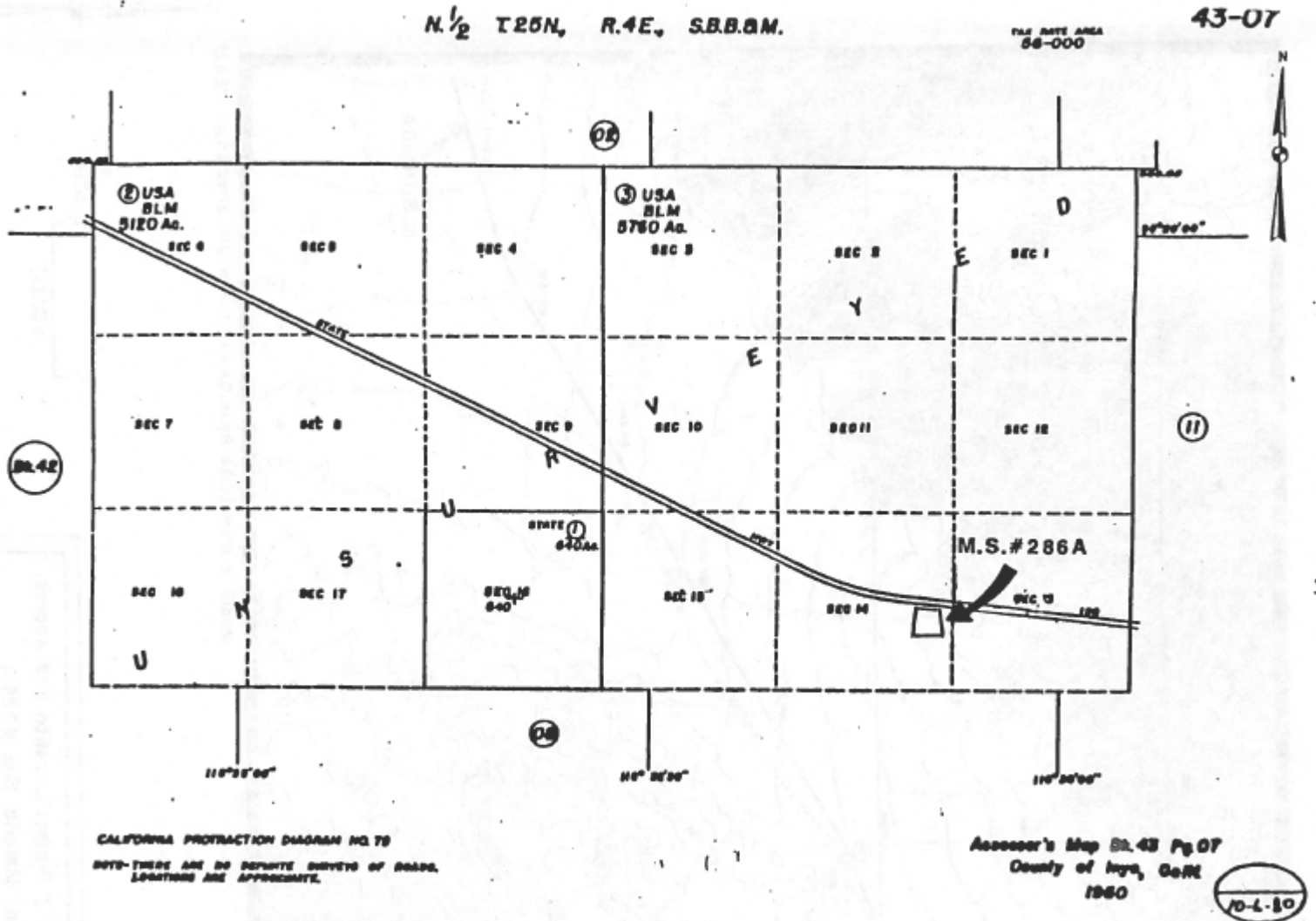


Figure 2: Assessors Parcel Map
Caltrans Material Site #286 A

Figure 3: project Location and Access

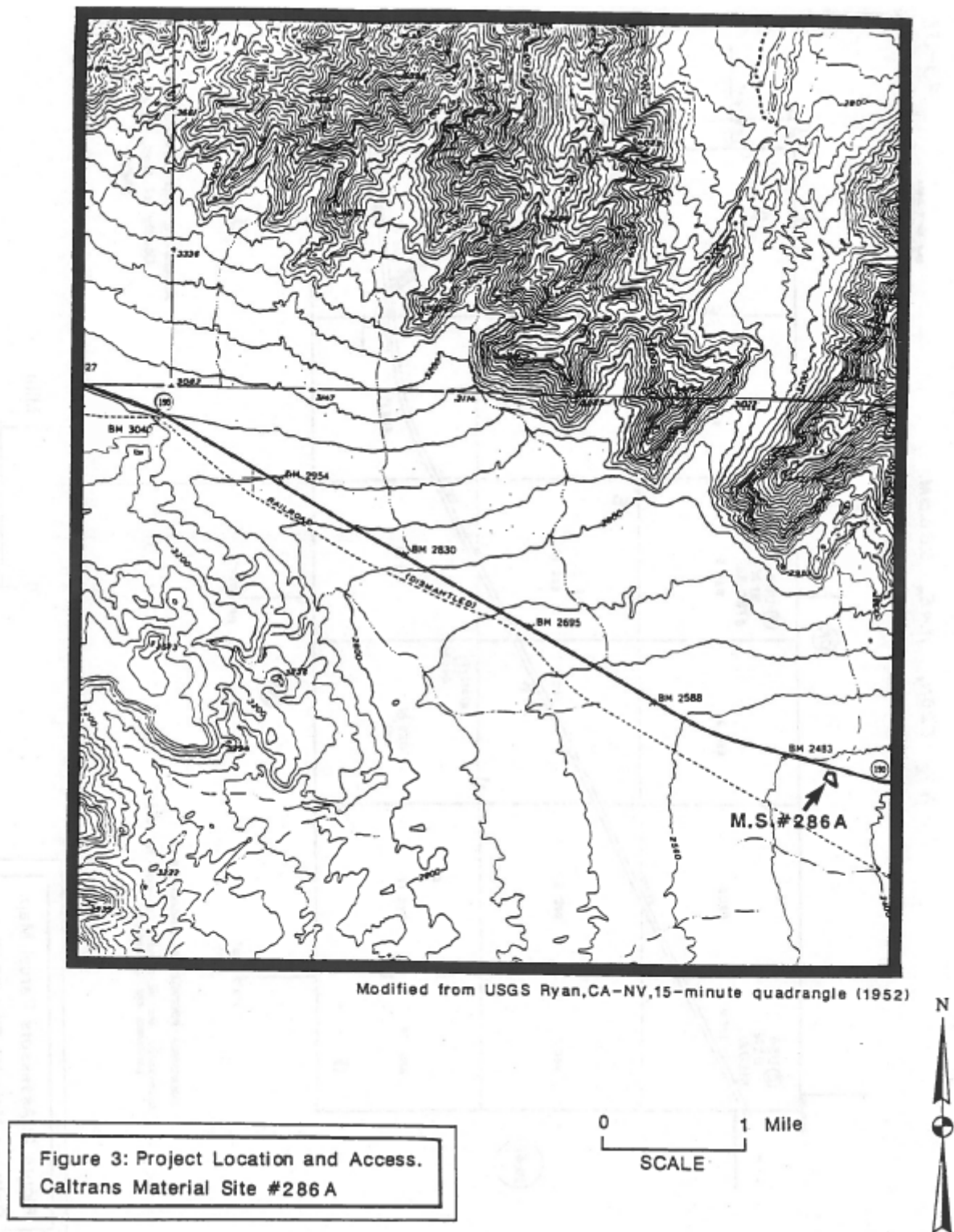
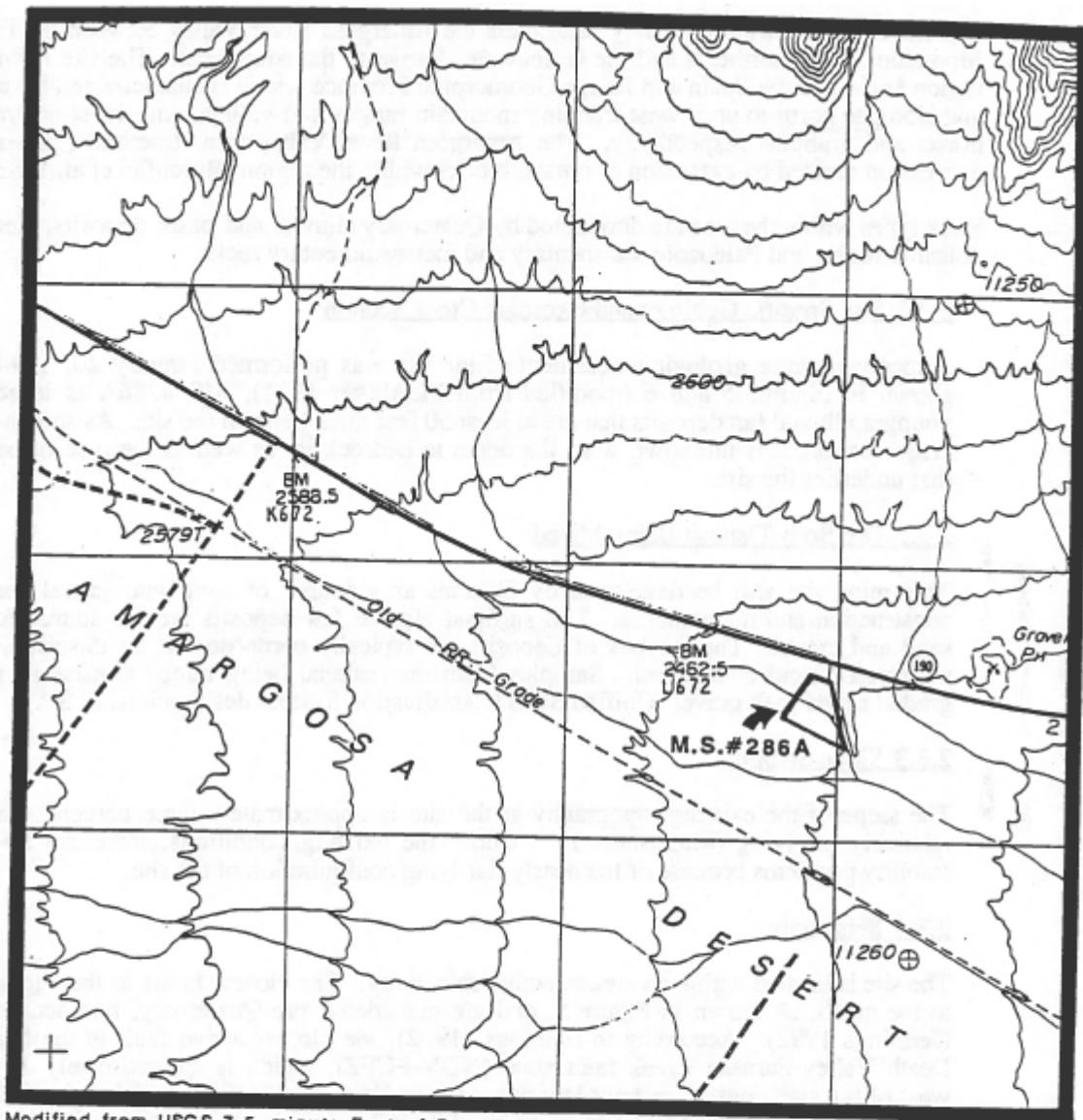


Figure 4: Topographic Map



Modified from USGS 7.5-minute East of Ryan, Ca, topographic map (provisional edition, 1988)

0 1 Mile
SCALE



Figure 4: Topographic Map
Caltrans Material Site #286 A

2.3.0 GENERAL GEOLOGY

The site is located within a valley that enters the Amargosa River Valley between the Funeral Mountains to the northeast and the Greenwater Range to the southwest. The site is within a region known as the Basin and Range Geomorphic Province which is characterized by parallel and elongate north-to northwest-trending mountain ranges and valleys, known structurally as horsts and grabens, respectively. The Amargosa River Valley is a structural (graben-like) depression created by extension of crustal blocks within the region (Burchfiel et al. 1983).

Rock types within the area are dominated by Quaternary alluvial and basin deposits, Cenozoic volcanic rocks, and Paleozoic sedimentary and metasedimentary rocks.

2.3.1 Site Specific Geology and Geologic Cross Section

A reconnaissance geologic assessment of the site was performed January 20, 1994. As shown in Figures 5 and 6 (modified from McAllister 1971), MS #286A is located on younger alluvial fan deposits that are at least 50 feet thick beneath the site. As shown in the cross section, it is unknown what the depth to bedrock is, as well as the type of bedrock that underlies the site.

2.3.2 Ore Body/Deposit Being Mined

This mine site will be developed by Caltrans as a source of sand and gravel for road construction and maintenance. The surficial alluvial fan deposits are the source for this sand and gravel. These types of deposits are typically composed of an unsorted, loose mixture of sand and gravel. Samples from the material being mined consist of poorly graded sands with gravel (Unified Soils Classification System designations of SP).

2.3.3 Slope Stability

The slope of the existing topography at the site is approximately three percent, which is relatively flat-lying (Map Sheet 1). Under the existing conditions, there are no slope stability problems because of the nearly flat-lying configuration of the site.

2.3.4 Seismicity

The site is located within an area of active seismicity. The closest faults to the site are just to the north, as shown in Figure 5, and are considered pre-Quaternary, non-active faults (Jennings 1992). According to Jennings (1992), the closest active fault is the Northern Death Valley-Furnace Creek fault zone (NDV-FCFZ), which is approximately 13 miles west of the site. Based on fault lengths given in Hart, et al. (1989) and Jennings (1992), maximum credible earthquake magnitudes of 8 can be expected for the NDV-FCFZ.

2.4.0 GENERAL HYDROLOGY

The character of the surface- and ground-water regimes at the site are directly related to the existing topography, geology, and climate of the region. Surface waters drain from the Funeral Mountains, to the north, and the Greenwater Range, to the south, into the Amargosa River Valley which eventually drains into Death Valley. Ground waters generally follow the flow direction of the surface waters. In loose alluvial deposits, the water-table gradient is a subtle expression of the land surface, unless there are changes in the subsurface stratigraphy or structure. The predominant source for ground water in the region is infiltration of surface water within the mountainous areas.

Figures 5 and 6: Map and Cross Section

Figure 5.

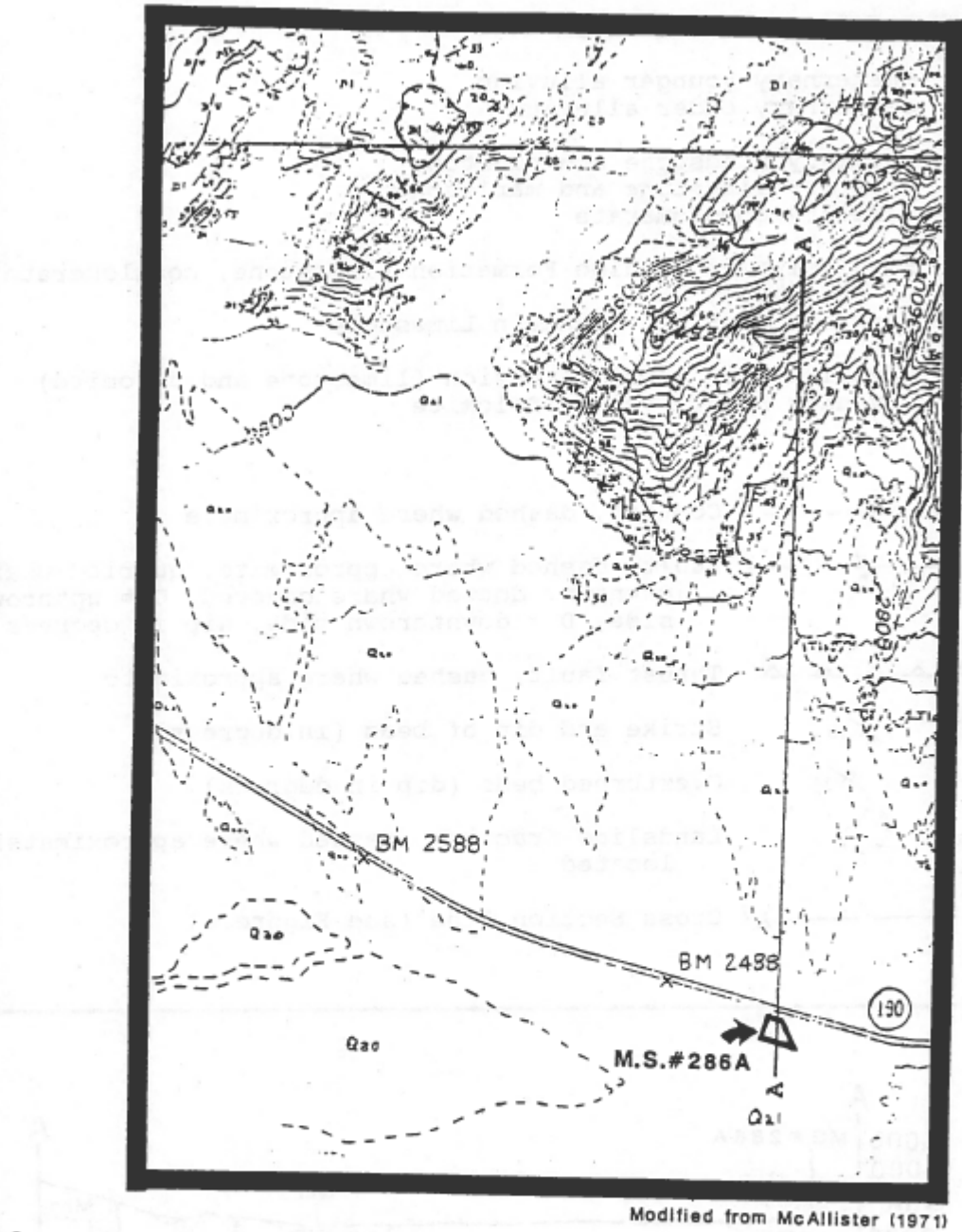


Figure 5 and 6: Map and Cross Section.
Caltrans Material Site #286A

* Figure 6 and Legend
for both figures on
following page

LEGEND FOR FIGURES 5 AND 6:

Qal Quaternary younger alluvium
 Qoa Quaternary older alluvium

 Ts Tertiary sandstone and mudstone
 Tls Tertiary limestone and marlstone
 Tc Tertiary conglomerate

 Mp Mississippian Perdido Formation (limestone, conglomerate, and chert)
 Mt Mississippian Tin Mountain Limestone

 Dl Devonian Lost Burro Formation (limestone and dolomite)
 Dsh Devonian Hidden Valley Dolomite

----- Contact, dashed where approximate

 $\frac{U}{D} \frac{70}{\text{---}}$ Fault, dashed where approximate, queried where unknown, dotted where covered, U = upthrown side, D = downthrown side, dip in degrees

 $\Delta \Delta \Delta \Delta \Delta$ Thrust fault, dashed where approximate

 $\swarrow 60$ Strike and dip of beds (in degrees)
 $\searrow 33$ Overturned beds (dip in degrees)
 $\circ \times \times \times$ Landslide fracture, dashed where approximately located

 A ----- A' Cross Section line (see Figure 6)

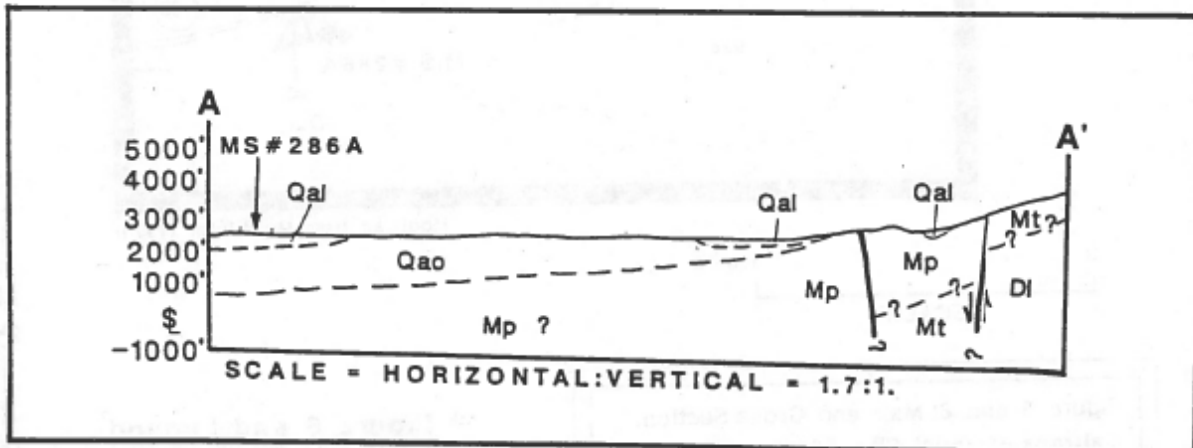


Figure 5 & 6 continued
 from previous page

Figure 6.

2.4.1 Site Specific Hydrology

Figure 7 shows the two watersheds that contribute surface-water runoff to the mine site. The drainage area of Watershed #1 is approximately 1,152 acres. The drainage for Watershed #1 crosses Highway 190 approximately one mile west of the site and then three braided tributaries of this drainage enter the site from the west (see Map Sheet #1). The drainage area of Watershed #2 is approximately 2,080 acres. The drainage for Watershed #2, which has been channelized into a large ditch north of Highway 190, crosses the highway to the north of the site and drains mainly into the wash to the east of the site; only a minor portion of this drainage enters the mine site from the north (Map Sheet # 1).

Using the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service (USDA-SCS 1986) TR-55 Tabular Hydrograph method and the California Department of Water Resources Bulletin 195 (DWR 1976) method, peak flows for a 20-year return period storm were calculated for Watersheds #1 and #2 at 14.4 and 23.4 cubic feet per second, respectively. Because of the braided and multiple tributary drainage pattern that exists on the site, the above peak surface-water flow amounts will not be concentrated in any individual drainage and, therefore, these amounts should be subdivided between the many drainages that enter the site.

2.4.2 Area Hydrology

The dominant ground-water aquifer underlying the site is found within alluvial and basin deposits. According to Langer, et al. (1984), ground water is approximately 150 feet beneath the site. Although there is the potential for perched ground water to occur at a more shallow depth, this is unlikely because the area's arid climate produces only a small amount of rain water that can directly infiltrate from the surface. Ground water will not likely be exposed during mining operations.

According to Thompson, et al. (1984), ground-water quality in the Amargosa River Valley is considered borderline poor. The natural chemistry of the ground water classes it as a sodium bicarbonate type with a total dissolved-solids concentration between 1,000 and 3,000 milligrams per liter.

2.4.3 Water and Land Uses

The land at the mine site is controlled by BLM for the U.S. Department of the Interior. The ground water and land at and near the site have not yet been developed.

2.5.0 SOIL RESOURCES

Soils that develop on alluvial deposits are controlled by a number of factors, including: 1) the type of parent material from which the deposits originated, 2) the age of the various depositional units within the fan, and 3) the grain-size distributions of the fan deposits. Alluvial fans _typically have coarse textured soils with little pedogenic development. The A-horizon, if present, is generally less than five-inches thick and is directly underlain by a thick C-horizon, essentially unaltered alluvium. The alluvial material at the site originates from sedimentary and metasedimentary rock sources.

Figure 7: Watershed Map

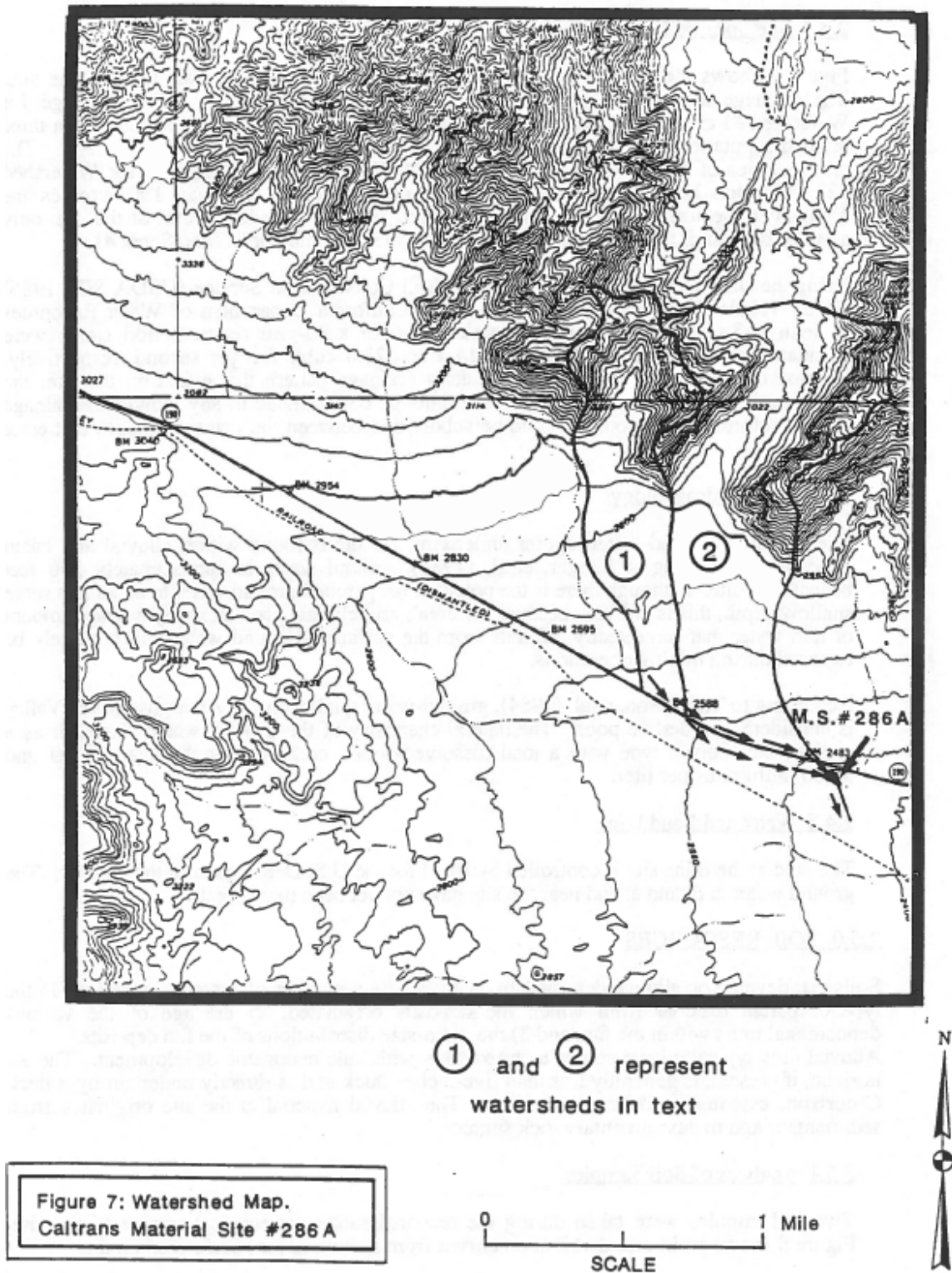
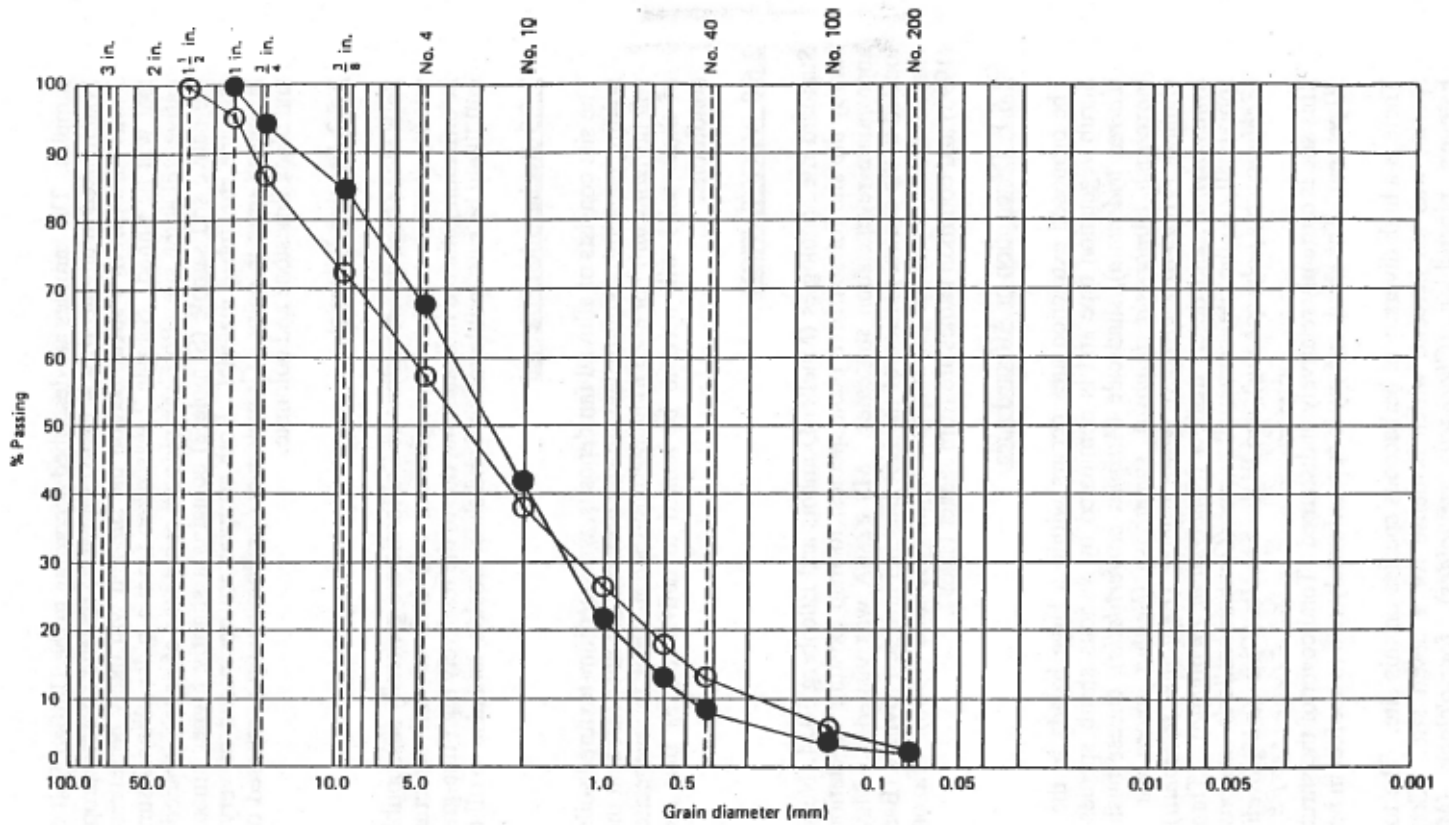


Figure 8: Grain Size Distribution Curve



- — ● SAMPLE #1: Stream channel / mined material — poorly graded SAND with gravel (SP)*
- — ○ SAMPLE #2: Native Soil — poorly graded SAND with gravel (SP)*

*Unified Soils Classification System designation

Figure 8: Grain size distribution curve.
Caltrans Material Site #286 A

2.5.1 Analysis of Soil Samples

Two soil samples were taken during the reconnaissance geotechnical survey of the site. Figure 8 shows grain-size distribution curves from sieve analyses performed on the samples. The samples are described according to the Unified Soil Classification System, a system used in engineering work to emphasize the engineering properties of soils. Sample 1 was taken from a streambed on the site and will likely be representative of the material that will be mined. Sample 2 was taken from a older alluvial surface and represents the native soil at the site. Both samples are composed of poorly graded sand with gravel (SP); the native soil sample (Sample 2) contains a slightly higher amount of fine-grained sand than the streambed material. Both samples are composed of very loose material and are brownish-gray in color. Gravels were predominantly composed of angular clasts of gray and black limestone and dolomite.

2.5.2 Erosion Potential

Soils in the high desert regions of California are generally susceptible to erosion due to high winds, intense scattered precipitation, and lack of soil structure. The soil analysis information gathered indicates that due to the relatively high fine-grained sand content, soils will likely be susceptible to wind and sheet erosion, and to rill erosion on sloped areas.

2.5.3 Reclamation Potential

The site consists of alluvial fan deposits, with medium-textured soils that have a low water-holding capacity. Well-developed soil horizons are not present at the site; therefore, distinct soil horizons will not need to be reestablished in order to revegetate the site. Revegetation of these soils will need to be limited to native species that are adapted to droughty conditions.

2.6.0 VEGETATION

Standard transect methodologies (Mueller-Dombois and Ellenberg 1974, Nelson 1988) were used to survey the site for sensitive plant species, to map existing vegetation, and to determine the appropriate revegetation strategies. MS #286A was re-visited on February 25, 2026. The site is located in the central portion of the Hot Desert Floristic Province (Barbour and Major 1988). Classification of natural communities is after Holland (1986). Taxonomy follows Hickman (1993) and common names are from Jaeger (1969).

2.6.1 Description of Affected Area

The proposed restoration area occurs within a large bajada split between the Central Mojave Desert Creosote Bush Mixed Scrub & Low Elevation Wash System vegetation types, and is dominated by various shrub species such as Creosote Bush (*Larrea tridentata*), Cheesebush (*Ambrosia salsola*), Burro-weed (*Ambrosia dumosa*), Sweetbush (*Bebbia juncea*), and Netvein Goldeneye (*Bahiopsis reticulata*). Four cactus species occur sporadically on the site- Beavertail Cactus (*Opuntia basilaris*), Silver Cholla (*Cylindropuntia echinocarpa*), Cottontop Cactus (*Echinocactus polycephalus*), and Common Fishhook Cactus (*Mammillaria tetrancistra*).

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During the initial site evaluation in May 1992, the site was relatively undisturbed. Total cover of the shrub layer was approximately 30 percent. The shrub canopy was approximately two to six feet in height.

There is a high diversity of herbaceous species on this site. The total cover of herbaceous species was approximately 15.5%, which is dense for a desert site. Common herbaceous species include Narrow-Leaved Johnstonea (*Johnstonea angustifolia*), Pebble Pinsushion (*Chaenactis carphoclinia*), Jones' Linanthus (*Linthus jonesii*), and Small-Flowered Blazing Star (*Mentzelia albicaulis*).

2.6.2 Unique/Critical Communities

The California Department of Fish and Game Natural Diversity Data Base (CNDDDB 1994) lists no unique or critical communities on the East of Ryan 7 .5-minute quadrangle.

2.6.3 Special Plant Species

No plant species that are labelled as "sensitive" in the CNDDDB (2026), were observed in the vicinity of the site visit.

2.6.4 Invasive Exotics

The invasive/exotic species, Arabian schismus (*Schismus arabicus*) was found fairly frequently on this site.

2.6.5 Revegetation Potential

Revegetation of arid lands is often difficult; constraints to revegetation are both natural and human-induced. Re-establishment of vegetation on this site will be somewhat limited due to the droughty nature of the soil, the arid climate, and the sparse native shrub cover typical of Mojave Creosote Bush Scrub. On this alluvial fan, gravel and small berms provide the primary protection from wind and water erosion rather than vegetation. Therefore, the goal of revegetation at this site will be to reestablish components of the native Mojave Creosote Bush Scrub vegetation on native, coarse soils; thereby integrating the site with the surrounding area.

2.7.0 WILDLIFE

The site was visited on March 23, 1994. Classification of wildlife habitats relies on descriptions of vegetation types described by Holland (1986), and on wildlife habitats described in Mayer and Laudenslayer (1988).

2.7.1 Description of Habitats

This site contains a native Mojave Creosote Bush Scrub plant community (Holland 1986). The site is surrounded by a large contiguous area of similar native vegetation- that is interrupted only by Highway 190 and roughly north-south running berms. Shallow dry washes extend across the site. The Funeral Mountains can be seen to the north and northwest.

The site supports an assemblage of arthropods, reptiles, birds, and mammals typical of the Mojave Desert. Animals associated with or requiring large amounts of water (e.g., fish and

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amphibians) are notably scarce in this and other arid regions. There is no water on the site and no aquatic or semi-aquatic organisms are expected to live there.

2.7.2 Unique/Critical Habitats

The California Natural Diversity Data Base has no records of unique or critical habitats for the USGS 7.5-minute East of Ryan, California, Quadrangle (CNDDDB 1994). No unique or critical habitats were identified on the site during the site survey.

2.7.3 Game Range

Wild Horse and Burro-- The site is within the Chicago Valley wild horse and burro herd management area (USDI 1980). In the California Desert Conservation Area Plan (USDI 1980), range quality was deemed sufficient to retain both species at then current populations of 28 horses and 28 burros. A group of about eight wild horses were observed approximately one to two miles east of the site on one occasion during site visits. Wild burros on BLM lands are protected by federal law (Wild and Free Roaming Horse and Burro Act 1971). Within Class-M BLM lands, horses and burros are maintained in stable herds subject to control to protect sensitive resources. The site is likely habitat for both of these protected species.

2.7.4 Special Animal Species

According to the CNDDDB (1994), one special animal species is known from the East of Ryan Quad:

Nelson's Bighorn Sheep (*Ovis canadensis nelsoni*)

Analysis:

CDFG estimated that approximately 35 individuals made up the Funeral Mountains population of this species in 1988. At that time, sightings were made approximately 20 miles northwest of the proposed mine site. It is possible though unlikely that this species would be found on or using the site. Areas closer to and within the Funeral Mountains (northwest of the site) are more likely habitat, especially in the vicinity of water sources.

The site is also within the range of the Mojave population of the desert tortoise (*Xerobates (Gopherus) agassizii*), which is listed as a threatened species both by the State of California and by the federal government (Zeiner, et al. 1988, USFWS 1993). MS #286A is at the northern end of the proposed Eastern Mojave Recovery Unit, but is not within any designated proposed Desert Wildlife Management Area (USFWS 1993). Creosote bush scrub, like that found on the mine site, is a listed desert tortoise habitat type (USFWS 1993).

The area of the mine site is not listed as a critical area for desert tortoise by BLM (USDI 1980). Evidence of the presence of desert tortoises was not observed on the site during the site visits. However, the site visits were short and were not specifically designed to detect tortoises or tortoise sign. Also, no attempt was made to cover the entire site or to employ systematic search procedures for evidence of tortoises. Tortoise surveys are under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). Surveys are to be conducted by authorized personnel using approved methodology with the consent and advice of the USFWS in order to be valid under the provisions of the Federal Endangered Species Act. In addition, CDFG requires specific procedures

for dealing with impacts on desert tortoises and their habitat under the California Endangered Species Act and the Fish and Game Code. Caltrans' standard tortoise mitigations are included in Appendix D.

2.8.0 AIR RESOURCE/CLIMATOLOGY

Precipitation data are from the town of Shoshone (elevation 1,570 feet), approximately 20 miles south of the mine site. Temperature data are from the nearest location to the site where such data are regularly collected: Death Valley (elevation -19 feet, about 22 miles west of the site).

2.8.1 Precipitation

The mean annual precipitation at Shoshone over a nine-year period, 1974-1982, is 4.6 inches per year. In 1992, a maximum rainfall of 3.4 inches was recorded during the month of March. Less than one inch of rain was recorded for the months of July through November of the same year (NOAA 1992).

2.8.2 Temperature

The mean annual temperature in Death Valley in 1992 was 76.8°F. The monthly mean temperatures at Death Valley for the months of January and July are 50° and 98°F, respectively. The highest temperature in 1992 was 125°F (August), and the lowest temperature was 27°F (December). The last spring minimum of 32°F or below was January 27, and the first fall minimum of 32°F or below was December 17. The length of the frost free season in 1992 was 325 days (NOAA 1992).

2.8.3 Prevailing Winds

High winds can accompany the periodic thundershowers that are seasonally common in this area. Wind is a primary agent of erosion in arid regions because rainfall is only sufficient to allow for a sparse vegetative cover of the land surface, leaving much of the surface soil exposed to wind erosion. The rocky alluvial deposit protects the native soil from wind erosion by forming a lag layer of gravel, cobble, and rock on the surface of the soil.

2.8.4 Air Quality

Air quality in this region is typically excellent.

2.9.0 LAND USES AND AESTHETICS

All lands within the California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA) under BLM management have been classified into one of four multiple-use classes based on sensitivity of resources and land-use for each area. The four multiple-use classes are used to designate different levels of permitted land-use and different kinds of resource management within an area. In addition, County Planning Agencies classify lands according to county land-use plans.

2.9.1 Existing and Surrounding Land Uses

MS #286A is within the California Desert Conservation Area (COCA). The site is classed as open space (40-acre minimum) by Inyo County and is contained within a larger area designated Multiple-use Class-M by BLM (USDI 1980). Class-M areas are those that are classed for moderate uses. The Class-M designation is based on a controlled balance between higher intensity uses

and protection of public lands. Class-M designated lands are open to many uses such as mining, livestock grazing, recreation, energy and utility development. Class-M management is also designed for conservation of desert resources and mitigation of damage to those resources that may be caused by permitted uses (USDI 1980).

Motorized vehicle use in the area of the site is limited to existing routes of travel with provisions for seasonal access restrictions.

There is no grazing allotment on or near the site, and the surrounding lands are owned by BLM. There are no towns, houses, or other structures in the vicinity of the site.

2.9.2 Visually Sensitive Areas

BLM has developed draft Visual Resource Management (VRM) standards for all BLM lands. The mining site is designated VRM II/BHFG. BLM describes the objectives of the VRM II designation as follows:

"The objective of this class is to retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be low. Management activities may be seen from key observation points, but should not attract the attention of the casual observer. Any changes must repeat the basic form, line, color, and texture found in the predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape (USDI 1991)."

The scenic quality of the area is rated good (B). Highway 190 is well traveled by tourists; therefore, the sensitivity of the area, determined by the number of people that are likely to encounter the area and the frequency of use, is rated high (H). The scenic and sensitive qualities of the region are concentrated in the foreground (Fg).

2.9.3 Visual Impact of Reclamation to These Uses

The extraction area will be visible from Highway 190. The contrast on the site that will result from mining will: be caused by removal of the coarse ground-surface layer, and a decrease in the density of the vegetation due to vegetation removal. In addition, the topography of the mined area will be changed by the excavation of the pit. These topographic and vegetative changes will be moderated somewhat by the side-slope shaping and revegetation done during reclamation. Revegetation with native species and resoiling will eventually integrate the site with the surrounding area. However, for the duration of the mine and reclamation plan, the mine site will remain visible to the casual observer.

3.0.0 DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED MINING OPERATION

3.1.0 DIMENSIONS, ACREAGE

MS #286A occupies approximately 7.7 acres on BLM land. The site is an irregular-shaped polygon, with sides ranging in length from 869 feet to 273 feet. The site has not yet been disturbed by mining (Map Sheet 1). Approximately 7.2 acres of the site will be mined, 0.7 acres of which will be utilized as the mining operations area. Approximately 0.2 acres will be disturbed off-site for an access road entering the site from the north.

3.2.0 INITIATION AND TERMINATION DATES

Mining at this site will take place on an intermittent basis and the termination date for this reclamation plan will be 2046, 20 years from reclamation plan amendment 50 years from the reclamation plan approval date. Renewal of this plan approval may be sought from the County after the termination date if the anticipated demand for the minerals is delayed. A description of the management of the site during idle phases, if they occur, can be found in Appendix C, Interim Management Plan.

3.3.0 PRODUCTION SCHEDULE

The site will be mined for material to be used primarily for emergency road repair and road maintenance, and possibly for road construction. It is estimated that the annual extraction volume will be about 7,500 cubic yards. No more than 150,000 cubic yards will be removed over the extended 20-year life of the mine. At the end of the 20-year period, 2046, final site reclamation will be implemented.

3.4.0 MINING PLAN

Material from this site will be used for road maintenance and construction on an as-needed basis. Refer to Map Sheet 2 for the configuration of the site.

3.4.1 Description of Operations

Mining will initiate in the western portion of the site, a minimum of 50-feet from the western boundary. As shown in Map Sheet 2, mining will encompass most of the mine site. Excavations within the pit will be no deeper than 30 feet below the existing ground surface. The pit slopes within the mining area will be no greater than 3:1 (Horizontal: Vertical), with a relatively flat-lying base, sloping gently (three percent) to the southeast; the cut for the access road will be no greater than 2:1 (H:V). There will be a minimum 20-foot setback for mining from the northern, eastern, and southern boundaries of the site. Material storage, stockpiles, and screening equipment will be concentrated in the materials operations area to be located within the pit, as shown on Map Sheet 2. Material will be screened and stored on-site and will be transported off-site by truck when needed.

3.4.2 Access Roads

The site will be accessed from the northwest via a dirt road constructed within the southern half of the 400-foot-wide Caltrans right-of-way for Highway 190.

3.4.3 Topsoil Handling

Topsoil (defined as the upper six inches of the native surface) will be salvaged and stockpiled within the 50-foot setback zone along the western boundary. Approximately 4,150 cubic yards of topsoil will be salvaged. Additionally, approximately 500 cubic yards of waste fines will be used for resoiling portions of the site. Waste fines and topsoil will be stockpiled separately.

3.4.4 Mineral, Overburden, and Waste

All useable and waste material excavated during mining will be stored and stockpiled on-site in the mining operation area. Waste is estimated to compose five percent of the extracted volume,

or approximately 7,500 cubic yards. A portion of these waste fines will be used to resoil a small portion of the site, approximately 0.3 acre, during the post-mining reclamation phase.

3.4.5 Water Impoundments and Diversions

The following erosion and sediment control measures will be implemented to help reduce potential slope instability problems and minimize erosion and off-site sediment discharge:

Grade-stabilization structures: As shown on Map Sheet 2, several drainages enter the site from north and west to help reduce erosion of the pit slopes by these drainages, three. grade-stabilization structures will be constructed along the western slope of the pit (refer to Appendix F for general construction specifications). The chutes for these structures will be 10 feet wide and will be protected by rip-rap at their tops where the drainages enter and at their bases where they enter small sediment basins. 1be sediment basins will-be connected by a south-flowing drainage ditch, and the southern basin will feed into an east-flowing drainage ditch approximately 300 feet long. These structures will be constructed as mining proceeds and will be cleaned out and repaired after major storm events.

Drainage-diversion Berm: As discussed previously, a five-foot high berm was previously constructed to the east of the site to divert channelized drainage water away from the highway. In order to keep this diverted drainage from entering the pit, a five-foot high material berm will be constructed along the northern and eastern boundaries of the site within the 20-foot mining setback zone. The berm will be approximately 1,000 feet long and will have side slopes no greater than 2:1 (H:V). Once mining begins at the site, this drainage berm will be constructed in the location shown on Map Sheet 2.

Outlet Structure: In case the mining area becomes inundated by flood waters, a rock-protected outlet channel will be constructed in the southeast corner of the pit, the point where flood waters would drain from the pit. The outlet structure will be cut approximately four-feet deep with a drainage apron, 50-feet long and 50-feet wide, in the southern corner of the site.

3.5.0 PROCESSING EQUIPMENT

A portable screening operation will be moved onto the site during periods of operation. If the site is used for construction, a portable asphalt plant will be moved onto the site. No permanent buildings or equipment will be constructed on site as part of the mining operation.

3.6.0 WATER REQUIREMENTS

Water requirements for this site will be limited to that needed for screening, crushing, washing, and for dust control. Water will be trucked to the site, most likely from Shoshone.

3.6.1 Waste Water

The only type of wastewater to be produced by this mining operation will be screening water that will be collected in the operations area and allowed to evaporate or infiltrate. Water use during intermittent operational phases is estimated at 2,000 gallons per day.

3.6.2 Drinking Water

Water will be trucked to the site to provide safe drinking water for site employees.

3.6.3 Sewage Disposal

During operations, portable toilets will be brought to the site and maintained.

3.7.0 **ENERGY REQUIREMENTS**

Electricity will be used by the plant for screening and washing operations. When electricity is needed for processing, it will be provided by a diesel generator. Diesel consumption will be approximately 800 gal/mth. Electricity will not be needed for reclamation activities.

3.8.0 **NOISE & EMISSIONS**

Mining operations will include the use of a D-9 cat, a five-yard loader, belly dumps, bobtail trucks, and pickups. Processing activities will include a screening plant, crushing operation and possibly an asphalt plant. This aspect of the mining operation will affect noise and emissions.

3.8.1 Noise

The noise emissions will be most heavily concentrated within the processing area of the pit, and will be shielded from surrounding receptors by the pit walls. Both the physical walls of the pit and the large distance to receivers will reduce the potential noise impact from mining.

Effective source strength of a rock plant is around 72-75 dB at 400 feet. Earth-moving activities would typically generate estimated noise levels of 75 and 80 dB at a distance of 50 feet with noise control devices for dozers and scrapers. In combination, the noise exposure at a distance of 2,000 feet would be reduced to approximately 60 dB, which is below most standards for noise-sensitive land-uses. Noise generated from the concurrent reclamation activities will not be perceivable against the noise generated by the mining activities. Noise generated from reclamation activities following the termination of mining will be minimal. There are no towns, dwellings, or buildings within 2,000 feet of the proposed mining area.

3.8.2 Dust, Odors, Vehicular Emissions

vehicular emissions and suspended particulate, or dust. Operations of this magnitude (7,500-40,000 cubic yards/year) may cause a significant increase in vehicular emissions on Highway 190 during the intermittent road construction phases. Increased emissions would emanate from the pit during the active extraction phases. However, the site will be mined in a manner that will result very nearly in the final reclaimed landform; therefore, reclamation activities will not cause an increase in vehicular emissions.

Because the soil disturbance from materials screening, extraction, and hauling is a "fresh" disturbance, the major component of the produced dust will be of large particle size (greater than ten microns), which settles out rapidly. Best available control technology, such as maintaining a moist aggregate surface, will be used to suppress screening, extraction, and hauling dust sources. Reclamation activities, such as reseeding and resoiling with topsoil mixed with vegetative debris, will also help to control dust.

3.9.0 HOURS OF OPERATION/NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES

The hours of operation will be twelve hours per day during the hours of 6:00 am to 6:00 pm. It is estimated that this operation will employ between one and seven people during active mining and about two to three people for three to five days during final reclamation implementation.

3.10.0 TRANSPORTATION

Transportation to and from the site by maintenance and repair crews will not increase traffic on Highway 190; however, during construction mining operations, transportation by employees to the mine site may increase traffic on Highway 190. Transportation of aggregate resources to construction locations may increase traffic on those roads as well. It is estimated that during construction mining operations, haul trucks will make approximately fifty round-trips per week. Approximately three to ten 25-ton belly dump trucks and five to fifteen 10-ton bobtail trucks will be used in this operation. This may necessitate access road intersection improvement on Highway 190. These possible impacts are all mining related. Since mining will result in very nearly in the final reclaimed landform and much of the reclamation will be performed concurrent with mining phases, reclamation activities are not likely to cause an increase in vehicular traffic on Highway 190.

4.0.0 DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED RECLAMATION

This site will be used by Caltrans intermittently as a source of materials for road maintenance and construction. Reclamation of the site will be implemented according to the reclamation plan discussed below.

4.1.0 SUBSEQUENT USES

The land is zoned by Inyo County as open space (40-acre minimum). According to CDFG and BLM sources the site is not located within any area designated as critical habitat for any sensitive species. However, the site does provide general habitat values to various wildlife species and is within the range of the Chicago Valley wild horse and burro herd management area. The site is also within the range of the Mojave population of the desert tortoise, at the northern end of the Eastern Mojave Recovery Unit, but is not within any designated proposed Desert Wildlife Management Area (USFWS 1993). The site will be reclaimed to open space and wildlife habitat, which will leave the site in a productive end use that is readily adaptable to alternative end uses.

4.2.0 IMPACT ON FUTURE MINING

Reclamation of this site will not preclude mining at a future date. The aggregate resource likely extends beyond 50 feet deep; mining according to the current mining plan will not have exhausted on-site mineral resources.

4.3.0 RECLAMATION SCHEDULE

Reclamation treatments, such as the grade-stabilization structures, drainage ditches, and material berms, will be installed as mining proceeds. Reclamation treatments such as resoiling, using topsoil and amended waste fines, and revegetation will be initiated when final slopes are established. Once reclamation treatments have been implemented, they will be monitored until performance standards have been met. The monitoring plan is designed to evaluate site-specific criteria for slope stability, erosion and sediment control, and resoiling and revegetation.

4.4.0 POST-MINING ACTIVITIES AND SITE CONFIGURATION

Map Sheet 3 depicts the post-mining activities and reclaimed topography of the mined area. The final site configuration will be a 30-foot deep excavation with 3:1 (H:V) side slopes. The surface of the mine operations area and access roads (7.2 acres on-site and 0.2 acres off-site; 7.4 acres total) will be 1) decompacted, 2) resoiled using stockpiled topsoil and on-site waste fines, and 3) revegetated.

4.4.1 Slope Stability

Pit slopes for the mining phase and the final reclaimed site will not be steeper than 3:1 (H: V). The roadcut for the access road, that has a slope of 2: 1 (H: V), will also remain but is not considered a major slope. The angle of repose for loose sediments on the site is approximately 32°. This angle can be considered to be representative of the angle of internal friction of the native slope material. Thus, pit slopes will be stable at the proposed angle under static conditions. Any slope failures that may occur would be retained within the pit.

4.4.2 Final Drainage Plan and Impoundments

Map Sheet 3 details the final drainage plan of the reclaimed site. The excavated pit will serve as sediment basin/trap for eroded sediment coming from upslope of the pit, and from within the pit itself. The grade-stabilization structures, drainage ditches, and material berm will not be maintained after final reclamation has been completed.

4.4.3 Disposal of Equipment

Any equipment brought onto the site will be removed from the site following termination of mining activity. No equipment will be stored permanently on-site. At final reclamation, there will be no equipment remaining on the mined site.

4.5.0 RESOILING

The native soil of this site is a poorly graded sand with gravel derived from the sedimentary and metasedimentary rock units found upslope. A native soil contains native seeds and soil microorganisms, and therefore, is preferred for site reclamation. The topsoil will be defined as the upper six inches of the substrate on the site. Topsoil will be salvaged prior to mining any area of the site. The topsoil will be placed in designated stockpiles within the western buffer zone.

Native surface materials will be kept separate from the processing fines. Processing fines will be placed in the stockpile area delineated on the site plans, and may be respread prior to (and beneath) topsoil application. Prior to spreading the topsoil, all compacted areas will be decompacted (ripped or disced) to facilitate root growth. The topsoil that was salvaged will be respread to a depth of six inches in all areas of the pit, inclusive of slopes outside drainage structures. The woody debris less than 0.5 feet, if stockpiled separately, will be distributed over the site in a random manner following the topsoil application. The large amount of coarse material (gravel) in the native topsoil will also serve as a gravel mulch, thereby armoring the revegetated site.

4.5.1 Mulches

Since the native coarse-grained topsoil will be used to resoil this site, a gravel mulch will not need to be added. The coarse fraction of the native soil will act as a protective lag layer, thereby guarding against wind and water erosion.

4.6.0 REVEGETATION

Revegetation will strive to achieve visual integration with the vegetation surrounding the site. Establishment of vegetation in the borrow pit area will provide some erosion control for the site, while creating cover and forage for wildlife.

4.6.1 Seedbed Preparation

After decompacting the growth medium, the area will be roughed to form a variety of microsites; this can be accomplished by "track walking" or imprinting the site. The growth medium will be prepared to provide a firm, but not overly compacted, bed.

Table 4.6-1: Proposed Seed Mix

Scientific Name	Common Name	PLS lbs/ acre
<i>Larrea tridentata</i>	Creosote Bush	5
<i>Ambrosia salsola</i>	Cheesebush	3
<i>Ambrosia dumosa</i>	Burroweed	3
<i>Bebbia juncea</i>	Sweetbush	1

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Table 4.10-1: Remedial Measures

Feature	Objective	Monitoring Frequency	Findings	Action
Wind Erosion	Soil stabilized, no nuisance dust from site	Continuously during mining and reclamation implementation; annually following reclamation.	Soil drifts found behind plants and rises, blowing dust.	Consider additional soil stabilization, i.e., rock mulching and revegetation.
Water Erosion	Soil stabilized, no evidence of rilling or gullyng.	After first major storm event (>0.5 inch rain in a 24-hour period) following construction; once a year during annual monitoring of reclamation.	Rilling, gullyng, erosion, or evidence of washouts or erosion in established drainage ways.	Repair area, consider additional stabilization (waterbars, berms, diversion channels, rock lining, or mulches).
Slope Stability	No evidence of slope failures,	Monitor continuously during mining operations; and annually during reclamation.	Slope failures, slumping.	Reconstruct slope, lessen angle of slope, and implement erosion control measures.
Invasion by Russian thistle or other invasive species	No interference with establishment of native vegetation.	Once per year, note areas of infestation of Russian Thistle or other species.	Infestation of exotics interfering with establishment of native vegetation.	Apply weed eradication measures: hand-pulling, hand-cutting, and possibly hand-applied herbicide.
Revegetation	Perennial cover averages 10 percent.	Annually following implementation.	<10 percent perennial cover, signs of drought stress; signs of herbivory that may significantly affect outcome.	Consider fertilizing and irrigating individual plants; analyze soil for problems; analyze for pest problems
Resoiling	Decompacted native soils respread to a depth of 6 inches.	Monitor during implementation.	Fines absent from substrate surface of a compacted substrate.	(consider fencing individual plants that volunteered). Respread additional topsoil; rip or disc site to alleviate compaction.

4.6.2 Plant Materials and Planting Densities

Many plant species are comprised of local ecotypes that are highly adapted to local climate and edaphic conditions (Plummer et al. 1955, 1968). The plants that will have the best chance of survival on a site are those ecotypes that are growing on (or near) the site (Millar and Libby 1989). The use of nonlocal plant materials can result in the application of a poorly adapted ecotype, as well as the potential genetic contamination of the local ecotype through interbreeding with the introduced ecotype. The results of interbreeding between nonlocal and wild local native stock can be adverse and permanent.

The best policy is to collect plant materials from on or near the site. Therefore, plant materials for each of the designated species should be obtained from the same region as the mine site. For the purposes of MS #286A, the collection region will be defined as Mojave Creosote Bush Scrub vegetation that occurs between 1,500 and 3,500 feet elevation, east of the Funeral Mountains and the Green water Range, and within a 20-mile radius of MS #286A.

4.6.3 Irrigation

Irrigation would only serve to aid the growth of invasive exotics and therefore is not recommended for this site.

4.6.4 Plant Eradication Measures

Plant eradication will not be necessary unless the presence of Russian thistle, or other invasive exotics, on the site becomes a limiting factor in the reestablishment of native vegetation. Remediation for invasive exotic species is discussed in Table 4.10-1.

4.7.0 EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL

Erosion and sediment control will be achieved by implementation of the previously described drainage and revegetation plans. Diversion of the drainage to the east of the mining and operations areas will limit the amount of flood waters entering these areas. Resoiling and revegetation will be performed according to the revegetation plan and will aid in reducing erosion.

4.8.0 PUBLIC SAFETY

The configuration of the mined lands, will not pose a hazard to the public. No hazardous materials will be stored on-site. In addition, the boulders at the access point to the site will help prevent uncontrolled access.

4.9.0 PERFORMANCE STANDARD

The following discussion sets forth minimum site criteria, or performance standards, for the various aspects of site reclamation. Monitoring of reclamation performance standards will be agreed upon by Caltrans, BLM, and Inyo County.

4.9.1 Erosion and Sediment Control

Erosion and sediment control monitoring will be completed at the same time and frequency that the used to vegetation monitoring is done. The drainage ditches and swale will be inspected following the season's first major storm event or at a minimum of annually. These structures will be cleaned out as needed to maintain a clear flow path for flood waters. The results will be to

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identify areas of potential failures and to trigger the implementation of remedial measures before problem areas cause widespread failures. Any observable reason for failure will be noted and the appropriate remedial measure suggested as part of the annual monitoring report.

4.9.2 Slope Stability

No large man-made slope within the pit shall be steeper than 3:1 (H:V), which has been determined to exceed the slope stability standard for this material for all except the most severe earthquake events.

4.9.3 Revegetation

The following performance standards will be applied to the site. Undisturbed, site indigenous woody perennial cover was estimated at 30 percent. Reclamation will achieve a minimum of 20 percent coverage and 20 percent density of surrounding undisturbed land, and a perennial species richness of 50 percent of surrounding undisturbed land. Areas found to be below these standards will be evaluated as set forth in the Remedial Measures Plan.

4.10.0 MAINTENANCE, MONITORING, AND REMEDIAL MEASURES

Site maintenance and monitoring will continue until Inyo County deems reclamation complete.

4.10.1 Erosion and Sediment Control

All erosion and sediment control structures will be maintained and monitored annually for as long as mining and reclamation continues. This shall be done to ensure that the failure of one or more structures does not apply additional and unplanned stress on other structures.

If infilling or failure of a structure occurs, steps to repair the original structure will be taken. Infilled structures shall be cleaned out without causing damage.

4.10.2 Slope Stability

All slopes will be assessed, on a form such as the one supplied in Appendix B, during annual monitoring to ensure that they are stable. If excess slope erosion is observed, or failures noted, as discussed in the performance standards section, the appropriate remedial measures will be implemented.

4.10.3 Revegetation

Revegetation of the site will be monitored following implementation on each phase. Monitoring activities will take place during the peak flowering season, approximately mid-February through April. Once the monitoring date is set following these initial reclamation activities, monitoring of the site during the later years will occur within two weeks of that original date. This scheme will assure that the data will be comparable over time.

Revegetation monitoring will consist of visual assessments and recording the progress of reclamation with photographs. The species composition, shrub cover, -and shrub density will be recorded on a form (an example is included in Appendix B). If it appears that the site will not meet the performance standards set forth, then the investigator shall suggest remedial measures. Appropriate remedial measures are listed in Table 4.10-1.

4.10.4 Other Species

If Russian thistle invades revegetated areas to the point that it is impacting the germination and/or growth of desired species, then this invasive exotic will be manually removed from the site as a remedial measure as detailed in Table 4.10-1.

4.11.0 REPORTING

Once the reclamation activities have been completed, monitoring activities will commence and will continue until the County is satisfied that performance standards have been met. Reporting of the progress of reclamation will be transmitted to Inyo County on an annual basis. This annual report will, at a minimum, consist of the name and credentials of the investigator(s), a summary of the work accomplished, the date of the visit(s), the methods and materials used, the data collected, an analysis of the data and performance standards, and any suggested remedial measures.

5.0.0 COST OF RECLAMATION

A reclamation cost estimate is provided in Appendix A.

6.0.0 APPLICANT STATEMENT OF RESPONSIBILITY

An Applicant Statement of Responsibility can be found on Page 2 of Appendix A-1.

7.0.0 REFERENCES

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Attachment C

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