

**REVISED NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF AN  
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT  
FOR THE HANSON QUARRY RECLAMATION PLAN  
AMENDMENT**

**Note: This Notice of Preparation (NOP) has been revised and recirculated to replace the  
NOP circulated on May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2007**

Project Owner / Applicant: Hanson Permanente Cement Inc  
File Number: 2250-13-66-07P-07EA  
Assessors Parcel Number(s): 351-09-011, -012, -013; 351-10-005,033,037,038;  
351-11-001.

As the Lead Agency, the County of Santa Clara will prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the proposed amendment and expansion to an existing reclamation plan, and would like your views regarding the scope and content of the environmental information to be included in the EIR. The EIR may be used by your agency when considering approvals for the project. For more information, please visit the County of Santa Clara Website at: [www.sccplanning.org](http://www.sccplanning.org)

According to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) the deadline for your response is 30 days after receipt of this notice. However, an earlier response, if possible, would be appreciated. Please identify a contact person and send your response to:

County of Santa Clara Planning Office  
Attention: Mark J. Connolly  
County Government Center  
70 West Hedding St., 7<sup>th</sup> Floor, East Wing  
San Jose CA 95110

**Prepared by:**

Mark Connolly, Planner III

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**Signature**

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**Date**

**Approved by:**

Rob Eastwood, Senior Planner, AICP

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**Signature**

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**Date**

## **Introduction**

The purpose of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is to inform decision-makers and the general public of the environmental effects of a proposed project that an agency may implement or approve. The EIR process is intended to provide information sufficient to (a) evaluate a proposed project and its potential for significant impacts on the environment; (b) to examine methods of reducing adverse (significant) impacts; and (c) to consider alternatives to the project.

The EIR for the proposed project will be prepared and processed in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) of 1970, as amended. In accordance with the requirements of CEQA, the EIR for the Hanson Quarry Reclamation Plan Amendment will include the following:

- A summary of the project description, impacts and mitigation measures, and alternatives;
- A project description;
- A description of the existing environmental setting, environmental impacts, and proposed mitigation measures;
- Cumulative Impacts;
- Alternatives to the proposed project; and
- CEQA required environmental consequences, including (a) any significant environmental effects which cannot be avoided if the project is implemented; (b) any significant irreversible and irretrievable commitments of resources; (c) the growth-inducing impacts of the proposed project; and (d) effects found not to be significant.

## **Project Location**

The overall project site is located in a hillside area in western Santa Clara County, west of the City of Cupertino, at 24001 Steven Creek Blvd.

Mining on the site dates back to the 1880's, the quarry's present location stems from the 1939 purchase of approximately 1300 acres along Permanente Creek by Hanson's predecessor. The site is currently operating under a Reclamation Plan, which was approved by the County of Santa Clara for 25 years and will expire in March 2010. The 1985 Reclamation Plan included an area of approximately 330 acres, representing the main mining area and some material storage areas. The site also contains a rock plant, and aluminum plant, which along with the cement plant are separately permitted and will not be covered in the proposed reclamation plan amendment.

## **Project Description**

The proposed project entails a Reclamation Plan Amendment that will modify the previous 330-acre area covered by the 1985 Reclamation Plan, to include 917 acres of mining and reclamation activity and extend the termination by 25 years.

The Hanson Permanente Quarry site includes four main areas: the main mining pit, the west material storage area, the east material storage area, and the proposed pit 2. The Reclamation Plan Amendment addresses disturbed areas outside of the 1985 Reclamation Plan limits, and about 30 acres of new mining area in the southeast portion of the site (Pit 2), and the buffer areas. The existing and on-going activities involved are drilling, blasting, extraction of blasted rock, processing to size and sort the raw materials, stockpiling of construction aggregate and excess materials, and the transportation of processed materials from the site to customers.

The EIR will provide a project-level evaluation of the potential environmental impacts caused by the implementation of the proposed Reclamation Plan Amendment. Practical mitigation measures will be developed and presented for all direct, indirect and cumulative impacts that are found to be potentially significant. The following describes the environmental aspects of the project, and how they are potentially affected:

### **Potential Environmental Effects of the Project**

The EIR will identify the significant environmental effects anticipated to result from implementation of the proposed project. The primary environmental topics addressed will include:

#### *A. Visual Resources*

The project site is located in a Zoning District with a Design Review overlay for the Santa Clara Valley Viewshed (d1). Portions of the areas proposed for new mining or materials storage are considered visible from the Santa Clara valley floor. The EIR will describe the anticipated changes to the environment as the proposed mining operation proceeds along with landscape and final design of the reclamation area, assessing any potentially significant aesthetic impacts. Visual simulations of the project site will be prepared.

#### *B. Biological Resources*

Portions of the project site contain dense, mature tree cover of Chaparral / Oak Woodlands. Also, water features such as springs; ponds, drainage swales, and Permanente Creek present on the site. Permanente Creek runs along the lower portion of the proposed Pit 2, and includes a Riparian Corridor along that area. The creek continues along the southern boundary of the project area, generally running west to east. While much of the site is currently disturbed, the EIR will describe impacts to biological resources that are anticipated to occur as a result of the proposed project. Mitigation measures will be identified for significant impacts, as warranted.

#### *C. Cultural Resources*

The EIR will present findings of a cultural resources evaluation that will identify and describe how the proposed project would impact cultural resources (both historical and prehistorical). Mitigation measures will be identified for significant impacts, as warranted.

#### *D. Geology & Soils*

A geologic and slope stability analysis will be performed. The EIR will describe geology and soil conditions of the site with respect to the proposed reclamation activities causing increased slope instability or erosion potential by the mining and reclamation activities. Mitigation measures will be identified for significant impacts, as warranted.

#### *E. Groundwater*

The EIR will examine the potential effects of the proposed mining and reclamation activities on groundwater and any significant long-term water supply impacts.

#### *F. Surface Hydrology, Drainage & Water Quality*

Permanente Creek runs along the site's southerly boundary. The project site is outside the 100-year floodplain. The potential for stream capture from the excavation and reclamation of the pits is not probable. The EIR will describe hydrology and storm water quality impacts from the mining and reclamation process. Mitigation measures will be identified for significant impacts, as warranted.

*G. Public Services*

The EIR will describe the availability of services to serve the project site and identify, at a programmatic level, potential utilities and services impacts from future development. Mitigation measures will be identified for significant impacts, as warranted.

*H. Traffic and Noise*

The EIR will characterize existing traffic conditions in the vicinity of the project site and evaluate traffic conditions which will change as a result of the proposed Reclamation Plan Amendment. Mitigation measures will be identified for significant impacts, as warranted.

*I. Land Use*

Final use, appearance and stability of the expanded mining and reclamation area will be examined to assess whether the reclamation area would conflict with any County General Plan Policy or Zoning Ordinances.

*J. Air Quality*

Impacts of the proposed project on local air quality and sensitive receptors will be evaluated, with emphasis on dust generation from mining activities and emissions from heavy equipment. Mitigation measures will be identified for significant impacts, as warranted.

*K. Alternatives*

The EIR will describe a range of reasonable alternatives to the proposed project, including a Reduced Scale Alternative.

*L. Growth Inducing Impacts*

The EIR will discuss methods by which the proposed project will directly or indirectly induce economic, population, or housing growth.

*M. Cumulative Impacts*

The EIR will include a Cumulative Impacts section which will address the potential significant or irreversible cumulative impacts of the proposed Reclamation Plan Amendment when considered with past, present, and probable future projects producing related or cumulative impacts, or projections contained in applicable land use documents of regional or area-wide conditions contributing to the cumulative impact.