

Public Notice of Availability and Opportunity to Review and Submit Written Comments Regarding the Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Proposed Shasta Ranch Mining and Reclamation Plan Project

PROJECT TITLE: Use Permit 05-010 and Reclamation Plan 05-001 Shasta Ranch Mining and Reclamation Plan

APPLICANT: Tullis, Inc., P.O. Box 493416, Redding, CA 96049-3416

PROJECT LOCATION: The project is located near the Sacramento River, northeast of Balls Ferry Road, between Riverland Drive and Blue Jay Road. This is approximately 2.5 miles southeast of the City of Anderson. Access to the project site is gained from Balls Ferry Road by way of a private road located approximately 100 yards northwest of the Balls Ferry Road and Kimberly Road intersection. The project site is located in the following Shasta County Assessor's Parcels: 091-040-002, 091-050-002 and 091-080-002 (Section 53, 55, 56, 59, 60 of the P. B. Reading Grant).

PROJECT SUMMARY: The proposed project is a request for approval for a Use Permit (UP 05-010) and Reclamation Plan (RP 05-001) to mine alluvial sand and gravel near the Sacramento River. The project site encompasses approximately 947 acres, of which 268 acres will be mined for aggregate material. The mined aggregate (gravel) would be crushed, screened, washed, stockpiled, and loaded for off-site transport. Approximately 3.43 million cubic yards of overburden and 6.06 million cubic yards of soil and gravel would be excavated. The project would generate an average of 60 truck round trips, and a maximum of 120 truck round-trips, per day. The project would operate for approximately 29 years until the year 2035. There are three phases, and each phase would operate for 8 to 10 years. Upon completion of all mining activities, the areas of disturbance would be reclaimed to agricultural farmland, ponds, and open space.

The Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) discusses the following potentially significant environmental impacts: land use and planning, aesthetics, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology, soils, and minerals, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, noise, public services, transportation and circulation, utilities and public service systems along with the cumulative effects of the proposed project. The DEIR concluded that there would be significant and unavoidable impacts in the following areas: Conversion of agricultural land to non-agricultural land uses, and conversion of prime farmland, farmland of statewide importance, and unique farmland; emissions of NO_x and PM₁₀ that would exceed acceptable thresholds; increased PM₁₀ concentrations at nearby sensitive receptors that would exceed state or federal standards; airborne concentrations of diesel exhaust particulate matter that would result in predicted cancer risks that would exceed applicable standards; increased haul truck traffic along area roadways that could exceed applicable cancer-risk thresholds at nearby sensitive receptors; increased emissions of ozone precursors and particulate matter thereby exacerbating the existing exceedance of state ambient air quality standards for ozone and respirable particulate matter; increase in emission levels of mobile and fugitive source particulate matter at nearby sensitive receptors that would exceed applicable standards during temperature inversions and windy conditions, predicted onsite operational noise levels that would result in noticeable increases in ambient noise levels at nearby receptors that will exceed County noise standards; noticeable increase in traffic noise levels that would exceed the County noise standard of 60 dBA L_{dn}/CNEL at receptors located along proposed haul routes; and contribution to future cumulative traffic noise levels that would be considered significant and unavoidable. The Shasta Ranch project site is not located on a known hazardous waste property, hazardous waste disposal site, or any site listed under Section 65962.5 of the California Government Code (the Cortese List).

WHY THIS NOTICE? The Shasta County Department of Resource Management, as lead agency, has completed a Draft Environmental Impact Report for this project. The Draft EIR will be available for review and comment beginning Monday, July 17, 2006. Written comments are encouraged and will be accepted through 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 31, 2006. Please provide your written comments to the Shasta County Department of Resource Management, Planning Division, 1855 Placer Street, Suite 103, Redding, California, 96001, Attention: Bill Walker, Senior Planner.

QUESTIONS & FURTHER INFORMATION: The Draft Environmental Impact Report and other project information are available for review at the Shasta County Department of Resource Management, Planning Division, on weekdays between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Copies may be ordered and received within five working days. Copies must be paid for in advance. If you have any questions or would like to make an appointment to review the project information, please call Bill Walker, Senior Planner, (530) 225-5532.

The Draft EIR is also available for review at the Shasta County Library in Redding (530) 225-5769, and at the Shasta County Library in Anderson (530) 365-7685, during regular library hours at the respective library. It is also available on the Internet at: <http://www.co.shasta.ca.us/Departments/Resourcemgmt/drm/index.htm>