



ATTACHMENT E

FINDINGS

CEQA:

Finding #1

The amended Reclamation Plan adjust the amount of acreage that needs to be reclaimed, the end use, and floor elevations. The project is exempt from CEQA because the project incorporates minor land alterations in the design consistent with CEQA and incorporates the Reclamation Plan with the purpose of outlining and defining the mining operations production and end use that have been determined to be environmentally conscientious, as well as consistent with SMARA. Categorical Exemption Sections 15304, 15307 and 15308 include minor alterations to land and actions taken by an agency for the protection of Natural Resources and the Environment.

AMENDED RECLEMATION PLAN NO. 04-01 (PROJECT):

Finding #2

The amended Reclamation Plan dated March 8, 2022, with Section 6 addendum, conforms with the County Code, the established state policies for the reclamation of mined lands and the conduct of surface mining operations in accordance with Public Resources Code, Division 2, Chapter 9, Section 2710 et seq. (Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1975, as amended by Statutes of 1980), including SMARA Section 2772 thru Section 2773, the applicable state regulations (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Sections 3500 through 3505, and Sections 3700 through 3713), and the County's SMARA Ordinance (Chapter 13.28 of the Tehama County Code).

Finding #3

The amended Reclamation Plan dated March 8, 2022, with Section 6 addendum, also complies with applicable requirements of state regulations (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Sections 3500 through 3505, and Sections 3700 through 3713) and the County's SMARA Ordinance (Chapter 13.28 of the Tehama County Code).

Finding #4

The project site will be reclaimed in a manner that will leave the area as range land capable of supporting grazing. The East Area of the mine will change from irrigated pasture to non-irrigated pasture. The West Area of the mine will change from irrigated pasture to Apiary use. Which are all consistent with the General Plan.

Finding #5

The amended Reclamation Plan dated March 8, 2023 with Section 6 addendum, along with the potential use of reclaimed land pursuant to the plan are consistent with the County's SMARA Ordinance (Chapter 13.28 of the Tehama County Code) and the County's General Plan and any applicable resource plan or element.

Finding #6

For the reasons set forth in Findings #1 thru #6, the land to be reclaimed will be restored to a condition that is compatible with, and blends in with, the surrounding natural environment, topography, and other resources, or that suitable off-site development will compensate for related disturbance to resource values.

Finding #7

For the reasons set forth in Findings #1 thru #6, amended Reclamation Plan with addendum, will restore the mined lands to a usable condition which is readily adaptable for alternative land uses consistent with the general plan and applicable resource plan.

Finding #8

The amended Reclamation Plan and Financial Assurance have been reviewed by the Department of Conservation. Comments from the Department have been responded to, or included as part of the Reclamation Plan and Financial Assurance.

Finding #9

That a written response to the State Department of Conservation has been prepared and accepted.

Finding #10

Public Resources Code, Division 2, Chapter 9, Section 2710 et seq. (Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1975, as amended by Statutes of 1980), the applicable state regulations (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Sections 3500 through 3505, and Sections 3700 through 3713), and the County's SMARA Ordinance (Chapter 13.28 of the Tehama County Code) set forth detailed requirements for financial assurances. The Financial Assurance Cost Estimate and Financial Assurance Mechanism accompanying the amended Reclamation Plan dated March 8, 2022 with Section 6 addendum have been reviewed by the Planning Department and the State Department of Conservation; an updated Financial Assurance Cost Estimate and Financial Assurance Mechanism (August 24, 2022 FACE, and August 24, 2022 FAM) have been included in the August 24, 2022 Mine Inspection Report for review by the State. The FACE and FAM are adequate and conforms to said requirements above.

Finding #11

The Financial Assurance Cost Estimate and Mechanism accompanying Amended Reclamation Plan NO. 04-01 conforms with the provisions set forth in Public Resources Code, Division 2, Chapter 9, Section 2710 et seq. (Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1975, as amended by Statutes of 1980) and with applicable requirements of state regulations (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Sections 3500 through 3505, and Sections 3700 through 3713) and the County's SMARA Ordinance (Chapter 13.28 of the Tehama County Code).