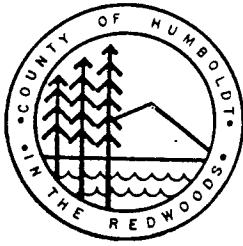


## Appendix L

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NOP



PLANNING DIVISION  
OF THE PLANNING AND BUILDING DEPARTMENT  
**COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT**

3015 H STREET  
EUREKA, CALIF. 95501-4484      PHONE (707) 445-7541

**NOTICE OF PREPARATION**

**TO:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**FROM:** Sidnie L. Olson  
Senior Planner  
Planning Department  
3015 H Street  
Eureka, CA 95501

**SUBJECT: NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF A DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT**

The Humboldt County Planning Department will be the Lead Agency and will prepare an Environmental Impact Report for the project identified below. We need to know the views of your agency as to the scope and content of the environmental information which is germane to your agency's statutory responsibilities in connection with the proposed project. Your agency will need to use the Environmental Impact Report prepared by our agency when considering your permit or other approval for the project.

The project description, location, and the probable environmental effects are contained in the attached materials. A copy of the Initial Study is not attached.

Due to time limits mandated by State Law, your responses must be sent at the earliest possible date, but not later than 30 days after receipt of this notice.

Please send your response to Sidnie L. Olson at the address shown above. We will need the name of a contact person in your agency.

**PROJECT TITLE: THE SURFACE MINING OF SAND AND GRAVEL ON THE MAD RIVER.**

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** The annual extraction of up to 510,000 cubic yards of sand and gravel from the Mad River from the old Swasey Dam site downstream to the Railroad Bridge, which is downstream of the Highway 101 Bridge. Attachment 1 illustrates the existing and proposed surface mining sites (See Table 1) in the study area.

The sand and gravel is generally removed by skimming off the gravel bars at a grade between 2% and 3% upward from the live channel. In addition, gravel may be removed by trenching or pitting techniques. Gravel may be stockpiled up on the river bank, out of the 25-year flood plain. Gravel processing facilities including jaw crushers and conveyor belts may be located near the gravel stockpiles.

Summer bridges may be placed or constructed over the live channel to provide access for gravel removal equipment. Gravel is removed from various river bars and stockpiled generally between June 1st and October 1st of each year. Gravel is retrieved from stockpiles, crushed, sorted, and processed year round.

A Memorandum of Agreement, Attachment 2, is in place for the extraction season of 1992. Techniques to be employed in the 1992 extraction season have been determined by a scientific team of 4 individuals with the concurrence of the California Department of Fish & Game. The Scientific Studies are included herein as Attachment 3.

**PROBABLE ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS:** The EIR will analyze potential impacts and cumulative effects of sand and gravel mining on:

- Water quality and biological productivity of the river channel;
- Fish spawning, rearing habitat and maintenance of an adequate fish passage;
- Sport fishing in the area;
- Riparian vegetation from lowered water surface elevations;
- Wildlife;
- River morphology;
- Noise from the extraction and processing operations, and along access and haul routes;
- Public access and passive recreation;
- River view aesthetics;
- Flood hazards;
- Traffic circulation;
- Sediment size distribution;
- Degradation of the Mad River at the Mad River Hatchery weir;
- Recruitment potential;
- Degradation of the streambed near or so as to affect adversely the Highway 101, Highway 299, Railroad and Blue Lake Boulevard bridges;
- Streambed degradation and water surface elevation at the Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District's Ranney well collector and direct river diversion.

**TABLE 1 - OPERATIONS INCLUDED IN EIR**


Operations with Required County approvals:

Operator	Location (Attachment 1)	Maximum Annual Extraction Amount
Mad River Sand & Gravel	Site No. 1	200,000 c.y. Use Permit
Redwood Empire Aggregates	Site No. 2 Emmerson Bar	50,000 c.y. Vested
Redwood Empire Aggregates	Site No. 3 Blue Lake Bar	50,000 c.y. Vested
Eureka Sand and Gravel	Site No. 4 Christie Bar	50,000 c.y. Use Permit
Mercer Fraser, Co.	Site No. 6 Essex Bar	40,000 c.y. Vested
Arcata Read-Mix	Site No. 7	80,000 c.y. Vested

Operations with approved reclamation plans and with vested right claim pending:

Operator	Location (Attachment 1)	Proposed Maximum Annual Extraction Amount
Redwood Empire Aggregates	Site No. 5 Johnson Bar	30,000 c.y. Vested Right Claim
Redwood Empire Aggregates	Site No. 8 Graham Bar	10,000 c.y. Vested Right Claim

Date: August 11, 1992

  
 Sidnie L. Olson  
 Senior Planner

REDUCED (65%)

NOTICE OF PREPARATION  
ATTACHMENT I  
EXTENT OF PROJECT AREA

FOR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT ON  
CUMULATIVE EFFECTS OF GRAVEL EXTRACTION  
OPERATIONS ON THE NATURAL RESOURCES  
OF THE MAD RIVER FROM THE SWASEY DAM  
DOWNSTREAM TO THE RAILROAD BRIDGE

Scale 1:24,000

USGS 7.5' Quadrangle Maps  
Arcata North  
Blue Lake  
Korbel  
Arcata South

Sheet 1 of 2

