



July 26, 2011

**NOTICE OF COMPLETION AND AVAILABILITY OF REVISED DRAFT
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR THE HARRIS QUARRY EXPANSION
(SCH# 2006112087)**

Owner/Applicant: Northern Aggregates, Inc. (NAI)

Case Number: Use Permit and Reclamation Plan #UR 19-83/05

Extended Public Review Period: Public review period is extended to September 6, 2011

Mendocino County will be circulating a Revised Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the Harris Quarry Expansion Project proposed by Northern Aggregates, Inc. (applicant). The project site is situated on the west side of U.S. Route 101 just south of the Ridgewood Grade between Redwood Valley and Willits (see attached map). The project would expand the existing active quarry from 11.5 acres to 30.6 acres, a proposed expansion of 19.1 acres.

The County issued a Notice of Preparation (NOP) on the original project for this site on November 1, 2006, followed by a Draft EIR circulated for public review in November 2007. Subsequent to the close of the review period but before the Final EIR was completed, the applicant requested that the EIR process be halted while revisions to the project were made in response to comments received on the draft. A second NOP was issued on August 4, 2010, informing the public and reviewing agencies that the applicant had submitted an amended application for a revised project and that a new Draft EIR was to be prepared on this revised project description. This Notice of Availability (NOA) is thereby issued to inform the public that the Revised DEIR has been completed and is now available for review.

The chief differences between the original project and the current project include: 1) the requested Use Permit term is now 30 years instead of an "end of quarry life" term; 2) the concrete facility has been eliminated; 3) the quarry footprint has been reduced to reflect that the current project would be for only 30 years; 4) a number of clarifications and changes have been made to respond to comments received on the original project; and 5) the Reclamation Plan has been revised given these other changes.

The applicant seeks County approval of three actions: (1) a Use Permit Renewal/Modification (UR 19-83/2005) for 30 years to allow expansion of the quarry; extraction of up to 200,000 in-place cubic yards (approximately 258,000 cubic yards processed) of material per year; production of up to 150,000 tons of asphalt per year from the processed material; and nighttime

operations that could occur up to 100 nights per year; (2) an amendment to the County Zoning Ordinance creating a new Mineral Processing (MP) Combining District to allow for asphalt processing to occur onsite with a concurrent rezone adding the combining district to an 18-acre portion of the project site to accommodate the proposed asphalt facility; and 3) a revised Reclamation Plan for the site.

The proposed project would allow the applicant to continue to mine the existing quarry and expand the quarry to the north and to the west. Quarrying operations would use the same techniques and equipment currently used at the site. Some of the more important elements of the project include: 1) aggregate would be processed on the site and sold to the public; 2) some of the aggregate would be hauled via an on-site haul road to a new asphalt plant where it would be used to make asphalt that would be available for sale to the public; 3) an aggregate wash plant will be added to the site that will recycle 95% of the water it requires; 4) up to 10,000 cubic yards per year of recycled asphalt and concrete will be processed at the site. 5) though the site would not typically be open at night, the applicant seeks approval of up to 100 nighttime operations per year to serve large construction projects and/or during emergency events; 6) access would be via a realigned access road that intersects State Route 101; 7) water would be provided by on-site wells/springs; 8) the applicant will continue to abide by its permits from the Mendocino County Air Quality Management District regarding control of dust and other pollutant emissions; and 9) the site will be reclaimed to a mosaic of vegetation types similar to those that currently exist on the site. The impacts of the proposed quarry operation and asphalt facility have been fully assessed within this Revised Draft EIR.

It is estimated that 12,270,000 cubic yards of unmined material will remain at the quarry after the 30-year Use Permit expires. The applicant has stated it has no intention of mining any reserves that will remain in place beyond the life of the 30-year use permit, as is reflected in the revised project. However, the Draft EIR has still examined the long-term or cumulative impacts of the current proposed project combined with possible future mining of these remaining reserves.

Pursuant to state and local guidelines implementing the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), please be advised that the Mendocino County Department of Planning and Building Services will be the lead agency for the project. Based upon previous environmental studies for this proposed project as well as scoping by responsible and trustee agencies and interested members of the public, this DEIR focuses on the following issues:

1) Geology and Soils	6) Aesthetics/Visual Resources	11) Public Health
2) Hydrology & Water Quality	7) Noise	12) Energy Use
3) Biological Resources	8) Air Quality	
4) Cultural Resources	9) Public Services	
5) Traffic & Circulation	10) Land Use	

Details of the applicant's proposed project and application and the original Draft EIR are on file with the office of the Mendocino County Department of Planning and Building Services, 501 Low Gap Road, Room 1440, Ukiah, and are available for public review between the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Extended Review Period: The public review period for the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) is extended to **September 6, 2011**. If you have any comments regarding the adequacy of the DEIR, please submit them in writing to the Department of Planning and Building Services no later than 5:00 PM on September 6, 2011. Comments received after that date may not be used in staff's analysis and recommendation. Please send your written comments regarding the Draft EIR to:

Mendocino County Department of Planning and Building Services
Attn: John Speka, Planner
501 Low Gap Road, Room 1440
Ukiah, CA 95482

Comments may also be emailed to John Speka at spekaj@co.mendocino.ca.us. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact John Speka at (707) 463-4281 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

Address Where DEIR and Documents Are Available for Review:

Mendocino County Department of Planning and Building Services
501 Low Gap Road, Room 1440
Ukiah, CA 95482

Mendocino County Department of Planning and Building Services
790 South Franklin Street
Fort Bragg, CA 95437

Mendocino County Library, Ukiah Branch
105 N. Main Street
Ukiah, CA 95482

Mendocino County Library, Willits Branch
390 E. Commercial Street
Willits, CA 95490

The document can also be found on-line at: <http://www.co.mendocino.ca.us/planning/>