



AUGUST 3, 2010

NOTICE OF PREPARATION (NOP)
REVISED ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR
HARRIS QUARRY EXPANSION
SCH No. 2006112087

Mendocino County will be preparing a Revised Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Harris Quarry Expansion Project proposed by Northern Aggregates, Inc. (the 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 (maps on file at Planning & Building). 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 an NOP on the original project for this site on November 1, 2006. A Draft EIR was prepared and 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 the applicant revised the project. This NOP informs the public and reviewing agencies that the applicant has submitted an amended application for a revised project and that a new Draft EIR will be prepared on this revised project description. 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 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; 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 will be fully assessed in the 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 will still examine 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, the County has determined that a full scope EIR focusing on the following issues is required for the project:

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	

To ensure that the EIR for this project is thorough and adequate, and meets the needs of all agencies reviewing it, we are soliciting comments on specific issues to be included in the environmental review. Public comments on the scope of issues to be evaluated in the EIR are encouraged. 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, CA 95482, and are available for public review between the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Responsible and trustee agencies must specify in writing the scope and content of the information that they will need in the EIR to review the proposed project within thirty (30) days of receiving this Notice. For responsible and trustee agencies, these comments must identify significant environmental issues, alternatives and mitigation measures that should be explored in the DEIR; must be specific and relate directly to the project; and must be within the agency's area of statutory responsibility in accordance with Public Resources Code section 210804 and CEQA Guideline sections 15082 and 15096. Additionally, any interested person may submit written comments to the Department of Planning and Building Services by **September 3, 2010**. Comments by FAX will not be accepted, however, comments may be emailed to spekaj@co.mendocino.ca.us. Please direct questions about the project itself to John Speka, Mendocino County Department of Planning and Building Services, at (707) 463-4281.

Date: August 4, 2010

Ignacio Gonzalez, Director
Department of Planning and Building Services

John Speka
Project Planner

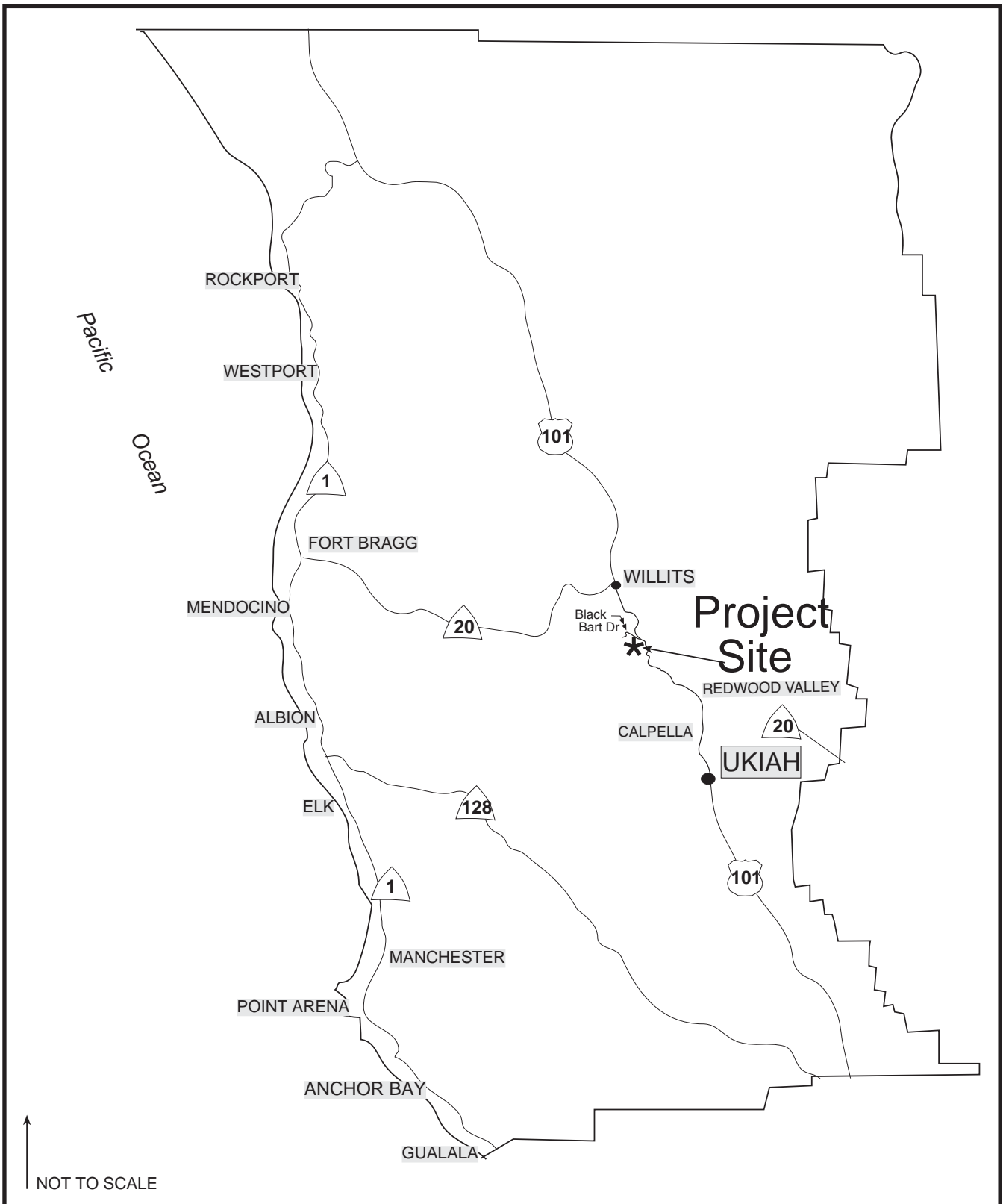


FIGURE 1.4-1: REGIONAL LOCATION

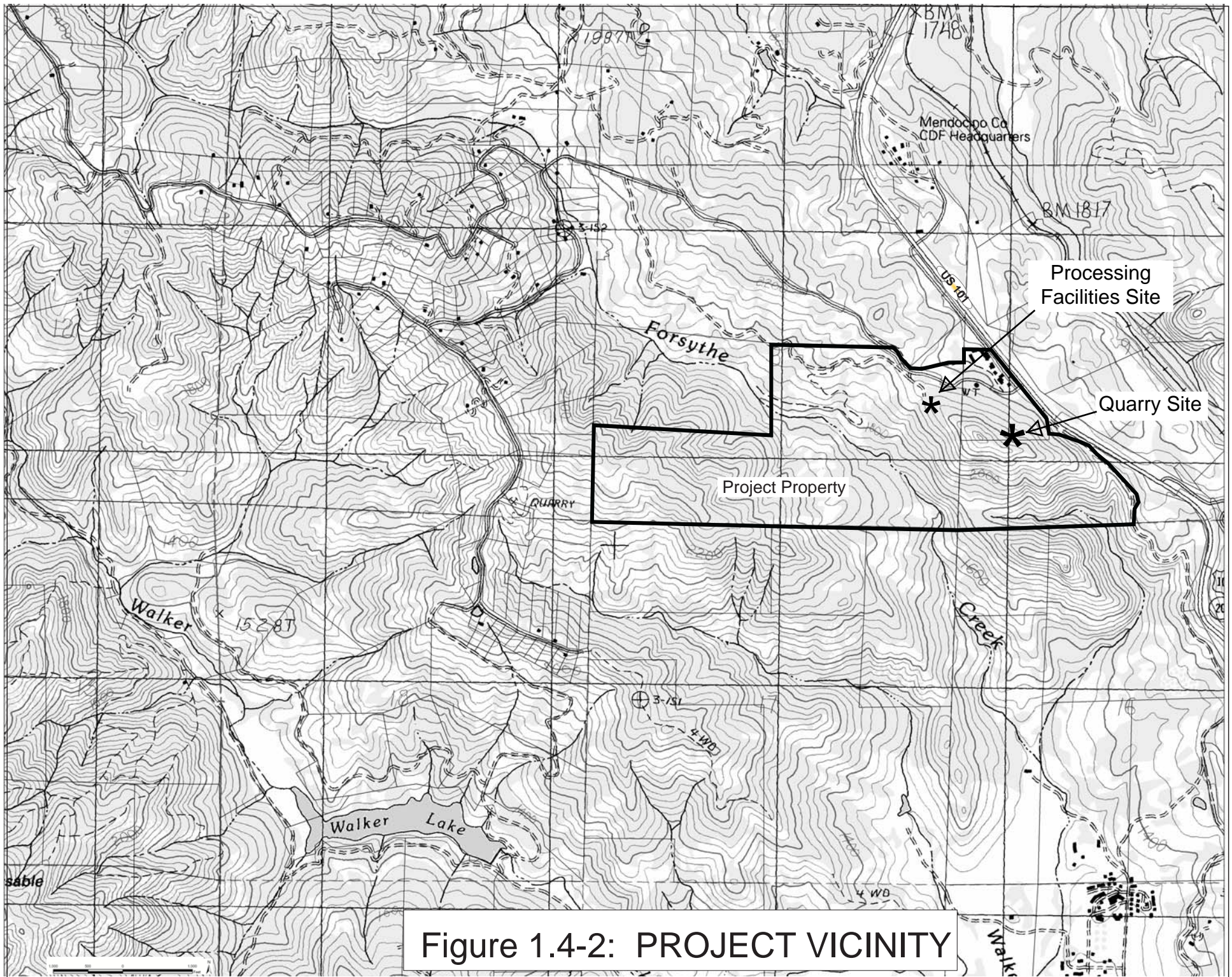


Figure 1.4-2: PROJECT VICINITY