Alternatives Studied in Liberty Quarry DEIR

CEQA required that Riverside County look at a range of alternatives in the DEIR for the Liberty Quarry Project. In this case they looked at the following alternatives:

- The No Project Alternative – the analysis concluded that not approving the project and continuing to import aggregate from longer distances would result in higher regional transportation and air impacts
- The Reduced Footprint Alternative – implementing this alternative would result in less - noise, local air, habitat linkage, water supply, vibration and aesthetic impacts than the proposed project. It would also result in more regional air impacts over the life of the project as there would be a loss of 13% of the potentially permitted reserves, meaning that at some point a return to importing aggregate would need to occur.
- The Reduced Annual Production Alternative – implementing a 3.5 million ton per year quarry at this location would result in less transportation and air impacts than the proposed project.
- The Double Butte Alternative – building a similar sized quarry at the Double Butte site near Winchester would reduce impacts to habitat linkage and cultural resources but would increase impacts to noise, traffic, air, light and aesthetics, vibration and utilities when compared to the proposed project.

The DEIR also looked at a number of other alternatives but dismissed them from further consideration because these alternatives would either not meet the project objectives or would result in greater impacts than others proposed for consideration.

The Environmentally Superior Alternative

The County concluded in the DEIR that the "environmentally superior alternative" is The Reduced Footprint Alternative. Implementing this alternative would reduce the proposed quarry footprint by 20 acres and result in less intensive impacts for air quality, cultural resources, geology and soils, hazards and hazardous materials, land use, hydrology and water quality, traffic and transportation, water supply, and vibration. There would be a loss of access to about 13% of the aggregate reserves.