

WHAT IS AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT?

BACKGROUND

The California Environmental Quality Act (“CEQA”) is designed to provide the general public, decision makers, and public agencies with detailed information about the effect which a proposed project is likely to have on the environment. It should also look at potential mitigation measures to reduce impacts, evaluate the significance of impacts and look at alternatives to the project.

An Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is the tool required by CEQA to provide this information to the public and decision makers. Liberty Quarry’s EIR has been developed to both document existing environmental conditions and evaluate environmental effects that could result from implementing the project.

RESPONSIBILITY

In the case of Liberty Quarry, the project is proposed to be located in unincorporated Riverside County, therefore the Riverside County Planning Department is responsible for gathering information and developing the EIR and has independently evaluated, directed, and supervised the preparation of this document.

DATA

Detailed technical studies by experts which have been peer-reviewed by County staff or consultants provide the foundation for a proper, detailed analysis by the County of potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed project.

TIMELINE

- Granite Construction submitted surface mining application to Riverside County (2005)
- County prepares Environmental Impact Report (EIR) (2006-2009)
- Granite amends the application (2007)
- Draft EIR available for public review (July-September 2009)
- County Planning Commission public hearings
- County Board of Supervisors public hearings

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Draft EIR is available for the public to review for a minimum of 45 days. During that time any interested party can submit comments regarding the Draft EIR. Responses to public comments will be incorporated into the Final EIR before any official public hearings.

