Maurice L. Anderson, Director

Surveyor

707 Nevada Street, Suite 5

Susanville, CA 96130-3912 Phone: 530 251-8269 Fax: 530 251-8373

· Surface Mining

email: landuse@co.lassen.ca.us website: www.co.lassen.ca.us

> Zoning & Building Inspection Requests Phone: 530 257-5263

Environmental Health Messages: 530 251-8528 email: EHE@co.lassen.ca.us

March 28, 2022

# NOTICE OF INFORMAL CONSULTATION

Applicant/Owner: Geofortis Minerals LLC, (David McMurtry, President)

File No.: Use Permit #2018-005, Reclamation Plan #2018-002, Initial Study #2018-006,

Geofortis Minerals

Use permit and reclamation plan for natural pozzolan ("Lassenite") surface Project:

> mine. The subject parcels are zoned A-1 (General Agriculture District) and are designated Extensive Agriculture by the Lassen County General Plan 2000.

Location: The project sites are located approximately 300 feet to the east and west of

Highway 395 in Lassen County, 5.5 miles north of Hallelujah Junction and 55

miles southeast of Susanville (via Highway 395).

**A.P.N.**: 145-030-016, 145-030-017, 145-050-012, 145-050-004

**Staff Contact:** Cortney Flather, Natural Resources Technician

The project described above is being referred to your agency for informal consultation, per 15063(g) of the CEQA Guidelines, to obtain comments concerning potentially significant impacts, which could result from project approval and development. The information provided by your agency will assist Lassen County in determining whether a Negative Declaration, Mitigated Negative Declaration, or Environmental Impact Report should be prepared as the appropriate environmental document for the project.

Lassen County first received these applications in 2018; however, a determination as to whether or not the mineral was "locatable" was needed in order to proceed due to part of the proposed mine being on a split-estate. On a split-estate, the right to develop the minerals underlying the property is separate from the surface ownership and reserved to the Federal Government. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is the Federal Government agency tasked with managing the minerals underlying the Property, as governed by the Mining Law of 1872 and related regulations.

Approximately 5 acres of the proposed boundary are on public lands administered by the BLM and the remaining 78 acres are on private land which were designated for solid locatable mineral exploration and mining by the BLM in 2020. As the Lead Agency under the State of California's Surface Mining and Reclamation Act (SMARA), Lassen County is responsible for administering the Act which

Notice of Informal Consultation March 28, 2022 Page 2 of 2

includes, but not limited to, permitting and reclamation plan approval.

Attached with this letter are the use permit application, the reclamation plan application, the initial study application, and a vicinity map depicting the location of the project. Additional supporting material, including the mining plan, is available through this Department upon request.

Comments submitted by your agency should focus on the potentially significant project-related impacts that are within your agency's jurisdiction and area of expertise. In addition to commenting on the significance of potential impacts, you are encouraged to suggest any known mitigation measures, which would reduce such impacts to a less than significant level. You are also encouraged to make recommendations regarding any additional studies or other information that may be needed to accurately determine the significance of project impacts and/or appropriate mitigation measures.

We welcome any comments your agency may have regarding this project. We will use comments received during this early consultation to ensure that all significant impacts are analyzed during the environmental review process. In order to be considered prior to preparation of the Initial Study for this project, your comments must be received by Wednesday, April 27, 2022.

If you have any questions concerning the project, please contact Cortney Flather, Natural Resources Technician, at (530) 251-8269 or cflather@co.lassen.ca.us.

Sincerely,

Maurice L. Anderson,

Environmental Review Officer

MLA:clf Enclosures:

Use Permit Application #2018-005 Reclamation Plan Application #2018-002 Initial Study Application #2018-006 Vicinity Map

Distribution: Supervisor Hammond (5); David McMurtry, Geofortis Minerals, LLC (Applicant); David Fish & Chris Tellis, Interest Income Partners (Operator); Co. Assessor's Office; Co. Administrative Office; Co. Fire Warden/CAL FIRE; Co. Environmental Health Dept.; Co. Public Works/Road Div.; Lassen Co. Fish & Game Com.; CA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife (Redding/Wendel); Caltrans; Lahontan RWQCB (email); Division of Mines and Geology; Dept. of Water Resources; Division of Mine Reclamation; State Clearing House; Bureau of Land Mgmt. (Carson City); Pit River Tribe of California; Greenville Rancheria of Maidu Indians; Susanville Indian Rancheria; Honey Lake Maidu; Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California; Co. Air Pollution Control Officer; NV Energy

S:\PLA\Planning\2018\MP #2018-002, Geofortis\2021 updated applications\Initial Study #2018-006\Early Consultation

From:

Houser, Ivan@CALFIRE < Ivan. Houser@fire.ca.gov>

Sent:

Wednesday, March 30, 2022 12:20 PM

To:

Cortney Flather

Subject:

RE: Informal Consultation-Geofortis Minerals, LLC proposed mine UP#2018, RP#

2018-002, IS#2018-006

This message comes from an external sender. EXTERNAL SENDER WARNING!

The question of juniper, in and of itself does not constitute "Timberland" and is therefore not subject to the same timberland conversion permitting. In some instances you may find Juniper growing interspersed with other commercial "Group A Species" conifers, where it <u>would</u> constitute Timberland if on Private property and so necessitate a conversion permit.

RECEIVED

# Ivan Houser

CAL FIRE

MAR 3 0 2022

From: Cortney Flather [mailto:CFlather@co.lassen.ca.us]

Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2022 10:12 AM

LASSEN COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND BUILDING SERVICES

To: Clement, Steven@CALFIRE <Steven.Clement@fire.ca.gov>; Houser, Ivan@CALFIRE <Ivan.Houser@fire.ca.gov> Subject: Informal Consultation-Geofortis Minerals, LLC proposed mine UP#2018, RP#2018-002, IS#2018-006

Warning: this message is from an external user and should be treated with caution.

Good morning,

Please find the attached informal consultation request for a proposed pozzolan mine just north of Hallelujah Junction. I am primarily curious about whether or not this project would require the applicant to get a timberland conversion permit given that the proposed site has dispersed Utah juniper (Juniperus osteosperm):

Public Resources Code section 12220(g) defines "forest land" as land that can support 10-percent native tree cover of any species, including hardwoods, under natural conditions, and that allows for management of one or more forest resources, including timber, aesthetics, fish and wildlife, biodiversity, water quality, recreation, and other public benefits.

And

PRC Section 4526, means land, other than land owned by the Federal Government and land designated by the Board of Forestry as experimental forest land, which is available for, and capable of, growing a crop of trees of a commercial species used to produce lumber and other forest products, including Christmas trees.

Any comments or suggested mitigation measures are greatly appreciated. Thank you for your time.

Best,
Cortney Flather
Natural Resources Technician
Planning and Building Services
707 Nevada St. Suite 5

From: Houser, Ivan@CALFIRE <Ivan.Houser@fire.ca.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, March 30, 2022 12:48 PM

To: Cortney Flather

Subject: RE: Informal Consultation-Geofortis Minerals, LLC proposed mine UP#2018, RP#

2018-002, IS#2018-006

This message comes from an external sender. EXTERNAL SENDER WARNING!

And by the way, are we sure of Utah Juniper?? Not that it matters regarding the scenario here but I was under the impression that Western Juniper was the dominant juniper species in these areas.

RECEIVED

#### Ivan Houser

CAL FIRE

MAR 3 0 2022

From: Cortney Flather [mailto:CFlather@co.lassen.ca.us]

Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2022 10:12 AM

LASSEN COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND BUILDING SERVICES

**To:** Clement, Steven@CALFIRE <Steven.Clement@fire.ca.gov>; Houser, Ivan@CALFIRE <Ivan.Houser@fire.ca.gov> **Subject:** Informal Consultation-Geofortis Minerals, LLC proposed mine UP#2018, RP#2018-002, IS#2018-006

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Best,
Cortney Flather
Natural Resources Technician
Planning and Building Services
707 Nevada St. Suite 5
Susanville CA 96130
Phone: (530) 251-8271

From: Houser, Ivan@CALFIRE <Ivan.Houser@fire.ca.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, March 30, 2022 1:21 PM

To: Cortney Flather

Subject: RE: Informal Consultation-Geofortis Minerals, LLC proposed mine UP#2018, RP#

2018-002, IS#2018-006

This message comes from an external sender. EXTERNAL SENDER WARNING!

I am not seeing anything in any photo you attached that tips it toward "Timberland". One or two scattered conifers "Pinus sp." would not make it.

# Ivan Houser

CAL FIRE

MAR 3 0 2022

LASSEN COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF

PLANNING AND BUILDING SERVICES

From: Cortney Flather [mailto:CFlather@co.lassen.ca.us]

Sent: Wednesday, March 30, 2022 1:13 PM

To: Houser, Ivan@CALFIRE < Ivan. Houser@fire.ca.gov>

Subject: RE: Informal Consultation-Geofortis Minerals, LLC proposed mine UP#2018, RP#2018-002, IS#2018-006

Warning: this message is from an external user and should be treated with caution.

Hi Ivan,

Thank you for your comments and the call. I am not sure if it is Utah Juniper. The Biological Report states "The Woodland habitat overstory was dominated by *Juniperus osterosperma* (Utah juniper) with scattered *Pinus jeffreyi* (Jeffrey pines). The understory and the areas between trees were similar to the Shrubland, dominated by *Artemisia tridentata ssp. tridentata* (big sagebrush). Below are some photos from the report. Let me know if you want me to send you the full report. Thanks again Ivan!

Best,

# **Cortney Flather**

Natural Resources Technician Planning and Building Services 707 Nevada St. Suite 5 Susanville CA 96130 Phone: (530) 251-8271



From:

Clement, Steven@CALFIRE <Steven.Clement@fire.ca.gov>

Sent:

Wednesday, March 30, 2022 1:56 PM

To:

Cortney Flather

Subject:

RE: Informal Consultation-Geofortis Minerals, LLC proposed mine UP#2018, RP#

2018-002, IS#2018-006

This message comes from an external sender. EXTERNAL SENDER WARNING!

My wording as off. It should not be Fire Warden, Im looking at the Fire Safe Regulations.

Sorry

Steve Clement

Fire Captain

Pre-Fire Engineer

CALFIRE

Lassen Modoc Unit

Also serving Plumas County

Cell: 530.310.2222

RECEIVED

MAR 3 0 2022

LASSEN COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND BUILDING SERVICES

From: Clement, Steven@CALFIRE

Sent: Wednesday, March 30, 2022 1:50 PM

To: Houser, Ivan@CALFIRE <Ivan.Houser@fire.ca.gov>

Cc: cflather@co.lassen.ca.us

Subject: RE: Informal Consultation-Geofortis Minerals, LLC proposed mine UP#2018, RP#2018-002, IS#2018-006

There is nothing from Fire Warden that is needed.

**Steve Clement** 

Fire Captain

Pre-Fire Engineer

CALFIRE

Lassen Modoc Unit

Also serving Plumas County

Cell: 530.310.2222

From: Houser, Ivan@CALFIRE < Ivan. Houser@fire.ca.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, March 30, 2022 12:27 PM

To: Clement, Steven@CALFIRE < Steven.Clement@fire.ca.gov>

Subject: FW: Informal Consultation-Geofortis Minerals, LLC proposed mine UP#2018, RP#2018-002, IS#2018-006

Steve, I replied to the County on this by Email. I don't have anything for regulatory – all Juniper so not Timberland. If you have something i.e. Fire code etc., let her know.

Ivan Houser

CAL FIRE

From:

Gonzalez, Marcelino@DOT <marcelino.gonzalez@dot.ca.gov>

Sent:

Wednesday, April 20, 2022 7:41 AM

To:

Cortney Flather

Subject:

FW: LAS-395-9.9 Geofortis McMurtry Pozzolan Mining Re-submit 2022 Version due

April 25

Attachments:

Geofortis-Summit\_Preliminary\_Plan\_Reveiw.pdf

This message comes from an external sender. EXTERNAL SENDER WARNING!

Yes, our previous review is the same. We will rely on the County's environmental document for the encroachment review. Any special studies should include the affected highway right of way.

From: Chaffin, Fred N@DOT < fred.chaffin@dot.ca.gov>

Sent: Thursday, April 7, 2022 5:28 PM

To: Gonzalez, Marcelino@DOT < marcelino.gonzalez@dot.ca.gov >; Pascal, Anthony C@DOT

<anthony.pascal@dot.ca.gov>; Rivas, Frank J@DOT <frank.rivas@dot.ca.gov>; Norris, Daniel E@DOT

<<u>daniel.norris@dot.ca.gov</u>>

Cc: Grah, Kathy M@DOT < kathy.grah@dot.ca.gov >; Battles, Michael@DOT < Michael.Battles@dot.ca.gov >

Subject: RE: LAS-395-9.9 Geofortis McMurtry Pozzolan Mining Re-submit 2022 Version due April 25

Marci,

Wow... this is the project that just keeps circling back around.

The good news is that a good plan was prepared and reviewed.

The reviewed plan is attached.

Per my email of 6/4/2020 to the Stephen Allen, Geologist at BLM, (attached) a CEQA document has not been provided in the past and seemed to be an issue.

Oh, and within that email string, Stinger's comments are included:

RECEIVED

APR 2 0 2022

LASSEN COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND BUILDING SERVICES From: Stinger Jr, Rob F@DOT < rob.stinger@dot.ca.gov>

Sent: Thursday, June 4, 2020 8:58 AM

To: sallen@blm.gov

Cc: Lebaron, Shanna@DOT < Shanna.Lebaron@dot.ca.gov >; Solorio, Jesse@DOT

<<u>Jesse.Solorio@dot.ca.gov</u>>; Gonzalez, Marcelino@DOT <<u>marcelino.gonzalez@dot.ca.gov</u>>; Pascal, Anthony C@DOT <<u>anthony.pascal@dot.ca.gov</u>>; Chaffin, Fred N@DOT <<u>fred.chaffin@dot.ca.gov</u>>

Subject: Proposed Quarry Operation on US-395

Hi Stephen.

Your question was forwarded to the Caltrans District 2 Traffic Engineering & Operations Office in Redding.

Based on your brief description of the proposed quarry operation and rough estimate of approx. 20 haul trucks per day, <u>I do not anticipate the need to construct highway improvements for turn lanes or accel lanes</u>. However, the proposed access to US-395 (existing or new) would need to be evaluated to confirm that it meets our design requirements and has sufficient sight distance, etc.

A new access would require working with our Encroachment Permits Office to acquire a permit for construction within the State R/W. If you have questions about that process, please contact Tony Pascal, Chief of the District 2 Encroachment Permits Office, at 530-225-3314 or <a href="mailto:anthony.pascal@dot.ca.gov">anthony.pascal@dot.ca.gov</a>

Let me know if you have any more questions.

Thanks.

Rob Stinger, P.E.

Chief - Traffic Engineering & Operations Caltrans District 2 (530) 225-3229

I totally agree, the response from CT should be that a CT EP is required. It might be worth mentioning that an enviro document will be needed as part of the EP application package.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Respectfully,

# FRED CHAFFIN, PE

Encroachment Permit Inspector 530-604-0387 cell

From: Gonzalez, Marcelino@DOT < marcelino.gonzalez@dot.ca.gov >

Sent: Thursday, April 7, 2022 10:59 AM

To: Chaffin, Fred N@DOT < fred.chaffin@dot.ca.gov >; Pascal, Anthony C@DOT < anthony.pascal@dot.ca.gov >; Rivas,

Frank J@DOT < frank.rivas@dot.ca.gov >; Norris, Daniel E@DOT < daniel.norris@dot.ca.gov >

Cc: Grah, Kathy M@DOT < kathy.grah@dot.ca.gov >; Battles, Michael@DOT < Michael.Battles@dot.ca.gov >

Subject: LAS-395-9.9 Geofortis McMurtry Pozzolan Mining Re-submit 2022 Version due April 25

Lassen County is requesting informal consultation for a pozzolan mine application we reviewed and responded to in 2018. Also reviewed in 2012. Attached is the current information and our 2018 review.

Response should be obtain an encroachment permit as stated in our 2018 review.

Any other comments or concerns, let me know by April 25.

# PRELIMINARY REVIEW 4.9.2019 F CHAFFW

GEOFORTIS MINERALS, LLC 395 ENCROACHMENT PERMIT ACCESS ROAD

ns

7 10

# **US 395 ENCROACHMENT PERMIT PLANS** GEOFORTIS MINERALS, INC. LASSEN COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

# CalTrans Route 395 Postmile LAS 9,935

#### ENGINEER:

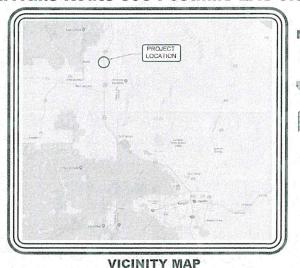


CLINTON G THIESSE PE EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

#### **DEVELOPER:**

GEOFORTIS MINERALS, LLC DAVID MCMURTRY, PRESIDENT 1024 COUNTRY CLUB DRIVE MORAGA, CA, 94598





T 23 N, R 17 E, M.D.M, SECTIONS 11&14 N.T.S.

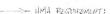
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SHEET INDEX

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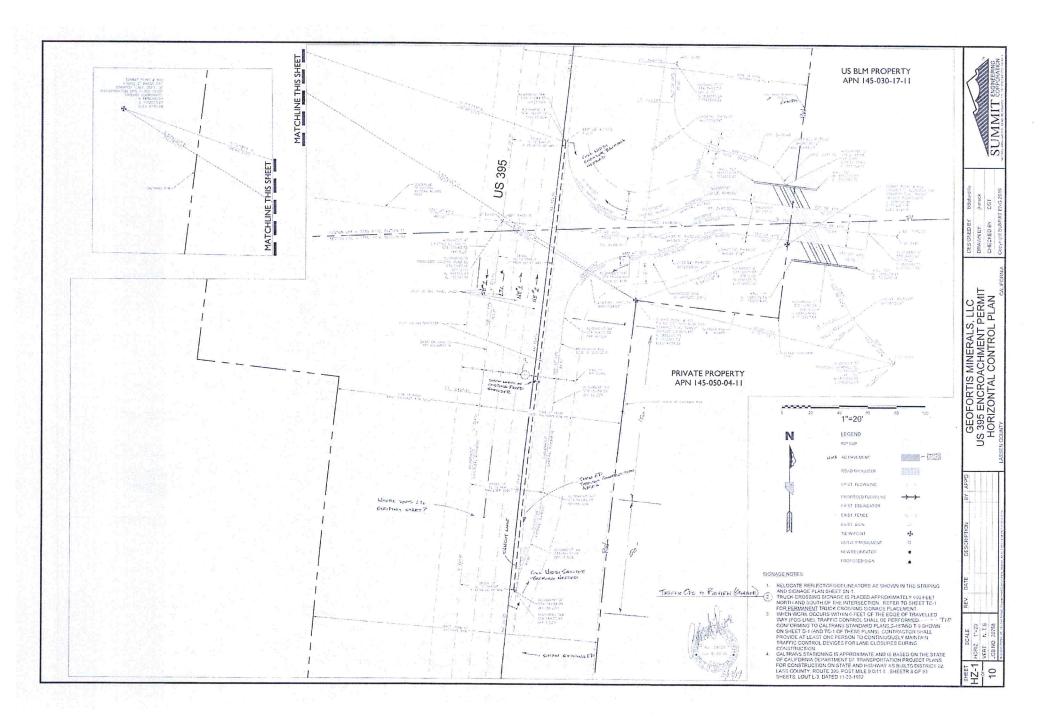
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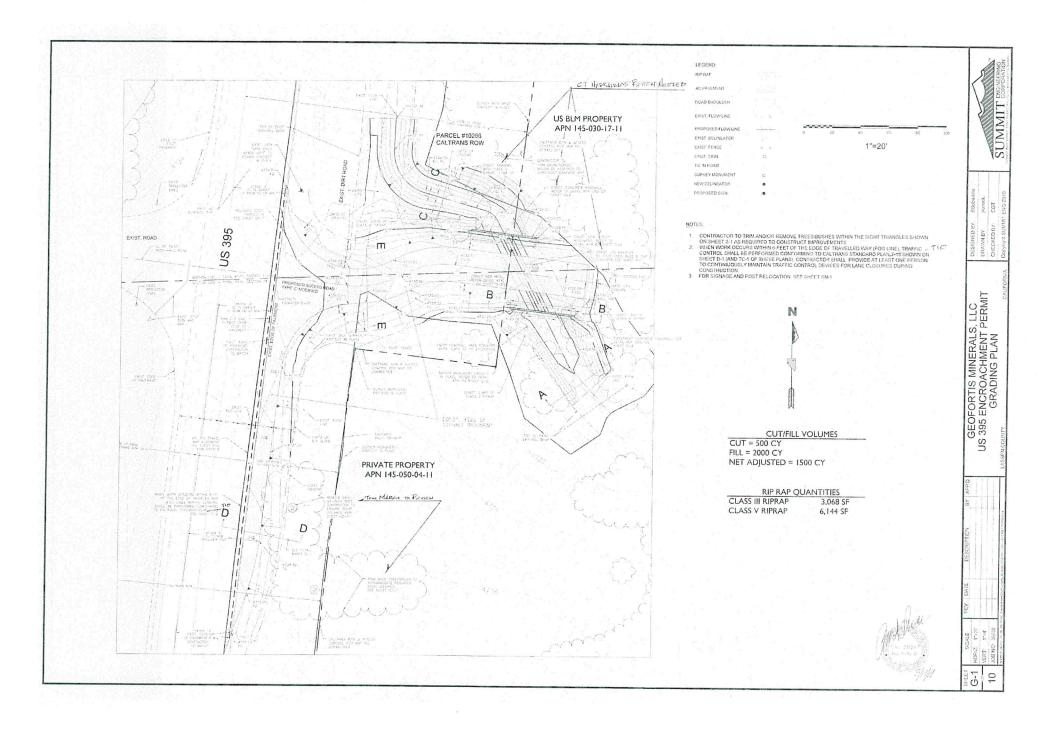
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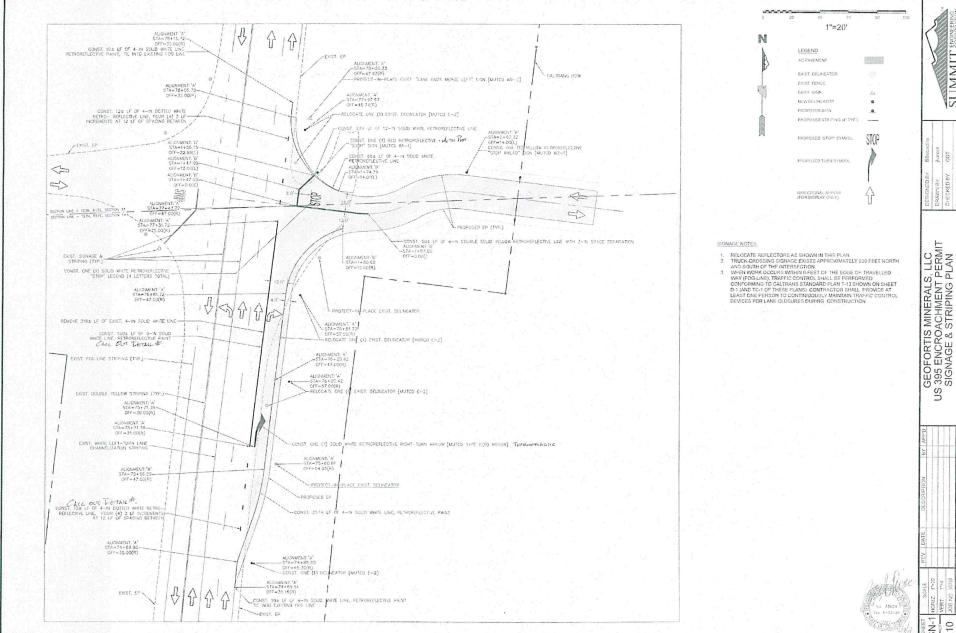












SUMMIT

SN-1



INTERSECTION SIGHT DISTANCE CALCULATIONS

ISD = 1.47 V (g)

where V = design speed of major road (65 mph)

(g) = time gap for minor road vehicle to enter major road (9.5 s for a single-unit truck) turning left on a two-lane road.

0.7 seconds must be added to this time for each additional lame which must be crossed. For a 4-land road in a left-hand turn maneuver, use t(g)=10.9 s.

ISD(Lelt-Hand Turn and Crossing) = (1.47)(65)(10.9) = 1,041 feet

Time gaps can be decreased by 1.0 s for Right-Hand Turns:

ISD (Right-Hand Turn) = (1.47)(65)(9.9) = 946 feet

CALTRANS CORNER SIGHT DISTANCE

THERE IS A 715-FOOT CORNER SIGHT DISTANCE GIVEN THE 65 MPH DESIGN SPEED AS PER CALTRANS HIGHWAY DESIGN MANUAL TABLE 405 TA.

VEHICLE HEADING SOUTH CONTROLLINE TYP. CALTRANS ROW/ACCESS
CONTROL LINE, TYP. -1, MILET INTERGECTION SIGHT DISTANCE PEQUIPED FOR LEFT-HAID TURN AND CROSSING MANEUVERS FROM MINIOR FOAD (SEE CALCULATIONS THIS SHEET) 395 NS

REQUIRED INTERSECTION SIGHT DISTANCES

123N, R17E, SECTION 1

REMOVE EXIST 24-INCH TREE

TRIM TREE/BRUSH

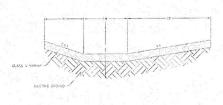




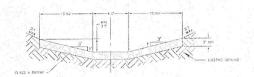
GEOFORTIS MINERALS, LLC US 395 ENCROACHMENT PERMIT SIGHT DISTANCE CLEARANCE

10

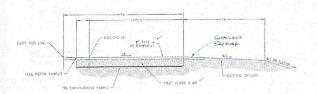




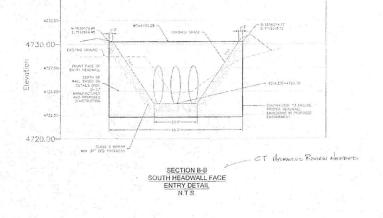
SECTION A-A UPSTREAM CHANNEL TIE-IN N.T.S.

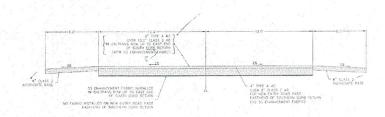


PROPOSED DOWNSTREAM CHANNEL
CROSS SECTION
N T S.



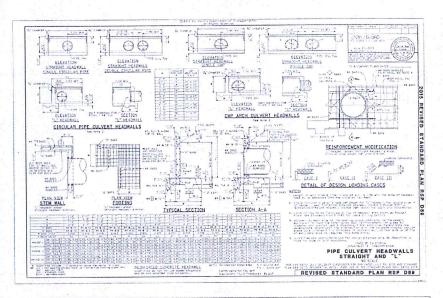
SECTION D-D US 395 SHOULDER TIE IN N.T.S.

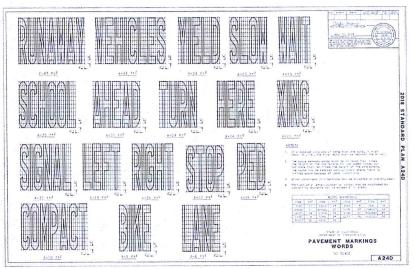


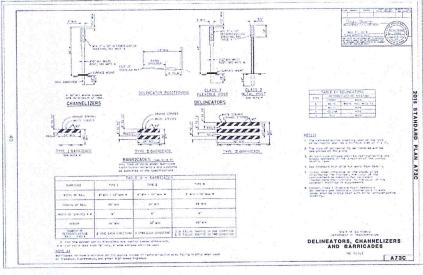


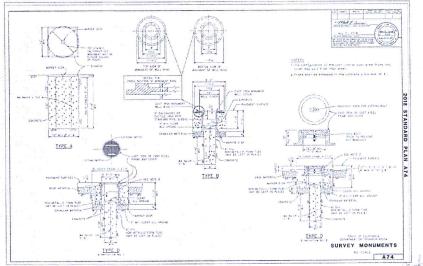
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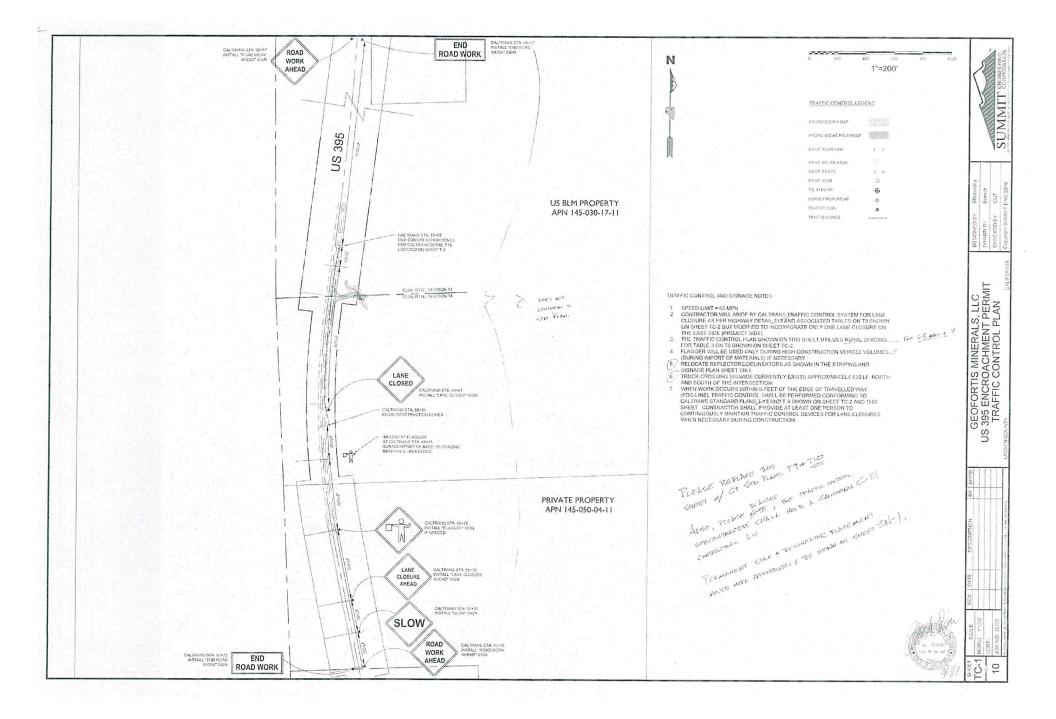


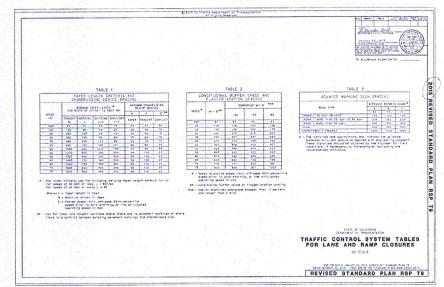
SUMMIT

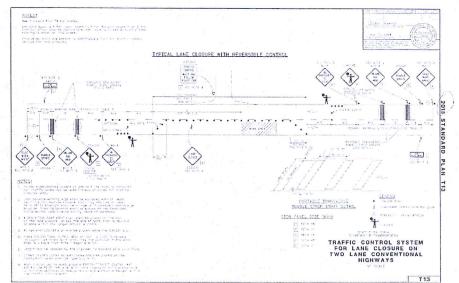
GEOFORTIS MINERALS, LLC 385 ENCROACHMENT PERMIT DETAILS

NS

0-2 10









TC-2 HORIZ NTS.

10 JOB NO 20758

SUMMIT

GEOFORTIS MINERALS, LLC US 395 ENCROACHMENT PERMIT DETAILS

From:

Henderson, Amy@Wildlife <Amy.Henderson@wildlife.ca.gov>

Sent:

Tuesday, April 26, 2022 8:38 AM

To:

Cortney Flather

Subject:

Geofortis - early consultation referral

This message comes from an external sender. EXTERNAL SENDER WARNING!

Cortney,

Can I have an extra week to get you comments? I am just getting to this today. Please let me know.

Best,

Amy Henderson Senior Environmental Scientist (Specialist) California Dept. of Fish and Wildlife 601 Locust Street Redding, CA 96001 (530)598-7194 (cell)

RECEIVED

APR 26 2022

LASSEN COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND RUILDING SERVICES

From:

Henderson, Amy@Wildlife <Amy.Henderson@wildlife.ca.gov>

Sent:

Thursday, May 5, 2022 2:18 PM

To:

Cortney Flather

Subject:

Geofortis Early Consultation Referral Use Permit #2018-005, Reclamation Plan #

2018-002, and Initial Study #2018-006

RECEIVED

This message comes from an external sender. EXTERNAL SENDER WARNING!

MAY 0 5 2022

Dear Cortney Flather,

LASSEN COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND BUILDING SERVICES

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) has reviewed the early consultation dated March 28, 2022, for the above-referenced project (Project). As a trustee for the State's fish and wildlife resources, the Department has jurisdiction over the conservation, protection, and management of fish, wildlife, native plants, and their habitat. As a responsible agency, the Department administers the California Endangered Species Act and other provisions of the Fish and Game Code (FGC) that conserve the State's fish and wildlife public trust resources. The Department offers the following comments and recommendations on this Project in our role as a trustee and responsible agency pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), California Public Resources Code §21000 et seq. The following are informal comments intended to assist the Lead Agency in making informed decisions early in the Project development and review process.

# **Project Description**

The Project as proposed is to "establish an 83-acre pozzolan materials mining operation within the Project Area under this Plan. The Project will be a year-round operation, with mining and screening operations generally on a seasonal schedule, and loading and hauling operations on a year-round schedule. The proposed operation will include excavations through three (3) Phases and will include a mobile crushing and screening spread as well as stockpiling and hauling operations. Phase I mining operations will be located on mining claims 124-126, 131, 132, 137, and 159 and may produce 3.45 million cubic yards of pozzolan material. Phase II mining operations will be located on mining claims 124-126 and may produce 4.49 million cubic yards of pozzolan material. Phase III mining operations will take place on mining claim 121 and may produce 0.67 million cubic yards of pozzolan material. The entire operation may produce a total of 8.61 million cubic yards of pozzolan material. At full production, the mining operation is expected to produce an average of 250,000 cubic yards and a maximum of 500,000 cubic yards of pozzolan materials per year. Actual phasing may vary depending on site conditions. Geofortis proposes to construct a new access road to the mining operation by amending the existing CalTrans Encroachment Permit (0295-6RM-0163}." The Project will impact intermittent washes occurring on the Project site. No wetland delineation was provided. The Project will impact approximately 83 acres of undisturbed vegetation which includes the removal of a number of white woolly buckwheat (Eriogonum ochrocephalum var. ochrocephalum), a California Rare Plant Rank 2B.2.

#### **Comments and Recommendations**

The Department commented on this Project on September 10, 2018, during a separate early consultation referral period. The Department has the following comments as they pertain to biological resources.

# **Intermittent Drainages**

The Project will be impacting the bed, bank, and channel of more than one intermittent wash. As the Project site supports aquatic habitat, a delineation of lakes, streams, and associated riparian habitats potentially affected by the Project should be provided for agency and public review. This report should include a preliminary jurisdictional delineation including wetlands identification. Please note that some wetland and riparian habitats subject to the

Department's authority may extend beyond the jurisdictional limits of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The jurisdictional delineation should also include mapping of ephemeral, intermittent, and perennial stream courses potentially impacted by the Project. In addition to "federally protected wetlands" (see CEQA Appendix G (IV)(c)), the Department considers impacts to any wetlands (as defined by the Department) as potentially significant.

As stated in the documentation, the Project applicant will be notifying the Department pursuant to 1600 et seq. of the FGC prior to the applicant's commencement of any activity that will substantially divert or obstruct the natural flow or substantially change the bed, channel, or bank of a river, stream, or lake, or use material from a streambed.

# Vegetation Removal

As stated in the documentation received, Phases I – III are undisturbed habitats. Based on the species compendia and photographs that were provided in the Biological Resources Report, dated September 27, 2018, and revised April 1, 2021, and prepared by BEC Environmental, Inc., the vegetation is intact and supports a diversity of plants and animals. The Department originally requested to see the seed list that has been developed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for this Project. The Department would still like to review this seed list. The Department recommends this seed list contain a high diversity of species representing what is currently present onsite.

# White woolly buckwheat (Eriogonum ochrocephalum var. ochrocephalum)

According to the Final Environmental Assessment dated May 2021, and prepared by the BLM, a separate seeding program is proposed for the white woolly buckwheat. This species is listed as a California Rare Plant Rank 2B.2, rare, threatened, or endangered in California; common elsewhere. After reviewing the seeding plan for this species, the Department recommends that success criteria for the proposed seeding plan be developed that correspond to what currently exists on the site presently. There were estimations provided but something more substantial detailing exactly what happens if the white woolly buckwheat population is less than what was counted in 2018 after mining is completed. The contingency plan should include additional mitigation measures that will mitigate and/or compensate for the impacts to this species.

#### Fencing

The Department previously asked for more details on the type of fencing to be used for this project. The Department recommends the forthcoming environmental document discuss in more detail the type of fencing to be erected.

# **Detention Basin**

The Department requests more information on the proposed detention basin. Information would include the following: proposed depth, potential water quality issues, potential impacts to wildlife, and information on whether the detention basin would dry out seasonally or be a permanent water source. The mining plan states more information is available in the Hydrology Report. The Department requests to see the Hydrology Report when it becomes available.

If you have any further questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me. I appreciate the extension of time to review this Project.

# Thank you,

Amy Henderson Senior Environmental Scientist (Specialist) California Dept. of Fish and Wildlife 601 Locust Street Redding, CA 96001 (530)598-7194 (cell)

From:

Henderson, Amy@Wildlife <Amy.Henderson@wildlife.ca.gov>

Sent:

Monday, May 9, 2022 11:20 AM

To:

Cortney Flather

Subject:

RE: Geofortis Early Consultation Referral Use Permit #2018-005, Reclamation Plan #

2018-002, and Initial Study #2018-006

Attachments:

FencingWithWildlifeInMind.pdf

This message comes from an external sender. EXTERNAL SENDER WARNING!

Hi Cortney,

Wildlife friendly fencing would be preferred. I have attached one of many different fencing manuals. Please email with any additional questions.

Best,

Amy Henderson Senior Environmental Scientist (Specialist) California Dept. of Fish and Wildlife 601 Locust Street Redding, CA 96001 (530)598-7194 (cell) RECEIVED

MAY 0 9 2022

LASSEN COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND BUILDING SERVICES

From: Cortney Flather < CFlather@co.lassen.ca.us>

Sent: Monday, May 9, 2022 10:19 AM

To: Henderson, Amy@Wildlife <Amy.Henderson@wildlife.ca.gov>

Subject: RE: Geofortis Early Consultation Referral Use Permit #2018-005, Reclamation Plan #2018-002, and Initial Study

#2018-006

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

Hi Amy,

I sent your comments to the applicant and he mentioned that the fence would be barbed wire but he wanted to know what exactly your concerns are and/or what you are looking for in terms of ensuring that the fence would not impact wildlife.

Thank you,

**Cortney Flather** 

Natural Resources Technician Planning and Building Services 707 Nevada St. Suite 5 Susanville CA 96130 Phone: (530) 251-8271

From:

Scott Welch <scott.welch@psrec.com>

Sent:

Friday, April 29, 2022 8:15 AM

To:

Cortney Flather

Subject:

FW: FW: Notice of Informal Consultation-Initial Study #2018-006, Geofortis Minerals LLC

Attachments:

Informal Consultation Plumas-Sierra Rural Electric.pdf

This message comes from an external sender. EXTERNAL SENDER WARNING!

Hello Cortney,

I apologize for the delay on this. It was just forwarded to me late yesterday.

Regarding your question about avian protection on power lines, PSREC is required to follow Rural Utilities Service Requirements (RUS), CPUC G.O 95, and NESC specifications when building new or retrofitting existing overhead power lines.

These requirements include a Raptor Design Specification which increases clearance between conductors (depending on line voltage) to a minimum of 60" between energized conductors.

In the event of retrofitting existing lines we will install raptor protection devices on the cross arms such as Raptor Triangles or a coverup device attached to the wire and insulator that extends approximately 36" in each direction from the cross arm.

Overhead transformer installations have similar cover on the jumper wires and bushings to prevent not only avian contact but rodents as well.

In areas identified as high density avian activity, PSREC will also install flight diverters suspended from the conductor. These devices are either swinging or fixed, reflective for higher visibility. We will install these near waterways to deflect waterfowl from flying into the lines.

Unfortunately we cannot prevent all wildlife contact with high voltage power lines but we do strive to keep it to a minimum.

PSREC also requests facilities such as this to implement rodent control to reduce the draw of raptors feeding in the area. We have worked with Sierra Army Depot environmental to design a raptor feeding habitat away from our high voltage lines. It has not been implemented yet but we are both hopeful it will be successful.

Should Geofortis Minerals move forward with their project and request electric service from PSREC, we will adhere to all requirements and best practices when installing new overhead lines to the facility.

Additionally PSREC is urging all new services to be installed underground where feasible.

Fell free to contact me should you have additional questions or concerns.

Regards,

Scott Welch

District Manager Plumas Sierra Rural Electric (530) 832-4261 x 6027 (530) 251-7448 cell Scott.welch@psrec.com RECEIVED

APR 2 9 2022

LASSEN COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND BUILDING SERVICES

Planning
 Bu

Building

· Environmental Health

Code Enforcement

Surveyor

Surface Mining

Maurice L. Anderson, Director 707 Nevada Street, Suite 5

Susanville, CA 96130-3912 Phone: 530 251-8269 Fax: 530 251-8373

email: landuse@co.lassen.ca.us website: www.co.lassen.ca.us

Zoning & Building Inspection Requests Phone: 530 257-5263

Environmental Health Messages: 530 251-8528 email: EHE@co.lassen.ca.us

Darrel Cruz, Director Washoe Tribal Historic Preservation Office 919 Highway 395 South Gardnerville, Nevada 89410

RE: Notification Regarding Use Permit #2018-005, Reclamation Plan

#2018-002, and Initial Study #2018-006 Pursuant to California Assembly Bill 52

Dear Mr. Cruz:

March 28, 2022

The purpose of this letter is to formally notify the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California that the above referenced project is in a geographic area that has been identified as traditionally and culturally affiliated with the Washoe tribe, and that pursuant to California Assembly Bill 52 (AB 52), you have 30 days to request consultation with Lassen County in regard to this project. This letter is in response to the letter our Department received May 4, 2016, in which the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California requested consultation with Lassen County "on undertakings that may affect Washoe Tribal Cultural Resources" pursuant to AB 52.

This project, submitted by Geoforits Minerals, is a proposal for a 83-acre, natural pozzolan ("Lassenite") surface mine. The subject parcels and are zoned A-1 (General Agricultural District), with a land use designation of "Extensive Agriculture" pursuant to the Lassen County General Plan, 2000.

The project sites are located approximately 300 feet to the east and west of Highway 395 in Lassen County, 5.5 miles north of Hallelujah Junction and 55 miles southeast of Susanville (via Highway 395).

Please see the attached documents for more detail regarding the project. Again, this letter formally invites the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California to request consultation for the above application within 30 days of the date of this letter pursuant to AB 52.

Please contact Cortney Flather, Natural Resources Technician, at (530) 251-8269 with any further questions.

Sincerely,

Maurice L. Anderson

Director

MLA:clf

Enclosures: Use Permit #2018-005

Reclamation Plan #2018-002 Initial Study Application #2018-006

Vicinity Map & Site Map



# County of Lassen Department of Planning and Building Services

Planning • Building Permits

Code Enforcement

Surveyor

Surface Mining

Maurice L. Anderson, Director 707 Nevada Street, Suite 5 Susanville, CA 96130-3912 Phone: 530 251-8269

Fax: 530 251-8269

email: landuse@co.lassen.ca.us website: www.co.lassen.ca.us

> Zoning & Building Inspection Requests Phone: 530 257-5263

August 17, 2018

# NOTICE OF EARLY CONSULTATION

**Applicant/Owner:** Geofortis Minerals, (David McMurtry, President)

File No.: Use Permit #2018-005, Reclamation Plan #2018-002, Initial Study #2018-006,

Geofortis Minerals

**Project:** Use permit and reclamation plan for natural pozzolan ("Lassenite") surface

mine. The subject parcels are zoned A-1 (General Agriculture District) and are designated Extensive Agriculture by the *Lassen County General Plan 2000*.

**Location**: The project sites are located approximately 300 feet to the east and west of

Highway 395 in Lassen County, 5.5 miles north of Hallelujah Junction and 55

miles southeast of Susanville (via Highway 395).

**A.P.N.**: 145-030-16, 145-030-17, 145-050-12, 145-050-04

**Staff Contact**: Nancy McAllister, Natural Resources Technician

The project described above is being referred to your agency for early consultation to obtain comments concerning potentially significant impacts, which could result from project approval and development. The information provided by your agency will assist Lassen County in determining whether a Negative Declaration, Mitigated Negative Declaration, or Environmental Impact Report should be prepared as the appropriate environmental document for the project.

Attached with this letter are the use permit application, the reclamation plan application, the initial study application, and a vicinity map depicting the location of the project. Additional supporting material, including the mining plan, is available through this Department upon request.

Comments submitted by your agency should focus on the potentially significant project-related impacts that are within your agency's jurisdiction and area of expertise. In addition to commenting on the significance of potential impacts, you are encouraged to suggest any known mitigation measures, which would reduce such impacts to a less than significant level. You are also encouraged to make recommendations regarding any additional studies or other information that may be needed to accurately determine the significance of project impacts and/or appropriate mitigation measures.

Notice of Early Consultation August 17, 2018 Page 2 of 2

We welcome any comments your agency may have regarding this project. We will use comments received during this early consultation to ensure that all significant impacts are analyzed during the environmental review process. In order to be considered prior to preparation of the Initial Study for this project, your comments must be received by September 19, 2018.

If you have any questions concerning the project, please contact Nancy McAllister, Natural Resources Technician, at (530) 251-8269.

Sincerely,

Maurice L. Anderson,

**Environmental Review Officer** 

MLA:njm Enclosures:

> Use Permit Application #2018-005 Reclamation Plan Application #2018-002 Initial Study Application #2018-006 Vicinity Map & Site Map

Distribution: Supervisor Hammond (5); David McMurtry (Applicant); Co. Assessor's Office; Co. Administrative Office; Co. Fire Warden/CAL FIRE; Co. Environmental Health Dept.; Co. Public Works/Road Div.; Lassen Co. Fish & Game Com.; CA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife (Redding/Wendel); Caltrans; Lahontan RWQCB (email); Division of Mines and Geology; Dept. of Water Resources; Division of Mine Reclamation; State Clearing House; Bureau of Land Mgmt. (Carson City); Pit River Tribe of California; Greenville Rancheria of Maidu Indians; Susanville Indian Rancheria; Honey Lake Maidu; Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California; Co. Air Pollution Control Officer; NV Energy

S:\PLA\Planning\2018\MP#2018-002, Geofortis\IS #2018-006\Early Consultation



# County of Lassen

# Department of Planning and Building Services

Planning

Building Permits

Code Enforcement

Surveyor

Surface Mining

August 20, 2018

Maurice L. Anderson, Director 707 Nevada Street, Suite 5 Susanville, CA 96130-3912 Phone: 530 251-8269

Fax: 530 251-8373 email: landuse@co.lassen.ca.us website: www.co.lassen.ca.us

> Zoning & Building Inspection Requests Phone: 530 257-5263

Darrel Cruz, Director Washoe Tribal Historic Preservation Office 919 Highway 395 South Gardnerville, Nevada 89410

RE:

Notification Regarding Use Permit #2018-005, Reclamation Plan #2018-002, and Initial Study #2018-

006 Pursuant to California Assembly Bill 52

Dear Mr. Cruz:

The purpose of this letter is to formally notify the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California that the above referenced project is in a geographic area that has been identified as traditionally and culturally affiliated with the Washoe tribe, and that pursuant to California Assembly Bill 52 (AB 52), you have 30 days to request consultation with Lassen County in regard to this project. This letter is in response to the letter our Department received May 4, 2016, in which the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California requested consultation with Lassen County "on undertakings that may affect Washoe Tribal Cultural Resources" pursuant to AB 52.

This project, submitted by Geoforits Minerals, is a proposal for a 101-acre, natural pozzolan ("Lassenite") surface mine. The subject parcels and are zoned A-1 (General Agricultural District), with a land use designation of "Extensive Agriculture" pursuant to the Lassen County General Plan. 2000.

The project sites are located approximately 300 feet to the east and west of Highway 395 in Lassen County, 5.5 miles north of Hallelujah Junction and 55 miles southeast of Susanville (via Highway 395).

Please see the attached documents for more detail regarding the project. Again, this letter formally invites the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California to request consultation for the above application within 30 days of the date of this letter pursuant to AB 52.

Please contact Nancy McAllister, Natural Resources Technician, at (530) 251-8269 with any further questions.

Sincerely,

Maurice L. Anderson,

Director

MLA:km

Enclosures: Use Permit #2018-005

Reclamation Plan #2018-002

Initial Study Application #2018-006

Vicinity Map & Site Map



State of California – Natural Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
Region 1 – Northern
601 Locust Street
Redding, CA 96001
www.wildlife.ca.gov

EDMUND G. BROWN JR., Governor CHARLTON H. BONHAM, Director



Lassen County Department of Planning and Building Services

September 10, 2018

Nancy McAllister, Natural Resources Technician Lassen County Department of Planning and Building Services 707 Nevada Street, Suite 5 Susanville, CA 96130

Subject:

Review of the Early Consultation for Use Permit #2018-002, Initial Study #2018-006 (Geofortis Minerals), Assessor's Parcel Numbers 145-030-16, 145-030-17, 145-050-12 and 145-050-04, State Clearinghouse Number 2018082042, Lassen County

Dear Ms. McAllister:

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) has reviewed the early consultation dated August 17, 2018, for the above-referenced project (Project). As a trustee for the State's fish and wildlife resources, the Department has jurisdiction over the conservation, protection, and management of fish, wildlife, native plants and their habitat. As a responsible agency, the Department administers the California Endangered Species Act and other provisions of the Fish and Game Code (FGC) that conserve the State's fish and wildlife public trust resources. The Department offers the following comments and recommendations on this Project in our role as a trustee and responsible agency pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), California Public Resources Code §21000 et seq. The following are informal comments intended to assist the Lead Agency in making informed decisions early in the Project development and review process.

# **Project Description**

The Project as proposed is to "establish a 100-acre pozzolan materials mining operation within the Project Area under this Plan. The Project will be a year-round operation. The proposed operation will include excavations through three (3) Phases and will include a mobile crushing and screening spread, as well as stockpiling and hauling operations. Phase 1 mining operations will be located on mining claims 131, 132, 137, 138, and 159 and may produce 3.5 million cubic yards of pozzolan material. Phase II mining operations will be located on mining claims 123-126 and may produce 4.9 million cubic yards of pozzolan material. Phase III mining operations will take place on mining claims 120-122 and may produce 1.7 million cubic yards of pozzolan material." Geofortis Minerals, LLC is also proposing a new access road to the mining operation by amending CalTrans Encroachment Permit (0295-6RM-0163).

Conserving California's Wildlife Since 1870

Nancy McAllister, Natural Resources Technician September 10, 2018 Page 2

# **Comments and Recommendations**

The Department has the following recommendations and comments as they pertain to biological resources.

# **Biological Resources**

A query of the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) identified a number of special-status wildlife and botanical species including, but not limited to, the following:

# **Plants**

- Webber's ivesia (*Ivesia webberi*)(Federally listed as threatened)(California Rare Plant Rank 1B.1
- Lens-pod milk-vetch (Astragalus lentiformis)(California Rare Plant Rank 1B.2)
- Sierra Valley ivesia (Ivesia aperta var. aperta)(California Rare Plant Rank 1B.2)
- Pulsifer's milk-vetch (Astragalus pulsiferae var. pulsiferae)(California Rare Plant Rank 1B.2)
- Schoolcraft's wild buckwheat (*Eriogonum microthecum* var. schoolcraftii)(California Rare Plant Rank 1B.2)
- Sticky pyrrocoma (*Pyrrocoma lucida*)(California Rare Plant Rank 1B.2)
- Sagebrush loeflingia (Loeflingia squarrosa var. artemisiarum) (California Rare Plant Rank 2B.2)
- Golden violet (Viola purpurea ssp. aurea)(California Rare Plant Rank 2B.2)
- Ochre-flowered buckwheat (*Eriogonum ochrocephalum* var. ochrocephalum)(California Rare Plant Rank 2B.2)
- Bailey's ivesia (Ivesia baileyi var. baileyi)(California Rare Plant Rank 2B.3)
- Suksdorf broom-rape (*Orobanche Iudoviciana* var. *arenosa*)(California Rare Plant Rank 2B.3)
- Nevada daisy (Erigeron eatonii var. nevadincola)(California Rare Plant Rank 2B.3)
- Winged dock (Rumex venosus)(California Rare Plant Rank 2B.3)

# Wildlife

- Bank swallow (*Riparia riparia*)(State listed as threatened)
- Long-eared owl (Asio otus)(California Species of Special Concern)
- Western white-tailed jackrabbit (Lepus townsendii townsendii)(California Species of Special Concern)

The Department recommends general wildlife and botanical surveys be

Nancy McAllister, Natural Resources Technician September 10, 2018 Page 3

conducted, and if habitat is present for special-status species, focused surveys shall be conducted. All surveys shall be conducted during the appropriate time of year. Botanical studies should be conducted using the Department's March 2018 Protocols for Surveying and Evaluating Impacts to Special Status Native Plant Populations and Natural Communities.

# **Nesting Birds**

The Mining Plan states, "When surface disturbances are created during avian breeding season (April 30 through July 31, may vary), a qualified biologist will survey the area prior to land clearing activities." The Department recommends surveys for nesting birds beginning February 1 through August 31. Many bird species nest earlier, such as the long-eared owl, which begins nesting in February.

# **Revegetation Plan**

The Department requests to review and approve the revegetation plan.

The Mining Plan states revegetation will occur by utilizing "a seed mix provided and approved by the BLM." The Department requests that CDFW be able to review and approve the seed list prior to revegetation efforts.

# Lake and Streambed Alteration Notification

The project as proposed requires notification to the Department pursuant to 1600 et seq. of the FGC prior to the applicant's commencement of any activity that will substantially divert or obstruct the natural flow or substantially change the bed, channel, or bank (which may include associated riparian resources) of a river, stream or lake, or use material from a streambed. The Department's issuance of a Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement for a project that is subject to CEQA will require CEQA compliance actions by the Department as a Responsible Agency. The Department as a Responsible Agency under CEQA may consider the local jurisdiction's (Lead Agency) Negative Declaration or Environmental Impact Report for the Project. To minimize additional requirements by the Department pursuant to Section 1600 et seq. and/or under CEQA, the document should fully identify the potential impacts to the lake, stream or riparian resources and provide adequate avoidance, mitigation, monitoring and reporting commitments for issuance of the agreement. A Streambed Alteration Agreement notification package may be obtained through the Department's website at <a href="https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/LSA">https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/LSA</a>.

# Fencing

The Department recommends the next environmental document discuss in more detail

Nancy McAllister, Natural Resources Technician September 10, 2018 Page 4

the fencing that will be used and for what purpose. Noxious Weeds

The mining plan mentions noxious and invasive weeds. The mining plan also mentions that Geofortis Minerals, LLC will "treat any noxious weed infestations that result from ground disturbing activities within the Project Area for at least a three-year period following the completion of the Project." The Department is concerned that this timeframe may not be long enough and requests additional measures be in place in the event that the noxious weeds have not been eradicated after three years.

# **Detention Basin**

The Department requests more information on the proposed detention basin. Information would include the following: proposed depth, potential water quality issues, potential impacts to wildlife, and information on whether the detention basin would dry out or be a permanent water source.

If you have any questions, please contact Amy Henderson, Environmental Scientist, at (530) 225-2779, or by email at Amy.Henderson@wildlife.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Adam McKannay

Senior Environmental Scientist - Supervisor

Interior Cannabis and LSA Permitting

ec: Nancy McAllister, Natural Resources Technician nmcallister@co.lassen.ca.us

State Clearinghouse <a href="mailto:state.clearinghouse@opr.ca.gov">state.clearinghouse@opr.ca.gov</a>

Amy Henderson
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Amy.Henderson@wildlife.ca.gov

From: Henderson, Amy@Wildlife

To: Nancy McAllister

Subject: Geofortis Pozzolan Mine SCH#2018082042 Date: Thursday, August 23, 2018 10:17:07 AM

# Hi Nancy,

I just received the early consultation documentation and I had a couple of questions for you. It mentions an existing Mine Plan – is that something you could email me? Has the project applicant done any biological surveys out on the Project? My final question deals with BLM – how do they fit into this equation? I'm wondering why this isn't a NEPA project.

# Thank you!

Amy Henderson **Environmental Scientist** Interior Conservation Planning California Department of Fish and Wildlife Northern Region 601 Locust St. Redding, CA 96001 530-225-2779

Amy.Henderson@wildlife.ca.gov

Every Californian should conserve water. Find out how at:



SaveOurWater.com · Drought.CA.gov

From: Tucker, Robert@Waterboards

To: Nancy McAllister

Subject: Comments on the Geofortis Minerals

Date: Tuesday, September 18, 2018 2:20:21 PM

# Hi Nancy

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board – Lahontan Region (Water Board) staff reviewed the early consultation document for GeoFortis Minerals initial study #2018-006. The Water Board Staff has the following comments:

- 1. First comment is based on the phase III of the project. The drawing of the Mine Plane Phase III, figure 4 identifies a drainage going through the mined area. The narrative on phase III also identifies that a drainage and states it will be diverted. For any diversion or alteration of a drainage the proponent must contact the U.S. Army Corp for possibly working in a water of the U.S.
  - a. If the U.S. Army Corps issues a permit under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act the following agencies will also need to be contacted.
    - i. Apply to the Lahontan Water Board for a Water Quality Certification.
    - ii. Contact California Fish and Wild life on a stream alteration agreement.
  - b. If the U.S. Army Corp does not issue a permit under 404 of the Clean Water Act then apply to the Lahontan Water Board for possible permitting under California law only, additional information will be necessary to determine if the Water Board needs to issue a permit.
- Second comment also based on phase III of the project, again it is based on the diverting a drainage, which will be to a detention basin, this present several issues that should be resolved.
  - a. The detention basin does not appear to reconnect to the original flow path, additional information should be submitted to determine if the proposal is acceptable.
  - b. The detention basin will be south of the mined area with the natural flow pattern to the north. The unknown ground water conditions and weather condition may make the mining difficult if the open pit area is saturated.
- 3. The Facility may need to apply for coverage under the State Water Board's General Industrial Storm Water Discharge Associated with Industrial Activities. The General permit may be found at the following link:.

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\_issues/programs/stormwater/igp\_20140057dwg.shtml

If you have any questions regarding this matter please call me.

Robert Tucker Senior Water Resource Control Engineer Phone 530-542-5467 NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION

Cultural and Environmental Department 1550 Harbor Blvd., Suite 100 West Sacramento, CA 95691 Phone (916) 373-3710



August 23, 2018

Nancy AcAlliser Lassen County 707 Nevada Street, Suite 5 Susanville, CA 96130

Also sent via e-mail: landuse@co.lassen.ca.us

AUG 23 2018

Lassen Courly Department of Planning and Building Services

RE: SCH# 2018082042, Geofortis Pozzolan Mine Project, City of Chilcoot; Lassen County, California

Dear Ms. McAlliser:

The Native American Heritage Commission has received the Request for Early Consultation for the project referenced above. The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Pub. Resources Code § 21000 et seq.), specifically Public Resources Code section 21084.1, states that a project that may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an historical resource is a project that may have a significant effect on the environment. (Pub. Resources Code § 21084.1; Cal. Code Regs., tit.14, § 15064.5 (b) (CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5 (b)). If there is substantial evidence, in light of the whole record before a lead agency, that a project may have a significant effect on the environment, an environmental impact report (EIR) shall be prepared. (Pub. Resources Code § 21080 (d); Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15064 subd. (a)(1) (CEQA Guidelines § 15064 (a)(1)). In order to determine whether a project will cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource, a lead agency will need to determine whether there are historical resources with the area of project effect (APE).

CEQA was amended significantly in 2014. Assembly Bill 52 (Gatto, Chapter 532, Statutes of 2014) (AB 52) amended CEQA to create a separate category of cultural resources, "tribal cultural resources" (Pub. Resources Code § 21074) and provides that a project with an effect that may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource is a project that may have a significant effect on the environment (Pub. Resources Code § 21084.2). Please reference California Natural Resources Agency (2016) "Final Text for tribal cultural resources update to Appendix G: Environmental Checklist Form," <a href="http://resources.ca.gov/ceqa/docs/ab52/Clean-final-AB-52-App-G-text-Submitted.pdf">http://resources.ca.gov/ceqa/docs/ab52/Clean-final-AB-52-App-G-text-Submitted.pdf</a>. Public agencies shall, when feasible, avoid damaging effects to any tribal cultural resource. (Pub. Resources Code § 21084.3 (a)). AB 52 applies to any project for which a notice of preparation or a notice of negative declaration or mitigated negative declaration is filed on or after July 1, 2015. If your project involves the adoption of or amendment to a general plan or a specific plan, or the designation or proposed designation of open space, on or after March 1, 2005, it may also be subject to Senate Bill 18 (Burton, Chapter 905, Statutes of 2004) (SB 18). Both SB 18 and AB 52 have tribal consultation requirements. If your project is also subject to the federal National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. § 4321 et seq.) (NEPA), the tribal consultation requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (154 U.S.C. 300101, 36 C.F.R. § 800 et seq.) may also apply.

The NAHC recommends lead agencies consult with all California Native American tribes that are traditionally and culturally affiliated with the geographic area of your proposed project as early as possible in order to avoid inadvertent discoveries of Native American human remains and best protect tribal cultural resources. Below is a brief summary of portions of AB 52 and SB 18 as well as the NAHC's recommendations for conducting cultural resources assessments. Consult your legal counsel about compliance with AB 52 and SB 18 as well as compliance with any other applicable laws.

#### AB 52

AB 52 has added to CEQA the additional requirements listed below, along with many other requirements:

- 1. Fourteen Day Period to Provide Notice of Completion of an Application/Decision to Undertake a Project: Within fourteen (14) days of determining that an application for a project is complete or of a decision by a public agency to undertake a project, a lead agency shall provide formal notification to a designated contact of, or tribal representative of, traditionally and culturally affiliated California Native American tribes that have requested notice, to be accomplished by at least one written notice that includes:
  - a. A brief description of the project.
  - b. The lead agency contact information.
  - c. Notification that the California Native American tribe has 30 days to request consultation. (Pub. Resources Code § 21080.3.1 (d)).
  - d. A "California Native American tribe" is defined as a Native American tribe located in California that is on the contact list maintained by the NAHC for the purposes of Chapter 905 of Statutes of 2004 (SB 18). (Pub. Resources Code § 21073).
- 2. Begin Consultation Within 30 Days of Receiving a Tribe's Request for Consultation and Before Releasing a Negative Declaration, Mitigated Negative Declaration, or Environmental Impact Report: A lead agency shall begin the consultation process within 30 days of receiving a request for consultation from a California Native American tribe that is traditionally and culturally affiliated with the geographic area of the proposed project. (Pub. Resources Code § 21080.3.1, subds. (d) and (e)) and prior to the release of a negative declaration, mitigated negative declaration or environmental impact report. (Pub. Resources Code § 21080.3.1(b)).
  - a. For purposes of AB 52, "consultation shall have the same meaning as provided in Gov. Code § 65352.4 (SB 18). (Pub. Resources Code § 21080.3.1 (b)).
- 3. <u>Mandatory Topics of Consultation If Requested by a Tribe</u>: The following topics of consultation, if a tribe requests to discuss them, are mandatory topics of consultation:
  - a. Alternatives to the project.
  - b. Recommended mitigation measures.
  - c. Significant effects. (Pub. Resources Code § 21080.3.2 (a)).
- 4. <u>Discretionary Topics of Consultation</u>: The following topics are discretionary topics of consultation:
  - a. Type of environmental review necessary.
  - b. Significance of the tribal cultural resources.
  - c. Significance of the project's impacts on tribal cultural resources.
  - **d.** If necessary, project alternatives or appropriate measures for preservation or mitigation that the tribe may recommend to the lead agency. (Pub. Resources Code § 21080.3.2 (a)).
- 5. Confidentiality of Information Submitted by a Tribe During the Environmental Review Process: With some exceptions, any information, including but not limited to, the location, description, and use of tribal cultural resources submitted by a California Native American tribe during the environmental review process shall not be included in the environmental document or otherwise disclosed by the lead agency or any other public agency to the public, consistent with Government Code sections 6254 (r) and 6254.10. Any information submitted by a California Native American tribe during the consultation or environmental review process shall be published in a confidential appendix to the environmental document unless the tribe that provided the information consents, in writing, to the disclosure of some or all of the information to the public. (Pub. Resources Code § 21082.3 (c)(1)).
- 6. <u>Discussion of Impacts to Tribal Cultural Resources in the Environmental Document:</u> If a project may have a significant impact on a tribal cultural resource, the lead agency's environmental document shall discuss both of the following:
  - a. Whether the proposed project has a significant impact on an identified tribal cultural resource.
  - b. Whether feasible alternatives or mitigation measures, including those measures that may be agreed to pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21082.3, subdivision (a), avoid or substantially lessen the impact on the identified tribal cultural resource. (Pub. Resources Code § 21082.3 (b)).

- 7. <u>Conclusion of Consultation</u>: Consultation with a tribe shall be considered concluded when either of the following occurs:
  - a. The parties agree to measures to mitigate or avoid a significant effect, if a significant effect exists, on a tribal cultural resource; or
  - b. A party, acting in good faith and after reasonable effort, concludes that mutual agreement cannot be reached. (Pub. Resources Code § 21080.3.2 (b)).
- 8. Recommending Mitigation Measures Agreed Upon in Consultation in the Environmental Document: Any mitigation measures agreed upon in the consultation conducted pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080.3.2 shall be recommended for inclusion in the environmental document and in an adopted mitigation monitoring and reporting program, if determined to avoid or lessen the impact pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21082.3, subdivision (b), paragraph 2, and shall be fully enforceable. (Pub. Resources Code § 21082.3 (a)).
- 9. Required Consideration of Feasible Mitigation: If mitigation measures recommended by the staff of the lead agency as a result of the consultation process are not included in the environmental document or if there are no agreed upon mitigation measures at the conclusion of consultation, or if consultation does not occur, and if substantial evidence demonstrates that a project will cause a significant effect to a tribal cultural resource, the lead agency shall consider feasible mitigation pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21084.3 (b). (Pub. Resources Code § 21082.3 (e)).
- **10.** Examples of Mitigation Measures That, If Feasible, May Be Considered to Avoid or Minimize Significant Adverse Impacts to Tribal Cultural Resources:
  - a. Avoidance and preservation of the resources in place, including, but not limited to:
    - i. Planning and construction to avoid the resources and protect the cultural and natural context.
    - **ii.** Planning greenspace, parks, or other open space, to incorporate the resources with culturally appropriate protection and management criteria.
  - **b.** Treating the resource with culturally appropriate dignity, taking into account the tribal cultural values and meaning of the resource, including, but not limited to, the following:
    - i. Protecting the cultural character and integrity of the resource.
    - ii. Protecting the traditional use of the resource.
    - iii. Protecting the confidentiality of the resource.
  - **c.** Permanent conservation easements or other interests in real property, with culturally appropriate management criteria for the purposes of preserving or utilizing the resources or places.
  - d. Protecting the resource. (Pub. Resource Code § 21084.3 (b)).
  - e. Please note that a federally recognized California Native American tribe or a nonfederally recognized California Native American tribe that is on the contact list maintained by the NAHC to protect a California prehistoric, archaeological, cultural, spiritual, or ceremonial place may acquire and hold conservation easements if the conservation easement is voluntarily conveyed. (Civ. Code § 815.3 (c)).
  - f. Please note that it is the policy of the state that Native American remains and associated grave artifacts shall be repatriated. (Pub. Resources Code § 5097.991).
- 11. Prerequisites for Certifying an Environmental Impact Report or Adopting a Mitigated Negative Declaration or Negative Declaration with a Significant Impact on an Identified Tribal Cultural Resource: An environmental impact report may not be certified, nor may a mitigated negative declaration or a negative declaration be adopted unless one of the following occurs:
  - a. The consultation process between the tribes and the lead agency has occurred as provided in Public Resources Code sections 21080.3.1 and 21080.3.2 and concluded pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080.3.2.
  - **b.** The tribe that requested consultation failed to provide comments to the lead agency or otherwise failed to engage in the consultation process.
  - c. The lead agency provided notice of the project to the tribe in compliance with Public Resources Code section 21080.3.1 (d) and the tribe failed to request consultation within 30 days. (Pub. Resources Code § 21082.3 (d)).

This process should be documented in the Cultural Resources section of your environmental document.

The NAHC's PowerPoint presentation titled, "Tribal Consultation Under AB 52: Requirements and Best Practices" may be found online at: http://nahc.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/AB52TribalConsultation CalEPAPDF.pdf

#### SB 18

SB 18 applies to local governments and requires **local governments** to contact, provide notice to, refer plans to, and consult with tribes prior to the adoption or amendment of a general plan or a specific plan, or the designation of open space. (Gov. Code § 65352.3). Local governments should consult the Governor's Office of Planning and Research's "Tribal Consultation Guidelines," which can be found online at: https://www.opr.ca.gov/docs/09 14 05 Updated Guidelines 922.pdf

Some of SB 18's provisions include:

- 1. <u>Tribal Consultation</u>: If a local government considers a proposal to adopt or amend a general plan or a specific plan, or to designate open space it is required to contact the appropriate tribes identified by the NAHC by requesting a "Tribal Consultation List." If a tribe, once contacted, requests consultation the local government must consult with the tribe on the plan proposal. A tribe has 90 days from the date of receipt of notification to request consultation unless a shorter timeframe has been agreed to by the tribe. (Gov. Code § 65352.3 (a)(2)).
- 2. No Statutory Time Limit on SB 18 Tribal Consultation. There is no statutory time limit on SB 18 tribal consultation.
- 3. Confidentiality: Consistent with the guidelines developed and adopted by the Office of Planning and Research pursuant to Gov. Code section 65040.2, the city or county shall protect the confidentiality of the information concerning the specific identity, location, character, and use of places, features and objects described in Public Resources Code sections 5097.9 and 5097.993 that are within the city's or county's jurisdiction. (Gov. Code § 65352.3 (b)).
- 4. Conclusion of SB 18 Tribal Consultation: Consultation should be concluded at the point in which:
  - a. The parties to the consultation come to a mutual agreement concerning the appropriate measures for preservation or mitigation; or
  - b. Either the local government or the tribe, acting in good faith and after reasonable effort, concludes that mutual agreement cannot be reached concerning the appropriate measures of preservation or mitigation. (Tribal Consultation Guidelines, Governor's Office of Planning and Research (2005) at p. 18).

Agencies should be aware that neither AB 52 nor SB 18 precludes agencies from initiating tribal consultation with tribes that are traditionally and culturally affiliated with their jurisdictions before the timeframes provided in AB 52 and SB 18. For that reason, we urge you to continue to request Native American Tribal Contact Lists and "Sacred Lands File" searches from the NAHC. The request forms can be found online at: http://nahc.ca.gov/resources/forms/

#### NAHC Recommendations for Cultural Resources Assessments

To adequately assess the existence and significance of tribal cultural resources and plan for avoidance, preservation in place, or barring both, mitigation of project-related impacts to tribal cultural resources, the NAHC recommends the following actions:

- Contact the appropriate regional California Historical Research Information System (CHRIS) Center (http://ohp.parks.ca.gov/?page\_id=1068) for an archaeological records search. The records search will determine:
  - a. If part or all of the APE has been previously surveyed for cultural resources.
  - b. If any known cultural resources have been already been recorded on or adjacent to the APE.
  - c. If the probability is low, moderate, or high that cultural resources are located in the APE.
  - d. If a survey is required to determine whether previously unrecorded cultural resources are present.
- 2. If an archaeological inventory survey is required, the final stage is the preparation of a professional report detailing the findings and recommendations of the records search and field survey.
  - a. The final report containing site forms, site significance, and mitigation measures should be submitted immediately to the planning department. All information regarding site locations, Native American human remains, and associated funerary objects should be in a separate confidential addendum and not be made available for public disclosure.

- **b.** The final written report should be submitted within 3 months after work has been completed to the appropriate regional CHRIS center.
- 3. Contact the NAHC for:
  - a. A Sacred Lands File search. Remember that tribes do not always record their sacred sites in the Sacred Lands File, nor are they required to do so. A Sacred Lands File search is not a substitute for consultation with tribes that are traditionally and culturally affiliated with the geographic area of the project's APE.
  - **b.** A Native American Tribal Consultation List of appropriate tribes for consultation concerning the project site and to assist in planning for avoidance, preservation in place, or, failing both, mitigation measures.
- Remember that the lack of surface evidence of archaeological resources (including tribal cultural resources)
  does not preclude their subsurface existence.
  - a. Lead agencies should include in their mitigation and monitoring reporting program plan provisions for the identification and evaluation of inadvertently discovered archaeological resources per Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, section 15064.5(f) (CEQA Guidelines section 15064.5(f)). In areas of identified archaeological sensitivity, a certified archaeologist and a culturally affiliated Native American with knowledge of cultural resources should monitor all ground-disturbing activities.
  - b. Lead agencies should include in their mitigation and monitoring reporting program plans provisions for the disposition of recovered cultural items that are not burial associated in consultation with culturally affiliated Native Americans.
  - c. Lead agencies should include in their mitigation and monitoring reporting program plans provisions for the treatment and disposition of inadvertently discovered Native American human remains. Health and Safety Code section 7050.5, Public Resources Code section 5097.98, and Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, section 15064.5, subdivisions (d) and (e) (CEQA Guidelines section 15064.5, subds. (d) and (e)) address the processes to be followed in the event of an inadvertent discovery of any Native American human remains and associated grave goods in a location other than a dedicated cemetery.

Please contact me if you need any additional information at gayle.totton@nahc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Gayle Totton
Gayle Totton, M.A., PhD.

Associate Governmental Program Analyst

(916) 373-3714

cc: State Clearinghouse

From:

Gaylon Norwood Nancy McAllister

To: Cc:

Matthew May

Subject:

FW: LAS-395-9.9 Geofortis Pozzolan Mine Use Permit Application 2018-002

Date:

Wednesday, August 29, 2018 4:09:06 PM

Attachments:

image001.png

This got buried in my email and I didn't see it until I went back through emails this afternoon.

# Gaylon F. Norwood

Assistant Director of Planning and Building Services Lassen County 707 Nevada Street Suite 5 Susanville, CA 96130 (530) 251-8269 Fax: (530) 251-8373

From: Gonzalez, Marcelino@DOT [mailto:marcelino.gonzalez@dot.ca.gov]

Sent: Friday, August 24, 2018 1:59 PM

To: Gaylon Norwood <GNorwood@co.lassen.ca.us>

Subject: LAS-395-9.9 Geofortis Pozzolan Mine Use Permit Application 2018-002

Gaylon,

AUG 24 2018

Cassen County Department of Please forward our comments to Nancy McAllister. As indicated below, a Caltranspencing chraentulding Services permit will be required. If any environmental studies are required they should include the highway access.

From: Chaffin, Fred N@DOT

Sent: Thursday, August 23, 2018 2:38 PM

To: Gonzalez, Marcelino@DOT < marcelino.gonzalez@dot.ca.gov>

Cc: Stinger Jr, Rob F@DOT < rob.stinger@dot.ca.gov >; Pascal, Anthony C@DOT

<anthony.pascal@dot.ca.gov>; Grah, Kathy M@DOT <kathy.grah@dot.ca.gov>; Rich, Tamara J@DOT

<tamara.i.rich@dot.ca.gov>

**Subject:** RE: LAS-395-9.9 Pozzolan Mine Use Permit Application

Marci,

#### Additional comment:

1. After our previous meeting, the DPE recognized, correctly, that the encroachment permit application needs to come from the adjacent property owner. If McMurtry is not the owner of the land, but still wants to apply for the EP as the mine operator, he will need to get an Agents Authorization Letter from the property owner. This is fairly common on larger projects and not a big deal.

#### Comments from before:

1. The reconstructed road connection shall conform to the Modified Type C Standard Detail

(attached).

- 2. The encroachment permit application shall be received with a set of plan prepared and stamped by a California Registered Professional Engineer.
- 3. The road connection shall utilize the existing Access Opening within the Access Controlled Right-of-Way (see attached)
- 4. Truck crossing signs will be required.
- 5. A few trees will need to be removed to from within the State right-of-way to improve corner sight distance.
- 6. A complete environmental document (CEQA) will be needed with the encroachment permit application package.
- 7. A meeting with CT EP and Mr. McMurtry's engineer to discuss plan set requirements is highly recommended.

Thank you very much.

Fred

Fred Chaffin 530-604-0387

From: Gonzalez, Marcelino@DOT

Sent: Thursday, August 23, 2018 11:23 AM

**To:** Chaffin, Fred N@DOT < <a href="mailto:red.chaffin@dot.ca.gov">red.chaffin@dot.ca.gov</a>>

Cc: Stinger Jr, Rob F@DOT < rob.stinger@dot.ca.gov >; Pascal, Anthony C@DOT

<anthony.pascal@dot.ca.gov>; Grah, Kathy M@DOT <kathy.grah@dot.ca.gov>; Rich, Tamara J@DOT <tamara.i.rich@dot.ca.gov>

**Subject:** RE: LAS-395-9.9 Pozzolan Mine Use Permit Application

Mr McMurtry has applied for a use permit and the County has circulated the application for comment.

Unless there are additional concerns or comments I will forward what we have told Mr McMurtry to the County.

**From:** David McMurtry [mailto:dmcmurtry@geofortis.com]

Sent: Thursday, August 16, 2018 9:13 AM

To: Chaffin, Fred N@DOT < fred.chaffin@dot.ca.gov>

Cc: Gonzalez, Marcelino@DOT <marcelino.gonzalez@dot.ca.gov>; Stinger Jr, Rob F@DOT

<rob.stinger@dot.ca.gov>; Pascal, Anthony C@DOT <anthony.pascal@dot.ca.gov>

Subject: RE: LAS-395-9.9 Pozzolan Mine Road Connection

Fred,

Thank you so much for jumping on this so quickly!

I will get with our engineer and get started. I will be on vacation next week, so I would like to schedule a conference call with you and your team the last week of August or first week of Sept.



David McMurtry Chief Operating Officer Mobile: 925-348-3535

Email: dmcmurtry@geofortis.com

www.geofortis.com

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From: Chaffin, Fred N@DOT < fred.chaffin@dot.ca.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, August 15, 2018 3:35 PM

To: David McMurtry < dmcmurtry@geofortis.com>

**Cc:** Gonzalez, Marcelino@DOT < marcelino.gonzalez@dot.ca.gov>; Stinger Jr, Rob F@DOT

<rob.stinger@dot.ca.gov>; Pascal, Anthony C@DOT <anthony.pascal@dot.ca.gov>

Subject: RE: LAS-395-9.9 Pozzolan Mine Road Connection

Mr. McMurtry,

We had our pre-meeting this afternoon to discuss your proposed project. Here are the results of that meeting:

- 1. The reconstructed road connection shall conform to the Modified Type C Standard Detail (attached).
- 2. The encroachment permit application shall be received with a set of plan prepared and stamped by a California Registered Professional Engineer.
- 3. The road connection shall utilize the existing Access Opening within the Access Controlled Right-of-Way (see attached)
- 4. Truck crossing signs will be required.
- 5. A few trees will need to be removed to from within the State right-of-way to improve corner sight distance.
- 6. A complete environmental document (CEQA) will be needed with the encroachment permit application package.

Prior to preparing the plan set, I would like to have a meeting with your engineer to go over plan set requirements. This can be done by phone.

If you have questions, please call or email.

Respectfully,

Fred Chaffin 530-604-0387

From: Chaffin, Fred N@DOT

Sent: Wednesday, August 15, 2018 11:10 AM

To: dmcmurtry@geofortis.com

**Cc:** Gonzalez, Marcelino@DOT (<a href="mailto:marcelino.gonzalez@dot.ca.gov">marcelino.gonzalez@dot.ca.gov</a>; Stinger Jr, Rob F@DOT (<a href="mailto:rob.stinger@dot.ca.gov">rob.stinger@dot.ca.gov</a>; Pascal, Anthony C@DOT (<a href="mailto:anthony.pascal@dot.ca.gov">anthony.pascal@dot.ca.gov</a>) <a href="mailto:anthony.pascal@dot.ca.gov">anthony.pascal@dot.ca.gov</a>)

**Subject:** LAS-395-9.9 Pozzolan Mine Road Connection

Mr. McMurtry,

Thank you for the call today. As we discussed, here is the link to our encroachment permit application:

http://www.dot.ca.gov/trafficops/ep/docs/Std.\_E.P.\_Application\_(TR-0100).pdf Instructions for completing the application:

http://www.dot.ca.gov/trafficops/ep/docs/encrchpermt\_instruc.pdf

This checklist will be used when we receive your encroachment permit application package:

http://www.dot.ca.gov/trafficops/ep/docs/E.P. App Check List (TR-0402).pdf

The deposit required with your application is \$410.00.

Prior to submitting an encroachment permit application, it would be prudent to schedule a phone conference to discuss the feasibility of utilizing the easterly road connection for 30 to 60 trucks per day. Please let me know when will work best for a phone conference.

Rob / Marci / Tony,

Please see the attached.

I hope we can have a quick meeting to discuss prior to our phone conference with Mr. McMurtry. When the phone conference is set up, I will send you a meeting invitation.

Thank you,

FRED CHAFFIN, Permit Inspector

(530) 604-0387 cell (530) 225-3121 off (530) 225-3097 fax

Mailing Address:

Caltrans District 02 Office of Encroachment Permits, MS#20 1657 Riverside Drive

# Redding CA 96001

http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/traffops/developserv/permits/