
File Code: 1950
Date: December 27, 2019

Dear Interested Party,

The San Bernardino National Forest (SBNF) and San Bernardino County have jointly prepared a Final Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (Final EIR/EIS) for the Butterfield and Sentinel (Butterfield-Sentinel) Limestone Quarries Project (Project). The SBNF Forest Supervisor has prepared a draft Record of Decision that selects the Proposed Action (Alternative 2).

The quarries are located approximately 7.5 miles south of the community of Lucerne Valley and 5.0 miles north of Big Bear Lake within the SBNF in San Bernardino County, California. The existing Butterfield-Sentinel quarries as well as the Project expansions are entirely within portions of approximately 954-acres of unpatented placer claims controlled by Omya and located on public land administered by the Forest Service.

Omya is proposing to develop known limestone resources which would add an additional 40-years to the Butterfield quarry and an additional 20-years to the Sentinel quarry. The Project includes expansion of the existing Butterfield and Sentinel quarries, expansion of associated overburden placement sites, additional internal access roads, and ancillary facilities. The Project does not include any new quarries, new haul roads, or new overburden sites. The proposed expansion would include 30.6-acres of new disturbance at the Butterfield Quarry, and 64.3-acres of new disturbance at the Sentinel Quarry area. The total area of disturbance associated with the Project would be 94.9-acres. Quarry development and expansion would be phased and reclamation would occur concurrently. Project design features and mitigation measures were developed to protect resources.

The Project includes the mining Plan of Operations and Reclamation Plan, a project-specific amendment to the SBNF Forest Plan to reduce the Scenic Integrity Objectives for the project area to 'low', and Travel Management decisions to decommission specified roads within the project area. Project approval by the SBNF is conditioned on the Project's design features and mitigation measures as described in the EIR/EIS.

The final EIR/EIS and draft Record of Decision are available under the Decision tab of the project web page at:

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=32613>.

These documents are also available for viewing by appointment at the Big Bear Ranger Station of the San Bernardino National Forest, at 41374 North Shore Drive, Fawnskin, CA 92333. For assistance or additional information regarding this Project, please contact Scott Eliason at (909) 382-2830, during business hours.



How to Object and Timeframe

This proposed decision is subject to the pre-decisional administrative review process under 36 CFR §218, subparts A and B, which defines the objection process for Forest Service projects not authorized under the Healthy Forests Restoration Act. The opportunity to object ends 45 calendar days following the date of publication of the legal notice in the *San Bernardino Sun*. The publication date of the legal notice in the newspaper of record is the exclusive means for calculating the time to file an objection, and that those wishing to object should not rely upon dates or timeframe information provided by any other source. Regulations prohibit extending the time to file an objection.

Objections will be accepted only from those who have previously submitted written comments regarding the Project during the designated scoping period or the draft EIS comment period. Issues raised in objections must be based on previously-submitted timely, specific written comments regarding the proposed project, unless based on new information arising after designated comment opportunities §218.8(c).

The objection must contain the minimum content requirements specified in §218.8(d), and incorporation of documents by reference is permitted only as provided in §218.8(b). It is the objector's responsibility to ensure timely and complete filing of a written objection with the reviewing officer. All objections are available for public inspection during and after the objection process.

Written objections, including any attachments, must be filed with: Randy Moore, Regional Forester, USDA Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Region, 1323 Club Drive, Vallejo CA 94592, Phone: (707) 562-8737; Fax: (707) 562-9130. The office business hours for those submitting hand-delivered objections are: 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, excluding federal holidays. Electronic objections must be submitted via email, with any attachments provided in a common format (.txt, .rtf, .pdf, .doc, or .docx) to:

objections-pacificsouthwest-regional-office@usda.gov.

Please state "SBNF Omya Project Objection" in the subject line when providing electronic objections, or on the envelope.

Sincerely,

/s/ Kay Wiand
KAY WIAND
Acting Forest Supervisor