

INFORMATION SHEET

WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS ORDER R5-2014-XXXX NEWMAN MINERALS, LLC AND EDWIN LANDS, LLC IRISH HILL QUARRY AMADOR COUNTY

Background

The Irish Hill Quarry (Quarry) is located at 12300 Irish Hill Road, approximately one mile northeast of Lone. The Quarry has been operated without regulation under WDRs since approximately 1981. Currently, the facility is in operation under an Amador County Use Permit adopted in 1988.

The facility mines sand and gravel from gold-rush era dredge tailings deposited from 1860s through the early 1900s. The Quarry has an average production rate of approximately 600 to 1,000 tons per day. The maximum permitted annual production is 120,000 tons per year with a ten-percent exceedance allowed in non-consecutive years.

The site occupies approximately 90 acres on both sides of Dry Creek. The area on the east side of the Creek has already been mined. Currently only approximately 29 acres in the western side of the creek are active operation areas. The Quarry includes mining and stockpile areas, a Wash Plant, four wash water settling ponds, and a Water Storage Pond. The Wash Plant includes rock crushers, screens, a trommel, pumps and a sand screw. The Wash Plant segregates mined materials into different size categories. The finished products include landscape cobble, drain rock, concrete aggregate, and sand. All segregated materials are either sold or stockpiled onsite for reclamation.

Water for aggregate washing and dust control is pumped from the Water Storage Pond. The wash water runoff flows by gravity to the settling Ponds 1 through 4 in series. Water decanted from Pond 4 is returned to the Water Storage Pond for reuse. The washing process functions as a closed-loop and does not discharge wastewater from the site. Water is primarily lost from the operation through evaporation, adherence to processed materials, and pond percolation. The primary source of make-up water is onsite storm water runoff and water pumped from Dry Creek. Water in the Water Storage Pond is composed of clarified water from Pond 4, water from Dry Creek and storm water. No chemicals are used in aggregate processing.

Water samples from the Water Storage Pond were analyzed in April 2013. The analytical results do not exceed potential water quality objectives. However, the Report of Waste Discharge (RWD) did not provide wash water data for iron and manganese. Reducing conditions may or may not occur in the ponds. Aquatic and marginal vegetation growth in any of the ponds could lead to anoxic and reducing conditions, as decaying organic material accumulates at the bottom of the ponds. Reducing conditions in combination with very small particle sizes present in the ponds could mobilize metals that are present in the natural mineral composition of the silts and clays. The Discharge Specifications in this Order will require the Discharger to control pond vegetation to minimize the threat of reducing conditions.

Based on the low threat to groundwater quality, this Order does not require groundwater monitoring. However, this Order imposes groundwater limitations that will ensure that

discharges will not unreasonably threaten present and anticipated beneficial uses or result in groundwater quality that exceeds water quality objectives set forth in the Basin Plan. If additional information becomes available that indicates a significant threat to groundwater quality, groundwater monitoring may be required at some future date.

Planned Changes in the Facility and Discharge

The Use Permit adopted in 1988 requires a 150-foot setback from Dry Creek and limits the depth of mining to ten feet above the mean bottom elevation of Dry Creek. On 14 November 2012, Amador County issued a Use Permit Amendment that adjusted the setback from Dry Creek and the mining depths. The 150-foot setback was adjusted to a new riparian setback (as close as approximately 50 feet from Dry Creek). The depth of mining will increase by approximately 10 to 15 feet, to approximately 257 feet above mean sea level, which is the approximate depth of the man-made sand and gravel dredge deposits.

The RWD states the current active mining area occupies approximately eight acres and is an average of approximately five feet below surrounding areas and acts as a storm water detention basin during storm events. Due to the setback adjustment and mining depth increase allowed by the Use Permit Amendment, the RWD indicates that the capacity of the storm water detention basin will increase. The active mining area will be expanded from eight acres to approximately 15 acres, and the mining depth will increase by approximately 10 to 15 feet. Therefore, the onsite storm water storage will increase from 40 to approximately 225 to 300 acre-feet.

Discharge Prohibitions, Specifications and Provisions

This Order includes groundwater limitations that implement water quality objectives for groundwater from the Basin Plan.

The Monitoring and Reporting Program is designed to verify compliance with the requirements of the WDRs.