Date:
November 19, 2014

Applicant:
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Applicant's Representative:
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Project Name:
Super Creek Quarry Expansion and Reclamation Plan No. 137, WDID NO. 7A333144001

Receiving Water:
Super Creek Wash and unnamed ephemeral drainages

Location:
City or area: Desert Hot Springs, Riverside County, California.
Longitude/Latitude: 33° 57' 7.39" N, 116° 37' 42.58" W

Project Description:
The Super Creek Quarry mines decorative rock. Existing operations are located on approximately 23.8 acres of quarry and approximately 27 acres of inactive tailing slopes within a 105.2 acre property. Painted Hills Mining proposes a 33.4 acre expansion for the development of additional quarry mining, waste placement areas, and sediment basins. The 28.9 acre expansion would provide decorative rock product to serve the local market for the upcoming 25 years. Under the proposed Plan of Operations, the existing extraction rate of 50,000 tons per year (up to 30,000 banked cubic yards (bcy)), including approximately 25,000 tons (16,667 bcy at 1.5 tons per bcy) of waste material would remain in place.

Expansion of Super Creek Quarry would result in impacts to three drainages identified in the *Jurisdictional delineation for the Revised Plan of Operations and Amended Reclamation Plan for the Super Creek Quarry* (Lilburn, August 2013). The proposed mining area would be incrementally expanded. It is anticipated that ground disturbance in all areas will occur within five years.

Implementation of the project would have the following impacts on each of the jurisdictional streams within the expansion footprint.

Drainage A
Under the proposed expansion, quarrying operations would be expanded to the west of the existing quarry to include two small hilltops just west of the existing operations. The new

quarry areas would be mined to a maximum depth of approximately 130 feet in the hill area. The expansion of quarrying operations to the hilltops will impact approximately 0.06 –acres (Drainage A) of an unnamed headwater. The drainage only receives storm water; runoff flows west, down the hilltop to the White Water River.

Drainage A is an ephemeral drainage dominated by upland vegetation along the banks and bed. The vegetation is classified as brittlebush-white bursage series, and the channel receives water only during rain events. Approximately 0.06 acres of the drainage at the top of the hillside would be impacted by the expansion of the quarry.

Drainage C

Under the proposed expansion, two new areas for the placement of waste materials generated by the quarrying operation would be constructed; these include: the Northwest and Southwest Waste Placement Areas.

The proposed Southwest Waste Placement Area would be located on the southwestern portion of the property. The Southwest Waste Placement Area would cover approximately 10 acres and have a capacity of approximately 500,000 cy. The existing access road through this area would be realigned as the area is developed. The waste placement area would be constructed with 2H:1V slopes with 10-foot wide benches at 25-foot vertical intervals.

Construction of the Southwest Waste Placement Area would entail the removal of all loose alluvial soils below the proposed slope. As waste material is removed from the quarry, fill would be placed, not dumped, and spread evenly in thin lifts with conventional heavy equipment.

“Drainage C,” as identified in the Jurisdictional Delineation, would be impacted by the construction of the Southwest Waste Placement Area. Drainage C is an ephemeral drainage dominated by upland vegetation along the banks and bed. The vegetation is classified as brittlebush-white bursage series; the channel receives water only during rain events. Approximately 0.27 acres of streambed associated with the drainage would be impacted by development of the Southwest Waste Placement Area.

Super Creek

Super Creek is located outside the eastern property boundary. The proposed project would construct a pipeline from a detention basin near the northwestern corner of the property, under the existing access road, to Super Creek. The purpose of the pipeline is to provide emergency spillway from the onsite detention basins system.

Under existing conditions, a series of 10 to 12 sedimentation basins exists at the base of the eastern tailings slope. Sedimentation Basin #1 is located at the north end of the slope and sedimentation Basin #12 is located at the south end of the slope. Overflow from each sedimentation basin beginning at Basin #1 is successively directed into the following basin, with Basin #12 being the last in the series. Overflow from Basin #12 is directed south from Basin #12 along the west side of the access road. The discharge leaves the Quarry Boundary when it flows over the access road into Super Creek.

The proposed project would eliminate Basin #1 and would construct a new detention basin with a riser and associated piping. Precipitation that intersects the surface of the Northwest Waste Placement Area is anticipated to be directed through channels and other erosion

control BMPs into the detention basin at the base of the stockpile. Overflow from the detention basin will be directed through a riser and piping and discharged directly to Super Creek, located east of the basin on the opposite side of a dirt access road. Overflow through an emergency spillway will be directed into the existing chain of sedimentation basins along the eastern side of the access road parallel to Super Creek. All storm water on the eastern tailings slopes will eventually discharge into Super Creek.

The proposed basin would be constructed in the uplands and would not result in impacts to jurisdictional waters. The basin bottom will be 20'x25'. The Volume to the top of the riser will be 0.77 acre-feet, the total capacity will be 1.05 acre-feet. The riser and discharge to Super Creek would be activated when flow into the basin exceeds 0.77 acre-feet, if runoff volume exceeds 1.05 acre-feet, flows would be directed south through the existing basin system.

Construction of the pipe outlet would result in direct impacts to Super Creek. Impacts associated with the construction of the pipe outlet were calculated using the Federal Highway Administration Hydraulic Design of Energy Dissipaters for Culverts and Channels (Circular Number 14). The 24-inch pipe outlet would require a culvert extending 10 feet from the pipe outlet out to the channel bottom. Construction of the culvert would permanently impact an approximately 93 ft^2 area (0.002 acres). The rip-rap depth would be approximately 1.65 feet (0.5 m). A total impact area of approximately 435 ft^2 (0.01 acres) is anticipated during construction (0.008 acres temporary impacts for construction + 0.002 acres permanent impacts).

The total permanent impact to jurisdictional waters is 0.332 acres, total temporary impact is 0.008 acres.

Proposed Schedule (Start-up, duration, and completion dates):

The proposed project would begin quarrying activities in an area within the approved mine boundary that would add an approximately 25 year supply of rock material. Quarrying rates would depend on market supply. Ground disturbance that would impact the Drainage A, Drainage C, and the Super Creek bank would occur within five years.

Action:

Pending

Water Board Contact:

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