



BUTTE COUNTY SURFACE MINING AGGREGATE OPERATIONS COMMITTEE ACTION MINUTES

TIME: 1:00 pm

PLACE: Board of Supervisors' Room
County Administration Center
25 County Center Drive
Oroville, CA 95965

I. **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 1:05 pm

II. **ROLL CALL** - Duke Sherwood, Fred Spenger, Jim Brobeck, Rene Vercruyssen and Brian Vickery

Present: Duke Sherwood, Fred Spenger, Jim Brobeck, Rene Vercruyssen

Absent: Brian Vickery

Others Present:

County Counsel: Felix Wannemacher, Chief County Counsel
Development Services: Chuck Thistlethwaite, Planning Division Manager
Rowland Hickel; Senior Planner
Kao Vang, Account Clerk
Jennifer Wakefield, Administrative Assistant, Sr.

III. **SELECTION OF COMMITTEE CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR FOR 2019**

A motion was made by Rene Vercruyssen to nominate Jim Brobeck for Chair.

A motion was made by Jim Brobeck to nominate Rene Vercruyssen for Vice-Chair. A second was made by Fred Spenger.

Vote

Ayes: Jim Brobeck, Rene Vercruyssen, Fred Spenger, Duke Sherwood

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Brian Vickery

IV. **ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA**

Chair Brobeck accepted the agenda with no changes

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Opportunity for members of the public to address the Surface Mining Aggregate Operations Committee on any matter that is within the Committee's area of responsibility, but not on listed on the agenda. Presentations will be limited to five minutes. The Committee is prohibited by State law from taking action on any item presented if it is not listed on the Agenda.

None

VI. ACTION ITEMS AND OTHER ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

The Committee's purpose is to advise the Board of Supervisors on all matters pertaining to surface mining including, but not limited to, mining permit and reclamation plan applications and financial assurances in compliance with the Surface Mining and Reclamation Ordinance and the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act (section 13-103 of Butte County Code). For mining permit and reclamation plan applications, the role of the Committee is to review the permit application, reclamation plan, and financial assurance cost estimate and make recommendations to staff (section 13-106 of Butte County Code). Decisions regarding a proposed mining permit and/or reclamation plan will occur at a public hearing before the Butte County Planning Commission. Persons wishing to address the Committee are requested to complete a speaker card and provide it to Committee staff. It is requested that public comments be addressed to the Chair and limited to a maximum of five minutes so all interested parties will have an opportunity to address the Committee.

A. Discussion of the Purpose and Role of the Surface Mining Aggregate Mining Operations Committee

[Butte County Board of Supervisors Resolution No. 84197](#)

[Butte County Board of Supervisors Resolution No. 99-101](#)

Rowland Hickel presented an overview of the roles and responsibilities of the Committee.

B. Mining Permit and Reclamation Plan MIN16-0002 (M & T Chico Ranch Sacramento River Salmon Gravel Restoration Project)

M & T Chico Ranch, working in partnership with Ducks Unlimited, is proposing a new surface mine and reclamation plan to remove an existing stockpile of alluvial aggregates deposited at the project site during dredging operations conducted in the Sacramento River in 2001 and 2007 for the M&T Chico Ranch/Llano Seco Rancho Fish Screen Facility Short-Term Protection Project. The stockpile currently consists of approximately 300,000 tons of alluvial aggregates located on approximately 8.3 acres of the 12.4-acre project site. Two future dredging operations in the Sacramento River would add another 300,000 tons to the project site during the anticipated 20-year mine life, resulting in a total of up to 600,000 tons of aggregate to be extracted, processed and exported from the site.

Upon completion of the mining operation, disturbed areas within the project site would be revegetated with native grassland species and reclaimed to open space. The project site is located in the unincorporated area of Butte County at 3964 Chico River Road, five miles southwest of the City of Chico; APN: 039-530-018.

1. Staff presentation.
2. Committee questions for staff.
3. Open hearing for public comment, questions, and discussion.
4. Close floor for Committee discussion and recommendations to staff.

Staff Report

Rene Vercruyssen recused himself from this item due to business interactions between Knife River Construction and the M & T Chico Ranch.

*Members of the Public who addressed the Committee
Les Heringer; Manager of M & T Chico Ranch
Matt Teague; California State Parks*

A motion was made by Chair Brobeck to (1) accept the mining permit and reclamation plan, (2) to provide a special focus on the traffic impacts on road surfaces and surrounding area, and (3) for the committee and public to be kept informed of any draft environmental studies that become available for comment, seconded by Fred Spenger.

Vote

Ayes: Fred Spenger, Duke Sherwood and Chair Brobeck

Nays: None

Abstain: Rene Vercruyssen

Absent: Brian Vickery

C. Mining Permit and Reclamation Plan MIN18-0003 (Joint Water Districts Board)

The Joint Water Districts Board (JWDB) is requesting to amend Mining and Reclamation Permit MRP 92-43, and the corresponding reclamation plan for the Vance Avenue #2 mine. The proposal would 1) eliminate the mining of aggregates below groundwater level and the corresponding reclamation obligation to create ponds; and 2) remove Condition No. 13 of MRP 92-43 to eliminate the termination date for the mining operation. The project site is located on the north side of Vance Avenue, 3,000 feet east from Larkin Road, and 2 miles south from the city of Oroville; APNs: 025-280-019 and 025-280-020.

1. Staff presentation.
2. Committee questions for staff.
3. Open hearing for public comment, questions, and discussion.
4. Close floor for Committee discussion and recommendation for staff.

Staff Report

Members of the Public who addressed the Committee

Donnie Stinnett; Joint Water Districts

- *Lease Agreement with the State of California Department of Water Resources property for 30 years of aggregate*
- *Joint Water District's sole purpose of usage for material is for repairing canals and irrigation control.*
- *Community outreach to area residents about when truck traffic would increase*
- *The Joint Water Districts Board has a total of 4 districts, each containing a 10-wheeler truck to transport aggregates*

A motion was made by Chair Brobeck to (1) accept the reclamation plan as written, (2) for the committee and public to be kept informed of any draft environmental studies that becomes available for comment, seconded by Fred Spenger.

Rene Verduyssen amended the motion to advise Staff to look at the financial assurance cost estimate and take note of there being no time limit for the permit, seconded by Fred Spenger.

Vote

Ayes: Fred Spenger, Duke Sherwood, Rene Verduyssen and Chair Brobeck

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Brian Vickery

VII. GENERAL BUSINESS

Opportunity for the Committee members and staff to discuss items of interest or items for which staff has been directed to do research and return back to the committee.

Rowland Hickel opened a discussion about what the Mining Committee would like to see in the future. The expectations of the Committee as well as the need for the Mining Committee Ordinance to be updated to reflect current guidelines and rules. Consensus that Committee members desire to know their role as well as how to conduct themselves in their role as industry representatives of the Mining Committee.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Brobeck adjourned the meeting at 2:38 pm