FINAL
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

SOLEDAD CANYON

SAND AND GRAVEL MINING PROJECT

OEPC #FES-00-18

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
PALM SPRINGS - SOUTH COAST FIELD OFFICE

JUNE 2000

United States Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
California Desert District
6221 Box Springs Boulevard
Riverside, CA 92507-0714

IN REPLY REFER TO:
1795P
CA-066.21

MAY 2 2 2000

Dear Reader:

Enclosed for your review is the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Transit Mixed Concrete (TMC) Company's proposed sand and gravel mining project (Project). This Project is located off of Soledad Canyon Road and State Highway 14, in an unincorporated area of Los Angeles County, California. TMC proposes to produce 56 million tons of sand and gravel over a 20-year period. The Project site is located on "split-estate" lands where the surface is privately owned and the minerals are federally owned and administered by the BLM. Since 1990, when BLM awarded the competitive bid contract to TMC, the BLM has been engaged in analyzing alternatives of how to mine in a manner that minimizes adverse environmental impacts. BLM's Final EIS assesses the environmental impacts of implementing TMC's proposed mining and reclamation plan and several alternatives, in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA). The Draft EIS was released for public review on May 6, 1999, and the Supplement to the Draft EIS (SDEIS) was released November 17, 1999. The public comment period for both of these documents closed January 10, 2000.

The Final EIS incorporates changes based on public comments received on the Draft EIS, SDEIS, and technical appendices, including conformity determination for air quality. The Final EIS also includes responses to written comments received during the public comment period for the DEIS and SDEIS, responses to the BLM public hearing held July 2, 1999, and responses to comments on Los Angeles County's Draft EIR for the Project.

In response to public concerns and changes by TMC, the BLM preferred alternative is identified as the "Reduced North Fines Storage Area Alternative" in order to substantially reduce fugitive dust and diesel exhaust emissions in comparison to the proposed action.

BLM will be rendering a decision on the proposed action no sooner than July 3, 2000. For more information regarding TMC's Project or the Final EIS, contact Ms. Elena Misquez at (760) 251-4810. We appreciate your interest in shared stewardship of the public lands and resources.

Sincerely,

Tim Salt
District Manager

FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

SOLEDAD CANYON SAND AND GRAVEL MINING PROJECT

Prepared for:

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
PALM SPRINGS - SOUTH COAST FIELD OFFICE
690 W. Garnet Avenue
P.O. Box 1260
North Palm Springs, California 92258

Project Applicant:

TRANSIT MIXED CONCRETE COMPANY
1201 West Gladstone Street
Azusa, California 91702

EIS Consultant:

CHAMBERS GROUP, INC.
17671 Cowan Avenue, Suite 100
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JUNE 2000

FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (EIS)

Proposed Transit Mixed Concrete (TMC)
Soledad Canyon Sand and Gravel Mining Project

a. **Lead Agency:** United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
Palm Springs - South Coast Field Office

b. **Proposed Action:** Proposal to mine, produce, and sell sand and gravel resources over a 20-year period as provided in the proposed Mining and Reclamation Plan and pursuant to regulations governing the contracting of mineral rights by TMC from the BLM.

c. **Abstract:** TMC proposes to mine a total of 83 million tons of material and produce and sell approximately 56 million tons of sand and gravel, also known as Portland cement concrete sand and gravel (PCC aggregates), over a 20-year period. The proposed site plan includes a concrete batch plant to produce and deliver ready-mixed concrete to local markets. All proposed mining operations will be located north of Soledad Canyon Road and the Santa Clara River, in Los Angeles County, California.

The proposed mining site is on "split-estate" lands where the minerals are federally owned and administered by the BLM, and where the surface is privately owned. The site is located within the Saugus-Newhall Production-Consumption Region of Los Angeles County, as described in the State Surface Mining and Reclamation Act, and is designated by the state as a "Regionally Significant Construction Aggregate Resource Area." The proposed site carries a Los Angeles County zoning designation of heavy manufacturing under which mineral extraction is allowed.

This Final EIS has been prepared to satisfy the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. The Proposed Action has the potential to significantly impact the environment, necessitating preparation of this EIS prior to approving the Mining and Reclamation Plan proposed by TMC.

This Final EIS also specifies and describes the agency-preferred alternative, which is identified as the Reduced North Fines Storage Area Alternative, with conveyor system mitigation for the North Fines Storage Area.

d. **Comments:** Comments regarding the Proposed Action and the enclosed Final EIS should be sent to the BLM at the address below prior to July 3, 2000.

Mr. James G. Kenna, Field Manager
Bureau of Land Management
Palm Springs - South Coast Field Office
690 W. Garnet Avenue
P.O. Box 1260
North Palm Springs, CA 92258

For further information, please contact Ms. Elena Misquez, BLM, Palm Springs - South Coast Field Office, telephone (760) 251-4810.