

**U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management**

Categorical Exclusion

Wilkin — Pibal Gravel Pit

NVN-093526

PREPARING OFFICE

U.S. Department of the Interior
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Chapter 1. Name

A. Background

BLM Office:

LLNVL030000

Lease/Serial/Case File No.:

NVN-093526

Proposed Action Title/Type:

Wilkin — Pibal Gravel Pit

Location of Proposed Action:

Northwest quarter of Section 21, Township 3 South, Range 56 East, of the Mount Diablo Baseline Meridian

Description of Proposed Action:

Jim Wilkin Trucking LLC has requested a contract for 1 year to remove 8,000 cubic yards of sand and gravel from within the Pibal Community Pit designation. The original NEPA analysis for the community pit did not consider large contracts or the use of heavy equipment. Therefore, new NEPA analysis needs to be prepared before this contract can be issued. The material is readily available as unconsolidated alluvial deposits. The proponent wishes to create a new disturbance within the community pit designation which will require removal of vegetation and salvage of topsoil or available growth medium. The material will be scooped with a loader, or similar type equipment, and placed into a feed. Conveyor belts will move the material into a jaw crusher where larger cobbles will be broken down to four to six inches. The process material ends up on another conveyor where it is transferred into a cone crusher that will break down the material to one inch or less. The material once again is transported on a conveyor belt to a stacker where it is stacked and loaded onto trucks to be hauled out of the pit. The natural stream drainage will not be affected. The pit walls will be sloped at 3:1. Equipment will not remain on site after operations are complete and no permanent structures will be constructed. Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) will be available on site and fuel will be handled according to the appropriate regulations. No new roads will be constructed except for access from the powerline road to the new work area as necessary. This potential new access will be within the community pit disturbance designation. The new disturbance will vary depending on the topographic limits for the exact location within the community pit boundary, but is expected to be approximately 5 acres (or less). The proponent anticipates starting operations by the end of February 2015 and expects the operation to last four to five weeks.

In addition to the proposed action submitted by the proponent. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will attach the following standard stipulations to the contract.

1. Regulations for mineral materials appear in 43 CFR 3600. Information is available on the Ely District BLM web site at: <http://www.nv.blm.gov>, on the left side select District/Field Office/Ely, then On Line Services, Regulations, General Mining Law or by calling the Caliente Field Office at (775) 726-8100.

2. The purchaser will possess a copy of the Mineral Material Sales Contract from the BLM and present it for examination upon the verbal request of the authorized officer or any of his agents.
3. Removal of mineral material and associated operations will be restricted to the disturbed area within existing pit boundaries. Any proposed excavations outside existing pit or to enlarge existing pit require prior written authorization with the Caliente Field Office Manager. Permission to open new excavations may or may not be granted at the discretion of the Caliente Field Office, Ely District.
4. All overhanging or vertical banks greater than 3 feet high will be reshaped to a 3:1 ratio before leaving pit area.
5. Removal of mineral material using explosives, front loaders or other heavy equipment requires a written Plan of Operation and written approval.
6. All vegetative clearing will be held to the minimum necessary to accommodate the planned operation. To provide for effective rehabilitation of the disturbed areas, all available growth medium, as practical, will be removed and stockpiled.
7. Spill kits will be available (provided by the proponent) onsite at all times. Spills will be cleaned up immediately and disposed of at an appropriate facility. Reporting of spills to BLM and EPA will follow regulatory standards.
8. All survey monuments, witness corners, and reference monuments must be protected against destruction, obliteration, or damage. Any damaged or obliterated markers must be reestablished in accordance with accepted survey practices at the expense of the permittee.
9. When antiquities or other objects of historical or scientific interest, including historic or prehistoric ruins, vertebrate fossils, or artifacts are discovered, they will be left intact and immediately brought to the attention of the Caliente Field Manager or representative.
10. If human remains are inadvertently discovered during project operations, all operations shall cease and the Caliente Field Manager or their representative will be notified immediately.
11. Operator shall make every effort to prevent, control or suppress any fire in the operating area. Reports of uncontrolled fires will be relayed immediately to the Caliente Field Office at (775) 726-8100 or the Lincoln County Sheriff's office at (775) 962-5151.
12. All Federal, State, and local air quality standards will be adhered to while conduction operations in the pit area. In the case of large operations, operating permits may be required by the State of Nevada. Dust abatement measures may be required for large operations.
13. All trash, garbage, debris and foreign matter must be removed and properly disposed. Site must be maintained and left in a clean and safe condition.
14. Use only existing roads and trails.

In addition, the following stipulations will be followed with regards to existing rights of way in the project area:

1. Several rights-of ways (NVN 6286, NVN 12493, NVN 22164) run northwest-southeast through the project area including overhead transmission lines, buried cables, and buried

water pipelines. Operations should remain a minimum of 20 feet from these features. It is the proponents responsibility to identify and avoid buried utilities.

2. Another overhead transmission line right-of-way (NVN 16673) runs northeast-southwest through the southwest corner of the community pit and intersects the utility corridor mentioned in item 1 above. This powerline should be avoided by a minimum of 15 feet.
3. Should operations cause instability or damage to the utility lines (buried or overhead), operations shall cease immediately. Warning indicators should be placed if safe to do so, and the BLM authorized officer shall be contacted immediately in order to notify the appropriate parties and help develop a plan to correct the issue and move forward.

B. Land Use Plan Conformance

Land Use Plan Name:

Ely District Resource Management Plan

Date Approved/Amended:

August 2008

The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUP because it is specifically provided for in the following LUP decision(s):

MIN-17: Open to mineral materials – Allow disposal of mineral materials on approximately 9.9 million acres of federal mineral estate, subject to best management practices.

The proposed action is in conformance with the LUP, even though it is not specifically provided for, because it is clearly consistent with the following LUP decision(s) (objectives, terms, and conditions) :

C. Compliance with NEPA:

The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 516 DM 11.9, as outlined in the BLM NEPA Handbook (H1790-1), Appendix 4, section F, item 10: Disposal of mineral materials, such as sand, stone, gravel, pumice, pumicite, cinders, and clay, in amounts not exceeding 50,000 cubic yards or disturbing more than 5 acres, except in riparian areas.

This categorical exclusion is appropriate in this situation because there are no extraordinary circumstances potentially having effects that may significantly affect the environment. The proposed action has been reviewed, and none of the extraordinary circumstances described in 516 DM 2 apply.

I considered:

D. Approval and Contact Information

Kenneth J. Crane
Kenneth J. Crane
Field Manager (Acting)

2/25/15
Date

Contact Person