



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Phoenix District

Lower Sonoran Field Office

21605 North 7th Avenue

Phoenix, Arizona 85027

www.blm.gov/az/

JAN 30 2013

Proposed Mineral Sales

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Lower Sonoran Field Office seeks your input now through February 15, 2013, on a proposed mining extension project near Florence, Arizona. The BLM is conducting public scoping for an Environmental Assessment (EA) to determine potential impacts of the proposed project on the human environment.

PURPOSE AND NEED FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

The BLM granted a five-year non-competitive mineral materials sales contract to JADAAL, LLC at its Queen Creek Quarry located at 9390 E. Hiller Road, Florence, Arizona 85132. JADAAL subcontracts with Southwest Rock Products (SWRP) for the extraction and processing of volcanic aggregate material, which is crushed and screened into various sizes for use in the asphalt, concrete ready-mix, road base, pipeline fill, and erosion control products industries. JADAAL seeks to extend operations for an additional ten-years, which would increase the overall volume of its mineral production. JADAAL however, does not foresee an increase in the daily production rate of mineral extraction.

Under the Federal Land Policy Management Act (FLPMA) and the Materials Act of July 31, 1947, commonly referred to as the Materials Act, the BLM must respond to submissions of Mineral Material Contract Applications pursuant to the regulations at 43 CFR 3600. The decision to be made is whether or not to approve the mineral material sale.

The proposed increase of mineral volume in the amount of 1,000,000 tons over the ten-year period requires that the BLM seek bids for this sales contract through a competitive bidding process.

PROPOSED PROJECT PLAN

The subject lands are located in the SE/4 Section 12 and NE/4 Section 13, T. 4 S., R. 8 E. G&SR, Pinal County, Arizona. Quarry expansion will occur south and east of the existing quarry within Section 13, T. 4 S., R. 8 E. Long-term expansion would impact parts of SE/4 Section 12, T. 4 S., R. 8 E, and SE/4 Section 7 & NW/4 Section 18, T. 4 S., R. 9 E. (see enclosed map). JADAAL is already permitted to use 640 acres of federal public lands for its five-year non-competitive mineral production, though it is currently conducting operations on only 103 acres. The firm projects that if its proposed extension occurs under a competitive bid scenario, long-term pit expansions would extend the footprint by 79 acres. Along with continued mineral extraction, the

expansion allows for storage of mineral stockpiles and preserves a buffer zone along the perimeter of active operations. Residents should also know JADAAL's operations extend onto 150 acres of adjacent state and private land.

JADAAL, LLC, recently acquired operations at the Queen Creek Quarry site from the previous owner, Arizona Pacific Materials, LLC (APM) in early 2011. APM began producing volcanic mineral materials from its Pinal County Queen Creek quarry in 1999 when they purchased the assets of Phoenix Cinders, Inc., who had produced cinders at the site for concrete block manufacture since 1996. Operations have continued on the property since, with a series of subsequent sales contracts.

Currently, excavation is performed by first drilling and blasting of the exposed basalt, which is conducted by contractors. Broken rock is then loaded by an Excavator into a primary tracked crushing plant which crushes the rock to an ~8" minus size. Primary crushed material is then loaded by a wheel loader into a 40-ton capacity haul truck for transport to the main crushing and screening plant, which is located adjacent to the active pit. The material is then washed, sized, and stockpiled, until it is delivered to market. A truck scale has been installed on adjacent private land, to provide exact weights of materials being sold and shipped. Waste materials are stockpiled at various locations with the majority being used in reclamation of the former cinder quarry located to the north of the basalt pit in Section 12, T. 4 S., R. 8 E. No chemicals are used in processing of quarried material. Some of the material fines are washed with clean water accessed from the Central Arizona Project (CAP) irrigation system. Water from the CAP is also used for dust control in the quarry, the crushing and screening plant, as well as on all access and haul roads.

Storm water runoff at the active mining areas is retained on-site, with the quarry pit(s) providing retention. No significant runoff is allowed to discharge to undisturbed areas of the site. Non-storm wash water used in the washing of the crushed rock is not mixed with storm water runoff. The wash water is disposed of in two infiltration basins located on the central portion of the site near the crushing and screening plant.

Local access to the facility is along a private dirt road heading southeasterly from Arizona Farms Road at a point approximately 2.4 miles east of Hunt Highway. The quarry site, located within BLM managed lands, lies approximately 1 ½ miles south of Arizona Farms Road, just west of the Southern Pacific Railway track. Temporary access to the southern boundary of the federal property is gained by driving east from Hunt Highway along Franklin Road for about one mile, thence north along a dirt access road located on federal lands. To minimize truck traffic along Franklin Road, an alternate access road on federal lands is proposed north of Franklin Road (see map). This access road would extend for approximately one mile, ultimately tying directly to the Hunt Highway.

Based on current estimates, JADAAL anticipates mining operations to continue through 2021. Continued operations would maintain employment for the staff connected to the operation. SWRP currently employs three full time employees on-site. An increase in market demand may require the addition of more staff. Potential employees include a general manager, sales manager, production supervisor, loader and haul truck operators, crusher operator, excavator and mobile track jaw operator, lead equipment mechanic, and fuel and lube assistant.

YOUR FEEDBACK

Assessment of environmental impacts are being considered, including, but not limited to, wildlife, cultural resource values, range (grazing) management, air quality, water quality, and wastes, hazardous & solid. Your feedback on this project proposal and mitigation is requested. For consideration, please submit comments on the proposed project by February 15, 2013. Comments may be submitted via email to: blm_az_pdominerals@blm.gov, or via mail to:

BLM, Lower Sonoran Field Office
Attn: Queen Creek Quarry Sale Project Lead
21605 North 7th Avenue
Phoenix, AZ 85027

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment – including your personal identifying information – may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

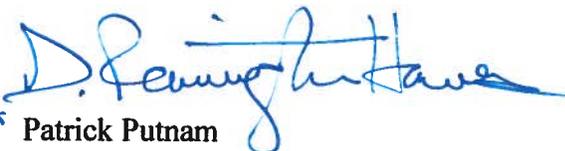
TIMELINE

The BLM will accept and review public comments now through February 15, 2013. Once the Environmental Assessment is complete, the BLM will solicit bids for the sale, by advertising in a local newspaper, and distributing a copy of the sales notice to interested parties. The sale date, minimum bid, bid deposit, and appraised value will be defined in the Request for Bid notice. Sealed bids will be accepted once the bid notice has been posted. Information regarding the sale and the final EA will be posted on our website at:

http://www.blm.gov/az/st/en/fo/lower_sonoran_field.html

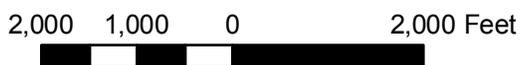
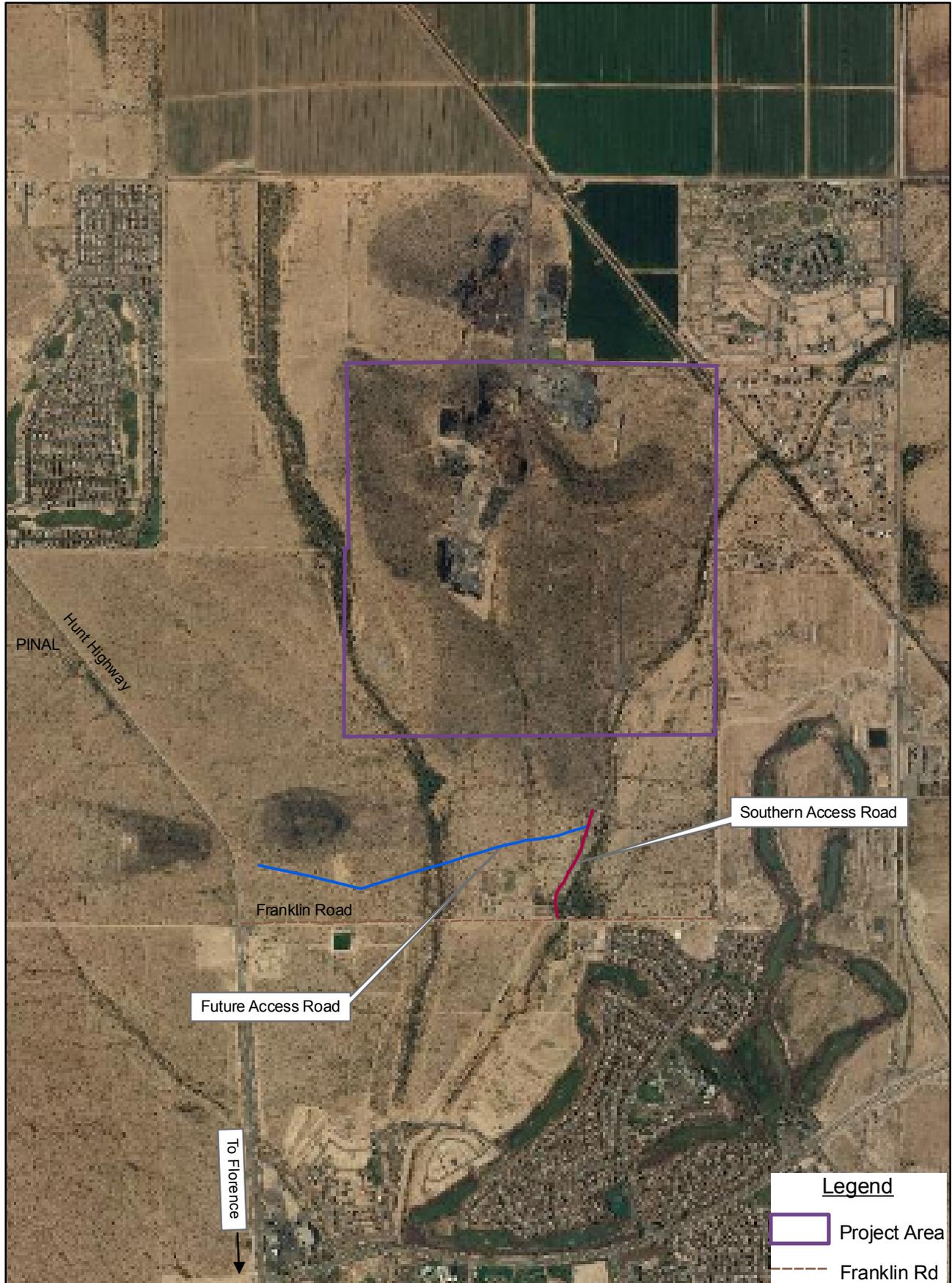
Thank you for your participation.

Sincerely,


for Patrick Putnam
District Manager

Enclosures

JADAAL Queen Creek Quarry



Overall Site Map

JADAAL Queen Creek Quarry



1,000 500 0 1,000 Feet

Project Site Map