

**United States Department of the Interior  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT**

**El Centro Field Office**

1661 South 4<sup>th</sup> Street

El Centro, CA 92243

[www.blm.gov/ca/elcentro/](http://www.blm.gov/ca/elcentro/)

In Reply Refer To:

CA-670-07-083/ DOI-BLM-CA-D070-2011-0063-EA/ CACA-49293/ 8100 (P)

**Memorandum**

To: Field Manager, El Centro Field Office (CA-670)

From: Archaeologist, El Centro Field Office (CA-670)

Subject: Agency Findings and Determinations under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act

Project: Gibson Aggregate Quarry Project, Imperial Valley, California

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) El Centro Field Office (ECFO) proposes to allow Superior Ready Mix/Ryerson (Superior Ready Mix) to extract and remove 850,000 tons of mineral materials (mainly sand with minor but associated gravel) over the course of 10 years from a 43.8-acre area (Oat Pit site) on BLM lands located in south central Imperial County, approximately eight miles east of Holtville, California. Superior Ready Mix's purpose for this project is to produce mineral materials in Imperial County in order to meet infrastructure and commercial needs for aggregate in the market area.

Mining of sand and gravel resources would involve excavation equipment such as a tracked dozer and front-end loader. The dozer is utilized for the excavating and pushing of the materials, stockpiling, road construction, and minor reclamation. The dozer pushes materials by peeling away gravel in 18 inch deep layers to assist in breakdown of the consolidated material. The dozer pushes material down slope a maximum distance of 200 feet (averaging 100 feet), maintaining all cut slopes at a minimum of 4 horizontal to 1 vertical (25 percent slope), the final slope profile at the end of mining operations. All excavation operations would be conducted in such a manner that maintains the surface expression of the each phase operation at topographic profiles required for reclamation. No explosives are required in the conduct of mine operations. Material would be moved to the processing facility by front-end loader.

ASM Affiliates, Inc. (ASM) conducted an intensive Class III cultural resources survey of the project Area of Potential Effect (APE); the results of the investigation are documented in ASM's August 2011 report *A Cultural Resources Survey on the East Shore of Lake Cahuilla: The Gibson Aggregate Quarry Project, Imperial County, California*, prepared for the project. ASM recorded two new archaeological sites and relocated eight of 10 previously recorded sites within the APE. ASM recommends avoidance of all archaeological sites located within the APE; BLM concurs with this recommendation.

The BLM conducted informal tribal consultation with the Cocopah Indian Tribe for this project. In an email dated August 22, 2011, Jill McCormick, Cultural Resources Manager for the tribe stated the tribe has no comment on the project.

Pursuant to the *State Protocol Agreement Between The California State Director of The Bureau of Land Management And The California State Historic Preservation Officer* (2007) and in accordance with 36 CFR Part 800, BLM professional cultural resources staff have reviewed this undertaking and have made the following recommendations regarding historic properties that may be affected.

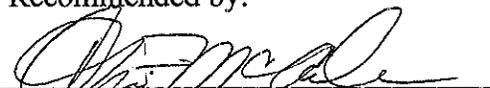
The BLM makes the following finding for this undertaking:

The BLM finds that there will be *no adverse effect on historic properties* by this undertaking.

Archaeological site avoidance would include a 10 meter buffer beyond all site boundaries. Any permanent site barriers, such as environmental fencing, would be constructed under the direction of a qualified archaeologist prior to the commencement of sand and gravel extraction activities to ensure no incidental or accidental impacts to the sites would occur.

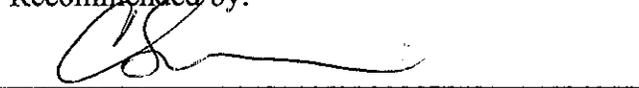
This memorandum documents the recommendations of the cultural resources staff, the acceptance of these recommendations by the Agency Official (as defined in 36 CFR §800.2(a), Protection of Historic Properties), and constitutes the formal statement of Agency findings and determinations for Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act as implemented in the *Protocol*. In accordance with the *Protocol*, BLM has satisfied its responsibilities to take into account the effects of this undertaking on historic properties that may be included or eligible for listing in the NRHP.

Recommended by:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Archaeologist, El Centro Field Office

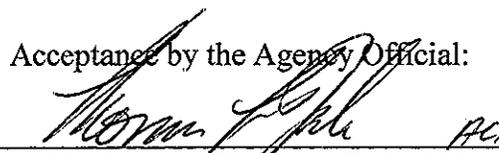
8/25/11  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Recommended by:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Reviewing Archaeologist, El Centro Field Office

8/24/11  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Acceptance by the Agency Official:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Field Manager, El Centro Field Office

8/25/2011  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date