

October 7, 2022

County of Sonoma 2550 Ventura Avenue Santa Rosa, CA 95403

SUBJECT: APPLICATION FOR USE PERMIT AND RECLAMATION PLAN AMENDMENT FOR ASPHALT FACILITY AT CANYON ROCK QUARRY

Dear Permit Sonoma Staff,

Canyon Rock Company, Inc. (Canyon Rock) is pleased to submit this application to add an asphalt facility as a component of our family-owned quarry located in Forestville, CA. The application is for a use permit and reclamation plan amendment on two parcels adjacent to the operating quarry using an existing approved quarry access along Highway 116. The proposed project is based on many months of equipment reviews and site planning work to assemble an appropriately designed and scaled project that meets Canyon Rock's intent for long term environmental sustainability of quarry operations. The submittal is structured as an amendment to our existing approved mining and reclamation plan and relies on many of the same performance standards. This approach is consistent with the California Surface Mining and Reclamation Act under Section 3502(d).

Canyon Rock has long recognized the inefficiency of aggregates being hauled into Santa Rosa or Healdsburg for use in making asphalt (95% of asphalt mix by weight is made of aggregates) only to then be transported again to construction destinations. By co-locating asphalt production with the raw aggregate supplies produced at the quarry, double handling and hauling will be eliminated. The benefits of this would be particularly pronounced for construction projects located in west County. For these projects, haul truck trips through Forestville, and other communities along the Highway 116 corridor east of Forestville, would be reduced by eliminating the hauling of aggregates from the quarry to satellite asphalt plants along the Highway 101 corridor, and then back again to Forestville and other west County destinations. Existing and future truck traffic will be reduced, and well as related air emissions including greenhouse gas emissions. These environmental benefits will also give local projects using asphalt (the majority of which are publicly funded projects) an advantage in obtaining state funding, for which the decisions on contract awards are increasingly factoring in the environmental footprint of building materials (including asphalt) through the use of environmental product declaration (EPD) requirements. Additionally, the facility would install state-of-the-art technology that controls odors, minimizes noise, is fuel-efficient, and minimizes air emissions. Lighting and hours of operation would be within those permitted at the existing quarry operation.

Importantly, Canyon Rock is not proposing any changes to the operation or production levels at the approved quarry. Rock that would otherwise go out the gate as processed aggregates would instead be sold as asphaltic concrete that would go directly to a construction project. No mining is proposed on the new parcels; they are to be leveled for the asphalt facility and graded slopes immediately re-soiled and revegetated. Aesthetic compatibility with the Highway 116 scenic corridor has been carefully considered by lowering the facility footprint elevation to preserve existing views using the screening provided by the intervening berm and vegetation. The facility will enhance Canyon Rock's ability to incorporate recycling, thereby also helping Sonoma County comply with AB 2953 recently signed into law promoting recycling of aggregates products including asphaltic concrete.

We look forward to coordinating with the Department as it completes the review of this application.

Sincerely,

Jonathon Trappe

Canyon Rock Quarry Operations Manager