



COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

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TOM BURNS, PLANNING DIRECTOR

July 23, 2009

Planning Commission
County of Santa Cruz
701 Ocean Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Agenda Date: August 26, 2009

Item #: 6.1

Time: After 9 AM

Subject: Olympia Quarry Habitat Conservation Plan status

Members of the Commission:

As discussed at the July 22, 2009 Planning Commission meeting, prior to completing reclamation of the Olympia Quarry issuance of a permit from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) is required. The permit is necessary to authorize reclamation activities that may harm federally protected species that occur within the area proposed for reclamation. The Quarry operator, CEMEX submitted an application to the Ventura field office of the USFWS on December 31, 2008, which includes a Draft Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP). Issuance of the federal permit is contingent on review and approval of the HCP by the USFWS.

As requested by the Commission, I have spoken with Douglas Cooper, biologist with the USFWS responsible for reviewing the Draft HCP for Olympia Quarry regarding the timeline to complete their review and issue the permit. He is apologetic for the amount of time it has taken to complete the first review of the HCP, which is due to a heavy workload, prioritization of work by the regional office and low staffing. However, he estimates that he can complete his review by the end of August 2009. At that point it will become clearer when to expect issuance of the permit. Staff will provide the Commission with a further update following receipt of results of the first review of the HCP by the Service with further information on the timeline for issuance of the federal permit.

Sincerely,

David Carlson
Resource Planner
Environmental Planning