

**NOTICE OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (EIR)**  
**SCOPING MEETING**

The County of Ventura, as the Lead Agency pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), is in the process of preparing an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) to evaluate the environmental impacts of two Major Modifications (Case Nos. LU04-0055 and LU04-0072) to a Conditional Use Permit for the Ozena Valley Ranch Mine (Case No. CUP 5170-1). The Planning Division determined that the project (individually and cumulatively) may have a significant effect on the environment and an EIR is required. Pursuant to the *State CEQA Guidelines* [California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Chapter 3, §15082(c)(1), §15206(b)(5), and §15380], the project is of statewide, regional, or area-wide significance and, therefore, the Resource Management Agency (RMA), Planning Division, will be conducting a scoping meeting for the EIR. All interested persons, affected agencies, responsible agencies, and trustee agencies are invited to attend the scoping meeting in order to assist the RMA, Planning Division, identify any issues that should be addressed in the EIR and to provide comments on the scope of analysis of the EIR.

The scoping meeting will be held on **May 6, 2009, at 6:00 PM**, in the Chaparral High School Auditorium, which is located at 414 E. Ojai Avenue, Ojai, CA 93023.

**Project Name/Number:** Ozena Valley Ranch Mine and Aquaculture Project, Major Modification Case Nos. LU04-0055 and LU04-0072; Related Conditional Use Permit Case No. CUP 5170-1.

**Project Location:** The proposed project site is located within the northern portion of the unincorporated area of Ventura County, within Lockwood Valley, approximately 1.2 miles east of the State Route ("SR") 33 and Lockwood Valley Road intersection. The street address for the proposed project site is 2710 Lockwood Valley Road, and the Assessor's Parcel Number ("APN") for the project site is 002-0-140-075. The project site is located at N1/2 NW1/4 S20 T7N, R23W, Reyes Peak, California Quadrangle [USGS 7.5-minute Series Topographic Map], and at approximately 34.69215° North, 119.34596° West.

**Project Description (Summary):** The proposed project consists of the: (1) continued use and expansion of the Ozena Valley Ranch Mine, which is an aggregate mine and processing facility; and, (2) introduction of aquaculture activities on the project site. Mining activities will consist of the: continued excavation of a nine-acre stockpond; excavation of a new 15-acre stockpond; importation of recyclable materials for processing into construction grade aggregate materials; and, importation of aggregate materials for processing. Aquaculture is proposed as an end use of the stockponds. The



aquaculture operations would include raising for sale trout, bass, catfish, and other California Department of Fish and Game-approved species in the stockponds. Gambusi would be raised in separate, above-ground, self-contained vessels. (For a more detailed project description, please see the Notice of Preparation for the proposed project, which is available on-line at: <http://www.ventura.org/rma/planning/pdf/enviro/NOP-Ozena.pdf>.)

**Potentially Significant Impacts for Analysis in the EIR:** The RMA, Planning Division, determined that the proposed project has the potential to create significant, adverse impacts related to the following, which must be analyzed as part of the EIR:

- Transportation/circulation, due to impacts related to the level of service and safety hazards from project-generated traffic along SR 33;
- Hydraulic hazards/flooding, due to development activities within proximity to the Cuyama River;
- Noise, due to the exposure of noise-sensitive receptors to project-generated noise;
- Biological resources, due to potential impacts to: endangered, threatened, or rare species; wetland habitat; wildlife migration corridors; and, locally important species/communities;
- Glare, due to project-generated lighting;
- Visual resources, due to the project's proximity to Lockwood Valley Road (an eligible scenic highway) and impacts to a scenic area (Lockwood Valley) and scenic features (e.g., the Cuyama River);
- Archaeology, due to potential impacts to subsurface resources;
- Air Quality, due to dust generation, as well as equipment and vehicular air emissions; and,
- Climate change, due to equipment and vehicular air emissions, and energy consumption.

**Availability of the Notice of Preparation:** The Notice of Preparation that was prepared for the proposed project may be viewed on-line at: <http://www.ventura.org/rma/planning/pdf/enviro/NOP-Ozena.pdf>. Alternatively, you may obtain a copy of this document by contacting Dan Klemann, M.A., Senior Planner, at (805) 654-3588 or via email at [daniel.klemann@ventura.org](mailto:daniel.klemann@ventura.org).

If you have questions and/or would like to meet with County staff to discuss the contents of this notice, please contact Mr. Klemann using the contact information provided above.

  
Kimberly L. Rodriguez, Planning Director