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June 11, 2014

Ms. Emma Howard
Los Angeles County, Department of Regional Planning
320 W. Temple Street, Room 1354
Los Angeles, CA 90012

sent via e-mail and US Mail

RE: Significant Ecological Areas update, requesting surface mining exemption

Dear Ms. Howard,

Thank you for meeting with Granite Construction Company (Granite) regarding the proposed SEA expansion areas. As discussed, the current draft ordinance will have significant impacts to our operations and general aggregate availability within Los Angeles County (County). We are concerned that, unless revised, the draft SEA Ordinance will discourage the production, investment, and development of local mineral resources, resulting in an increase in importation of aggregate materials from outside the County.

Encouraging locally sourced aggregate materials provides many economic and environmental benefits over imported materials:

- Reduced construction costs due to short haul distances,
- Reduced greenhouse gas emissions associated with trucking distances,
- Reduced road congestion associated with material hauling, and
- Reduced road pavement deterioration from heavy truck traffic.
- Increased local employment

Granite notes that, as stated in Public Resource Code Section 2711 (d-f), the State of California encourages locally sourced aggregate:

- (d) The Legislature further finds that the production and development of local mineral resources that help maintain a strong economy and that are necessary to build the state's infrastructure are vital to reducing transportation emissions that result from the distribution of hundreds of millions of tons of construction aggregates that are used annually in building and maintaining the state.*
- (e) The Legislature further finds and recognizes the need of the state to provide local governments, metropolitan planning organizations, and other relevant planning agencies with the information necessary to identify and protect mineral resources within general plans.*
- (f) The Legislature further finds that the state's mineral resources are vital, finite, and important natural resources and the responsible protection and development of these mineral resources is vital to a sustainable California.*

The Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1975 (SMARA) balances mine development with post mining reclamation resulting in minimal project impacts when reclamation is complete. Granite notes that the SEA Ordinance exempts uses which have supplemental regulations that balance development and preservation within the SEA areas.

Granite requests that the draft SEA Ordinance be revised to exempt SMARA compliant facilities, and future SMARA regulated projects.

Please feel free to contact me at (661) 387-7735 or william.taylor@gcinc.com to further discuss our request and concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'BTaylor', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Bill Taylor
Resource Development Project Manager
Granite Construction Company