

contained within the property. Deposits classified as MRZ-2 for PCC-grade aggregate contains crushed rock resources that meet the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) specifications for use as PCC-grade aggregate. Deposits classified as MRZ-2 for base aggregate contains resources that meet Caltrans specifications for use as aggregate base (California Department of Conservation 1988).

Quarry operations began in the 1920's and operated intermittently during the first half of the century, with steady production in 1954. The amended mining plan, incorporating the westerly 80 acres, allows recovery of up to an estimated 125 million net tons of rock with approximately 2 to 4 million tons mined per year, depending on market conditions. Mining will continue until no remaining product is available or until 2038, whichever occurs first (RGP Planning & Development Services 2003).

MINING OPERATION AND CLOSURE UNDER THE PROPOSED RECLAMATION PLAN

Mining Operations Under The Proposed Reclamation Plan

The proposed Reclamation Plan contains four goals and objectives (see Figures 3 through 6): (1) the creation of natural looking landforms that blend into the native environment; (2) implementation of concurrent reclamation; (3) revegetation of the site using native species; and (4) the establishment of self-sustaining ecology.

Overburden Removal

The term "overburden" generally refers to material that overlies a useful mineral deposit. Overburden consists of clay, decomposed granite, partially decomposed rock and potentially other organic materials that vary in volume and consistency. Due to the nature and consistency of the overburden, this product is unusable to make saleable construction grade aggregates; therefore, it is removed prior to any mining of raw products. Figure 7 shows a baseline map of the Azusa Rock Quarry, with roads already in place for overburden removal on the west side of the quarry.

Most, if not all overburden removal near the natural ground surface will be removed by a track dozer pushing material to a collection point, where wheeled loaders will load the rock into haul trucks for transport to the crushing and conveying system. As overburden mining approaches the western quarry boundary, pushing by the dozer will only be done eastward toward the center of the quarry and not toward the west (see Figure 8). To ensure that no material is inadvertently spilled toward the west, the final few feet of each excavation bench will be carefully pulled eastward and onto the bench by a backhoe excavator.

Primary Crushing

Freshly-mined rock (pit-run material) will be processed (reduction to a size of 6 inches) by an on-site primary crusher prior to placement on the existing overland conveyor for transport to the Reliance aggregate processing plant in the neighboring City of Irwindale. Primary crushing will