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DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND LAND USE

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NOTICE

Statement of Potential Reasons for the Elimination of Access to a State-classified Area of Identified Mineral Resource Significance (MRZ-2)

Project Name: Club Estates Major Subdivision (31 lots plus 1 open space lot),
TM 5499 RPL2

Project Location: The project site is located on Highway 76 in the Pala-Pauma Community Planning Area, within unincorporated San Diego County. It is located approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile southeast of the intersection of Highway 76 and Cole Grade Road.

Date: September 25, 2008

PURPOSE OF NOTICE:

This notice is required by Section 2763 of the California Surface Mining and Reclamation Act (SMARA). This SMARA section requires that prior to approval of a project that "would threaten the potential to extract minerals" in an area that contains mineral deposits of regional or statewide significance, the lead agency (i.e. the County) shall prepare a statement specifying its reasons for permitting the proposed use. In addition to public circulation, this statement must be provided to the State Geologist and the State Mining and Geology Board for review and comment.

Comments on the project related to mineral resource issues should be directed to Larry Hofreiter at Larry.Hofreiter@sdcounty.ca.gov or at the above address. The comment period begins on September 25, 2008 and ends at 4:30 p.m. on October 25, 2008.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Project Description:

The Club Estates project is under review by the County of San Diego and would include a maximum of 31 residential lots plus one open space lot on a 48.31-acre site. Approximately 8.5 acres would be set aside to preserve habitat for the Arroyo Toad as an open space lot.

Potentially available mineral resources on MRZ-2 lands:

The project site has been designated by the State Mining and Geology Board as an area that contains mineral resources of regional or statewide significance (i.e. Mineral Resource Zone 2). However, because there are existing single family residences and a golf course adjacent to and within 100 feet of the project site, mining would not be a compatible use given setback requirements and environmental issues associated with noise, traffic, air quality and visual resources and impacts to sensitive species and their habitat.

Potential project impacts on the MRZ-2 Area:

The project would effectively eliminate access for mineral extraction of regionally significant resources (MRZ-2) on site because the project would record 8.5 acres of land along the San Luis Rey River containing significant and federally, state, and locally protected biological resources as an open space lot and develop 31 residential lots on the remaining 40 acres.

POTENTIAL REASONS FOR THE COUNTY TO PERMIT THE PROPOSED PROJECT

The County of San Diego has not completed its review of the proposed Club Estates project. The potential reasons for project approval listed below are provided to elicit comment from interested parties and State agencies on the issue of the loss of access to important mineral resources. These reasons do not reflect any recommendation by County staff or any discussion or determination by the County decision-makers.

1. **Land Use:** Mining operations in the designated MRZ-2 area would be incompatible with existing land uses in the surrounding area. Immediately adjacent to the project site there are existing single family residences ranging in size from 15,000 sq ft. to 3-acre lot sizes. The project site is also immediately adjacent to an existing golf course.
2. **Biological Open Space:** The 8.5 acre area proposed for biological open space runs along the San Luis Rey River which is known to contain the Arroyo Toad, a federally endangered species. The biological open space would help contribute to the long-term viability of this sensitive species.

3. **Housing:** The proposed project would provide 31 residential units and contribute to the region's housing stock.
4. **Road Improvements:** The proposed project would contribute to the safety of motorists along SR-76 by relocating utility poles along a portion of SR-76. The proposed project would also improve intersections in the vicinity.