

March 18, 2005

Marcel Uzegbu, P.E.  
City of Oakland  
250 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, Suite 4314  
Oakland, California 94612

RE: Leona Quarry, Weekly Biological Summary Report  
ER 01-33 SCH No. 1999042052

Dear Mr. Uzegbu:

This report summarizes all construction monitoring activities and inspections conducted by the biological construction monitor at Leona Quarry for the period of March 11 through March 18, 2005 during ongoing construction activities. No grading work occurred outside the exclusion fence during this period.

On March 14, WRA continued a pre-construction breeding bird survey and Alameda whipsnake visual survey in the Ridgemont basin area and along the completed North Slope exclusion fence extension. These surveys were conducted following hand-clearing of vegetation and in anticipation of April vegetation removal in accordance with the SSSMMP. No special status or common birds were found to be nesting in the area of the vegetation clearing; however, it is important to remove slash piles as soon as possible to preclude their use by nesting birds, and as cover by whipsnakes. As of March 18, slash piles were still present along the new exclusion fence on the North Slope, and in the vicinity of Ridgemont Basin. If slash is not removed the same day it is cut, these slash piles should be inspected by a biological monitor immediately prior to removal. Burrows and open ground were inspected for evidence of whipsnake occupancy. No whipsnakes were observed in the area cleared of vegetation.

The herp exclusion fence was inspected on March 14 and 18. Although the existing fence is in compliance with the SSSMMP, new segments that were scheduled for construction have not been completed. These include the southerly North Slope extension, and the emergency vehicle access road segment. The need for these segments was discussed with the foreman on March 11. On March 18, WRA was informed that work on these segments would be completed as soon as possible. The new North Slope segments replace the horizontal North Slope bench segment, which was removed during this period. During the weekly inspection conducted by Essex, it was determined that the northerly North Slope extension would be more effective if it extended further upslope.

Removal of the black plastic erosion control material on the North Slope bench will require the presence of a biological monitor to inspect for whipsnakes. Areas of initial ground disturbance, which will commence in mid-April, will require the full-time presence of the biological monitor. The foreman is communicating with WRA regarding the initial ground disturbance schedule.

No Alameda whipsnakes or nesting special status bird species were observed during the monitoring activities described above.

Sincerely,

Michael Josselyn  
President

cc: Kent Peyton  
Peter Helseth  
David Chapman  
Charley Lella  
Scott Huntsman  
Matt Weinand  
Mark Cassady