

CHAPTER 1.0 INTRODUCTION

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This document contains all comments, received during the public review period, on the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Off-Channel Mining Plan (OCMP or Plan), and written responses to those comments. The proposed project is the adoption of the OCMP and ordinances to regulate mining adjacent to Cache Creek, outside the creek channel. The draft OCMP addresses a variety of issues relevant to mining as may occur in an area of approximately 23,174 acres, outside of the creek channel. The Plan allows for off-channel, deep-pit mining under controlled and monitored circumstances, as an alternative to continued in-channel mining. It prescribes standards and regulations for siting of operations in relation to the creek channel, adjoining pits, and other land uses. Measures are identified to protect groundwater quality and quantity. The Plan allows for multiple reclamation uses including agriculture, habitat, flood control, water storage, groundwater recharge, and recreation. It also establishes the groundwork for the development of a future plan to allow for public recreational activities and uses along the creek. A separate EIR is being prepared for a second plan (the Cache Creek Resources Management Plan or CCRMP) which focuses on resources within the creek channel.

The County of Yolo used several methods to solicit input on the Draft EIR. These methods included a public scoping meeting on November 27, 1995; the distribution of a Notice of Preparation; distribution of the Notice of Availability of the Draft EIR; distribution of the Draft EIR; and a public hearing and workshop in front of the County Planning Commission on April 17, 1996.

The Draft EIR was distributed to various public agencies, responsible agencies, and interested individuals. Copies of the document were also made available at the public counter of the Community Development Agency and at the Davis, Esparto, Woodland, and Yolo Branch County Libraries. The report was made available for public review and comment for a 45-day period. The public review period established by the State Clearinghouse for the Draft EIR commenced on March 26, 1996 and expired on May 11, 1996. Late comments were also accepted.

Comments and responses are grouped by letter for written comments and by speaker for oral comments. If the subject matter of one letter overlaps that of another letter, the reader may be referred to more than one group of comments and responses to review all information on a given subject. Where this occurs, cross-references are provided.

This document also includes a Summary of Changes. The Summary contains clarification, amplification, and corrections that have been identified since publication of the Draft EIR.

The second volume, together with the Draft EIR (Volume 1), constitute the Final EIR for the proposed project.