

Notice of Completion & Environmental Document Transmittal

Mail to: State Clearinghouse, P.O. Box 3044, Sacramento, CA 95812-3044 (916) 445-0613
 For Hand Delivery/Street Address: 1400 Tenth Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

SCH #

Project Title: Castle Mountain Mine Phase II Expansion ProjectLead Agency: San Bernardino County Land Use Services - Planning DivisionContact Person: Derek NewlandMailing Address: 385 N Arrowhead Ave 1st FloorPhone: (909) 387-8311City: San BernardinoZip: 92415County: San Bernardino**Project Location:** County: San Bernardino City/Nearest Community: Unincorporated Area, Nipton, CACross Streets: 15 miles southwest of State Route 164 and Walking Box Ranch Rd Zip Code: 92364Longitude/Latitude (degrees, minutes and seconds): 35 ° 16 ' 18.79 " N / 115 ° 05 ' 56.46 " W Total Acres: 3,294Assessor's Parcel No.: 0569-291-21, et al., 38 parcels totalSection: 25Twp.: T14NRange: R17EBase: SBMWithin 2 Miles: State Hwy #: NAWaterways: NAAirports: NARailways: NASchools: NA**Document Type:**

CEQA: ☒ NOP	☐ Draft EIR	NEPA: ☐ NOI	Other: ☐ Joint Document
☐ Early Cons	☐ Supplement/Subsequent EIR	☐ EA	☐ Final Document
☐ Neg Dec	(Prior SCH No.) _____	☐ Draft EIS	☐ Other: _____
☐ Mit Neg Dec	Other: _____	☐ FONSI	_____

Local Action Type:

☐ General Plan Update	☐ Specific Plan	☐ Rezone	☐ Annexation
☐ General Plan Amendment	☐ Master Plan	☐ Prezone	☐ Redevelopment
☐ General Plan Element	☐ Planned Unit Development	☒ Use Permit	☐ Coastal Permit
☐ Community Plan	☐ Site Plan	☐ Land Division (Subdivision, etc.)	☒ Other: <u>Major Revision, Rec Plan Revision</u>

Development Type:

☐ Residential: Units _____ Acres _____	☐ Transportation: Type _____
☐ Office: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____	☒ Mining: Mineral <u>Gold</u>
☐ Commercial: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____	☐ Power: Type _____ MW _____
☐ Industrial: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____	☐ Waste Treatment: Type _____ MGD _____
☐ Educational: _____	☐ Hazardous Waste: Type _____
☐ Recreational: _____	☒ Other: <u>16.5 Mile power line (non-transmission), 32-mile water pipeline</u>
☐ Water Facilities: Type _____ MGD _____	

Project Issues Discussed in Document:

☒ Aesthetic/Visual	☐ Fiscal	☒ Recreation/Parks	☐ Vegetation
☒ Agricultural Land	☐ Flood Plain/Flooding	☐ Schools/Universities	☒ Water Quality
☒ Air Quality	☒ Forest Land/Fire Hazard	☐ Septic Systems	☐ Water Supply/Groundwater
☒ Archeological/Historical	☒ Geologic/Seismic	☐ Sewer Capacity	☐ Wetland/Riparian
☒ Biological Resources	☒ Minerals	☒ Soil Erosion/Compaction/Grading	☐ Growth Inducement
☐ Coastal Zone	☒ Noise	☐ Solid Waste	☒ Land Use
☐ Drainage/Absorption	☒ Population/Housing Balance	☒ Toxic/Hazardous	☒ Cumulative Effects
☐ Economic/Jobs	☒ Public Services/Facilities	☒ Traffic/Circulation	☐ Other: _____

Present Land Use/Zoning/General Plan Designation:

Existing Castle Mountain Mine / Resource Conservation (RC) / Resource/Land Management (RLM)

Project Description: *(please use a separate page if necessary)*

The Phase II Expansion, seeks to increase mining operations at the Castle Mountain Mine project site. This includes expanding the mining area, increasing ore processing, updating facilities, and adding new utilities and infrastructure. Key elements of the proposed action are: 1) Quadrupling annual mining rates from 20 million to 80 million tons, 2) Increasing total land disturbance by an additional 1,800 acres (for a total of 3,294 acres), 3) Expanding and deepening open pits, with the last pit remaining as a permanent lake, 4) Increasing groundwater use to 2,250 acre-feet per year, supplied from both on-site wells and the Ivanpah Valley via a new pipeline, 5) Constructing a 32-mile underground water pipeline from Nipton, CA to the mine site, 6) Building a 16.5-mile 69kV overhead power line to connect the mine to the grid at Walking Box Ranch, 7) Increasing overburden stockpiling by an additional 196 million tons, 8) Increasing crushing rate from 6 million to 19 million tons per year, 9) Expanding mine infrastructure, including pits, overburden sites, heap leach pad, and access roads, 10) Adjusting utility alignments to avoid impacts to the Mojave National Preserve.

Note: The State Clearinghouse will assign identification numbers for all new projects. If a SCH number already exists for a project (e.g. Notice of Preparation or previous draft document) please fill in.

Reviewing Agencies Checklist

Lead Agencies may recommend State Clearinghouse distribution by marking agencies below with an "X".
If you have already sent your document to the agency please denote that with an "S".

☒ Air Resources Board	☐ Office of Historic Preservation
☐ Boating & Waterways, Department of	☐ Office of Public School Construction
☐ California Emergency Management Agency	☒ Parks & Recreation, Department of
☐ California Highway Patrol	☐ Pesticide Regulation, Department of
☐ Caltrans District # _____	☐ Public Utilities Commission
☐ Caltrans Division of Aeronautics	☒ Regional WQCB # <u>7</u>
☐ Caltrans Planning	☐ Resources Agency
☐ Central Valley Flood Protection Board	☐ Resources Recycling and Recovery, Department of
☐ Coachella Valley Mtns. Conservancy	☐ S.F. Bay Conservation & Development Comm.
☐ Coastal Commission	☐ San Gabriel & Lower L.A. Rivers & Mtns. Conservancy
☐ Colorado River Board	☐ San Joaquin River Conservancy
☐ Conservation, Department of	☐ Santa Monica Mtns. Conservancy
☐ Corrections, Department of	☐ State Lands Commission
☐ Delta Protection Commission	☐ SWRCB: Clean Water Grants
☐ Education, Department of	☒ SWRCB: Water Quality
☐ Energy Commission	☐ SWRCB: Water Rights
☒ Fish & Game Region # <u>6</u>	☐ Tahoe Regional Planning Agency
☐ Food & Agriculture, Department of	☒ Toxic Substances Control, Department of
☐ Forestry and Fire Protection, Department of	☒ Water Resources, Department of
☐ General Services, Department of	☐ Other: _____
☐ Health Services, Department of	☐ Other: _____
☐ Housing & Community Development	
☐ Native American Heritage Commission	

Local Public Review Period (to be filled in by lead agency)

Starting Date October 17, 2025 Ending Date November 20, 2025

Lead Agency (Complete if applicable):

Consulting Firm: _____	Applicant: _____
Address: _____	Address: _____
City/State/Zip: _____	City/State/Zip: _____
Contact: _____	Phone: _____
Phone: _____	

Signature of Lead Agency Representative:  Date: 10/16/2025

Authority cited: Section 21083, Public Resources Code. Reference: Section 21161, Public Resources Code.