

Summary Form for Electronic Document Submittal

Form F

Lead agencies may include 15 hardcopies of this document when submitting electronic copies of Environmental Impact Reports, Negative Declarations, Mitigated Negative Declarations, or Notices of Preparation to the State Clearinghouse (SCH). The SCH also accepts other summaries, such as EIR Executive Summaries prepared pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15123. Please include one copy of the Notice of Completion Form (NOC) with your submission and attach the summary to each electronic copy of the document.

SCH #: 2025100846

Project Title: Castle Mountain Mine Phase II Expansion Project

Lead Agency: San Bernardino County

Contact Name: Derek Newland

Email: derek.newland@lus.sbcounty.gov Phone Number: 909-387-8311

Project Location: Historic Hart Mining District, San Bernardino County San Bernardino County
City *County*

Project Description (Proposed actions, location, and/or consequences).

The Project site is in the Mojave Desert in the historic Hart Mining District of San Bernardino County, California, approximately 100 miles east of the city of Barstow, California; 60 miles south of the city of Las Vegas, Nevada; and 40 miles northwest of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Needles Field Office. The Project Area, which includes the Mine Area, the mine access road, the proposed underground water pipeline and overhead electrical powerline, and a 50-foot buffer surrounding the water pipeline and powerline encompasses approximately 4,285 acres and extends across portions of San Bernardino County, California, and Clark County, Nevada. The Project will disturb approximately 3,288 acres within the Project Area. The proposed Project involves the second major expansion of Castle Mountain Mine (CMM), including installation of an underground waterline and overhead powerline within existing rights-of-way (ROWS) to support the expanded operations.

Identify the project's significant or potentially significant effects and briefly describe any proposed mitigation measures that would reduce or avoid that effect.

Air Quality: Implementation of the Project could cause a cumulatively considerable increase in criteria pollutants exceeding Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District (MDAQMD) thresholds. The DEIR includes dust and emission control measures to reduce construction and operational emissions. However, emissions of NOX, CO, PM10, and PM2.5 would likely remain above MDAQMD significance thresholds; therefore, impacts would be significant & unavoidable.

Biological Resources: Implementation of the Project could affect special-status plant & wildlife species, sensitive natural communities, federally protected wetlands, & wildlife corridors. The DEIR includes mitigation requiring monitoring, avoidance measures, & implementation of plans & procedures to protect affected species & habitats. With mitigation, impacts would be less than significant.

Cultural & Tribal Cultural Resources: Project development could impact significant historical, archaeological, & tribal cultural resources, & unidentified human remains. The DEIR includes mitigation requiring implementation of a Historical Resources Treatment Plan. With mitigation, impacts would be less than significant.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions: Project operation could generate GHG emissions that would significantly impact the environment. The DEIR requires incorporation of design measures to reduce emissions. With mitigation, impacts would be less than significant.

Public Services, Utilities, and Service Systems: The Project would require expanded water & electric power facilities, but construction of these facilities would not cause significant environmental impacts. Mitigation included in the DEIR would address impacts to federally protected wetlands and cultural resources. With mitigation, impacts would be less than significant.

If applicable, describe any of the project's areas of controversy known to the Lead Agency, including issues raised by agencies and the public.

The Public Review Comment Period on the Notice of Preparation begin on October 17, 2025 and closed on November 20, 2025. A Public Scoping Meeting was held on November 5, 2025. During the Public Review Comment Period, commenters submitted comments regarding the following resource areas: Aesthetics, Air Quality, Biological Resources, Cultural and Tribal Cultural Resources, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Geology, Mineral Resources, and Soils, Hazardous and Hazardous Materials, Land Use and Planning, Noise, Recreation, Transportation, and Wildfire.

Provide a list of the responsible or trustee agencies for the project.

U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Needles Field Office, the BLM Las Vegas Field Office, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), the California Department of Conservation (CDOC), the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), the California Environmental Protection Agency, the California State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB), the Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board, and the Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District (MDAQMD).