

Response to Reclamation Permit Application Consideration

DATE: February 21, 2019

TO: Timothy Cazier, Environmental Protection Specialist (tim.cazier@state.co.us)

CC: Keith Vander Horst, P.E., Chief of Water Supply - Inside Basins
Chris Grimes Ground Water Commission Staff

FROM: Ioana Comaniciu, P.E.

RE: Schubert Ranch Sand Resource, Permit No. M-2018-063
Operator: Ellicott Sand and Gravel, LLC
Contact: Steve O'Brian, Environment, Inc., (303) 423-7297
Sec. 20, 29, and 32, Twp. 14S, Rng. 62W, 6th P.M., El Paso County
Upper Black Squirrel Creek Designated Ground Water Basin

CONDITIONS FOR APPROVAL

- ☒ The proposed operation does not anticipate exposing groundwater. Therefore, exposure of ground water must not occur during or after mining operations. The Applicant must ensure that mining will stay at least 2 feet above the ground water table throughout the proposed mining operations.
- ☒ The applicant has indicated plans to use water for plant processing and dust control purposes at the permit site in the amount of 12 acre-feet/year. The water needs for these uses will be purchased from Schubert Ranch, which according to the applicant has water permitted for industrial use. The actual wells or water rights from which this water will be provided have not been identified, and the uses of the Schubert wells as identified in Exhibit G to the application do not allow such industrial use. The applicant should be required to identify the specific water rights that will provide the water purchased from Schubert Ranch, and provide evidence that those rights may be used for plant processing and dust control purposes at the site.
- ☒ If storm water runoff is intercepted by this operation and is not diverted or captured in priority, it must be released to the stream system within 72 hours. This may require a discharge permit from CDPHE-WQCD. Otherwise, the operator will need a Ground Water Commission approved replacement plan to replace evaporation losses.

COMMENTS: The subject application is for a surface mining operation on approximately 733.7 permitted acres located in portions of Sections 20, 29, and 32, all in Township 14 South, Range 62 West of the 6th P.M. in El Paso County. Of the 733.7 permitted acres a maximum of 561.7 acres will be disturbed by the mining operation over the life of the mine. The area to be mined is currently used for agricultural purposes. The mining plan calls for dry mining operation within six mining stages. The Black Squirrel Creek, an ephemeral drainage, bisects the property from north to south and Big Spring Creek, also an ephemeral drainage, enters the property from east where it merges with Black Squirrel Creek. The applicant indicated that mining will not take place in the primary erosion channels of the Black Squirrel Creek or Big Spring Creek. The plan is to maintain a 50 foot setback from the top of the bank along both drainages to the excavated line in areas to be mined.

The primary commodities to be mined at the site is sand material as the area to be mined consists of deep sand deposits of approximately 70 feet that parallels both sides of Black Squirrel Creek. The applicant claims that, based its review of well drilling logs for 24 wells located within 200 feet of the permitted site, the ground water table is in excess of 80 feet, except for Stage VI where a well depth in this area is 61 feet. As mentioned above under the "Conditions of Approval" section the Applicant must ensure that mining will stay at least 2 feet above the ground water table throughout the proposed six stages.

The applicant may contact the State Engineer's Office with any questions.

