

MARIPOSA COUNTY RESOLUTION NO. 83-141

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Mariposa County Board of Supervisors has reviewed Section B of the Initial Study and hereby adopts the Negative Declaration for the California State Mineral Exhibit Facility Development.

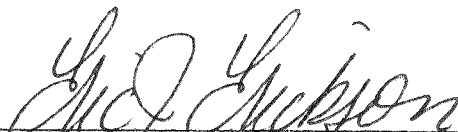
PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Mariposa County Board of Supervisors this 10th day of May, 1983 by the following vote:

AYES: Barrick, Erickson, Moffitt

NOES: Dalton, Taber

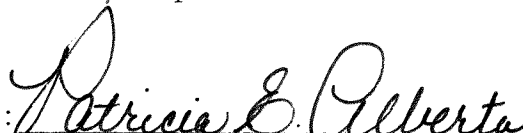
ABSENT: None

ABSTAINED: None


ERIC J. ERICKSON, Chairman
Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:

ELLEN BRONSON
ELLEN BRONSON, County Clerk
Ex Officio Clerk of the Board

BY: 
PATRICIA E. ALBERTA
Clerk of the Board

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND
LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:


RICHARD K. DENHALTER
County Counsel

INITIAL STUDY
ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST FORM "B"

File No. U.P. 176
Date of Prep. 3-21-83
Date of Action _____

SECTION A

I. Background

1. Name of Project Proponent: County of Mariposa
2. Address & Phone No. of Project Proponent: P. O. Box 2038, Mariposa, CA 95338
(209) 966-5151
3. Lead Agency Title: County of Mariposa
4. Project Title (if applicable): California State Mineral Exhibit Facility
Development

II. Description of Project:

- A. General Description. The project consists of developing a mineral exhibit facility for the California State Mineral Exhibit. This facility is to be developed on a site adjacent to the Mariposa County History Center. The County of Mariposa, through a contractual agreement with the California State Department of Conservation-Division of Mines and Geology, will assume management of the State exhibit. This agreement is a long term commitment to house and display the California Mineral Exhibit in Mariposa. The permanent exhibit facility will include a building of approximately 9,000 square feet in area and on site parking to accomodate 29 parking spaces. This facility will operate in conjunction with the Mariposa County History Center and Library Complex.
- B. Required Actions to Implement Project. Several actions must be taken in order to implement this project proposal. These actions are as follows:
 1. The offer of 18,722 (approximate) square feet of land, with access easements, must be accepted by the County of Mariposa to be added to 46,000 square feet (approximate) presently occupied by the County History Center/Library Complex.
 2. An agreement must be executed with the State to maintain the State Mineral Exhibit in Mariposa County. (Condition of property gift to County)
 3. The County must conduct a use permit proceeding for establishing a public/quasi-public use in the light commercial land use district of the Community of Mariposa.

There are other attendant actions required to implement this project such as packing and moving the exhibit, refurbishing the exhibit displays and contracting for facility construction and exhibit curatorial services, etc. These actions are administrative in nature.

- C. Related Projects. This project is related to several other projects which have been subjected to Environmental Review. These projects are; (1) The Adoption of the Mariposa Specific Plan (Adopted 3/17/81) and (2) The proposed remodeling of the San Francisco Ferry Building (City and County of San Francisco Project No. EE81.63). These documents contain supplementary information in relation to this project.
- D. Project Location. See attached location map.

III. Description of Environmental Setting:

- A. Utilities. The site is located within the boundaries of the Mariposa Public Utility District which provides sewer, water and fire protection services.
- B. Parking and Access. Primary access to the project site is from State Highway 140 and Jessie Street (a county street) access to Jessie Street to proposed parking is through a planned improved easement which passes through the adjacent property. The existing History Center/Library Complex presently has 23 parking spaces. Facility development plans call for 29 additional on site parking spaces and 38 parking spaces may be developed on the easement which fronts the western boundary of the project site. Total potential parking to serve the project is 67 spaces (in addition to the 23 existing spaces), while County standards recommend a maximum of 25 spaces for the exhibit facility.
- C. Physical Site. The proposed building site is located in an undeveloped area located directly behind the Mariposa County History Center and the Bank of America building. The general area has been altered by recent earthmoving activities and past gold mining operations. Slopes on the property are variable, trending generally towards Mariposa Creek to the west of the project site. Two drainages cut through the property from east to west which carry run-off from winter storms and create locally steep slopes. Vegetation on the site consists primarily of annual grasses and forbs with a few Blue Oaks (Quercus douglasii) dispersed throughout the area. Soils on the site are listed¹ as Blasingame and Boomer Loam exhibiting variable run-off and erosion potential depending on slopes.
1. Soil Survey of Mariposa County Area, A U.S.D.A. Soil Conservation Service, October, 1974.

IV. Environmental Effects Checklist:

(Explanations of all "Yes" or "Maybe" answers are required on attached sheets)

		<u>Potential Effect</u>		
		<u>Yes</u>	<u>Maybe</u>	<u>No</u>
<u>EARTH</u> Could the project result in:				
1.	The destruction, covering of any unique geologic or physical features?	(1) _____	_____	<u>X</u>
2.	Substantial acceleration in wind or water erosion of soils, either on or off the site?	(2) _____	<u>X</u>	_____
3.	Unnecessary or unusual exposure of people or property to geological hazards such as earthquakes, landslides, mudslides, ground failure, or similar hazards?	(3) _____	_____	<u>X</u>
<u>AIR</u> Could the project result in:				
4.	Creation of substantial air emissions or major deterioration of ambient air quality?	(4) _____	_____	<u>X</u>
5.	The creation of objectionable odors?	(5) _____	_____	<u>X</u>
6.	The creation of substantial amounts of air-borne particulate matter?	(6) _____	<u>X</u>	_____
<u>WATER</u> Could the project result in:				
7.	Major changes in absorption rates, drainage patterns, or the rate and amount of surface runoff?	(7) _____	<u>X</u>	_____
8.	Major alterations to the course of flow of flood waters?	(8) _____	_____	<u>X</u>
9.	Major discharge into surface waters or in any major alteration of surface water quality, including but not limited to temperature dissolved oxygen or turbidity?	(9) _____	<u>X</u>	_____
10.	Major alteration or reduction of available subsurface water supplies necessary to support existing development?	(10) _____	_____	<u>X</u>
11.	<u>PLANT LIFE</u> Could the project result in a substantial reduction of the numbers of any rare or endangered species of plants?	(11) _____	_____	<u>X**</u>
<u>ANIMAL LIFE</u> Could the project result in:				
12.	Major reduction of the numbers of any unique, rare or endangered species of animals?	(12) _____	_____	<u>X</u>
13.	Major introduction of new species of animals into an area, or result in a barrier to the migration or movement of animals?	(13) _____	_____	<u>X</u>
14.	Major deterioration of existing fish or wildlife habitat?	(14) _____	_____	<u>X</u>
15.	<u>NOISE</u> Could the project result in increases in existing noise levels detrimental to existing uses?	(15) _____	_____	<u>X</u>

Potential Effects (con't.)

		<u>Yes</u>	<u>Maybe</u>	<u>No</u>
16.	<u>LIGHT AND GLARE</u> Could the project produce new light or glare abnormal to existing uses?	(16) _____	_____	<u>X</u>
17.	<u>LAND USE</u> Could the project result in a substantial alteration of the present or planned use of an area?	(17) _____	<u>X</u>	_____
<u>NATURAL RESOURCES</u> Could the project result in:				
18.	Major increases in the rate of use of any natural resource excluding water?	(18) _____	_____	<u>X</u>
19.	Substantial depletion of any non-renewable natural resource or preclude development of a natural resource?	(19) _____	_____	<u>X</u>
20.	<u>RISK OF UPSET</u> Could the project involve a risk of an explosion or release of hazardous substances?	(20) _____	_____	<u>X</u>
21.	<u>POPULATION</u> Could the project substantially alter the existing or planned location, distribution, density or growth rate of human populations of an area?	(21) _____	_____	<u>X</u>
<u>TRANSPORTATION/CIRCULATION</u> Could the project result in:				
22.	Major effects on existing parking facilities, or demand for new parking?	(22) _____	<u>X</u>	_____
23.	Major alterations to present or planned patterns of circulation or movement of people and/or goods?	(23) _____	<u>X</u>	_____
24.	Major increase in traffic that may be hazardous to motor vehicles, bicyclists pedestrians, or livestock?	(24) _____	<u>X</u>	_____
<u>PUBLIC SERVICES</u> Could the project have an effect upon, or result in a need for new or altered governmental services in any of the following areas?				
25.	Fire Protection	(25) _____	_____	<u>X</u>
26.	Police Protection	(26) _____	<u>X</u>	_____
27.	Schools	(27) _____	_____	<u>X</u>
28.	Parks and Other Recreation Facilities	(28) _____	_____	<u>X</u>
29.	Maintenance in public facilities including streets and roads	(29) _____	<u>X</u>	_____
30.	Other governmental or public services or facilities	(30) _____	_____	<u>X</u>
<u>HUMAN HEALTH</u> Could the project result in:				
31.	Creation of any health hazard or potential health hazard (excluding mental health)?	(31) _____	_____	<u>X</u>
32.	Exposure of people to potential health hazards?	(32) _____	_____	<u>X</u>

AESTHETICS Could the project result in:

- | | | | | | |
|-----|--|------|-------|-------|----------------|
| 33. | The destruction of any scenic vista or view open to the public? | (33) | _____ | _____ | _____ <u>X</u> |
| 34. | The creation of an aesthetically offensive site open to public view/ | (34) | _____ | _____ | _____ <u>X</u> |

CULTURAL RESOURCES Could the project result in:

- | | | | | | |
|-----|---|------|-------|-------|----------------|
| 35. | The alteration of or the destruction of a prehistoric or historic archaeological site? | (35) | _____ | _____ | _____ <u>X</u> |
| 36. | Adverse physical or aesthetic effects to a prehistoric or historic building, structure or object? | (36) | _____ | _____ | _____ <u>X</u> |

V. DISCUSSION OF ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST FINDINGS:

2. The construction of the building and parking area will require a substantial amount of earthmovement. If proper design and erosion control measures are not implemented, increased soil erosion from the site will result.
6. Earth movement on the site, necessary for the proposed construction, can produce dust that may impact adjacent and nearby properties.
7. Construction of the building and parking area will result in approximately 15,000 square feet (1/3 acre) of impervious surfaces. Such construction will increase the amount of surface run-off from the site. The two existing drainages in the project area carry storm water run-off during periods of winter storms. Difficulties may result from diversion or channelization of these drainages.
9. Soil eroded from the site as identified in Number 2 above, may enter Mariposa Creek resulting in increased turbidity and a general reduction in surface water quality.
- *11. The California Native Plant Society "Inventory of Rare and Endangered Vascular Plants" lists one plant species that exists in locations similar in elevation and soil type to this project site. A visual inspection in mid-March did not reveal any specimens of the rare and endangered plant. Past earthmoving activities on the property have probably removed any of the plants, if they ever existed. Due to the above, it is determined that this project will not have an impact on any rare and endangered plants.
17. The proposed project is a conditional use under the Light Commercial Land Use as designated by the Mariposa County Specific Plan. Conflicts with adjacent land uses are not foreseen as an impact of this project. Adjacent use consists of the Bank of America, the Mariposa County History Center, and the new Post Office, (soon to begin construction). Various other Commercial Uses are located in the general area.

V. DISCUSSION OF ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST FINDINGS:

22. The Exhibit will require approximately 25 parking spaces² to ensure adequate parking. If adequate parking is not supplied in conjunction with the project, congestion and traffic hazards may result.
23. Development of the proposal will require the construction of new roads to serve the area. If the proposed roads and road encroachments are designed properly, no significant detrimental traffic impacts are foreseen.
24. The project would create a large increase in vehicular traffic in the immediate vicinity of the proposal. The project should not create significant increases in traffic in the general area of the town of Mariposa, because it is anticipated that the majority of the Exhibit's visitors would be tourists that are already driving through Mariposa on their way to Yosemite National Park. The project anticipates the 25,000+ present visitors to the History Center. Significant traffic impacts could result if the proposed roads and road encroachments are not adequately designed.
26. Due to the valuable nature of the Mineral Exhibit, security measures will be necessary to ensure it's safety. Such security measures may include additional services from the Mariposa County Sheriff, resulting in financial impacts to the department.
29. The proposed structure and parking area are to be constructed under the jurisdiction of the County of Mariposa. Maintenance of these facilities will be the responsibility of the County. Such maintenance could have a financial impact on numerous County departments.

²Parking Standards excerpted from the Draft Revision to Title 17 (Zoning), Mariposa County Code.

VI. SUGGESTED MITIGATING MEASURES DEEMED APPROPRIATE TO REDUCE OR ELIMINATE POSSIBLE ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS:

2. Prior to any earth movement on the site, an engineered grading, drainage and erosion control plan should be prepared for all proposed earthwork on the site. The plan should deal specifically with soil erosion control measures and surface water drainage on the site. Particular attention should be given to any proposed modifications to the existing drainages on the site.
6. The Mariposa County Grading Ordinance requires watering of exposed soils during construction to reduce dust problems. This ordinance is considered adequate to reduce the production of dust from the site to an insignificant level.

7. See No. 2 above.
9. See No. 2 above.
22. When construction plans are developed, adequate parking will be included in the project. It is possible that the existing parking spaces for the History Center may be utilized for a portion of the necessary parking due to the expected combined visitation of the facilities.
23. All proposed roads and road encroachments in conjunction with this project should be designed in accordance with the requirements of the County Engineer to ensure safe traffic flows.
24. See No. 23 above.
26. It is anticipated that additional revenues will be generated as primary (entrance fees) and secondary (increased tax revenues) effects of this proposal. Such revenues are expected to be more than adequate to offset any fiscal impacts on County Departments associated with this project.
29. See No. 26 above.

IX. DETERMINATION:

On the basis of this initial study:

- A. _____ It is found on the basis of this initial study that the proposed project WILL NOT have a significant effect on the environment and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION WILL BE PREPARED.
- B. _____ It is found on the basis of this initial study that the potential environmental effects of this project WILL NOT be significant in this case because the mitigation measures described in Section VI will be added to the project proposal as conditions of approval and will mitigate environmental effects entirely or to an acceptable level. A NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- C. _____ It is found on the basis of this initial study, that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an Environmental Impact Report is required. (This determination may be based upon Section VII, Analysis of Significance or Section VIII, Mandatory Findings of Significance)
- D. _____ It is found that it can be argued on the basis of substantial evidence that the project may have a significant environmental impact. An Environmental Impact Report is required.
- E. _____ It is found that there is a serious public controversy concerning the potential environmental effects of the project and an Environmental Impact Report is required.
- F. _____ It is found that the project cannot be approved or conditionally approved and no further action is required under the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act.

X. ACTIONS:

A. Section "A" of this Initial Study was:

Prepared by Tony Lashbrook Date 3-21-83
 Assisted by _____
 Reviewed by Robert L. Borchard Date 3-21-83
 Reviewed by _____ Date _____

B. Section "B" of this Initial Study was:

Prepared by _____ Date _____
 at the direction of _____
 Approved by _____ Date _____

C. Authority:

 Signature _____ Date _____

 Title _____

 For _____

SECTION B
(To Be Prepared by Lead Agency)

*Suggested Findings
for Section "B"*

VII. ANALYSIS OF SIGNIFICANCE:

Identified Potential Impact (No.)	Mitigation Possible		Impact Significant		(continue on sep
	Yes	No	Yes	No	
No. 2	X			X	See Section VI, No. 2 as explanation
No. 6	X			X	See Section VI, No. 6 as explanation
No. 7	X			X	See Section VI, No. 2 as explanation
No. 9	X			X	See Section VI, No. 2 as explanation
No. 11		X		X	No rare & endangered plants located on project site.
No. 17		X		X	Determined to be insignificant
No. 22.	X			X	See Section VI, No. 22 as explanation
No. 23	X			X	See Section VI, No. 23 as explanation
No. 24	X			X	See Section VI, No. 23 as explanation
No. 26	X			X	Fees generated by project offset anticipated fiscal impact on County.
No. 29	X			X	Fees generated by project offset anticipated fiscal impacts to the County.

Yes

No

VIII. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE (As per Section 15082 of the CEQA Guidelines, requires EIR if "Yes") Does the project have:

- A. The potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory? A. _____ X
- B. The potential to achieve short term, to the disadvantage of long term, environmental goals? B. _____ X
- C. Impacts which are individually limited but cumulatively considerable? C. _____ X
- D. Environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly? D. _____ X

IX. DETERMINATION:

On the basis of this initial study:

- A. It is found on the basis of this initial study that the proposed project WILL NOT have a significant effect on the environment and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION WILL BE PREPARED.
- B. It is found on the basis of this initial study that the potential environmental effects of this project WILL NOT be significant in this case because the mitigation measures described in Section VI will be added to the project proposal as conditions of approval and will mitigate environmental effects entirely or to an acceptable level. A NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- C. It is found on the basis of this initial study, that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an Environmental Impact Report is required. (This determination may be based upon Section VII, Analysis of Significance or Section VIII, Mandatory Findings of Significance)
- D. It is found that it can be argued on the basis of substantial evidence that the project may have a significant environmental impact. An Environmental Impact Report is required.
- E. It is found that there is a serious public controversy concerning the potential environmental effects of the project and an Environmental Impact Report is required.
- F. It is found that the project cannot be approved or conditionally approved and no further action is required under the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act.

X. ACTIONS:

A. Section "A" of this Initial Study was:

Prepared by Tony Lashbrook Date 3-21-83
 Assisted by _____
 Reviewed by Robert L. Borchard Date 3-21-83
 Reviewed by _____ Date _____

B. Section "B" of this Initial Study was:

Prepared by _____ Date _____
 at the direction of _____
 Approved by _____ Date _____

C. Authority:

 Signature _____ Date _____

 Title _____

 For _____