

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

July 14, 2015

Lieutenant General Thomas P. Bostick  
Commanding General and Chief of Engineers  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
441 G Street NW  
Washington, DC 20314-1000

Dear General Bostick,

This letter is written in anticipation of CEMEX, Inc. seeking approval from the Army Corps of Engineers for a Section 404 Permit related to CEMEX's proposed Soledad Canyon Sand and Gravel Mining Project (Project). We are writing to request that the Army Corps of Engineers fully evaluate the issuance of a 404 Permit in light of the Bureau of Land Management's concerns regarding the continuing viability of the proposed project.

On March 13, 2015, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) California State Director Jim Kenna notified CEMEX of its concerns related to the contracts that BLM has with CEMEX (CA-20139 and CA-22901). In the letter, Mr. Kenna states "In light of all the changed circumstances, the BLM no longer believes that the old environmental analysis and record will be sufficient to support CEMEX in its efforts to obtain the remaining permits and authorizations. It is unclear how, or if, this development can proceed." A copy of BLM's letter to CEMEX is attached.

CEMEX is a successor-in-interest to two federal mining contracts originally approved by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in 1990. The existing environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) was completed in 2000 as part of the approval process for the Project's Mining and Reclamation Plan. The Project is planned for an approximately 490-acre site within the Santa Clara River watershed, located north of Soledad Canyon Road, south of the Antelope Valley Freeway (SR 14), and west of Agua Dulce Canyon Road. Surface mining operations are proposed for 460 acres. CEMEX contemplates extracting a total of 78 million tons of material over a 20 year period, yielding 56 million tons net of material. In order to fulfill Project water requirements, CEMEX has also proposed to pump water from a narrow valley containing the Santa Clara River, which supports several sensitive species, including the endangered and fully protected unarmored threespine stickleback.

The City of Santa Clarita has strongly opposed the project for over 16 years due to concerns regarding its impacts to the environment, including impacts to the unarmored threespine stickleback that inhabits the Santa Clara River in the areas immediately adjacent to the Project site.

CEMEX informed the BLM and the City of Santa Clarita earlier this year that it intends to begin actively processing all remaining approvals necessary to implement the Project. Given that the lead permitting agency for the Project no longer supports it and also has concluded the existing environmental review is inadequate to support further approvals, we are writing to request that

you fully consider and analyze any application by CEMEX for issuance of a permit in light of BLM's concerns regarding the Project.

We would also greatly appreciate receiving timely notice of CEMEX's new or renewed permitting efforts with your agency so that the City of Santa Clarita and other appropriate and interested parties are afforded the opportunity to participate in the decision-making process.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

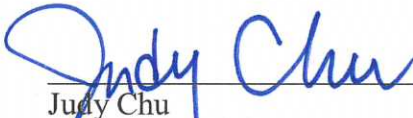
Sincerely,



Steve Knight  
Member of Congress



Brad Sherman  
Member of Congress



Judy Chu  
Member of Congress

cc: Colonel Kimberly Colloton, Commander of the Los Angeles District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers