

**LUCERNE VALLEY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION
(LVEDA)**

February 7, 2017

Anne Surdzial, AICP
ECORP Consulting, Inc.
215 North 5th Street
Redlands, CA 92374
asurdzial@ecorpconsulting.com

Re: Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR)/Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Mitsubishi Cement Corporation South Quarry Project
State Clearinghouse Number 2012031009

Dear Ms. Surdzial:

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR)/Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Mitsubishi Cement's proposed South Quarry Project. The Lucerne Valley Economic Development Association (LVEDA) follows projects and policies that will have an economic impact on Lucerne Valley and the surrounding areas.

LVEDA strongly supports the South Quarry Project. Mitsubishi Cement is an important employer in the region and a huge benefactor to the community. The South Quarry Project will help Mitsubishi realize the economic value from its investment in its existing Cushenbury mine and cement plant and the surrounding limestone resources. The proposal for Mitsubishi to continue its mining operations for 120 years shows Mitsubishi's commitment to invest its resources in the area for the long-term. If Mitsubishi does not receive approval for the project for that duration, it may have to ship limestone in from other sources to its cement plant. That would lead to undesirable impacts from the large trucks that would pass through Lucerne Valley to deliver limestone to Mitsubishi's cement plant. This project does not increase the amount of cement produced or truck traffic through our community on a daily basis, only extending the long-term availability of its limestone resource which is critical for Mitsubishi Cement and Lucerne Valley.

The project's long-term commitment will also allow Mitsubishi Cement to remain an important employer in the region far into the future. Additionally, the South Quarry Project will help Mitsubishi Cement supply cement for years to come, which will be critical for future construction in general and for our nation's infrastructure.

Based on our review of the Draft EIR/EIS and our experience with Mitsubishi Cement in the past, we know the company will pursue the South Quarry Project in the most environmentally sound manner possible. Given the great economic benefits of the project and Mitsubishi Cement's commitment to the community and the environment, LVEDA urges the County of San Bernardino and the National Forest Service to approve the environmental review and approve the South Quarry Project. Water sources provided by Mitsubishi in its quarry and reclamation areas have resulted in greater bighorn sheep populations than the existing, local environment could provide without said water sources.

Sincerely, Chuck Bell, LVEDA President