

Here Comes the Mine! FAQs:

Here are some Frequently Asked Questions regarding the sand & gravel mining operation which has commenced just west of Agua Fria Ranch (AFR). An initial hearing in Superior Court has been continued while the Town and the HOA discuss mitigation tactics with Salt River Materials Group (SRMG). We also await an appeal date with the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors (BOS) on the county Flood District's decision to allow the project to go forward in spite of our concerns about potential flooding problems which might be caused by the mining operation. In the meantime, I ask that you contact our elected officials (see contact info in this article) and let them know how you feel about this issue.

While both the HOA and the Town are in solid financial condition, the Town Council and the HOA Board both intend to be good stewards of the people's money and act prudently going forward. Youngtown has nearly ¾ of a year's operational expenditures in its reserve (rainy-day fund) and is one of only a handful of municipalities in the state with no debt. The HOA has nearly \$900,000 in cash assets, including the reserve fund.

FAQS

Who is operating the mine? Salt River Materials Group (SRMG), a commercial enterprise of the Salt River Pima- Maricopa Indian Community plans to move forward with a sand and gravel mine, immediately adjacent to Agua Fria Ranch Subdivision.

Is the mining site in Youngtown? No. While title of the property has been transferred into **Olive Avenue LLC**, SRMG will operate and carry out all mining activities at the site. Their property (about 240 acres) is unincorporated Maricopa County, just outside the Town of Youngtown, and falls under the jurisdiction of Maricopa County.

What exactly is SRMG going to do? According to SRMG spokesman Daniel P. McQuade, they plan to construct an earthen berm around that portion of their property which will be excavated for sand and gravel product. According to McQuade, the berm, along the eastern perimeter of their property (all along our Agua Fria Parkway), will be 10' High and 72' thick from 'east toe to west toe'. The earthen berm on the North, West and South sides of the project will be around 4' in height.

Excavation for product will be done inside the berm, immediately adjacent to the parkway, then transported across the flood-way for processing, at a proposed crushing plant, in the far S/W corner of the property (adjacent to the bulk mixing plant on Olive Avenue). The excavation pit, when finished, could be in excess of 50' in depth.

Apparently, Arizona State Statute allows SRMG to operate in such close proximity to the many thousands of existing homes, on both sides of the river, and exempts this operation from most zoning laws and regulations. Maricopa County is the permitting jurisdiction.

When did mining commence? The mining permit was first issued in 2006 and aerial photography dating back to 1949 shows no prior mining activity on the property. Sometime around 2007—2009, SRMG opened a small pit in the far S/W corner of the property (west of the river, adjacent to the bulk mixing plant). The AFR public report from Pulte Home Corporation, dated November 8, 2004, refers to the property as “...Maricopa County Rural 43 (Single-Family Residential, 0-1 Dwelling Units per Acre (DU/AC)).

What can be done? The Town and the HOA are taking appropriate action but our concerns are falling on deaf ears. We have filed suit in Superior Court and have filed a formal appeal to Maricopa County Flood District which issued the permit in 2006. If you are as concerned about this project (**Maricopa County Flood District Permit # 060577, Parcels 501-99-003B, 501-99-003G**) as we are, please voice your concerns to these individuals:

--Property Owner-- Salt River Pima- Maricopa Indian Community-- President Diane Enos, 480.362.7465, lisa.fulwilder@srpmic-nsn.gov

--Permitting Agency--Maricopa County Flood District--Director Tim Phillips, 602.506.1501, tsp@mail.maricopa.gov

Elected Officials

Clint L. Hickman (District 4 - Youngtown)

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**Direct all complaints regarding dust, noise, hours of operation, etc. to:
Dan McQuade, SRMG Operations Manager (480) 209-0200**