



Spatial Awareness Network

Pit City



Irwindale, California

2018 TRADING CARDS

The material mass of the city—the roads, the bridges, the buildings — must come from somewhere. For Los Angeles, that somewhere has often been Irwindale. Over millions of years, the San Gabriel Mountains and their largest river deposited a massive pile of rocks and gravel ideally suited for construction underneath the inland city. And so, as Los Angeles has risen upward and outward, Irwindale has sunk downward.

In the 1950s, mining companies worked with the small community of local residents to incorporate the City of Irwindale. By that time, the majority of the land in “Pit City” was already well below street level. Since then, the City’s small population of only about 350 households has been dependent on the tax revenue generated by the pits. The pits, however, are limited. The mining companies are only permitted to dig down 200 feet, around which depth they encounter groundwater. Many of Irwindale’s pits have been exhausted for decades. Since the 1980s, Irwindale’s policy has been to find ways to reclaim the pits for tax-revenue-generating “urban land uses.” Former pits have become a race track, an industrial park, and a landfill. One land use that is not up for consideration is new residences.

Pit City

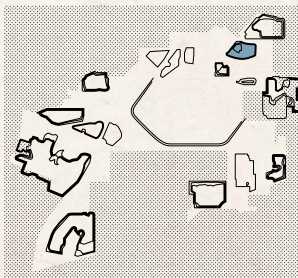
An aerial photograph of a large-scale industrial construction project. A massive, circular pit has been excavated into the ground. A long, winding conveyor belt system, composed of multiple parallel metal tracks, runs along the perimeter of the pit. Several excavators and other heavy machinery are visible within the pit and on the surrounding terrain. The ground is a mix of dirt and gravel. In the background, there are some trees and utility poles under a clear blue sky. The entire scene is framed by a yellow border.

Vulcan Reliance II

SpAN

1

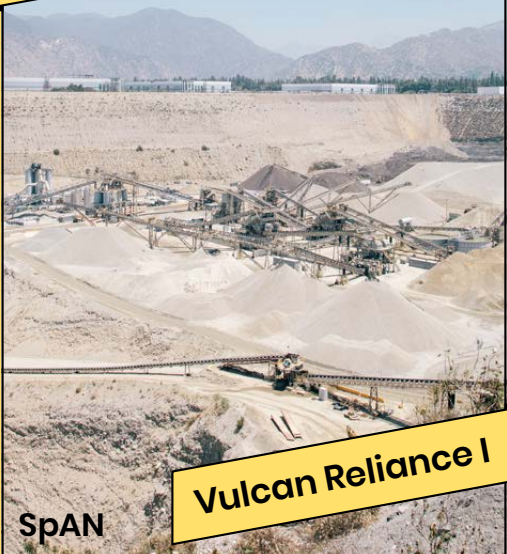
Vulcan Reliance II



This former pit was once slated for prominence as the home of the NFL's Los Angeles Raiders. The City of Irwindale offered the Raiders a sweetheart deal, including a \$10 million check with no strings attached just for considering the pit. The poorly-thought-out plan failed when the City couldn't secure land for parking lots and the Raiders decided to move to Oakland instead, taking Irwindale's money with them. In recent years, the pit has been operated as a construction waste landfill and, today, it is almost entirely refilled.

SRFC AREA:	STATUS:	NICKNAME:	OWNER:
75 ACRES	NEARLY REFILLED & READY FOR RECLAMATION	THE RAIDER CRATER	VULCAN MATERIALS CO.

Pit City

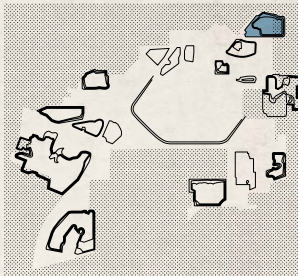


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Vulcan Reliance I

2

Vulcan Reliance I



This pit contains a processing plant which sorts rocks from both the pit itself as well as nearby Azusa Rock Quarry, in Fish Canyon, which are transported here via a two-mile-long series of conveyor belts. The Reliance Plant used to be an imposing presence, looming 200 feet above Irwindale and the nearby 210 freeway. In the early 2000s, the plant was moved down to the pit floor to make room for more mining and to remove what some considered an eyesore.

SRFC AREA:	DEPTH:	STATUS:	USE:	OWNER:
174 ACRES	200 FT	ACTIVE	ROCK PROCESSING PLANT	VULCAN MATERIALS CO.

Pit City

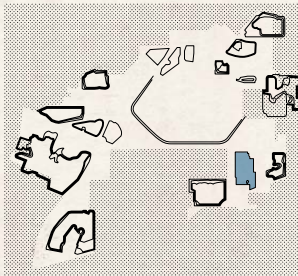


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**Irwindale
Business Center**

3

Irwindale Business Center



This industrial park looks a lot like every other industrial park, but to the City of Irwindale this banal landscape is the image of a bright and profitable future. The park sits within a partially refilled pit, at about 50 feet below street level. The project required building an extensive system for managing ground and storm water, which could otherwise threaten the development. What was once an exhausted and dormant void, is now a productive source of tax revenue for Irwindale's 1,500 residents.

SRFC AREA:	DEPTH:	STATUS:	USE:	REDVLPMNT COST:
130 ACRES	50 FT	RECLAIMED	INDUSTRIAL OFFICE PARK	\$50 MILLION



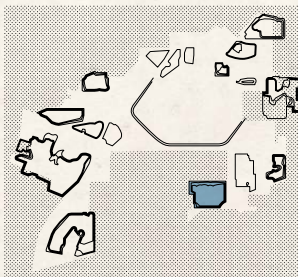
Pit City

Olive Pit

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Olive Pit



This pit, which was worked extensively from the 1920s to the '70s, had stood dormant until recently. The Archdiocese of Los Angeles briefly owned it and proposed several different land uses within the pit, including a cemetery and a golf course. Today, the City of Irwindale owns the pit and is collaborating with United Rock to exhaust the pit's remaining resources. The City expects to excavate 1 million tons of aggregate per year for 32 years while simultaneously refilling exhausted portions of the pit to prepare them for unspecified "urban land uses."

SRFC AREA:	STATUS:	OWNER:	OPERATOR:
187 ACRES	ACTIVE	CITY OF IRWINDALE	UNITED ROCK PRODUCTS

Pit City

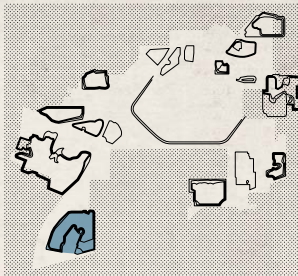


Vulcan Durbin

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Vulcan Durbin



This pit, sitting in the extreme southwest corner of Irwindale, is Vulcan's largest in the City. It hosts multiple groundwater lakes and an array of machinery for dredging below the water table. Durbin is miles away from any of Irwindale's residences, but it is adjacent to homes in Baldwin Park and not far from homes in El Monte. Tax revenue from this operation and other industrial land uses in Irwindale enabled a \$35 million city budget in 2016—\$24,500 per resident. Adjacent Baldwin Park was able to spend only \$790 per resident in 2016 for their 76,000 residents.

SRFC AREA:	DEPTH:	STATUS:	USE:	OWNER:
335 ACRES	200 FT	ACTIVE	MINING & ROCK PROCESSING PLANT	VULCAN MATERIALS CO.

Pit City

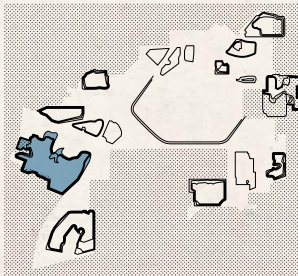


Hanson Aggregates

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Hanson Aggregates



This is the largest pit in Irwindale, and it will continue to get larger, but you probably won't notice much difference. In 2005, the City of Irwindale approved a "reclamation plan" allowing Hanson Aggregates (a subsidiary of Heidelberg Cement Group) to continue excavating until 2030 or to a maximum depth of 390 feet, whichever comes first. To reach such a depth, Hanson is dredging well below the water table. The plan envisions the establishment of a recreational lake on a portion of the site while mining operations continue around it.

SRFC AREA:	STATUS:	USE:	OWNER:
462 ACRES	ACTIVE	MINING & ROCK PROCESSING PLANT	HEIDELBERG CEMENT GROUP

Pit City

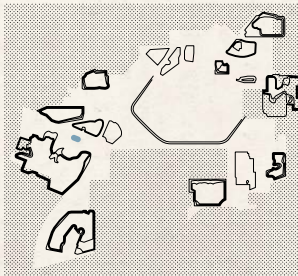


Irwindale Speedway

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Irwindale Speedway



This oval “short track,” 6,500 seat stands (with a great view of the Lehigh Hanson processing plant), and sprawling parking lot opened in 1999 atop a former pit that had been refilled with, at least partially, old tires. The Speedway has been a hit with motorsport enthusiasts, but it also stands on shaky ground. The track was slated for closure in January 2018, with the owner planning to build an outlet mall, until a coalition of former racers and fans formed to negotiate a new two-year lease.

SRFC AREA:	DEPTH:	STATUS:	USE:	OWNER:
60 ACRES	0 FT	RECLAIMED	AUTOMOTIVE RACING	IRWINDALE OUTLET PARTNERS, LLC