Santa Margarita Area Advisory Council
Sub-committee Report on the
Draft EIR for the Las Pilitas Quarry

Members: Butch Pope, John Beccia, David Blakely and Su Andros

The following are questions, requests and concerns raised by the sub-committee as relates to the DEIR for the Las Pilitas Quarry.

Aesthetics and Visual Resources

1. **The recommended re-vegetation of the project suggests using "mostly" native plants. It is a concern that 100% native plants are not being used and that the upkeep and maintenance of that vegetation are not called out.**
2. **In addition to the users of Hwy 58 there are 12 residences that are affected by the visual impact of the quarry.**
3. **4.1-12 We are concerned that the quarry address any nighttime glare to protect against local glare.**
4. **Make a condition of approval that the hours of operation be determined and then codified into the EIR.**
5. **4.1-13 Of significant note: As this area is designated for extraction it is reasonable to expect other quarries could be constructed. The accumulation of re-vegetated slopes and graded slopes could have a major cumulative visual impact.**
6. **As a way to mitigate visual impacts the committee ask for clarification on some of the grading plans starting on page 6-6 be discussed. The way the quarry is graded can affect what the public can see.**

Transportation and Circulation

1. **The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) has jurisdiction over railroad crossings (RRX). The committee feels that the CPUC comments should be incorporated into the EIR.**
2. **4.11-3 Of concern, is the ability of trucks to avoid "offtracking" on the roadway starting at the quarry site all the way to just past the "J" street's 90 degree turn.**
3. **4.11-4 If two semis are in the "J" street 90 degree turn at the same time is there an ability to transit safely through?**

4. **4.11-24 It is imperative that the mitigation measures here be strongly codified in the EIR. The need to make sure trucks are not queuing up on SR58 at the quarry entrance or queuing/ idling off site in Santa Margarita as they wait for the quarry to open.**
5. **4.11-25 The cumulative effects on traffic at the intersection of SR58 and El Camino Real can become onerous over the years as population increases put more stress on the intersection. It is strongly felt by the committee that whether the intersection is signalized or not, a back up of traffic will put a strain on the residential streets. It cannot be stressed enough that even without the proposed quarry, anecdotal evidence suggests, cars and trucks alike avoid RRXs that are down. They also avoid backed up traffic from the approach to the SR58 and ECR intersection. They avoid it by using the east – west streets in Santa Margarita to facilitate transit through the area.**
6. **This Committee would like a full discussion of the Haul Road mentioned on figure 6.8-1. It could partially mitigate some of the transportation concerns.**

<u>Noise</u>

1. **Creating, maintaining and enforcing (respecting) a quiet zone through the Santa Margarita area. The committee would like to see definitive mitigation measures. How is the quarry going to enforce the zone and what are the consequences for non-compliance? Will there be a suspension period? We would like to see the enforcement plan codified in the table on 4.8-16**
2. **Will the quarry blasting sirens be aimed or directed towards the quarry? 4.8-25**
3. **Committee suggests that the mitigation measures mentioned in chart 4.8-22 2b be the established plan or criteria for daily operations at the quarry.**
4. **Did the study consider the truck noise generated in the staging area at the quarry? The trucks have a hill to pull, which creates noise. Is there room to stage up away from the highway.**

Air Quality

1. **4.3-24 It is suggested that any funds collected from SLOAPCD for fines or fees be kept in account for use here in Santa Margarita for local mitigation measures.**
2. **SMAAC requests further clarification and explanation of paragraph 3 on 4.3-24**