

June 2, 2013

Department of Planning and Building
976 Osos Street, Room 300
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

Attention: Murry Wilson, Environmental Resource Specialist

Subject: Las Pilitas Quarry Conditional Use Permit and Reclamation Plan
("Excerpts" from the draft EIR)

I am writing today to voice my opposition and questions regarding the Draft EIR Oster/Las Pilitas Quarry on Hwy 58. (To be known as proposed project)

These comments and questions are from the "excerpts" from the draft EIR.

Section 2.0, PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Section 2.1 Location and Boundaries

Reading this section is very factual as to apn, gps, water pipeline location and so forth. Although this all well and good, the average person has no clue as to the actual location and it may sound as though the project is further out on Hwy 58 than it actually is.

The proposed project is approximately 4 miles from the town of Santa Margarita on Hwy 58(Calf Canyon) cross street Pozo Road. State Hwy 58, is a two lane, double stripped, narrow, and curving road. The proposed entrance to this project is approximately 400 to 500 feet from North end of the Salinas River Bridge.

This proposed project will be located **right behind** the Hansen Quarry on El Camino Real. The Hanson Quarry is fully visible from Hwy 58, especially at night if the quarry is mining. So San Luis Obispo County will have two quarries **back to back** if this proposal is approved! Do we need another quarry in this area?

The report states the applicant's property (D. Oster, et al) has two residences, a barn and storage shed on the property. But the report does not mention the immediate resident/neighbor to the south which also includes a house and barn (this property borders the applicants property). This report

also does not mention the other residents/neighbors living across from the proposed quarry. In fact, within 1 mile of this proposed quarry there are approximately 25 residences (how many actual people?).

QUESTION: Why was this dropped from the “excerpt” portion of the draft EIR? I didn’t read anything about neighbors in the “excerpt”. I feel this is very important since many people are not going to read the complete draft EIR.

Section 2.2 Project Objectives through 2.3.2 Equipment Inventory

These sections deal with project objectives, project characteristics, major stages and phasing, operational details, reclamation and revegetation, recycling and equipment inventory.

Applicant is requesting a 25-50 year mining operation. Remember this is **RIGHT behind** the Hanson Quarry, what is their mining operating time schedule? And I believe they have just applied for the next phase of their operation.

The Operation Portion section details the removing/clearing of vegetation from hill/hills, using heavy equipment to “rip” consolidated source material from the hills, and blasting if the material can’t be “ripped”. Applicant states they will warn neighbors when blasting is to take place. PLEASE NOTE: The word NEIGHBORS is now being used. JUST HOW CLOSE ARE THEIR NEIGHBORS? So now we are into air quality. (EPA)

Also under the Operations Portion, it states the use of diesel-powered portable heavy equipment will be brought on to site for processing (crushing/grinding) of mined rock material 4 weeks per quarter, up to 100 days/yr. The use of the term “portable”, does this mean they will be transporting this “heavy equipment” in and out the quarry on an “as needed” basis? But the proposed use, and time table seems to be on a regular time basis. So will they just keep it there? Don’t know when you may need to use it. AND operating time of the quarry is stated to be from 6:00 AM to 5:00 PM Monday-Friday (**11 hours/day**) or approximately 250 days per year. So if am I reading this right, they have blasting (only when necessary), they have heavy equipment “ripping” up the hills, they have some heavy crushing of rock (noise level?), they have diesel trucks and equipment running (EPA), and THEY won’t do all of this too early in the AM so as not to disturb the next door neighbors, the neighbors across the road, and up the hill! Remember there are approximately 25 houses within 1 mile. Question: Does this sound like a lot of noise and pollution to you?

The section of Reclamation and Revegetation is interesting. How are they going to “replace” a hillside? This is a mining operation, taking out granite

and materials, which **is the hill**? This is a 25-50 year project. Looking at Hansen's quarry from Hwy 58, I find it very difficult to see a replaced hill.

In conclusion I strongly believe and feel this is a bad project for this area. I believe and feel the applicants are only thinking of the money they could possibly make and not about the environment, traffic and safety, water, and noise this project will make.

Do not let this project continue.

Thank you,

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cc
District 5 Supervisor Debbie Arnold
District 1 Supervisor Frank Mecham
District 2 Supervisor Bruce Gibson
District 3 Supervisor Adam Hill
District 4 Supervisor Paul Teixeira

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