



Draft EIR Comment Form Proposed Las Pilitas Quarry Project

Date: 6/3/13
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Comment: Please accept the following comments
on the proposed Aster/ Las Pilitas Quarry
project.

SLO COUNTY
 PLANNING/BUILDING
 DEPT
 2013 JUN -3 AM 9:51

**Please print. Your name, address, and comments become public information and may be released to interested parties if requested.*

Please either deposit this sheet at the sign-in table before you leave today, or fold, stamp, and mail. Insert additional sheets if needed. Comments must be received by June 5, 2013. Comments may also be faxed to (805) 788-2413 or emailed to mwilson@co.slo.ca.us.

Draft EIR Comments Oster/Las Pilitas Quarry
Ted Mathiesen
6/3/13

My name is Ted Mathiesen and I have lived in Santa Margarita permanently since 1983. My wife and I have raised five children who all attended Santa Margarita Elementary school. My grandson will begin kindergarten this fall at Santa Margarita Elementary. My comments pertain specifically to increased traffic flow of quarry trucks on Highway 58 adjacent to the elementary school and through the business district of Santa Margarita.

4.11.3 in regard to the school crosswalk the EIR states that school hours for Kindergarten dismissal are 1:40 when actually it is 11:20, so increased school traffic will be present at mid day not just early and late as they state. They propose to limit traffic before and after school but not during this time period.

In reading the May 2009 traffic study by TPG consultants which is cited and used as a traffic and pedestrian count in the EIR, the sample for the Estrada at H street (crosswalk), and Estrada at El Camino was only a one day, 4/7/09 (appendix Table A-1) sample, not nearly enough to conclude what actually happens at these intersections. Any statistics professor would grade this sample as "F". Additionally from personal observation of my five children attending Santa Margarita Elementary, rain or other inclement weather dramatically increases vehicle traffic to and from the school as parents tend to drive their children rather than let them walk or bicycle to school, this fact was not mentioned. Weather could also impact the truck traffic to and from the quarry as well as on site with loading and unloading, causing additional traffic congestion along Hwy 58 and through the school area and business district, not mentioned as an impact.

Both the TPG study P-11, and the EIR 4.11-10 states that there is only one RTA bus stop in Santa Margarita at El Camino and Encina, not accurate as there is another one near the Ancient Peaks winery at Maria St. on El Camino/Hwy 58, which makes for a total of four stops, two north bound and two south bound, bus routes through Santa Margarita are M-F 6AM-6PM. From personal observation and occasional use of RTA busses, the use of this bus route has dramatically increased which increases potential conflicts between RTA busses and quarry trucks.

The EIR states 4.11.21 that a crest in the roadway tends to obscure drivers vision of the cross walk when entering town on Hwy 58 from the east toward SM school, this is a true statement, however they state the quarry trucks can see the crosswalk from 350ft away due to the higher position of the vehicle. I believe this statement to be purely opinion and highly questionable.

All the assumptions about traffic through town are based entirely on quarry owned/operated trucks, what about private trucks that just show up at the quarry wanting a load and are unaware of any proposed traffic flow restrictions?

My personal observation of the downtown business district turn lane which separates North and South bound traffic is that present Hansen quarry trucks are increasingly using this lane as a temporary stopping/parking lane for a variety of reasons mostly to shop at the grocery store or the small café during lunch time.

There are many reasons that the quarry/strip mine should not be allowed to proceed that other individuals are addressing. My concerns lie with the safety of our children and pedestrian and vehicle traffic in the community of Santa Margarita.

Thank you


/s/ Ted Mathiesen

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