



Draft EIR Comment Form

Proposed Las Pilitas Quarry Project

Date: 06/04/13

Name*: DREAMING THE SALINAS, A Project of Ecologistics, Inc.

Affiliation (if any)*: Ecologistics, Inc., A 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Corporation

Address*: 4349 Old Santa Fe Road #6,

City, State, Zip Code*: San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

Telephone Number*: 805.548.0597

Email*: info@ecologistics.org and info@dreamingthesalinas.org

2013 JUN -5 PM 3:13
SE- COUNTY
PLANNING/BUILDING
DEPT

Dear Mr. Murry Wilson:

Comment:

Dreaming the Salinas, a Project of Ecologistics Inc., a California Non-Profit Corporation,
respectfully submits the following comments to the DEIR for the Las Pilitas Quarry
Conditional Use Permit and Reclamation Plan.

~~Dreaming The Salinas is a four-years young innovative and collaborative region-based
restoration and conservation initiative to reconcile nature and cultures along the 174-mile
Salinas River corridor and the 4200 square mile watershed it serves. The premise is that
dreaming the future can create the future, that by asking what success would look like and
what are our dreams a transformative process can be launched resulting in envisioning do-able
dreams. Through meetings and workshops we bring together community leaders, experts,
stakeholders, farmers, military users, concerned citizens, environmental groups, fishermen,
watershed communities, Native Americans, State and Federal Agencies, and Monterey and
San Luis Obispo Counties, for the purpose and in the hope of leveraging the network and
resources of community partners and friends, to identify actions that can be taken to restore
and conserve the Salinas watershed. As permaculturist Brock Dolman says, our watersheds
are our lifeboats.~~

**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.

The Salinas River has been identified as the most degraded major watershed in California. The river runs from the mountains in the Los Padres National Forest above Lake Santa Margarita in San Luis Obispo County and terminates in Monterey Bay above Seaside near Moss Landing and Elkhorn Slough. Damming of its tributaries has resulted in a loss of water volume, causing loss of critical habitat for anadromous species in the River and its tributaries, and, combined with groundwater pumping near the River, is threatening the River's Free Flow. The lack of water at the far end of the river has caused salt-water intrusion problems in Monterey County. Extensive sand and gravel mining, far in excess of the River's replenishment rate, has diminished natural silt flows which has caused the river to carve out new borders, resulting in a loss of farmland. Siting of industrial uses along the River, like asphalt recycling plants, has had impacts on soil and water quality and the noise has impacted humans and wildlife. Human activity in the river has also affected its use by wildlife as a migration and habitat corridor for wildlife and recreation by humans.

Water Supply. Section 4.13 of the DEIR lacks the specific and foundational information necessary to determine what if any water right the applicant may have. For each a) existing source of water serving either parcel currently; and b) for each source of water intended to be utilized by the Project on either Parcel, please provide:

- Specific point of diversion or extraction (hereafter collectively referred to as "Diversion") [include surface source e.g. Moreno Creek, or Salinas River or, if groundwater, well; APN; watershed or sub-watershed; GIS coordinates; date of first diversion; date of last diversion]
- Means of Diversion
- Specific Place of Use
- Purpose of Use
- Amount of Use (definite quantity of water, including any projected seasonal variations)
- Storage [whether any of the diverted water will be stored, and if so, where, watershed or sub watershed of diversion or extraction and of use)
- Notice [whether any notice was ever given of a claim of right, if so when and how, and where was such notice effectuated]

- the claimed nature of the water right claimed (e.g. riparian, overlying, post 1914 appropriation, pre 1914 statutory appropriation, pre 1914 non-statutory appropriation), date on which priority of use claimed; if a nonstatutory appropriation, date applicant claims completed;

Other Watershed Impacts. Please provide factual support for the DEIR's contention that Salinas River flow, including underflow, is not directly or indirectly related to the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin.

Water Quality. Aside from the hazards of turbidity and sediment, the Project's intent to recycle asphalt raises a serious specter of the contamination of soil and river water by hazardous materials and byproducts of asphalt recycling, including coal tar and dust. These are never good for the health but are particularly problematic in the aquatic environment where they are quickly assimilated by fish. We submit that the DEIR's treatment of hazardous waste is deficient both from the perspective of human health and that of steelhead and slalom.

Endangered Species. The DEIR election to write off steelhead and therefore ignore toxic impacts on the endangered fish looks silly in light of the federal-state-local commitment of funds, restoration efforts, and value of a reestablished steelhead fishery. The DEIR should be supplemented with current science on the effects of contaminated water, particularly the hazardous by products on fish of asphalt derivatives.

Paradigm Shift. One may have hoped we had moved beyond the days where our rivers serve as the sewers of industry. Don't Santa Margarita, Highway 58 which is being promoted for scenic highway designation, and the Carrizo Plain, warrant a paradigm shift where we take back and restore our rivers? Celebrate them for the beauty, wildlife corridors, recreation, kayaking, biking, eco and recreation tourism, and Biodiversity that they add back to our communities? Look at what Paso has done to take back the river! The impacts of this industrial use and its related trucking burdens on aesthetics, and eco/wine/recreation tourism should have been more clearly considered in the EIR. This would be the second mega quarry on just this one reach of the river. Dare we reimagine the North County as being more than just the home of large extractive industries?

Indigeneity. The DEIR's finding of no impacts on cultural resources is not credible just on the basis of anecdotal knowledge. This area along the river was witness to some of the most numerous large scale Chumash settlements, gravesites, ritual sites in all of California and here the river and its banks have yielded much hard evidence of the people who still call this home. A supplemental study by a county appointed consultant is important for county process and appearances as well so they don't just rely on almost 4 year old study by the applicant's consultant, and one that apparently failed to even try to collaborate with the Chumash Council.

Trails. The DEIR should be supplemented with more discussion of making sure the Project will be consistent with and still allow trails and hiking opportunities in the River's corridor.

///

///

///.