

Michelle Edwards
6450 Parkhill Road
Santa Margarita, CA 93453

June 4, 2013

Dear San Luis Obispo County Department of Planning and Building:

I am a resident that lives less than a half a mile of the proposed Las Pilitas Quarry. I am greatly concerned about the traffic and the implications of it that could affect the roads that my neighbors, friends, family, tourists and I travel on every day.

The biggest problem that I see is the fact that these country roads were never constructed to handle the large trucks and their extreme loads and the daily number of trucks that are possible with this project. There are several curves on these roadways in which a large truck has difficulty not "offtracking" or driving over the double yellow lines. I have observed this action numerous occasions with the Topaz Solar Plant construction project trucks driving through the same roads that Las Pilitas trucks would travel. This would only be multiplied if the Las Pilitas Quarry was in operation.

Even IF our roads were constructed for this activity, there is the upkeep of the roadways that is worrisome. I understand that the owners of the quarry would be required to pay a certain percentage to pay for road repairs. Unfortunately there is no guarantee that the money would be allotted for our roadways. If the roads are not kept in good repair for such a rigorous use from the quarry trucks, then we all suffer the consequences.

Then there is the issue of "sharing the road" with the public. In section, 4.11-11, the draft EIR states that shoulder widths vary along SR 58 and cannot always accommodate bicyclists. The fact is that a bicycle is a legal mode of transportation on these roads. The cyclists just as much a right to drive on these roads as does the people in their automobiles. I cannot see how these cycling enthusiasts can ride the roads without having their lives threatened.

Along the same lines of "sharing the road" when there is an emergency vehicle traveling, there is little or no room for a vehicle to pull off of the road to allow the emergency vehicle to pass. I can see this as being a significant problem. Both types of vehicles cannot "stop on a dime" or accelerate quickly if needed. Time is of the essence for the 1st responders to an emergency.

I conclude my letter by quoting the Draft EIR Oster/Las Pilitas Quarry: "Impact Traffic-4: Cumulative Contribution to 2030 Traffic Volumes. Residual Impact: Although the proposed mitigation would reduce impacts to the extent possible, due to the uncertainty regarding Caltrans approval of improvements within their jurisdiction, and uncertainty regarding right-of-way acquisition, it cannot be assured that all improvements would be feasibly constructed prior to the time when they are needed. As a result, cumulative traffic impacts would remain significant and unavoidable." So with this in mind, I recommend and plead that the San Luis Obispo County Department of Planning and Building adopt the project alternative #6.5, no project.

I thank you for allowing me the opportunity to share my opinion with you and the San Luis Obispo County Department of Planning and Building.

Sincerely,


Michelle Edwards