



EIR Comment
Jim Gunter to: mwilson

06/04/2013 02:33 PM

Murry Wilson, Environmental Resource Specialist
Department of Planning and Building
976 Osos Street, Room 300
San Luis Obispo, Ca. 93408-2040

To Mr. Wilson,

Please allow me to introduce myself.

My name is Jim Gunter.

I live on Parkhill Rd. near Santa Margarita, as I have for over 51 years.

I want to address the county decisions concerning the asphalt recycling plant and quarry proposed on Hwy. 58 East of the very small town of Santa Margarita.

In 1962 when we first came to this area, my family went down to the town of Morro Bay, where my parents witnessed the dynamiting of Morro Rock for the purpose of obtaining road base for San Luis Obispo south county projects.

As a reference, approximately 200 - 400 semi-trucks (the same amount as estimated for our community) were coming across the breakwater, past the PG&E plant, past what is now the Great American Fish Company and up to the highway from there.

Looking back, we all know that this desecration of one of California's natural wonders was insane, but well intentioned people were doing it never the less.

When the folks of Morro Bay along with supporters like my parents got disgusted enough, they brought the project to a halt, or so we thought.

Within two to three years, Kaiser Co. proposed a quarry to be placed in Garden Farms.

Funny, when the project was moved to our neighborhood the protests from Morro Bay subsided.

Because Santa Margarita was a small community without a loud commanding presence, we got stuck.

That was in the 1960's and we're still paying the price with extra traffic, noise and dust through the downtown area.

And if by chance you're crossing El Camino Real as all of the children on the West side of town must in order to get to school, then you need to be extra careful because the truck drivers are notorious for exceeding the 35 M.P.H. speed limit through town.

Then, at a later time, a second quarry was added out on Santa Barbara Rd. in South Atascadero.

That road was completely inadequate for the truck traffic that they've been sending over it for years and has only been upgraded in part with the Dove Creek project.

And now you want me to accept a THIRD quarry that will account for much more traffic and impact, and my question has to be, Are you kidding me??!!??

I have a better idea.

Go back to blowing up Morro Rock.

Or, re-open the old quarry at Bishop's Peak. That way you can send 400 trucks down Foothill Blvd. through Cal Poly, up Grand Ave., turn right on Monterey and right past the courthouse, so our leaders can actually see what that many trucks per day for the next thirty years looks like.

How about High Mtn. Rd. in Arroyo Grande?

Send 200 - 400 trucks down through the Village of Arroyo Grande, after all it's basically the same two lane street that we have going through Santa Margarita.

I'm sure that the folks from the quarry will assure you that there is no seismic danger to the dam at Lake Lopez, as they've reassured us about the possible damage to the Salinas River watershed.

Why would they say anything different?

By the way, the Kaiser people assured the Board back in the 60's that "blasting would Not be heard outside of the quarry property."

I live 9 miles from Santa Margarita and I can hear the train go through town.

We already have two quarries in close proximity to us while no one else will even accept one.
Now they want us to swallow another one.
That's not fair.
And you know that it isn't.

In the over half a century that I've been on this road, two things are evident.
1. There's a LOT more people than you would guess. This is basically a residential community with BIG yards.
2. There is virtually NO Heavy Industry other than some farming operations.

The night of the info gathering at the Santa Margarita School, you were asked if bicyclists had been considered.

The one word answer was "No"

The next day, (a future work day with 300 trucks) over 1400 bikes used that same stretch of road.
This simply has not been thought through properly and I urge you to reconsider your position on this project.

In conclusion, all that I ask from you is fairness, reason, and representation.

Respectfully
Jim Gunter
4725 Parkhill Road
Santa Margarita
805-438-5657