Draft EIR Comment Form Proposed Las Pilitas Quarry Project
alison Bryson to: mwilson 06/05/2013 08:46 PM

To Whom it May Concern,

I am sending this letter in regards to the proposed HWY 58/Las Pilitas Quarry Project located in Santa Margarita. My family and I currently live within one mile of the entrance to the proposed quarry, and we have numerous concerns we'd like to share with the County.

My husband and I purchased our "dream home" on Parkhill Road last year, charmed by the rural environment, biodiversity, quietness and overall tranquil and unique feel of the area. At the time, we had 3 children, and just last week, we welcomed our 4th. Our home backs up to oak woodland, and I often go outside with my younger children to view the deer, quail, fox, plethora of birds and uncountable other wildlife we never had the opportunity to view and experience while living in other, more urban, parts of the County. We love it here, for the first time, we believe we are truly home.

When we found out about the quarry, we were completely taken aback. We had no idea of the proposal, and immediately, I had strong opposition. I've worked on construction projects as a sub-contractor for the last 5 years, and know first hand many of the dangers - both to workers, the public and environment. Within a few minutes, I had my impact list complete. It worries me greatly, to say the least.

1) Blasting - our home is built on a slope. Any damage from blasting (which can easily register as a small earthquake) is not covered by insurance. Who is going to check (and pay for) foundation checks to make sure our home is stable and safe?

2) Noise - Between the blasting and continuous construction from 7 am to 6pm, what will happen to our tranquil, peaceful environment? My oldest daughter has a sensory issue with loud noises. Will she be terrified all of the time? Will she not want to go outside? Can I get my two younger children to nap during the day? What of all of our wildlife? Will the birds be frightened away?

3) Dust - I've worked for the last 5 years in a dusty construction environment. I use dust and particulate masks often, and I know that fine dust can travel miles. I do not want to use a dust mask at my own home, nor do I want to see my children playing outside with them on. The dust will settle on our plants, our garden, our children's toys. It will cover everything, and there is nothing that we can do about it. I also think of my kids breathing in that dust, and it scares me - tremendously.

4) Traffic - The EIR and other reports list there could be nearly 300 gravel hauling vehicles a day on HWY 58. The road section on 58 they would be traveling on is full of turns, blind spots and dips. It has to be navigated carefully in a passenger vehicle, and I can't even imagine doing so in a double load truck. Fully loaded, these trucks are considerably unstable, and have the tendency to tip. If the driver doesn't pay careful attention at every turn and dip, there could be horrible recourse. Add in bicyclists, children walking to and from the bus stop, and other road traffic, and it is a fatal accident waiting to happen. Times that by 300 trips a day, and it is a matter of time before someone is seriously injured or killed. I travel that road with 4 children, including a newborn, daily. When will it be our turn?

5) Water Safety - The EIR does not list the MSDS forms nor the chemical names for the cleaning solution to be used on the gravel, but I can almost guarantee they will be petroleum based and

most likely carcinogenic. There is a chance they will breech the water table, which will impact EVERY person living in the area. Since every family out here lives off of personal wells, who will test our water to make sure it is safe? Will the Las Pilitas Corporation pay for our testing? I make baby bottles, cook, clean, take showers in, and water my plants with my well water. If it becomes contaminated, what will my family do? How am I ever supposed to hand a bottle of water to my two year old and not fear I'm giving her something that could cause cancer in the future?

6) Impact to Environment and Wildlife - Our favorite thing about living in this wonderful area is the wildlife and associated native environment. Every morning I have a cup of coffee and stare out my windows to watch the jays, quails, squirrels, hawks, deer, fox, and other animals safely and peacefully traverse my property. There is no noise, other than their own, and it really is something beautiful. I know they will not stay if this quarry is approved. There will be nothing left to marvel at, and the thought is heartbreaking.

7) Property Values - I fear if this quarry is approved, our "dream home" will become nothing more than a nightmare. If we decided we need to move, which we desperately don't want to do, who in there right mind would take our place? Property values for a 10 mile radius will take a nose dive, and all of our hard work and investment into our home will be for naught. I would be surprised if I could sell this beautiful home and land for 50% of what we paid for it if there is a quarry built less than a mile away. I know for a fact, my neighbors all feel the same.

To be blunt about it, if this quarry is approved, it will negatively effect thousands of people. It is dangerous, destructive, hazardous, and above all, totally and completely unnecessary. The only people who will benefit from this quarry will be the two owners, who will happily rake in the money while living in their safe, quite, healthy homes. The rest of us will just suffer.

Thank you for your consideration,

Ryan Deveraux and Alison Bryson Deveraux