

7-29-10

Re: Conditional Use Permit and Reclamation Plan for Las Pilitas Quarry

We are strongly opposed to any consideration given to a permit that would allow this type of commercial operation to exist in the area proposed.

We live 1.5 miles from the intersection of Hwy 58 on Park Hill Rd. I have lived here since 1983. The area is known for it's peace and quiet, questionable ground water reserves and ever an growing population.

You have already heard from a concerned community, all the reasons this project should not be allowed. I will dwell on a few that are a concern to me and my family.

First and probably the most important is the traffic safety issue. As more people move to the country, they bring with them people issues, litter, loud music, barking dog's, target practice with large caliber weapon's, dirt bike activity, drinking and driving, and high traffic speeds on rural roads. People will not slow down for large trucks, they will cross double yellow lines because they needed to be someplace an hour ago. I know this because, on occasion I pull a 26 ft fifth wheel and a 24 ft fishing boat on the road. Commuter's are in a hurry, impatient and almost always tailgate till I can find a place to pull over, which are far and few between.

When the Santa Margarita Ranch project breaks ground, traffic congestion and the risk of accidents and injury or death will increase. I'm wondering if these future homeowner's would tolerate a parade of trucks clogging the roadway.

Secondly, there is a lack of water in the area. Some years we have to ration water use to make it through the year. We have our residence plus 3 rental properties. Should water be an issue, we could possibly lose rental income which we depend on for retirement income. Some neighbor's haul water during the dry month's.

The plan calls for using approximately 20,000 gals. Of water per day for dust abatement. Conservatively speaking, at 5 days per week, that's 4,800,000 gals of water per year.

We already live in a dusty area, My wife' barely gets through the summer with her dust allergies. The thought of adding more dust from the quarry is unthinkable.

Another concern that we have is living near a commercial operation. The visual impact of seeing the Hansen quarry as you drive NE on Hwy 58 is not something that I would like to look at any closer, not to mention the numerous trucks that will line the road every day for 30 years! A denuded mountain that will never look good no matter what you do to it. If we wanted to live near something like this, we would move to Garden Farms, where we could enjoy the trains and the Hansen Quarry and the noise from El Camino and the freeway!

Then there are the devaluation of properties in the area. Home values are already depressed. The quarry will all but ensure that home prices will never fully recover, as prospective buyer's will seek more desirable area's to consider. Additionally, we would probably have to lower rents to entice people to become tenants. Why should property owners suffer financial hardship so that a few will profit?

As mentioned earlier, the area is very quiet, yet we hear the train go through Santa Margarita 6 miles away, we hear blasting from the Hansen quarry, 2 miles as the crow flies, we hear shooting on Wednesdays from the Gun Club on Santa Clara Rd, 6 miles as the crow flies. We don't need anymore noise!!!

I could go on, but as mentioned earlier, you have already heard from concerned community members. We have worked hard over the last 27years, making our property, ready for our retirement years. As a retired public servant, I don't relish the thought of sitting on my front porch, listening to noise from commercial operations at the quarry.

Please let the record reflect our opposition to this project and know that we will support any action to keep this operation out of our community.

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