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Date: 07/18/2010 09:52 AM  
Subject: EIR Scoping Concerns for Oster Quarry Project

To whom it may concern:

We would like the follow issues to be addressed in the Environmental Impact Report being initiated to study the Oster Quarry application.

1. Traffic generated by the quarry, consisting of large trucks hauling materials to and from the plant, and traffic incidental to quarry operations and employees.

Highway 58 is a narrow two lane rural road with long stretches of road with no shoulders. In many of the curves, it is not feasible for a large semi truck and trailer(s) to execute the curve without crossing over the median line.

The approach to the planned quarry occurs a short distance down a fairly steep incline and the bridge over the Salinas River. Should truck traffic be such that several trucks are waiting to make the left turn into the quarry, the curve at the top of this incline would prevent drivers from seeing the trucks in time to safely brake to a halt.

The exit from the quarry is not visible until oncoming traffic is less than perhaps 200' away. As loaded trucks carrying quarry product will not be able to reach normal highway speed for a considerable distance, due in no small part to the fact that they will be climbing an incline immediately upon exiting the quarry, the slow down in traffic will present a considerable hazard.

The trucks will be driving through three blocks of residential homesites and past an elementary school and the main school crosswalk.

The trucks must cross the railroad prior to entering the main highway running through the town of Santa Margarita. Is there room for a truck with two trailers to safely wait at the stop sign without the second trailer resting on the railroad tracks?

2. Noise

The noise from 200 truck trips a day as well as quarry operations must be dealt with. The area in question is located in a canyon and noise (and dust and fumes) will definitely impact residents on Park Hill Road as

well as those on Highway 58.

### 3. Air Pollution

The dust from quarrying operations, the vehicle emissions from the materials transport trucks, and possible air contaminants from material being brought in to recycle, and trucked out after processing must be addressed.

Will quarrying operations increase the risk of exposure to Valley Fever, known to exist in this area and dispersed due to soil disturbance?

Who and what will monitor the air quality issues that arise from a mining operation and how often?

### 4. Water

How much water will the quarrying and recycling operations need and what is the source of the water? Residents in this area are already dealing with a severely limited water supply; residential water wells often produce less than a gallon per minute due to limited supplies in the aquifer. Will the operation draw on the aquifer(s) the area residents rely upon and diminish their supply even further? If the operation causes residential wells to dry up, will there be any recourse to those of us who no longer have water?

What steps will be taken to avoid contamination of the two nearby water courses; the Salinas River (which eventually empties out into the Monterey Bay Marine Sanctuary) and the creek which parallels Park Hill road from many miles.

### 3. Asphalt recycling plant concerns

I would like to know the environmental concerns involved with asphalt recycling. Based on my reading, asphalt can contain any or all of at least the following toxic contaminants:

- Hydrogen sulfide
- Benzene
- Chromium
- Formaldehyde
- Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons
- Arsenic
- Cadmium

By what process will the asphalt be recycled? Hot melt or ???  
What effect on air quality and possible groundwater contamination will the process have?

### 4. Land use code

According to SLO County Land Use Ordinance, " [the ordinance]... allows the Production of paving materials on Ag and Rural Lands but it is qualified with Footnote 6 that makes it clear that Paving Materials are an -  
"Allowable use limited to manufacturing operations for which the raw materials are extracted on-site."

Recycling concrete and asphalt constitutes production of paving materials. As the material to effect the recycling must be trucked in, will this allowance negate the ordinance and therefore allow all rural lands to host industrial production?

The environmental impact of industrial production on rural and ag lands is enormous and must be included in this report under the assumption that this quarry and recycling operation may be approved. The reinterpretation of the ordinance to allow this use will have a significant impact on all rural and ag land allowable use designation.

5. Restoration and reclamation

By what process will the quarry, once depleted, be restored to natural habitat. How will the restoration affect the overall landscape and the residents nearby?

What visual standards are to be met to restore the area?

6. What mitigation will take place to shield the operations from the road? A quarry is not a "scenic" operation.

7. Habitat and wildlife impact

What wildlife, flora and fauna both, will be impacted by the quarry and how will that be mitigated?

The quarry is sited proximal to two water courses which are natural migration corridors for a great deal of wildlife and habitat for birds. Consider not only the physical operation of material mining, but the effect of increased noise, traffic and pollution from the operation and the vehicles.

8. Native American site review

This area may well have Native American sites thereon. Will there be any sort of review and or effort to determine if such sites exist and, if so, how to preserve and or honor such sites?

9. Post-Quarrying terms

No mining operation can fully restore an area to its former landscape. Will code be in place to prevent the quarry from being left "as is" and/or expanding operations or turning the mine into a new landfill operation, etc.? In other words, what will the county do to protect the area in 30 years. All too often projects which have a set time line seem to get extensions and amendments to the original permitted use, and since the operation is already in place and has been operating for some time, previously prohibited activities become possible further "efficient" uses.

What guarantees will this operation provide the residents and neighbors of this area that in 30 years the quarry will cease operation and be restored to rural lands?

10. Emergency Situations: Procedures, Policies, and Implementation

What, if any, procedures and practices will be required to deal with hazardous materials, both transport of and location on site.

What policies will be required for dealing with wildland fire emergencies? Due to the narrowness of Highway 58, truck traffic to and from the quarry could impact emergency vehicle access to critical fire response sites. In addition, should an emergency evacuation be required for the residents of this area, will there be a plan to get the trucks off the road so residents can evacuate efficiently and quickly.

11. Geographic Equity

There are two other quarries in close proximity to the proposed Oster Quarry. Both are situated in locations which have far less of an impact on the surrounding communities and both have reserves sufficient to meet the need

for quarry product well beyond the 30 year proposed life span of the Oster quarry. Is it economically sensible to add a third quarry to this area, and are there sufficient benefits in doing so to outweigh the serious negative impact the Oster quarry project will have on this area? What are those benefits?

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We appreciate the opportunity to express our concerns and appreciate your consideration. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

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