



To: Marti Fisher/Planning/COSLO@Wings,
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: Fw: Hwy 58 / Las Pilitas Quarry
From: Jeffrey Oliveira/Planning/COSLO - Monday 08/02/2010 04:17 PM

From: Kevin Christian <kchristian@charter.net>
To: joliveira@co.slo.ca.us
Date: 08/02/2010 01:17 PM
Subject: Hwy 58 / Las Pilitas Quarry

As a cyclist on this road, I'm never going to be happy about something that increases the amount of traffic. But, that doesn't mean that I am personally against this project. For me, it gets into broader issues of private property use, appropriate locations for this type of business, travel distances for needed materials, etc. My concern is what can be done to mitigate the traffic impact and improve overall safety, specifically for bicyclists along this very popular cyclist route, if this project is approved

The safety issues that bicyclists currently face and I expect will increase are; close drive bys, unsafe passes when there is oncoming traffic, and unsafe overall traffic speed (narrow roads and limited sight distance create issues). Beyond these, I am concerned about gravel spills on the road surface which can cause flats and crashes for bicyclists, and a general higher level of motorist's intolerance and vitriol towards bicyclists due to impatience resulting from the increased truck traffic.

While we can't control every motorist on the road, it seems that we may have an opportunity to demand the highest level of professionalism from the quarry drivers. So here is my fantasy: Every truck driver for the quarry would be required to take a bicycling safety awareness course. Something like the League of American Bicyclists (LAB) Motorist Education class. See following link:

<http://www.bikeleague.org/programs/education/courses.php>

May be it would even be an annual thing so that drivers would get a refresher. I propose that the way to make this happen is to make it a condition of the permit. This would not only address the expressed bicyclist safety concerns, but it would also support the 05-06 SLO County Grand Jury recommendation for BikeEd. (see link at bottom) While this recommendation was heavily focused on bicyclists, there is text and requirements for "sharing the road" to address motorists. (The installation of additional "Share the Road" signs would also be helpful and is supported by the GJ recommendations, but isn't really adequate as the only motorist education instrument for the proposed quarry.)

Thank you for your time in considering my comments. Along with the previously mentioned links, I have provided links to a few resources that might be helpful in finding local bicycling related education resources:

<http://slobikelane.org/cm/programs/workshop/home.html>

(The San Luis Obispo County Bicycle Coalition currently offers bicycling education courses for bicyclists. I do not speak for them, but their courses are based on the LAB curriculum.)

<http://www.afd.calpoly.edu/police/bikeclass.asp?pid=1>

(This is a diversion class offered to anybody in the County who gets a traffic ticket while

bicycling. While this is not a specific course I would recommend for truck driver bicycling awareness training, the Cal Poly PD may be a useful resource due to their focus and understanding of bicycling issues.)

http://www.slocourts.net/downloads/grand_jury/final-2005-2006.pdf

(This is the Grand Jury report on sharing the road in the County and the need for BikeEd.)

Kevin Christian

League of American Bicyclists, LCI #1377

"Cyclists fare best when they act and are treated as drivers of vehicles." John Forester

610 Al-Hil Drive

San Luis Obispo, CA 93405

(805) 783-0942