

County of San Luis Obispo

Planning And Building Department

Comment Form

Oster (Las Pilitas Quarry) CUP/Reclamation Plan (DRC2009-00025)

Date: July 24, 2010

Name: Michelle Edwards

Affiliation (if any): none

Address: 6450 Parkhill Road

City, State, Zip Code: Santa Margarita, CA 93453

Telephone Number: 805.438.4324

Email: edwardsma.slo@gmail.com

Comment:

Dear Mr. Oliveira:

I am writing in regards to the Oster (Las Pilitas Quarry) CUP/Reclamation Plan (DRC2009-00025). I am protesting against the development of this operation/business. I have many concerns, but would like to concentrate on my top two fears of this proposed quarry: depletion of water and lack of safety.

Water

It is a well known fact that the central coast of CA has limited sources of water. On average, Santa Margarita, CA receives on average 24.36" of rain annually (weather.com). The average CA household uses between 163,000-326,000 gallons of water annually (http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/publications/water_resources/html/water_use_facts.html). The Las Pilitas Quarry plans to use an individual well. The expected daily demand on water is 20,000 gallons of water. As of July 1, 2010 there have been no sustained yield tests on the proposed or existing wells. In addition, there hasn't been any water testing at all to this date (Notice of Preparation, Draft Environmental Impact Report, 7/1/2010). According to the Notice of Preparation, Draft Environmental Impact Report, 7/1/2010, the applicants have indicated that the proposed project will: violate water quality standards; discharge into surface waters or otherwise alter surface water quality; change quality of groundwater; change quantity or movement of available surface or ground water. This is not acceptable considering how limited our resource of water is in Santa Margarita, CA.

Safety

I am concerned with the safety of my family, home, neighbors and visitors of Santa Margarita, CA in regards to the proposed quarry. The applicants have stated that the quarry will be in operation weekdays, 6:00am- 5:00pm for 30+ years. They estimate that the project related traffic trips to or from the project will be a total of 208 trips daily. With this in mind, the additional traffic on our curvy roads will not be welcomed. In fact, it will cause great danger to the other drivers, motorcyclists and cyclists that frequent these roads. Immediate dangers that the trucks transporting loads to and from the quarry pose are: rocks/ debris falling from the trucks; difficulty navigating the road; causing traffic congestion; inability to safely stop at the railroad crossings; possibility of chains dragging on the pavement and sparking a fire are all great problems for all of us.

Fire is a grave danger here in Santa Margarita, CA. The blasting of the rock will not only be unsightly, loud, cause pollution, but will also possibly cause fire. The chemicals, oil and machinery that is used and stored on the premises will be another fire hazard. Another item in regards to the threat of fire, CAL Fire uses State Route 58 to go to and from fires and calls throughout the day due to its close proximity to the proposed quarry (.97 mile). I can see that there would be a threat to the firemen, the other drivers and the person(s) waiting for the rescue if there are additional trucks heavily loaded sharing the road. There isn't anywhere to pass or pull off to allow emergency crews to pass, especially if you are driving a large, heavily loaded truck.

I thank you for allowing me the opportunity to share my opinion with you and the San Luis Obispo County Department of Planning and Building.

Sincerely,

Michelle A. Edwards