

**County of San Luis Obispo
Planning and Building Department**

Comment Form

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

DATE: August 6, 2010

NAME: Christopher Finnegan

AFFILIATION: Adjacent Residential Property

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Hello, my name is Christopher Finnegan. My property is adjacent to the proposed Oster/Las Pilitas Project. In fact, I believe the back of my house is probably 100 feet from the proposed mountain removal site. I believe that this project will have a significant negative impact on my life. I am concerned for obvious reasons, as well as perhaps some not so obvious reasons.

Should the proposed quarry be allowed, my property will be surrounded on three sides by the Oster/Las Pilitas Quarry. My family and I will literally be living at the quarry. We purchased our property because of its beautiful location. It is very peaceful and private, tucked back into a canyon yet close to the town of Santa Margarita. At night you are able to see not only stars but also galaxies. We believed that we had found our little piece of heaven. If the quarry is allowed I believe that it will create a severely negative emotional and financial burden on me.

I am greatly concerned about how the quarry will impact my family's safety, quality of life, water supply, and financial future. I am also concerned for the impact this project will have on our community as a whole. A few of my concerns are: noise, ground vibration, constant dust created by the heavy equipment, trucks, bulldozers, grinding machines, drills, jackhammers, and explosives in such close proximity to my property. I am also concerned about the view and visual destruction of the hillside, loss and migration of the local wild life, decrease in the water table and unsafe traffic conditions.

I believe my family's quality of life will be negatively impacted, as we will wake in the morning to the sound of heavy equipment. During the quarry operation hours the noise will be so great that we will have to leave, at night we will fall asleep to the sound of rock grinding machines and the bright lights of the quarry operations. This will undoubtedly contribute to a decrease in my family's quality of life and potentially have negative effects on our health due to lack of sleep as a result of ground vibration, noise, fugitive dust, and glaring night lights.

I am also concerned that the quarry will absorb most of the water in our area and that the water table will drop and we, as well as all the residents around us, will have to truck in water to our property. I believe this could be dangerous during the fire season. I am also worried that the response time for the Park Hill Fire and other emergency vehicles will be delayed due to increased semi truck traffic.

I am concerned about traffic conditions traveling to and from the town of Santa Margarita. I am worried for the safety of my children, my wife, my mother, and myself. It is stressful for me to imagine my loved ones traveling multiple times daily on a two-lane road with doubled 18-wheelers in front and behind our vehicles. The increase in volume and frequency of large trucks traveling on the small two lane-winding road creates increased potential for serious accidents to occur.

I am also concerned that adding additional semi-truck routes through the downtown core of Santa Margarita will create safety issues for pedestrians and vehicles visiting the business district.

I am concerned about five different areas with driving safety hazards as a result of the increased semi-trucks on Hwy 58 such as; the 90 degree curve at "J" Street and Estrada, Hwy 58 (Estrada Ave) and "H" Street, the railroad crossing at 58 and El Camino, and the 211 interchange at Hwy 58 and the 101.

Prior to the railroad crossing at Hwy 58, I noticed a sign that reads, "50 feet between tracks and highway." It is my understanding that a semi-truck with a double trailer will either have to extend into the traffic lane on El Camino or it will be over the railroad tracks. I am concerned about the amount of time it will take to negotiate a turn at the intersection of 58 and El Camino. I am also concerned that people will become frustrated and cut through H Street to avoid that intersection, thus causing further slowing of traffic and possible vehicular/pedestrian accidents in that area. Also it is my understanding is that Hwy. 58 (SR58) is a CA Legal Advisory Route. I have noticed that there is a yellow sign posted reading "Not Advisable For Trucks With Trailers. Use 46 or 166."

When considering the increased traffic volume this project would create, I expect that the other approved yet undeveloped projects in the area will be taken into consideration, such as the Rossi Housing Development. As well as the projects in the process of approval, i.e.- Carissa Plains Solar Project.

Another concern I have is the aqueduct pipe that runs on Oster property directly above my property. I am worried that the ground vibration due to explosives, heavy equipment moving and digging earth, or work accidents/errors may break and cause damage to my property. I am concerned that with the quarry proximity so near to our house, someone could lose control of machinery and cause damage to someone in my family or our property. I am concerned that due to possible erosion, boulders may roll down the hill.

Lastly, I am concerned that there will be a migration of rodents, reptiles, and animals across my property seeking shelter and refuge from the quarry operations.

I do not believe the quarry is a good fit for the proposed location for all the above mentioned reasons. Thank you for reviewing my concerns and those expressed by others in our community.