

8-1-2010

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Mr. Oliveira,

We have lived in San Luis Obispo County since 1967. We enjoy living on the central coast. We are writing this email because we are very concerned about the proposed Quarry on Hwy 58. We are opposed to approval of this project for multiple reasons.

1. The first issue we have with this project is the amount of and quality of dust and toxins that will be put into the air as truck/vehicles pass directly in front of our house through out the day and the blasting that is proposed at this site. We are also concerned that the number of these same trucks/vehicles, 200 hundred additional or 1 every 2.4 minutes, will be passing a public park that is used by many families and the local elementary school. The air quality, health, and safety of the people living in Santa Margarita should be of concern to the county, and they should deny this application. There is no mitigation that would be an acceptable trade when our health is being compromised. We already have a quarry of El Camino Real a few miles past town. That should not be able to go through our town. Those trucks should go down El Camino Real and use the Santa Barbara 101 on and off ramp. It does not make since to have these big trucks flying through our town at 45 miles per hour. We have a lot of young families with kids that have moved into Santa Margarita. We have no cross walks, stop signs, or stoplights that would help slow the traffic down to 25 miles per hour. All it takes is one truck to not be able to slow down or follow the speed limit and hit a child trying to walk to school and we will have major issue. With that pointed out, it does not make sense to have a second one on the other side of town.
2. The second issue we have is the number of vehicles that will be passing through our town and in front of our home daily. El Camino Real is already heavily traveled and vehicles do not stop to allow people to cross the street. I have been in the crosswalk on El Camino Real on many occasions walking and riding bikes to the post office, and was forced to stop mid-way in the cross walk as I cross the street for a vehicle that does not stop for my child and me. We have had a fatality occur in the crosswalk because a driver was driving too fast and did not stop. In addition the cross walk at the corner of H Street and Estrada is another area where near misses are very common in the morning and afternoons as students arrive at and leave school. Crossing guards are almost hit on a regular basis. The CHP and Sheriff are called on a regular basis to complain about the fact that people drive TOO fast and do not slow down or stop for people crossing the road. In this last school the issue of parent traffic became such an issue that the school took measures to slow down and reduce congestion. The school eliminated parking in a large area in front of the school. More and more parents are now parking at the park and walking their children up to the school. We do not think the county realizes the number of vehicles that transport children too and from school on a daily basis. In the real world the fact of the matter is that there is a high level of congestion in the morning, around noon and in the afternoon. You now add to this mess large trucks that weight tens of thousands of pounds and loaded with heavy debris. There is not a single stop sign in Santa Margarita that regulates traffic for the vehicles and allows pedestrians to safely cross the major street and highway 58.
3. The third issue we have is the amount of proposed water being used daily. Water was is one of the major issues with the proposed Margarita Ranch project (which we support), and it irresponsible to even consider another project that would take such a large amount of resources that have been a major issue.
4. The last issue we have is the value of our homes and the quality of life we enjoy in Santa Margarita. This project will significantly reduce both of these. Our property values will drop, who is going to

compensate us the hundreds of thousands of dollars we will lose? We think that Santa Margarita will be the next hot spot to live with the development of the Santa Margarita Ranch project, golf course and upscale homes. It will increase the property values and bring a better quality of life. The quarry will not!!!!

We both grew up on the Central Coast since 1967 and feel fortunate that we have been able to stay here and raise our family. We specifically chose Santa Margarita because it is a small town and our child could grow up in a tight knit community without being around a lot of college students but yet still have a 9 minute drive to SLO. This project threatens this quality of life that we have here, our health, and our property values. There is no amount of mitigations that would reduce these issues. We do understand that Highway 58 is a Highway, but it should only be a Highway from the turn by the trailer park heading east. The rest of 58 through the town to the 101 on and off ramp should be a county road with the maximum speed limit of 25 MPH. This would help ensure our quality of life and help promote our downtown businesses. This would also force the big quarry and cement trucks to use the Santa Barbara on and off ramps. All of this aside; the fact is that Highway 58 is a 2-lane road with dangerous twists that goes through a neighborhood. The only thing that would reduce hundreds of vehicles passing through town would be to create a road to completely bypasses the town. We strongly suggest that the county deny this project.

Mark and Mia Grosz