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Date: 08/01/2010 08:41 AM
Subject: Concerns Regarding the Proposed Las Pilatas Quarry

Jeff,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you and the planning department for bringing the scoping meeting for the proposed Las Pilatas Quarry to the Santa Margarita Community Center. I think this was a great way to get some basic information about the quarry to local residents who were either unaware of the project or at least unfamiliar with the many dimensions of the project. As a result of this forum hopefully you will receive comments and input that you will find enlightening, helpful and useful as this project continues to evolve. With regard to the meeting itself, we were not surprised by either the large attendance or the broad range of concerns identified by the participants. This proposed project has the potential to impact many peoples lives beyond the immediate area where this quarry is being proposed. If there is one impression you took away from this meeting I hope it is the overall concern and depth which many area residents have regarding this project. It is often said "the devil is in the details". Many of those details were identified in the scoping meeting. I guess going forward those details will be included in the EIR. Our three biggest concerns are listed below.

1.) FIRE. We live on Parkhill Rd. approximately 1/8 mile from this proposed project. The beginning of Parkhill Rd. basically follows Moreno Creek up a broad canyon with hill on both sides. Cal Fire inspects our properties yearly and has requested many of us to clear the brush off the lower portions of the hills for fire protection. The fire will probably not burn down the hill sides but will burn up the canyon. If a fire were to break out in this area chances are the fire will originate along Hwy 58, near the beginning of Parkhill Rd. and then due to prevailing winds will burn up the canyon along Parkhill Rd. This quarry is being proposed in the area where the fire will likely originate. This is not according to me, it is according to Cal Fire.

All aspects of potential fire problems need to be examined thoroughly when looking at the proposed quarry. They should include but not be limited to the following:

- a.) Quarry generated traffic. Every year trucks cause fires on the Cuesta Grade due to blown out tires and other metal debris they drag. With 200 trucks in and out per day this will greatly increase the risk of this type of fire starting. Additional traffic beyond truck traffic needs to be included in this study.
- b.) Fires started by discarded cigarette butts from the above traffic.
- c.) Fires started by traffic accidents due to the increased traffic and impatient drivers who will try to pass these slow trucks.
- d.) Fires started by blasting. Dynamite and other explosives will be used in the quarrying process. Use, handling and storage of these explosives need to be examined. Proper procedures need to be identified and planned for.
- e.) Fires started by power lines and electricity. Additional power lines will need to be established for quarry support structures, wells, etc.
- f.) Other fire sources which I cannot think of at this time but may be identified at a later date by others more familiar with the process and industry.
- g.) Fuel storage for the trucks, other vehicles and machinery associated with the quarry. This should include diesel, gasoline and other fuels and solvents needed to support the quarry. Proper storage and handling procedures need to be studied and implemented. To say these fuels and solvents will not be used or stored on site is not practical or realistic. To store these fuels and solvents on nearby neighboring properties is not a "solution" If quarry fuels and solvents are to be stored on nearby properties (i.e.. the Cole property across the road where Mike Cole is one of the applicants for this project) then proper handling and storage procedures need to be extended to those properties.

- h.) Natural fuel sources such as all the tall grasses and vegetation along Hwy 58 where the truck traffic will occur and natural, native fuels on the proposed quarry property itself needs to be looked at.
- i.) Prevailing wind patterns need to be studied, both on and off shore winds. These winds can be pronounced especially during the summer months. These winds can blow the fire back toward the town of Santa Margarita of funnel the fire up the Parkhill rd. corridor.
- j.) Traffic patterns and reduced response time by Cal Fire and the Santa Margarita Volunteer Fire Department due to backed up truck traffic getting in and out of the quarry. Response times not only for fires on or originating on the quarry property but response times for fires on other properties that will be effected by quarry traffic.
- k.) Cal Fire needs to be involved in the process. Hose bibs and fire hydrants need to be established. Fire truck access and maneuverability needs to be looked at. Once fire trucks are on site they will need to be able to turn around, drive around to actually access the fire.
- l.) Will any fire suppression equipment be stored on site? If yes what is it and where is it?
- m.) FIRE PLAN OF ACTION. A Fire action plan must be established and in place for when the fire happens.

2. WATER USAGE. Many of the residents in this area including ourselves are concerned about the water usage for this project. Firm water usage volumes need to be established. The following water issues need to be studied when considering this proposed project.

- a.) Impact on neighboring wells. Most peoples wells in this area are down below Moreno Creek including the applicant for this project. Will the water needed for this quarry come from below Moreno Creek? If not, what is the water source? How will it effect neighboring wells?
- b.) How will the water be used? All Water usage requirements needs to be identified. They should include but not be limited to the following needs;
 - 1.) Additional amounts of potable water for personal uses. All the additional people such as the truck drivers, employees, construction personnel, business persons and others will need toilets, sinks etc. Drinking water, maybe even showers in case of contamination.
 - 2. Water usage in the extraction process. Does the rock and or decomposed granite need to be wetted down before blasting? Will the aggregate be washed and cleaned before it is removed from the property?
 - 3.) Dust control. Water will need to be sprayed on the roads and premises to control the dust.
 - 4.) The Air Pollution Control Board will need to be involved so particulate matter generated by the blasting, processing and general operation of the quarry can be monitored. Suppression of particulate matter often involves water usage,
 - 5.) How much water will be stored for fire suppression?
 - 6.) How much water usage will be needed for landscaping? Landscaping may be required for fire suppression not just aesthetics. .
 - 7.) How much water will be used for washing and cleaning equipment?
 - 8.) Water monitoring. How will water usage be monitored? Who will be responsible to make sure water is not wasted and allowable amounts are not exceeded. Will there be penalties for excessive use?
 - 9.) Liability. Will the quarry be liable for neighboring wells going dry due to quarry related water usage issues? Many wells in this area are marginal at best as it is now and may be negatively impacted by this amount of water extraction.
 - 10) WASTE WATER. Where is all the waste water supposed to go? Will there be tailings and or sludge ponds? Will the waste have access to the Salinas River?
 - 11.) WATER PLAN OF ACTION. As with FIRE above, there needs to be a comprehensive water usage and disposal plan of action. It needs to be complete, defined and precise.

3.) TRAFFIC CONCERNS. I think it goes without saying that nobody want additional traffic on our roads out here because of the inconvenience but this project is of particular concern due to it many safety issues. The following traffic related issues need to be addressed when considering this project.

- a.) First, the roads out here (Hwy 58) were not designed for the type of trucks and trailers that will be needed to support this quarry. There is a sign in Santa Margarita near the park that states "not advisable for trucks with trailers" It's not that it isn't "allowable", Its not advisable because it is a know problem. Hwy 58 is way to narrow and windy for this type of regular truck and trailer usage.

b.) The trucks are too big for Hwy 58. They are too long and do not fit between the intersection of Hwy 58/El Camino Real and the Railroad tracks on Hwy 58. This is a safety issue. They will get hit by the automatic railroad crossing bar if they are parked at the stop sign at the intersection of Hwy 58 and El Camino Real. Will the traffic have to be rerouted through town to the other end (Willamena) to avoid this dangerous situation? I hate to think what would happen if an Amtrak train is coming and there is a tractor trailer stuck at the railroad crossing.

c.) An additional 200 trucks per day coming AND going having to pass between the county park where kids play and the elementary school is very scary situation. Many kids in our community walk to and from the school and cross the road right here, not to mention all the kids and people in the park.

d.) Trucks waiting to turn in and out of the proposed quarry and truck traffic on Hwy 58 will slow the response time of fire trucks and emergency vehicles to and from the area.

e.) Impatient drivers trying to pass these trucks will cause an increase in traffic accidents on Hwy 58. As awful as it is to think about, we can count on an increase in traffic related fatalities and serious injuries as a result of the increased truck traffic. Head-on collisions will occur as drivers attempt to pass these big trucks.

f.) Rural Santa Margarita is a popular venue for cycling enthusiast. The portion of Hwy 58 which these trucks will be using is the exact spot the cyclist use. This is not just a weekend event. Groups of cyclist use this portion of the road on a daily basis if not on an hourly basis. There are some bicycle events actually scheduled on this portion of the road and there is at least one motorcycle race scheduled on this portion of the road annually.

g.) Traffic noise. 200 trucks coming and going plus other quarry traffic will generate noise pollution. Most people enjoy the peace and quite of living in the country out here. The nose generated by these trucks especially when they down shift their gears is something that needs to be addressed. There will be allot of down shifting out here on the steep windy rural Hwy 58.

h.) A TRAFFIC PLAN needs to be developed and implemented before this project moves forward. Access to and from this proposed site by large trucks of this quantity all the way from Hwy 101 to the proposed site is UNACCEPTABLE as it stands today. New roads and truck routes need to be established. Existing roads need to be widened and straightened to accommodate quarry traffic. Bike lanes and turn lanes need to be created. Will traffic lights be needed? Access and exit from the quarry need to be created. Will the road itself need to be reengineered to accommodate the weight of a tractor trailers fully loaded with rock at 200 trips per day.

In summary, we feel there are a number of issues that need to be addressed in the EIR, more than just the three issues we listed above, however these three issues are of the greatest concern to us at this time. Thank you for taking the time to read my letter and thanks again for holding your scoping meeting for the project at our community center here in Santa Margarita.

Sincerely

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