



Fw: Las Politas Quarry Conditional Use Permit (REF: DRC 2009-00025

Jeffrey Oliveira to: Marti Fisher

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From: Chris Neary <diabloridr@sbcglobal.net>
To: joliveira@co.slo.ca.us
Date: 07/16/2010 04:53 PM
Subject: Las Politas Quarry Conditional Use Permit (REF: DRC 2009-00025)

Jeff,

I've reviewed the environmental impact report for this project, and I believe there are impacts which are not addressed in the report and may not have been discussed in your community meeting. Specifically, I believe the assessments that impacts to recreation will be mitigated and that an insignificant impact on roadway safety will occur ARE NOT correct.

Hwy 58 East from Santa Margarita is an important bicycling corridor, primarily for recreational riding, but to a lesser extent for bicycle commuting. San Luis Obispo County recognizes this fact, as SLO County RideShare designates Hwy 58 as a suggested recreational riding route. Additionally, Pozo Rd, which intersects Hwy 58 in the area of the study, contains Class II bicycle lanes.

Hwy 58 contains no bicycle improvements and with the current traffic volume the need is not critical. However, the 208 daily heavy truck trips this project will create is likely a 200 to 300% increase from the current level of truck traffic on this route. An unimproved road with no shoulder and poor sight lines in combination with the existing bicycle traffic and an upward step function increase in truck traffic will at the least create a hazardous and frustrating situation for all road users and at worst may result in needless fatalities.

Mitigation via incorporation of Class II bicycle lanes on Hwy 58 and other roadway improvements is the minimum that should be considered to avoid a finding of "Significant Impact"

Additionally, currently the EIR does not stipulate that either signalization or addition of a left turn lane on El Camino Real @ Hwy 58 be a requirement for the project. Again, the EIR fails to consider how bicycles will be affected at this intersection.

This intersection occurs on a bend in El Camino Real which limits the sight lines for traffic moving in both directions on El Camino Real. For bicyclists heading south on El Camino Real, making a left turn onto Hwy 58 is challenging as they (1) have an obstructed view of overtaking traffic, (2) have an obstructed view of oncoming traffic; and (3) no left turn lane to provide refuge. Adding 208 daily heavy truck trips into this equation will significantly and perhaps tragically degrade the existing conditions.

The EIR should be revised to require a left turn lane on southbound El Camino Real to "Partially Mitigate" and require signalization of the intersection to "Fully Mitigate" this impact.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Neary