

COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO  
PLANNING AND BUILDING DEPARTMENT

# Comment Form

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

Date: 08/09/2010

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When reading about this proposed project (New Times 07/29-08/05/2010; Vol. 24, No. 52) my first thought was about air quality and the potentially hazardous dust. I went to the internet to see if there were any studies or stories about lung cancers or other respiratory problems associated with quarries.

In Australia there were increased incidences of cancers near quarries. Whether this is true or not of the existing quarries, I have no idea, or if this does pose a potential threat for the community, that remains to be experienced. It is hard to guarantee there will be no threat.

A more real threat could be the presence of microorganisms in the dust that cause Valley Fever, *Coccidioides immitis*. Like asbestos, these organisms seem fine at rest, but once you stir them up, they become threatening.

If the rock is to be blasted, there is the concern about the fractured crystalline silica that is not visible. Silicosis is a life-threatening condition. How would this invisible silica be monitored? What would the particulate matter standards be?

Water usage is expected to be between 20,000 - 40,000 gallons per day to control dust. But what happens when the dust gets into the water? Does it go back into the ground water?

Thanks for listening.

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*\*Please print - Your name, address, and comments become public information and may be released to interested parties if requested.*

**Comments must be received by August 9, 2010 (revised from previous August 3, 2010 date).**

**Comments may**

**also be faxed to (805) 788-2413 or hand delivered or mailed to: Jeff Oliveira, County Planning and Building, 976 Osos St., San Luis Obispo, CA 93408.**