To: Marti Fisher/Planning/COSLO@Wings,
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: Fw: comments on the Oster living trust quarry project
From: Jeffrey Oliveira/Planning/COSLO - Friday 08/06/2010 02:03 PM

From: john wilkins [mailto:unraftable@att.net]
Sent: Monday, July 12, 2010 4:07 PM
To: 'jolivera@co.slo.ca.us'
Subject: comments on the Oster living trust quarry project

Jeff Oliveira, Environmental Specialist
County of SLO Department of Planning and Building
976 Osos Street
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

07/12/2010

I have serious concerns about this proposed project and how it will effect the public safety, traffic, noise and property values of the Community of Santa Margarita, CA.
Even if this project never sees light of day, Santa Margarita is already facing many serious traffic, speeding, noise and public safety issues along El Camino Real and Highway 58. El Camino Real and Highway 58 are conduits that run through the heart of our community and we already see high volumes of traffic from commuters from the outlying areas and the two existing rock quarries as they make their way to Highway 101. The commuter traffic already speeds above the posted limit, yet CHP or Caltrans will not enforce the speed limit or lower it. Even suggestions of speed slowing mitigation like bumps or grooves, center divide planters have been discounted by Caltrans.
I find it hard to believe that SLO County Planning or the Planning Commission would ever approve a project that states "203 One Way Truck Trips" would be added to the already high traffic flow in both morning and evening. In the County of SLO Initial Study for the Project, it states in the traffic circulation section that County Staff considers it an Insignificant Impact in pertaining to section "C) Creating unsafe conditions on public roadways". That is simply not true, it would do just that, it would definitely create unsafe conditions on public roadways.
The two existing quarries and the now late night work going on at the Hanson Quarry to supply materials for the Caltrans High Projects on Highway 101, have increased the noise and the traffic in the community. The unsafe school crossing at Highway 58 and H Street with it's elevated hump causing a blind spot at the cross walk is far too dangerous for the volume of big trucks proposed. The Highway 58 route proposed is far too winding for big rigs, and has many narrow shoulder less sections. Bicycle riders have no where to pull out of the way of the over sized rigs and the lack of shoulders or a bike lane makes this far too dangerous.
How the proposed project handles truck staging or parking in the hours before the plant opens or in times of high traffic volume has not been addressed. There are already many trucks illegally parking along El Camino Real in order to get supplies or food at the markets. Some even block the fire station driveways and engine bays.
If El Camino Real and Highway 58 are blocked by Union Pacific Railroad trains, which happens frequently, there is concern that traffic will take I Street to avoid this or any time delays, this will not be acceptable and should be prevented at all cost.
Santa Margarita Fire has an auto aid and a mutual aid agreement with CalFire to respond to Vehicle Traffic Collisions, Vegetation Fires or Medical Aid Calls. As such, it sees several calls out in the area of

Highway 58 between Parkhill Road and the community of Santa Margarita annually, and Santa Margarita Fire will be the first responder to any incident because of its close proximity.
I notice that there will be blasting and continuous heavy equipment activity on the proposed site. Theses activities will increase the noise levels heard even town and increase the chances for wild fire, not to mention lower the property values in the community.
Once again, I find it hard to believe that a project like this with as many negative impacts on the small community of Santa Margarita or it's neighbors would ever be considered for approval.

Thank you for hearing my concerns,

John Wilkins
PO Box 245/22321 J Street
Santa Margarita, CA 93453