

## Questions Asked and for the Most Part Answered at 11/4/15 Public Information Meeting on Lehigh Cement and Quarry

(To watch the tape and hear the answers provided, go to:

[www.sccgov.org/sites/dpd/Pages/DPD.aspx](http://www.sccgov.org/sites/dpd/Pages/DPD.aspx))

### **EPA:**

1. Can you give us a brief overview of how the EPA interacts with and/or delegates authority to State regulators?
2. Can you share with us some of the highlights from the recent settlement?

### **SF Regional Water Quality Control Board & Santa Clara Valley Water District:**

3. Can you speak to concerns about groundwater quality and explain how your agency is protecting groundwater resources.
4. How is Selenium in the creek being addressed?
5. Progress has been made recently regarding creek restoration efforts on Permanente Creek. What should the public know about where that stands?
6. Can you explain the judgement against Lehigh as part of the Sierra Club settlement?
7. How can we be assured a safe water supply?
8. Would you have any hesitation about drinking tap water or well water from this area?
9. Lehigh promised water treatment would be in place and operating. It's in place, but isn't operating. When will it be operating?

### **Santa Clara County Department of Environmental Health:**

10. How are noise complaints followed up on?
11. When might the public expect to hear results from the noise study?
12. Can you give us a little background on the noise ordinance?

13. In early 2015 new machinery was installed. It makes continuous noise. Is this new machinery “grandfathered” into their operation?
14. When will the noise study be available and will it include the methodology, equipment used and data collected?
15. What happens if results show they’re not exceeding the limits of the noise ordinance?
16. What happens if results show they are exceeding the limits of the noise ordinance?
17. Why is the County no longer taking noise complaints?
18. Lehigh cargo trains run through our neighborhood every day and it makes a lot of noise. Can the trains be time restricted?
19. Why can’t the County reduce noise at Lehigh immediately?
20. What would it take to enact new, more efficient noise control measures?
21. If Lehigh knows about noise measurements ahead of time, how credible are the results?

**Bay Area Air Quality Management District:**

22. How would you describe the impact the new stack has had on emissions? Is it what you expected?
23. Have pollutants been measured from the single stack? If so, how do they compare to old stacks?
24. Are there additional requirements that are on the horizon?
25. If they don’t meet the requirements what happens?
26. Have there been any changes that affect particulate matter that might be coming from the site and settling off-site?
27. How are fines set?
28. What causes the dust plumes behind the plant on some days?

29. Does the District rely on consultants paid for by Lehigh to perform work on compliance?  
How can we trust those results?
30. Interested in alternative fuels for cement production, including biofuels like wood chips.
31. Inspectors were at Lehigh today. What was the problem and will they be cited?
32. Has the black dust been analyzed? If so, what is it made of? Is it a health hazard?
33. Could something coming from the plant be causing the pitting in my windows?
34. Did the new emission limits lower the SO<sub>2</sub> limit?
35. Why isn't Lehigh held to the new plant standard and how can we hold them to a higher standard?
36. Can we get direct and/or continuous measurement of benzene at the stack?
37. Stevens Creek Elementary is the closest school to the plant. What efforts have the regulatory agencies made to notify parents of what takes place?

**Santa Clara County Planning Department:**

38. Where we are in terms of implementing the Reclamation Plan that was approved in 2012?
39. What activities are on the horizon over the course of the next year?
40. How will replanting occur?
41. What is process for Lehigh to get a new pit?
42. How much longer can mining take place in the current pit?
43. How are we preparing for El Niño rains?
44. What is Lehigh doing to improve the viewshed?
45. How is impact on wildlife monitored?

46. What are limits for blasting? Can it trigger an earthquake? Is there an agency monitoring this? *(Additional Information Received: From an email sent by John G. Parrish, Ph. D., PG, State Geologist, California Geological Survey on 11/18/15: The quick answer is that quarry blasting cannot cause an "earthquake". Although the ground might "shake" or rumble as a nearby result of a blast, this is not a damaging tectonic earthquake, and these blasts do not contain enough energy to trigger a pre-existing fault to slip and generate an earthquake. Tectonic earthquakes in California generally occur at depths between five and eleven miles below the land surface – significantly deeper than a quarry blast at perhaps several hundred feet below the land surface. The energy released by a quarry blast is several million times less than that required to nucleate a fault to move and produce an earthquake.*
47. *Earthquakes can be caused by human activity, and are labeled "induced" seismicity or "triggered" earthquakes. However, there has not been a recorded case of a quarry blast inducing or triggering an earthquake.)*
48. When will the annual surface mining inspection report on Lehigh be available to the public?
49. Are you on-site monthly visits to Lehigh announced in advance? Have you considered unannounced inspections?
50. What can the County do about labor safety? *(Additional Information Received: Mining Health and Safety Administration contact is Ramiro Jimenez, 408-996-4006)*

**County Counsel:**

51. Can you give us a brief update on the various lawsuits that exist?
52. Is it possible for the Board of Supervisors to revisit the vested rights determination?

**Miscellaneous:**

53. Have there been previous interagency meetings regarding Lehigh? Was the public invited to attend? What was the agenda?