

County of Santa Clara

Department of Planning and Development
Planning Office

County Government Center, East Wing, 7th Floor
70 West Hedding Street
San Jose, California 95110-1705
(408) 299-5770 FAX (408) 288-9198
www.sccplanning.org



MEMORANDUM

Date: November 15, 2017

To: Santa Clara County Planning Commission

From: Christopher Hoem, Associate Planner, AICP

Re: **Public comment relating to the Lehigh Annual Staff Report**

The following attachment includes a public comment regarding the Lehigh Annual Staff Report.

ATTACHMENT 1 Public Comment

Hoem, Christopher

From: Jack Lucas <jlucas1099@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 14, 2017 10:09 AM
To: Hoem, Christopher
Subject: Re: Lehigh 2017 Annual Compliance Report

Santa Clara County Planning Commission
70 West Hedding, San Jose. CA

Dear Commissioners,

November 14, 2017

In regards your November 16, 2017 Commission Agenda Item 7, the Public Hearing to consider the Annual Status Report No. 5 of July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017 as to compliance by Lehigh Southwest Cement Company with the 2012 Reclamation Plan Amended Conditions of Approval, I would request a continuance of Public Hearing in order to consider further reclamation conditions.

In consideration of the severity and persistence of pollutants found in ongoing testing of surface water and stream flows draining from quarry lands and facility operations to Permanente Creek's watershed and percolating into groundwater of Santa Clara Valley aquifers I request an alteration to this Reclamation Plan that can guarantee public safety in drinking water supply and recreation.

In support of this modification of reclamation measures I would cite Santa Clara County's Curtner Quarry Reclamation Plan:

" 3. Water Quality One of the main purposes for a reclamation plan is to insure that no off-site drainage causes degradation of surface waters adjacent to the site during and following completion of quarrying activities.....Sedimentation basins will be installed to intercept drainage waters from the quarry prior to reaching watercourses. Consequently, the quarry and its reclamation plan will have no negative impact on the area's surface waters."

The plan goes on to describe a later phase action of stripping of unsuitable materials from the site. This aspect is the critical stumbling block for Lehigh Southwest's Permanente Quarry Reclamation Plan. Toxic overburden materials need to be stripped from quarry hillsides and shipped out from Permanente's sensitive watershed if the integrity of North Santa Clara county's water supply is to be retained.

Also, the reclamation measure that plans to refill Permanente's main 650 foot deep quarry pit with these toxic overburden materials needs to be abandoned. As I have submitted documentation to the Planning Commission in the past in regards the geology of this site, its fractures and its percolation potential through unconfined zone above Santa Clara's deep drinking water aquifers, feel there is no need to emphasize the critical need to restore the viability of this watershed.

Please adjust this Reclamation Plan deficiency at a special Planning Commission meeting before the end of the year. This pollution has gone on far too long and opportunities for remedy are fast diminishing.

Thank you for your attention to this concern.

Libby Lucas
174 Yerba Santa Ave.,
Los Altos, CA 94022.

Á
Á
Á
Á
Á
Á

Attachment 1