County of Santa Clara

Department of Planning and Development Planning Office

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MEMORANDUM

Date:

January 26, 2011

To:

Jody Hall Esser, Director, Department of Planning and Development

From:

James Baker (CEG1021), County Geologist

Subject: Analysis of Limestone Mapping and Historic Air-photos (taken in 1939, 1948, 1955 and 1960)

of the Permanente Quarry, Santa Clara County Planning Office File# 2250-13-66-09P-10P

Introduction

I have examined air-photos taken on 8-1-1939, 9-26-1948, 6-8-1955, and 8-22-1960 in order to determine the nature and extent of ground disturbances that existed within the area of the Permanente Quarry in those years. I also reviewed several historic reports that contain descriptions and maps regarding the locations of limestone bodies and quarry-related activities. (A list of the sources of the air-photos and the historic reports is at the end of this memo.)

Sources of Information Used

An electronic version of the 1939 air-photo was provided by the County Archivist who scanned the 9x9inch paper contact print retained in the County archives. The 1948 air-photo was taken by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the electronic image was downloaded from Google Earth as several "screen capture" files. Paper contact prints of two frames of 1955 air-photos were purchased from Pacific Aerial Surveys and scanned by me to create an electronic image file. The electronic image file of the 1960 air-photo was purchased from Pacific Aerial Surveys who scanned the paper contact print in their archive.

I used the ESRI "rubber sheeting" tool to geo-register the electronic images in our Geographic Information System (GIS) by linking uniquely identifiable features (such as trees, roads, and buildings) to their locations on 2006 ortho-photos which were previously geo-registered in our GIS. I also georegistered electronic images (scans) of Tolman's 1939 Sample Location Map, Matheison's 1982 Geologic Map, and Hammon, Jensen & Wallen's 1955 photogrammetric topographic map provided by the applicant. I overlaid historic lot lines of lands acquired by Kaiser. In addition, I referred to descriptive information presented in several historic reports (1939, 1946, and 1982) provided by the applicant. (See list at the end of this memo.)

Mapped Limestone

Limestone mined at the Permanete Quarry is used for production of cement in the nearby plant. The limestone exists in large, isolated bodies situated within the Franciscan Assemblage which is a complex assemblage of various rock types that were brought together by tectonic plate motions. Approximately 75 to 120 million years ago, subduction of the basaltic Pacific Oceanic Plate forced the sediments that would



become sandstone, claystone, limestone, and chert beneath the westward drifting North American Continental Plate, where they were compressed, mixed, and sheared between faults. As a result of this geologic history, limestone and other rock types occur in isolated bodies and are typically not found in extensive, continuous layers within the Franciscan Assemblage.

Eventaully, uplift and erosion of overburden exposed the varied bedrock at the ground surface. Mapping and sampling over time by several geologists has determined the location and quality (calcium carbonate content) of the limestone bodies in the vicinity of the Permanete Quarry. Figure A-2 shows the areas of limestone mapped by others (Tolman in 1939; Mathieson in 1982; and Dibblee in 2007) within the area of interest.

Method of Interpretation and Notation

By correlating the written information and historic maps with the air-photos, I was able to identify the extent and probable use of disturbed ground visible from the air in 1939, 1948. 1955, and 1960. Such areas typically have a distinctively lighter shade of gray than surrounding brush-covered areas. In our GIS, I drew outlines on air-photos to indicate the locations of areas I interpret to have been disturbed by human activities related to roads (light and heavy use), exploration, mineral extraction, and cut/fill (for mining or construction of structures).

"Roads" (light-use) appear as narrow (less than 20 feet wide), moderately light "trails" with tight turns in some places and appear to have been used infrequently by light trucks or cars. "Roads" (heavy-use) appear as wider than 20 feet, very light "roadways" with wider turns; these roads appear to have been used frequently by heavy trucks or excavation equipment.

"Exploration" scars appear as very irregularly outlined light areas. These appear to have consisted of hiking trails for surface mapping, drilling pads for coring, or trenches for sampling. Most of the areas I interpreted as "exploration" disturbances line-up with reported digging or drilling locations documented in historic reports. (e.g., Tolman; 1939.)

"Mineral Extraction" areas appear as very light areas with dark shadows where there were steep cut slopes as their edges. These appear to be excavated "pits" where limestone was being quarried. (Heavy use roads usually approach them from one or more directions.)

"Cut and Fill" areas appear to have been made for construction of buildings or conveyor belt systems; they have a bright to mottled grey appearance with streaks indicating the direction of equipment spreading or downhill rolling of large rocks. Such areas tend to be broader in extent than the other categories of ground disturbances.

The attached figures are maps that include overlays showing the following types of disturbances on the corresponding air-photos: roads (light or heavy-use); exploration; mineral extraction; and cuts and fills (mining-related or construction-related). In addition, lots acquired by Permanente are outlined and numbered for reference on the attached Index Map (Figure A-1) and Disturbed Ground Maps (Figures B-2, C-2, D-2, and E-2). The following text and tables summarize my interpretations of ground disturbances that I see in each of the air-photos; the lot numbers used in the text are the same as those shown in the tables and on the maps.

Geographic Analysis and "Buffer" Overlay Maps

In order to display the areal extent of ground disturbances I see in each of the air-photos, we used an ArcMap tool to create 50-foot "buffer" zones around each of the interpreted polygons (excluding those related to the Cement Plant and Metals Factory). (The buffers effectively enlarge the width of the disturbed areas so that they are large enough to be perceived at the small map scale necessary to show the

entire area of interest.) The resulting "buffer" overlays illustrate the generalized extent of all types of quarry-related ground disturbances that I saw in each air-photo. (See Figures B-3, C-3, D-3, and E-3.) By stacking the "buffer" overlays (with different colors representing the different years of the photos from which they were derived), the final figures for 1948, 1955, and 1960 present time "progression" maps that illustrate the areal expansion of the quarry operation prior to the date of those photos. (See Figures C-4, D-4, and E-4.)

1939 Air-photo

At the time the 1939 air-photo was taken (on 8-1-1939), much of the ground surface within the area of interest was in a natural state (hillsides and stream channels covered by trees, brush, or grass that have a distinctive mottled grey tone). (Figure B-1 presents the 1939 air-photo with the numbered lots overlaid on it.) However, some areas had apparently been disturbed by human activities including exploration trenches and drilling pads, road grading, mineral extraction, excavation, placement of "mining waste" (non-limestone "overburden" materials) as fills, and grading to prepare pads for construction of cement plant buildings and conveyors. (The attached Figure B-2 presents color-coded translucent overlays that indicate the extent of the various types of ground disturbances that I see in the 1939 air-photo.) The extent of several roads, exploration trenches, and drilling pads correlate with sample locations indicated on Tolman's 1939 Sample Location Map. In addition, there are roads and extraction areas located beyond the limits of Tolman's map. A lot-by-lot summary of my interpretations of the 1939 air-photo is presented in the attached Table B.

In the 1939 air-photo, I do not see ground disturbances of the four types on Lots 1, 2, 5, 10, 11, 12, 14, 17, 18, or 19. There were "light use" roads on Lots 3, 6, 13, and 15. I see "heavy-use roads" on Lots 7, 9, and 16. "Exploration"-related ground disturbances are visible on Lots 6, 7, and 9. "Mineral Extraction" disturbances were evident on Lots 6 and 7. "Cuts and Fills" relating to mining are on 6, 7, and 9, while "cuts and fills" for construction of building or conveyor systems are visible on Lot 16.

The 1939 "buffer" map (Figure B-3) shows the 50-foot buffers around all of the ground disturbance areas in the 1939 air-photo.

1948 Air-photo

At the time the 1948 air-photo was taken (on 9-26-1948), the extent of ground disturbance areas was greater than it had been in 1939. (Figure C-1 presents the 1948 air-photo with the numbered lots overlaid on it.) Roads had been added, additional exploration routes had been established, and the extent of mineral extraction had increased into areas that had not been disturbed in 1939. (The attached Figure C-2 presents color-coded translucent overlays indicating my interpretation of the extent of the various types of ground disturbances that are visible in the 1948 air-photo.)

The attached Table C presents a lot-by-lot summary of my interpretations of the 1948 air-photo. Table C also indicates (by shading) where ground disturbances had increased from those visible in the 1939 air-photo.

In the 1948 air-photo, I do not see ground disturbances of the four types on Lots 1, 10, 12, 14, 18, or 19. There were light-use roads on Lots 2, 4, 13, 15, and 16. Heavy-use roads were on Lots 3, 5, 6, 7, and 9. Exploration-related ground disturbances were visible on Lots 3, 6, 7, 9, and 11. Mineral Extraction disturbances were evident on Lots 3, 6 and 7. Cuts and fills relating to mining were visible on Lots 3, 6, 7, 8, and 9, while cuts and fills relating to building or conveyors were visible on Lots 16 and 17. Permanente Road was blocked on Lot 9 by a large fill associated with a conveyor system.

The 1948 "buffer" map (Figure C-3) shows the 50-foot buffers around all of the ground disturbance areas in the 1948 air-photo. Figure C-4 shows both the 1939 and 1948 "buffers" to illustrate the time progression.

1955 Air-photo

At the time the 1955 air-photo taken (on 6-8-1955), the extent of ground disturbance areas was greater than it had been in 1948. (Figure D-1 presents the 1955 air-photo with the numbered lots overlaid on it.) Roads had been added, additional exploration routes had been established, and the extent of mineral extraction had increased into areas that were not disturbed in 1948. (The attached Figure D-2 presents a color-coded translucent overlay indicating my interpretation of the 1955 extent of the various types of ground disturbances that had been added after those I observed on the 1948 air-photo.)

The attached Table D presents a lot-by lot summary of my interpretations of the 1955 air-photo. The table also indicates (by shading) where ground disturbances increased from those in the 1948 air-photo.

In the 1955 air-photo, I do not see ground disturbances of the four types on Lots 1, 10, 12, 14, 18, and 19. There were light use roads on Lots 2, 4, 13, 15, 16, and 17. Heavy use roads were on Lots 3, 5, 6, 7, and 9. Exploration-related ground disturbances were visible on Lots 3, 6, 7, and 11. Mineral Extraction disturbances were evident on Lots 3, 6 and 7. Cuts and fills relating to mining were visible on Lots 3, 6, 7, 8, and 9, while cuts and fills relating to building or conveyors were visible on Lots 16 and 17. Permanente Road remained blocked by a large fill on Lot 9.

The 1955 "buffer" map (Figure D-3) shows the 50-foot buffers around all of the ground disturbance areas in the 1955 air-photo. Figure D-4 shows the 1939, 1948, and 1955 "buffers" to illustrate the time progression.

1960 Air-photo

At the time the 1960 air-photo taken (on 8-22-1960), the extent of ground disturbance areas was greater than it had been in 1955. (Figure E-1 presents the 1960 air-photo with the numbered lots overlaid on it.) Roads had been added, additional exploration routes had been established, and the extent of mineral extraction had increased into areas that were not disturbed in 1948. (The attached Figure E-2 presents a color-coded translucent overlay indicating my interpretation of the 1960 extent of the various types of ground disturbances that had been added after those I observed on the 1955 air-photo.)

The attached Table E presents a lot-by lot summary of my interpretations of the 1960 air-photo. The table also indicates (by shading) where ground disturbances increased from those in the 1955 air-photo.

In the 1960 air-photo, I do not see ground disturbances of the four types on Lots 1, 10, 12, 14, 18, or 19. There were light use roads on Lots 2, 4, 13, 15, 16, and 17. Heavy use roads were on Lots 3, 5, 6, 7, and 9. Exploration-related ground disturbances were visible on Lots 3, 6, 7, and 11. Mineral Extraction disturbances were evident on Lots 3, 6 and 7. Cuts and fills relating to mining were visible on Lots 3, 6, 7, 8, and 9, while cuts and fills relating to building or conveyors were visible on Lots 16 and 17. Permanente Road remained blocked by a large fill on Lot 9.

The 1960 "buffer" map (Figure E-3) shows the 50-foot buffers around all of the ground disturbance areas in the 1960 air-photo. Figure E-4 shows the 1939, 1948, 1955, and 1960 "buffers" to illustrate the time progression.

LIST OF PHOTOS USED

1939 air-photo (taken on 8-1-1939): Santa Clara County Archives (CIV-286-71)

1948 air-photo (taken on 9-26-1948): Google Earth Historic Images

1955 air-photo (taken on 6-8-1955): Pacific Aerial Surveys (AV 170-23-20 and AV 170-24-18)

1960 air-photo (taken on 8-22-1960): Pacific Aerial Surveys (AV 385-07-14)

LIST OF HISTORIC REPORTS USED

Tolman, C.F.; 6-18-1939; Report on Tonnage and Composition of Limestone Available in Proposed Quarries A and B, Permanente Corporation, and Superficial Residual Clay on the Property of the Permanente Corporation, Santa Clara County, California; Stanford University.

Pantin, J.H.; 11-1946; (report) Insoluble Residues of the Calera Limestone in Santa Clara County, California; Stanford University.

Matheison, E.; 5-28-1982; (report) Geology of the Permanente Property, Kaiser Cement Corporation, Permanente, California; xx pages text and three plates.

Table A - Lot Ownerhship and Year when acquired by Permanente

Lot #	Common Reference	Date Acquiered
1	Santa Clara Holding Company	1939
2	Roman Catholic Archbishop of SF	1942
3	Santa Clara Holding Company	1939
4	Mid-Peninsula Open Space Dist.	2009
5	Roman Catholic Archbishop of SF	1942
6	Santa Clara Holding Company	1939
7	Santa Clara Holding Company	1939
8	Roman Catholic Archbishop of SF	1941
9	Santa Clara Holding Company	1939
10	Hart & Scully	1965
11	Crocker	1943
12	Campbell	1968
13	Barnard	1979
14	Morris	1942
15	Morris	1942
16	Santa Clara Holding Company	1939
17	Roman Catholic Archbishop of SF	1942*
18	Haines	1956
19	Valley Title	1967

^{*} acquired by Permanente Metals

SCHC = Santa Clara Holding Company

Table B - Lot Ownerhship Changes and Ground Disturbances in 1939 Air-photo

	Common	Year				
Lot #	Reference	Acquiered	Roads	Exploration	Mineral Extraction	Cuts and Fills
1	SCHC	1939	ı	ı	-	-
2	Archbishop	1942	ı	ı	1	-
3	SCHC	1939	R-I	ı	-	-
4	Mid-Pen	2009	ı	ı	-	-
5	Archbishop	1942	ı	ı	1	-
6	SCHC	1939	R-l	E	M	F-m
7	SCHC	1939	R-h	E	M	F-m
8	Archbishop	1941	R**	ı	-	-
9	SCHC	1939	R-h	E	-	F-m
10	Hart & Scully	1965	ı	ı	1	-
11	Crocker	1943	ı	ı	-	-
12	Campbell	1968	-	-	-	-
13	Barnard	1979	R-I	ı	-	-
14	Morris	1942	ı	ı	-	-
15	Morris	1942	R-I	-	-	-
16	SCHC	1939	R-h	-	-	F-c
17	Archbishop	1942*	-	-	-	-
18	Haines	1956	-	-	-	-
19	Valley Title	1967	-	-	-	-

* acquired by Permanente Metals

SCHC = Santa Clara Holding Company

R-I = light use roads

R-h = heavy use roads

 R^{**} = County road only

F-m = mining-related fills (including conveyors)

F-c = fill for construction

Table C - Lot Ownerhship Changes and Ground Disturbances in 1948 Air-photo

	Common	Year				
Lot #	Reference	Acquiered	Roads	Exploration	Mineral Extraction	Cuts and Fills
1	SCHC	1939	-	-	-	-
2	Archbishop	1942	R-I	-	-	-
3	SCHC	1939	R-h	E	M	F-m
4	Mid-Pen	2009	R-I	1	•	-
5	Archbishop	1942	R-h	ı	ı	-
6	SCHC	1939	R-h	E	M	F-m
7	SCHC	1939	R-h	E	M	F-m
8	Archbishop	1941	R**	ı	-	F-m
9	SCHC	1939	R-h	E	-	F-m
10	Hart & Scully	1965	-	-	-	-
11	Crocker	1943	ı	E	ı	-
12	Campbell	1968	ı	1	-	-
13	Barnard	1979	R-I	ı	-	-
14	Morris	1942	-	-	-	-
15	Morris	1942	R-I	-	-	-
16	SCHC	1939	R-I	-	-	F-c
17	Archbishop	1942*	1	-	-	F-c
18	Haines	1956	-	-	-	-
19	Valley Title	1967	-	-	-	-

* acquired by Permanente Metals

SCHC = Santa Clara Holding Company

added or increased since 1939

R-I = light use roads

R-h = heavy use roads

 R^{**} = County road only

F-m = mining-related fills (including conveyors)

F-c = fill for construction

Table D - Lot Ownerhship Changes and Ground Disturbances in 1955 Air-photo

	Common	Year				
Lot #	Reference	Acquiered	Roads	Exploration	Mineral Extraction	Cuts and Fills
1	SCHC	1939	ı	-	1	-
2	Archbishop	1942	R-I	-	ı	-
3	SCHC	1939	R-h	E	М	F-m
4	Mid-Pen	2009	R-I	-	ı	-
5	Archbishop	1942	R-h	-	ı	-
6	SCHC	1939	R-h	Е	M	F-m
7	SCHC	1939	R-h	E	М	F-m
8	Archbishop	1941		-	ı	F-m
9	SCHC	1939	R-h	-	ı	F-m
10	Hart & Scully	1965	ı	-	1	-
11	Crocker	1943	ı	E	ı	-
12	Campbell	1968	ı	-	ı	-
13	Barnard	1979	R-I	-	1	-
14	Morris	1942	-	-	1	-
15	Morris	1942	R-I	-	ı	-
16	SCHC	1939	R-I	-		F-c
17	Archbishop	1942*	R-I	-	<u>-</u>	F-c
18	Haines	1956	-	-	•	-
19	Valley Title	1967	•	-	-	-

* acquired by Permanente Metals

SCHC = Santa Clara Holding Company

added or increased since 1948

R-I = light use roads

R-h = heavy use roads

 R^{**} = County road only

F-m = mining-related fills (including conveyors)

F-c = fill for construction

Table E - Lot Ownerhship Changes and Ground Disturbances in 1960 Air-photo

	Common					
Lot #	Reference	Year Acquiered	Roads	Exploration	Mineral Extraction	Cuts and Fills
1	SCHC	1939	ı	-	•	-
2	Archbishop	1942	R-I	-	1	-
3	SCHC	1939	R-h	E	М	F-m
4	Mid-Pen	2009	R-I	-	1	-
5	Archbishop	1942	R2	-	•	-
6	SCHC	1939	R-h	Е	M	F-m
7	SCHC	1939	R-h	E	M	F-m
8	Archbishop	1941	R**	-	1	F-m
9	SCHC	1939	R-h	-	•	F-m
10	Hart & Scully	1965	ı	-	1	-
11	Crocker	1943	1	Е	1	-
12	Campbell	1968	ı	-	1	-
13	Barnard	1979	R-I	-	•	-
14	Morris	1942	ı	-	1	-
15	Morris	1942	R-I	-	•	-
16	SCHC	1939	R-I	-	-	F-c
17	Archbishop	1942*	R-I	-	-	F-c
18	Haines	1956	-	-	-	-
19	Valley Title	1967	-	-	-	-

^{*} acquired by Permanente Metals

SCHC = Santa Clara Holding Company

added or increased since 1955

R-I = light use roads

R-h = heavy use roads

R** = County road only

F-m = mining-related fills (including conveyors)

F-c = fill for construction





































