

# Comment Letter AA

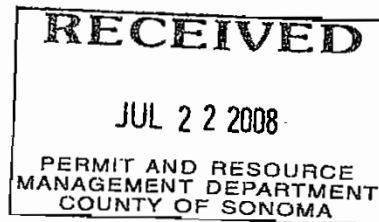
Re: Roblar Quarry DEIR

Submitted by Ken Delpit

7/21/2008 page 1

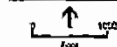
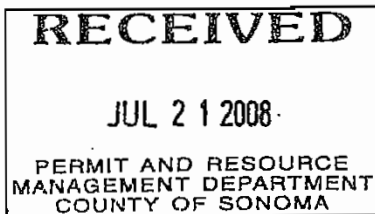
TO: Blake Hillegras  
Sonoma County PRMD  
2550 Ventura Ave  
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

FROM: Ken Delpit  
  
Petaluma, CA 94952



Dear Mr. Hillegras,

Consider the aerial photograph below, which shows the proposed quarry site and the closed county landfill. Notice that the proposed site is not just adjacent to, but *surrounds on three sides*, the landfill.



SOURCE: ESA, 6/20/07/08

Pacific West County - 204234  
Figure III-3  
Aerial Photo of Project Site

The DEIR does not adequately address the risks to public health and safety of locating a quarry operation such that it surrounds an unlined, toxic landfill, which was largely unregulated during its time of operation. In particular, I ask that the following issues be researched honestly, forthrightly, and thoroughly:

- 1) The quarry operation will disturb the ground violently and repeatedly, with boulder-shattering explosions. What are the possible consequences of subjecting the landfill and its toxic liquid and solid contents to these severe blasts over a period of twenty years or more?

AA-1

# Comment Letter AA

Re: Roblar Quarry DEIR

Submitted by Ken Delpit

7/21/2008 page 2

- 2) The quarry operation will disturb the ground continuously, with heavy industrial machinery for crushing, piling, sifting, loading, and hauling rock. What are the possible consequences of subjecting the landfill and its toxic liquid and solid contents to sustained vibrations over a period of twenty years or more? AA-2
- 3) Where, in the DEIR, is the protection of local public health and safety, such that the blasts and sustained vibrations cited above will not disturb the landfill, so as to leak toxins into the local water table? AA-3
- 4) The Roblar valley is known for its prevailing, nearly constant, breezes (the so-called Petaluma Wind Gap). Generally, breezes carry west to east, toward the more populated sections of the Roblar community. Where, in the DEIR, is the protection of local public health and safety, such that the blasts and sustained vibrations cited above will not introduce asbestos fibers or other carcinogens into the atmosphere, to be carried by the nearly constant breezes? AA-4

## Personal Notes

If you research the topic "effects of rock quarry operations on adjacent landfill," you will not find much in the way of directly useful information. That is, there are few, if any, studies on this topic. It is obvious, I think, why this is so. Studies have not been commissioned on this topic, because the very notion of surrounding a toxic landfill with a rock quarry operation for periods of years is, both on its face and indelibly in its core, a very bad idea. AA-5

Questions and notes submitted by Ken Delpit

*Ken Delpit 7/21/2008*

## Letter AA. Ken Delpit

AA-1 The commenter indicates that the quarry will disturb the ground violently and repeatedly, and inquires what are the possible consequences to the landfill and its contents. The commenter is referred to response to Comment U-21 for a response to this issue.

AA-2 The commenter indicates that quarry operations related to heavy industrial machinery for processing, loading and hauling operations would create vibrations that would disturbed the landfill.

The Draft EIR analysis of vibration effects at the landfill focused on blasting at the quarry site in the Draft EIR because blasting is the project activity with the greatest vibration potential. Any vibration effects from onsite processing, loading or truck movement at the landfill property would be far less. For context, according to reference vibration levels for heavy construction equipment (e.g., pile drivers, caisson drilling, large bulldozers, loaded trucks and vibratory rollers) published in *Transit Noise and Vibration Impact Assessment* (April 1995), only the upper limit of pile driving at a distance of 25 feet (1.5 ppv [in/sec]) is equivalent to blasting vibration levels at 400 feet as calculated in the Draft EIR. It should noted that no activity such as, or similar to, pile driving would occur on the quarry site. All the other equipment is less than 1.0 ppv (in/sec) at a distance of 25 feet, which is closer than any activity would occur from the project and still below the level of blasting considered at 400 feet. Consequently, vibration from quarry operations would not result in any impact on the landfill or other nearby properties.

AA-3 The commenter inquires where is the protection of local public health and safety, such that the blasts and sustained vibrations will not disturb the landfill, so as to leak toxins into the local water table. As discussed in Impact G.3 in the Draft EIR and response to Comment O-16, impacts associated with blasting to the landfill are not expected to occur with mitigation measures incorporated. In addition, as discussed in response to Comment AA-2, above, no significant vibration impacts are identified associated with on-going operations, including processing, loading and hauling activities.

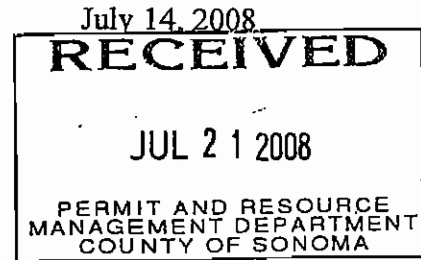
AA-4 The commenter inquires where the Draft EIR addresses blasting-associated generation of particulates, including asbestos fibers or other carcinogens into the atmosphere. The commenter is referred to Impact F.4 in Section IV.F, Air Quality, in the Draft EIR, for a discussion of potential effects regarding the generation of fugitive dust during the operational phases of the project, including from blasting. Mitigation Measure F.4 in the Draft EIR requires all blasting activities be conducted by using water injection when drilling to control drilling dust, using sequential delay timing schemes to generate effective rock fragmentation and vibration control to minimize blasting dust, remove loose overburden to prevent mixing of soil with mined rock, which lessens the amount of fine material that can become airborne by blasting, and as needed, during dry summer periods,

water onto blast areas to further mitigate dust. With implementation of this mitigation, potential blasting effects on fugitive dust generation would be less than significant.

With respect to asbestos, the commenter is referred to Master Response AQ-2 in Chapter II in this Response to Comments Document.

Comment Letter BB

Permit and Resource Management Department  
2550 Ventura Avenue  
Santa Rosa, CA 95403



Dear Sonoma County Planning Commissioners,

Five years ago I was so fortunate to find and actually be able to purchase THE MOST BEAUTIFUL PLACE IN THE WORLD, namely Hawk Ridge Ranch at

. Little did I know that directly across Roblar, my beautiful pastoral view and lifestyle would soon be in jeopardy by what is now being revealed as a nightmare quarry project. It continues to amaze me that this is not the first threat of it's kind, but is the THIRD.

BB-1

I attended the June 19<sup>th</sup> meeting and I felt that one important item that was overlooked was the fact that two times a day the Diamond W Dairy next door to this property herd their cattle to a pasture right across Roblar Road - stopping traffic in both directions. This occurs early in the morning (when it can be very foggy) and again at the end of the day. Will the big quarry trucks line up - waiting - , or go 100% the other way at this time, or will they even SEE THE COWS IN TIME? I can see a disaster either way. Please understand that this is agricultural country - cows belong here - not a huge noisy gravel industry!

BB-2

Another item that was not addressed is the fact that Roblar to the west of this property FLOODS in the winter and has been closed during these times. Will 100% of the big rigs then head east during these storms? And, do you realize how dangerous this would be at this time, considering that just to the east is a curvy section compete with caution signs warning of the slippery conditions which are made worse by the combination of eucalyptus oils and rainwater. More than once I have personally witnessed big trucks overturned and laying in these ditches.

BB-3

I can't believe that people who live out here in the country could be happy living in a "sound-insulated" home. How ridiculous is this? We move to the country for the outdoors life - we're not IN our homes, we're OUTSIDE, enjoying our rightfully chosen way of life.

BB-4

I would like to invite any or all of you on the commission to visit me and experience Sonoma County at it's best - to see from my view the rolling pastures and valleys dotted with peacefully grazing cows and sheep, along with the myriad of wildlife who also call it home - hawks, ravens, vultures, swallows and so many other birds, badger, deer, coyotes, and bobcats. (Now you know why the famous author, John Steinbeck chose this spot (the potential quarry) to create his masterpieces). Furthermore, as far as the wind issue in this area, if you come up after 1 pm you will experience the WINDIEST place in the world. You'll see my horizontal trees and, if you can't handle the wind outside, you can come into my house and listen to it whistling through the doors and

BB-5

## Comment Letter BB


windows. (By the way, before I moved in, there was a wind storm so strong that it snapped the telephone pole in my driveway. I was also told that once a storm blew in the front door and it had to be replaced in another area of the house. I have often wondered why my house isn't cabled at all four corners to the ground!)

To sum it up, just remember one thing – that if you let this quarry pass – ONCE IT'S DONE, IT'S DONE and there's no one except God and lots and lots of time that could ever restore the land to what it is today. It will be destroyed.

↑  
BB-5  
cont.

So, PLEASE, PLEASE, do NOT let this happen to OUR MOST BEAUTIFUL PLACE IN THE WORLD.

Thank you for your consideration,

  
Karen Slissman,

cc: Sue Buxton

## Letter BB. Karen Slissman

- BB-1 The commenter expresses her admiration for the beauty of her property, which is located in proximity to the project site; and expresses her amazement that the proposed project is the third proposal for a quarry on the project site. These opinions do not address the adequacy of the Draft EIR; consequently, no response is required. However, the opinions of the commenter will be made available to County decisionmakers for their consideration.
- BB-2 The commenter inquires if quarry trucks would line up on Roblar Road as cattle from adjacent dairy are herded across Roblar Road. Any potential herding of cattle across Roblar Road would be an infrequent occurrence. In any case, there would be no substantial difference in potential impacts associated with the need for quarry trucks to slow, stop and wait for a farmer to herd cows across Roblar Road as any other vehicle that may be on the road during such an occurrence.
- BB-3 The commenter inquires whether flooding conditions on Roblar Road would require quarry trucks to take an alternate route. First, it should be noted that quarries typically operate at their lowest production levels of the year in the winter time, due to lowered demand for aggregate during winter. Furthermore, adverse rainy conditions at a level great enough to result in flooding on local roadways would also coincidentally adversely affect mining production/processing and associated truck hauling of aggregate to occur on those days. However, in any case, any potential infrequent flooding of any roadway, including Roblar Road, would affect all traffic on the roadways, including project traffic, and for safety purposes, all traffic would be obliged to follow any potential temporary detours established by law enforcement. In addition, design for a widened Roblar Road to meet County standards (Draft EIR-identified required mitigation measure) would address drainage of rain off the road, lessening the instances of flooding.
- BB-4 The commenter expresses disbelief that people would enjoy living in a “sound-insulated home.” These opinions do not address the adequacy of the Draft EIR. However, the Section IV.G, Noise, in the Draft EIR evaluates all potential project and cumulative noise impacts of the project and identifies feasible mitigation measures to mitigate the project’s contribution to noise impacts, where appropriate.
- BB-5 The commenter indicates wildlife in the area includes farm animals, as well as a myriad of wildlife, including hawks, ravens, vultures, swallows, badger, deer, coyotes and bobcats. All potential project effects to biological resources, including effects to special status wildlife species (e.g., badger, special-status birds and raptors) and their habitat are addressed in Section IV.D in the Draft EIR. All potentially significant impacts to biological resources are mitigated to a less than significant level.

The commenter also indicates the project vicinity is very windy. The commenter is referred to Section IV.F, Air Quality, in the Draft EIR, for a discussion of potential

effects generation of fugitive dust during the construction and operational phases of the project, and design features and on-going practices proposed by the applicant and/or required by the County Surface Mining and Reclamation Ordinance (SMARO) mining and reclamation standards to minimize erosion of exposed surfaces and generation of dust. The Draft EIR establishes a formal comprehensive dust control program for implementation during initial construction and on-going operation to ensure all potential dust emissions would remain less than significant. The commenter is also referred to Master Response AQ-1 in Chapter II in this Response to Comments Document for additional data on wind conditions in the area, and expanded mitigation measures to further minimize project generated dust, including wind screening and a wind monitoring program.

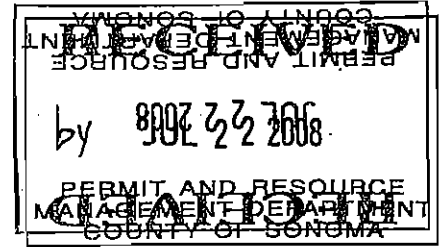
Please see also Master Response GEN-1 in Chapter II in this Response to Comments Document regarding issues related to the approval process for this project.

Re. Proposed Quarry on Roblar Road  
Public Hearing June 19, 2008

From: Gary Reed

Sebastopol, CA 95472

[gvreed@comcast.net](mailto:gvreed@comcast.net)



Overall Impact

With the introduction of the proposed Roblar Rd. quarry, there would if approved be four major environmental impacts within one to three miles of each other. Within this triangle would be the proposed new quarry and the county's unlined landfill, which touch each other on three sides; the Stony Point quarry, and the County's Mecham Rd. landfill and recycling center.

CC-1

When the first of these four was approved, it was as a stand alone project impacting the area. Did the second project, when approved, have an EIR and did that EIR take into consideration the first project?

Did the third project when approved have an EIR, and did that take into consideration the impact on the area?

Does the current DEIR take into account the impact of all four of these projects on the area as a whole?

CC-2

Does the County's Master Plan have any restrictions on the number of major environmental impacts within a 3 mile distance from each other? Are there any restrictions re. a relatively small area? At what point does an area become highly impacted?

CC-3

The three monitoring wells for the proposed quarry: are they currently being tested for contaminants that could have a health impact on ground water? What contaminants are present? How often will they be tested and who is responsible for the testing and dissemination of the results? What impact will 20 years of underground blasting have on the contaminants?

CC-4

The DEIR specifies that during construction if the winds exceed 25 mph during dry conditions the construction must be suspended. Shouldn't quarry operations also be suspended during high winds? Who will be monitoring the wind speeds? If it is the business running the operation there is no incentive to comply, and no objective oversight.

CC-5

## Comment Letter CC

### EPA Superfund Site, the unlined county landfill

When mitigations were set up for closing this unlined landfill, was the proposed Roblar quarry taken into account? Does the EPA need to be notified that there is now a proposed extreme impact on that site that was thought to be mitigated at the time?

CC-6

### Traffic

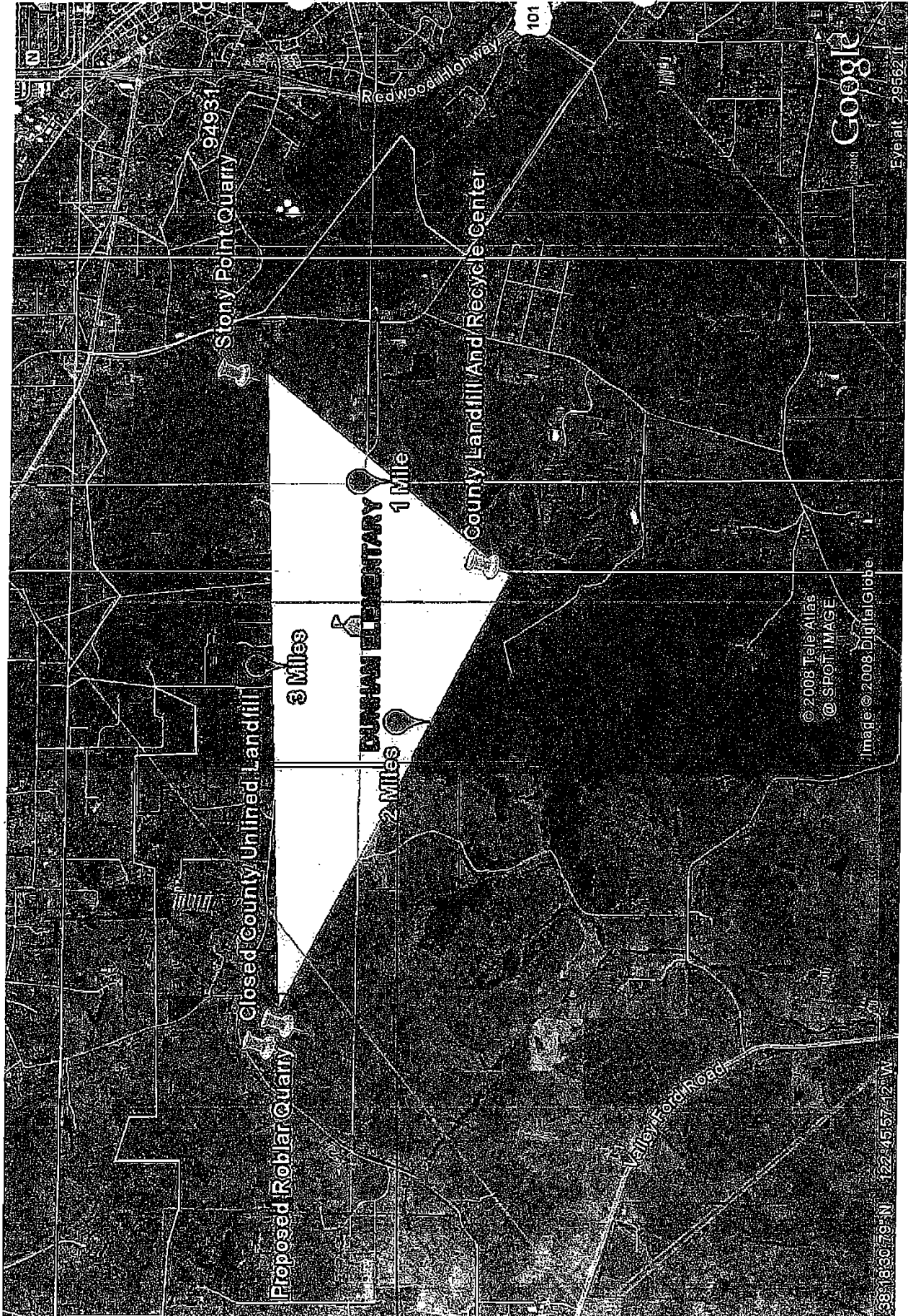
The DEIR estimates 149 daily truck trips. Shouldn't there be a limit placed on number of truck trips?

CC-7

### Noise

The DEIR mentions sound monitoring and testing for blasting but shouldn't the report also look at potential noise levels of daily operations?

CC-8



## Letter CC. Gary Reed

CC-1 to CC-2 The commenter identifies three other projects within three miles of the proposed quarry, including the closed Roblar Road landfill, the Stony Point quarry, and the Central landfill and recycling center. The commenter asks if the Draft EIR for the proposed project considered the other three projects. The commenter also inquires if the Draft EIR took into account the impact of all four projects as a whole. The Draft EIR, as required by CEQA, considers both the project environmental effects, as well as the potential cumulative effects of the project in combination with past, present and probable future projects causing related impacts. For instance, the cumulative traffic Impacts E.1 and E.2 capture traffic generated from all projects that would contribute traffic to the study intersections under the near and long-term scenarios. For each cumulative impact, the Draft EIR determines whether the project's incremental effect is cumulatively considerable or not, and where feasible, identifies mitigation measures to reduce cumulatively significant impacts to less than significant levels. See also response to Comment JJ-25 regarding the geographic scope of cumulative impacts.

The commenter also inquires if each of the environmental documents for the other three projects also considered the impacts of the other three projects. This comment does not address the adequacy of the EIR for the proposed project. However, environmental review for other projects would similarly have been subject to all applicable CEQA requirements for assessing impacts, including cumulative effects, based on the information that was available at the time of preparation of those environmental documents.

Please see also response to Comment, CC-3, below.

CC-3 The commenter inquires if the County's Master Plan has any restrictions on the number of environmental impacts within a three mile distance of each other or within a relatively small area. Section IV.A, Land Use and Agricultural Resources section in the Draft EIR describes all applicable County planning documents governing land use development in the county, including the General Plan, zoning ordinance, Surface Mining and Reclamation Ordinance (SMARO), Sonoma County Aggregate Resources Management Plan (ARM Plan), and Petaluma Dairy Belt Area Plan. It should be noted many of these documents were the subject of their own environmental review documents under CEQA and considered the cumulative effects of all development contemplated under those plans. While many of these documents, including the recently-adopted General Plan 2020, seek to minimize environmental impacts associated with cumulative development, none of them contain restrictions on the number of environmental impacts within a particular distance of each other.

CC-4 The commenter inquires if the monitoring wells on the project site are currently being tested for contaminants, and what contaminants are present. The commenter is referred to Master Response HYD-2 in Chapter II in this Response to Comments Documents for

further detail on existing groundwater quality conditions on the project site and adjacent landfill property, including additional groundwater data that has been made available.

The commenter inquires how often the quarry site monitoring wells would be tested and who would be responsible for the testing and dissemination of the results. Mitigation Measure C.4 in the Draft EIR included on-going onsite monitoring and management to ensure any water that may enter the quarry walls as seepage and/or supply water from the onsite production wells would be identified, contained and treated appropriately. The commenter is also referred to Master Response HYD-1 in this Response to Comments Document. The applicant has prepared a comprehensive Water Management Plan (WMP) that expands upon and refines the proposed management and monitoring of water resources for the quarry project. As discussed in amended Mitigation Measure C.4e in Master Response HYD-1, the basin water quality sampling schedules, guidelines, protocols, and procedures required to collect and analyze representative samples from each basin will be provided in a detailed Sediment Control Basin Sampling and Analysis Plan, subject to review and approval by the County of Sonoma PRMD, and as applicable, the North Coast RWQCB, prior to commencement of operation of the treatment system. In addition, the groundwater extracted from Well DW-2 shall be sampled and analyzed once every 24-hours during periods of sustained or cyclic pumping, and at the end of each pumping episode during times of intermittent use of the well (intermittent use means pumping episodes separated by more than 24 hours).

The commenter also inquires what impact will blasting have on contaminants. The commenter is referred to response to Comment O-16.

- CC-5 The commenter incorrectly assumes the air quality mitigation measure in the Draft EIR related to suspending operations if winds exceed 25 mph (Mitigation Measure F.4) only applies to construction. In fact, this mitigation measure applies to both the construction and operational phases of the project.

The commenter inquires who will be responsible for wind monitoring. The commenter is referred to Master Response AQ-1 in Chapter II in this Response to Comments Document for additional data on wind conditions in the area; and expanded mitigation measures to further minimize project generated dust, including wind screening and a wind monitoring program.

- CC-6 The commenter refers to the Roblar Landfill as an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Superfund site. The commenter is incorrect; the Roblar landfill has never been, nor is it currently, an EPA Superfund site; i.e., contaminated sites subject to cleanup under the federal Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act.

The Draft EIR Project Description describes the history of the Roblar Landfill; additional discussion of the drainage and leachate collection systems for the landfill are presented in the Draft EIR, Section IV.C, Hydrology and Water Quality. Further, the Draft EIR

address all potential impacts from the proposed quarry, including any potential environmental impacts on the landfill property from operating the quarry, and potential environmental effects of the landfill on the quarry. The Draft EIR also finds that all associated potentially significant impacts are mitigated to less than significant levels.

- CC-7 The commenter inquires whether a limit should be placed on the number of daily quarry truck trips. It should be noted that the estimated truck trip generation reflects the operational aggregate production levels proposed by the applicant, and accordingly, the project as proposed is the subject of the environmental analysis in the Draft EIR. However, the Draft EIR also evaluates a number of alternatives to the proposed project (Section V in the Draft EIR). This includes a Reduced Production/Reduced Size Alternative (Alternative 3), that would restrict aggregate production levels to half of that proposed under the project. As discussed in the Draft EIR, Alternative 3 would result in incrementally less direct on- and off-site impacts, although it would likely not avoid any direct significant and unavoidable impacts of the proposed project, or secondary impacts associated with the implementation of off-site transportation improvements. Also, since this alternative would produce half the aggregate materials of the proposed project Alternative 3 would create indirect impacts associated with the deficit in materials coming from the other identified in-county and/or out-of county options. (Please also see discussion of other alternatives, including the Alternative Haul Route / Contracted Sales Only Alternative, which was identified as the environmentally superior alternative).

The County could choose to approve a project alternative with fewer or reduced traffic impacts, if it believes that the project do not justify the impacts of the project as proposed.

- CC-8 The commenter indicates the Draft EIR mentions sound monitoring and testing for blasting and inquires whether the report also looks at potential noise levels of daily operations.

The Draft EIR addresses operational quarry noise impacts to nearby receptors in Impact G.1 in the Draft EIR, and identifies the requirement for monitoring of quarry noise in Mitigation G.1.

I am not an expert on any of these issues  
I'm a dairy goat farmer

I live on the corner of Canfield and Roblar Roads. I am told that I live in the Petaluma Wind Gap. Sometime between late morning and early afternoon, an on-shore wind blows up this valley. I'm not talking a light breeze, most days this is a strong wind. The Draft Environmental Impact Report suggests that water will be used to control dust generated at the proposed quarry. I would like to know if the DEIR took into consideration the velocity of the wind in this valley, and the constant amount of water it will take to adequately control this dust, particularly since, it is very possible that the serpentine rock that will be quarried may contain asbestos. Who will be responsible if our wells are contaminated. Who will be responsible for the impact on our health from these factors; an <sup>adjacent</sup> unlined contaminated landfill, contaminated dust from the quarry and the exhaust from a constant parade of trucks on our country roads. Will the County be liable?

DD-1

DD-2

DD-3

DD-4

*This was not adequately addressed in the DEIR  
and since no insurance will adequately cover this project I ask*

Some people, in this area, are already experiencing water shortages. The amount of water used for dust control will seriously affect ~~not~~ the availability of potable water. The run off into our nationally protected Estero Americano via the Americano Creek will be an environmental hazzard not just from the mining of gravel but the potential leakage from the adjacent landfill. Who will take responsibility for that? Who pays for the clean-up?

DD-5

DD-6

*but because of the project liability of this to get adequate insurance*

We know who will benefit from this project, ~~and~~ we also know that it will be the tax payers of Sonoma County who will bear any liability it will create and it will be the residents of this valley that will pay the price of the loss of their quality of life, health, safety and tranquility.

DD-7

I implore you not to grant a permit for this venture.

Susan K. Baritell

*ill conceived*

Petaluma, CA 94952

ALSO →

which was said about traffic from the quarry  
to Roblar Rd and that it can be controlled  
Who will stop traffic from Storey Point from  
going to the quarry.

DD-8

**RECEIVED**  
JUL 22 2008  
PERMIT AND RESOURCE  
MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT  
COUNTY OF SONOMA

## Letter DD. Susan Baritell

- DD-1 The commenter indicates the project vicinity experiences strong winds. The commenter is also referred to Master Response AQ-1 in Chapter II in this Response to Comments Document for additional data on wind conditions in the area; and expanded mitigation measures to further minimize project generated dust, including wind screening and a wind monitoring program.
- DD-2 The commenter inquires if the Draft EIR took into consideration the velocity of wind in the valley and the amount of water it will take to adequately control dust. The commenter is referred to Master Response HYD-1 in this Response to Comments Document which characterizes and quantifies the various water demands for the project, including for dust control. Note the applicant's WMP includes highly conservative estimates of water demand required for dust control.
- DD-3 The commenter expresses concern that serpentine, known to contain asbestos, may be present on the project site. The commenter is referred to Master Response AQ-2 in Chapter II in this Response to Comments Document for a discussion of naturally occurring asbestos and why asbestos-containing materials are not likely to be encountered on the project site.
- DD-4 The commenter inquires who will be responsible for the impact on health from the Roblar landfill, contaminated dust from the quarry, and exhaust from trucks.

The Draft EIR addresses all potential environmental impacts associated with project, including impacts associated with encountering potentially contaminated seepage and groundwater from the landfill (Impact C-4). The commenter is also referred to Master Response HYD-1 in this Response to Comments Document. The applicant has prepared a comprehensive Water Management Plan (WMP) that expands upon and refines the proposed management and monitoring of water resources for the quarry project. The commenter is referred to Master Response HYD-2 in Chapter II in this Response to Comments Documents for further detail on existing groundwater quality conditions on the project site and adjacent landfill property.

With respect to impacts associated with encountering potential crystalline silica (Impact F.5); and localized increases in dust (Impact F.4). See also Master Response AQ-1 in Chapter II in this Response to Comments Document concerning dust control. The commenter is referred to Master Response AQ-2 in Chapter II in this Response to Comments Document for a discussion of naturally occurring asbestos and why asbestos-containing materials are not likely to be encountered on the project site. The commenter is referred to Impact F.3 in the Draft EIR for potential project-associated diesel particulate matter (DPM) effects from project haul trucks along haul routes, as well as from onsite mobile and stationary sources at the quarry site. Mitigation measures identified in the Draft EIR identify the responsible parties for implementation of all mitigation measures.

Please see also Master Response GEN-1.

- DD-5 The commenter indicates the area is experiencing water shortages, and that the amount of water required for dust control would affect the availability of potable water.

Impact C.8 in the Draft EIR analyzed the effect of groundwater pumping on drawdown and lowering local groundwater levels, and determined this impact to be less than significant. The commenter is also referred to Master Response HYD-1 in Chapter II in this Response to Comments Document for a description of a Water Management Plan (WMP) prepared by the applicant that has been incorporated into the project. As discussed in Master Response HYD-1, the WMP expands upon and refines the proposed management of water resources for the quarry project discussed in the Draft EIR (including groundwater from wells) and reduces hydrology and water quality impacts. The WMP also characterizes and quantifies the various water demands for the project, including use of highly conservative estimates of water demand required for dust control.

Under the WMP, only Well DW-2 would be used to supply supplemental groundwater for quarry operations (i.e., no use of Well DW-1). Furthermore, as discussed in Master Responses HYD-1 and HYD-3, the WMP would include a strategy to monitor changes to groundwater levels and employ adaptive management of the project production well to ensure a sustainable supplementary groundwater supply for the project with no adverse impacts from well pumping. These project refinements would not change any of the conclusions previously reached in the Draft EIR with respect to the effect of project groundwater pumping to neighboring wells.

- DD-6 The commenter states her opinion that runoff into Americano Creek from gravel mining and from potential leakage from the landfill will be an environmental hazard; and inquires who will take responsibility for it and pay for the cleanup. Please see response to Comment DD-4, above.
- DD-7 The commenter states her opinion that the tax payers of Sonoma County will bear liability the project would create, and it will be the residents of the valley that would pay the price of the loss of their quality of life, health, safety, and tranquility. The opinions of the commenter will be made available to County decisionmakers for their consideration. Please see also Master Response GEN-1 in Chapter II in this Response to Comments Document regarding issues related to the approval process for this project.
- DD-8 The commenter inquires who will stop project traffic from Stony Point Road from using Roblar Road to access the quarry. As described in the Draft EIR Project Description, all hauling conducted directly by the applicant, and all contract sales, would be conditioned such that trucks hauling materials under those contracts would be required to follow the prescribed haul routes. The use of the specified haul routes would be enforced by the applicant, subject to penalties and/or contract termination.

5/25/08

Scott Briggs  
Environmental Review Division Manager  
Sonoma County PRMD  
2550 Ventura Ave.  
Santa Rosa, Ca. 95403-2829

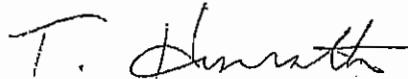
Re: Roblar Rd. Quarry, File PLP03-0094

Dear Mr. Briggs,

When I reviewed the EIR for this project, the Summary Chapter did not address the impact of blasting and mining adjacent to the closed county landfill that has a lot of toxic materials in it that could enter the neighboring properties well water. As one of those at risk of this, I hope that the authors of the EIR will amend their summary report so that the Planning Commission and and the Board of Supervisors are made aware of the risk of our drinking water being contaminated by these toxins and carcinogens.

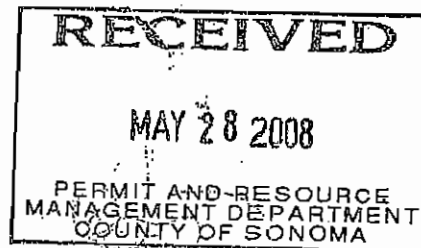
EE-1

Respectfully,



Thomas J. Honrath

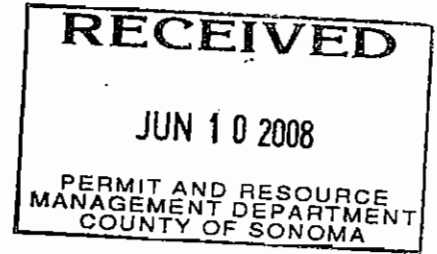
Sebastopol



## Letter EE. Thomas Honrath

EE-1 The commenter indicates that the Summary chapter of the Draft EIR does not address the impact of blasting and mining adjacent to the landfill. All potential impacts of the proposed project from project operations, including from rock extraction and blasting, are adequately addressed in the Draft EIR. The commenter is referred to Impacts B.1 through B.5 in the Geology, Soils and Seismicity section, Impacts C.1 through C.6 in the Hydrology and Water Quality section, and Impact G.3 in the Noise and Vibration section of the Draft EIR. Please also see response to Comment O-16.

Comment Letter FF



Date: June 07 2008  
To: Sonoma County Planning Commission  
Topic: Proposed Roblar Road Rock Quarry

Commission Members:

With regard to the EIR currently before you for your consideration, altho many issues are addressed therein, I wish to direct

your attention to an area of specific interest to me and hereby enclose letter sent to Press Democrat voicing my concerns.

When the mythical Pandora opened the box which unleashed Evil into a pristine world, a defense of ignorance of it's contents could be made in her behalf. However, the advocates for this proposed Rock Quarry on Roblar road in rural Sonoma County adjacent to a closed landfill with unknown toxicity could not mount such a defense. Their goal to proceed forward without a complete, thorough examination by competent professionals of the possible consequences to the environment and groundwater etc. arising from the blasting operations and earth moving and disturbing this sleeping giant seem irresponsible in my own humble view. The EIR in this matter currently before the planning commission lightly scans this toxic potential and seems to imply little consequential environmental impact. Say What? May we at the very least expect full investigation and disclosure of this landfill's content and potential effects before proceeding forward toward the opening of this present-day Pandora's box? The close attention to this issue by the Sonoma County Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors would be sincerely appreciated.

FF-1

Respectfully,  
Chris J. McCarthy Sr.

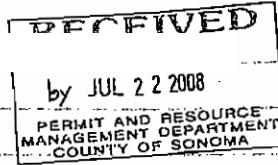
Petaluma, Ca.

## **Letter FF. Chris J. McCarthy Sr.**

FF-1 The commenter expresses a number of opinions regarding the proposed project. The technical issues raised regarding the landfill are addressed in the Draft EIR. The commenter does not raise any specific deficiencies with the Draft EIR analyses.

Judi Slater

Sebastopol, CA 95472



So thru any way the EIR could evaluate the effect the noise this project would generate would have on the local dairy cattle and livestock? My concern is that as they are mammals and might not produce as well under pressure...

GG-1

Also, if the people who had their wells tested were fine last week had their wells tested 5 years from now and had high levels of P.E.S and lead and then were, God forbid, 13 cases of cancer in the neighborhood, would the applicant assume risk management responsibility? Should Sonoma County as owner of the landfill? Who will the landowner go to for help? I need the EIR to outline a "what if" plan please.

GG-2

Thank you

## Letter GG. Judi Slater

GG-1 The commenter requests that the EIR evaluate the effect the noise would have on local dairy cattle and livestock. The loudest noise generated by the proposed quarry would be that generated by blasting activities, which may be required on average once or twice a month. The effect of blasting noise on disturbance to special-status wildlife species is addressed in Impact D.8 in the Draft EIR. While the impact discussion focused on special-status wildlife, the literature reviewed and available information extended to domesticated animals, including cattle. In fact, observations have been made of dairy cows within 1,000 feet of regular blasting activities that have occurred on the Sonoma County Central Landfill property, located five miles east of the project site. Blast noise and vibration levels from blasting activities at that property were similar in intensity to that which is anticipated for the proposed quarry. Despite initial concerns by the dairy operators, all involved parties have now concurred that blasting does not disturb the cows. Based on these observations and other available literature, the effect of blasting at the proposed quarry on domestic or wild animals near the site or on neighboring properties would be less than significant.

GG-2 The commenter asks hypothetically if the applicant would assume risk management responsibility if private wells tested in the future for high levels of DES and lead and there were cases of cancer in the neighborhood.

The applicant's groundwater monitoring program included sampling and analysis for volatile organic compounds (VOCs), semi-volatile organic compounds (SVOCs) including DES, organochlorine pesticides, PCBs, and trace metals. Pesticides, PCBs, and SVOCs including DES were not detected in the February 2007 sampling event. It should be noted that the County also analyzed groundwater at the adjacent closed Roblar Landfill property in 2004 for pesticides, PCBs, and SVOCs and these compounds were also not detected in those groundwater samples.).

The commenter is also referred to Master Response HYD-2 in Chapter II in this Response to Comments Documents for further detail on existing groundwater quality conditions on the project site and adjacent landfill property, including additional groundwater data, including for VOCs and metals, which has been made available. Please see also response to Comment L-20 regarding additional information on DES.

The commenter is also referred to response to Comment T-6.

Comment Letter HH

Robert B. Taylor

Petaluma, CA 94952

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May 21, 2008

Dear Scott,

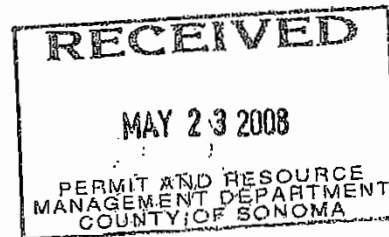
I am completely against the proposed new hard rock quarry at 7601 and 7175 Roblar Road - File  
PLP03-0094.

HH-1

Sincerely,



Robert Taylor



## **Letter HH. Robert B. Taylor**

HH-1 The commenter expresses opposition to the proposed quarry. This comment does not address the adequacy of the Draft EIR. However, the opinions of the commenter will be made available to County decisionmakers for their consideration.

Comment Letter II

Eileen Hofer

Petaluma, California 94952

Sonoma County  
Planning Commission

June 17, 2008

To Whom This May Concern:

I am a resident on Roblar Road. As you know there is a proposed rock quarry on Roblar Road. Recently there was a meeting of the residents to discuss the quarry E.I.R.

I have several questions which I believe should be addressed before any decision is made concerning the quarry.

1. Roblar Road has a designation that covers bicycle traffic. Daily there are groups of bicyclists on Roblar Road and this number greatly increases on the weekends. I am very concerned about their safety when sharing the road with the big rigs. How wide does Roblar Road need to be to ensure the safety of bicyclists when they are sharing the road when two big trucks are passing each other?

II-1

2. There is an intersection of Roblar Road and Carnigila. There is a visibility issue. The trucks will have insufficient time and distance to stop and/or slow down for the residents to safely turn in and out of their street. This must be seen to be adequately appreciated.

II-2

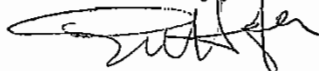
3. Responsibility and risk management. If and when a major lawsuit occurs who will be responsible? The quarry owners may have insurance. If a judgement exceeds their insurance, they may declare bankruptcy, and reincorporate. What is needed is to make sure of adequate coverage is/are bonds. This is the age of big lawsuits and very large awards. To much coverage is not possible.

II-3

4. Child/student safety. I would like to see a lot more concern about the students safety, getting to school, going home from school and waiting for the bus. For all ages. If the students are on the way to and from school on Roblar Road for a total of one hour a day; lets say that there are a total of 100 students using Roblar Road. There are approximately 180 school days per year. If there are trucks at a rate of 30 per hour. This adds up to 5,400 trucks passing 100 students. Or 540,000 possibilities for a truck versus student disaster. Every single year. I hope that makes sense. Over a half a million opportunities to have a student get into s disaster with a big rig. Guess who loses? We all do.

II-4

Sincerely,



Eileen Hofer

## Letter II. Eileen Hofer

- II-1 The commenter indicates concern about the safety of bicyclists sharing the road with project trucks. Most roadways in the project area are currently used by bicyclists. In addition, the community of Roblar (and the residential community along east Pepper Road) also generate pedestrians in their respective areas. Further, the Draft EIR discusses that Roblar Road and Pepper Road (east of Mecham Road) do not meet current County road design standards for travel lane and/or shoulder width. When considering these factors, a significant project impact was identified for the entire length of Roblar Road, and the section of Pepper Road east of Mecham Road.

In addition, as discussed in Impact E.4 (traffic safety) in the Draft EIR, when considering the existing condition that vehicles currently travel at speeds higher than posted speed limits on Roblar Road, the winding nature of the roadway, and that topography contributes to limited sight distance in locations, the Draft EIR concludes that the addition of project truck traffic to this roadway would be considered a significant impact. The potential impact could be increased during periods of poor visibility, such as fog; or periods of reduced road traction, such rainy or frosty conditions; and/or during potential infrequent nighttime operations.

Mitigation measures identified in the Draft EIR (see Mitigation Measures E.3 and E.4) to mitigate these significant impacts include improving Roblar Road and Pepper Road (between Mecham Road and Stony Point Road) to meet current County road design standards, including two 12-foot wide vehicle travel lanes, two six-foot wide shoulders, associated striping/signage to meet Class II bike facilities, and posting of warning signs on Roblar Road at key locations where sight distance may continue to be limited after implementation of these roadway improvements.

The Draft EIR discusses whether or not implementation of the above-cited mitigation measures would be feasible (due to right-of-way acquisition considerations), and concludes that if the roadway widening improvements identified in Mitigation Measures E.3a/E.4a were found to be infeasible, the impacts would be Significant and Unavoidable.

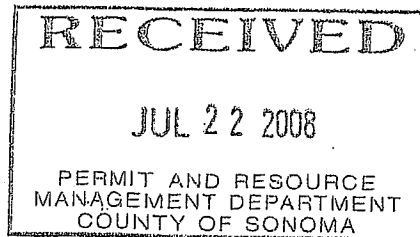
- II-2 The commenter indicates there is a sight visibility issue at the intersection of Roblar Road and Carniglia Lane. The commenter is referred to responses to Comment V-11.
- II-3 The commenter inquires who will be responsible if a major lawsuit occurs. This comment does not address the adequacy of the Draft EIR; consequently, no response is required. Please see also Master Response GEN-1 in Chapter II in this Response to Comments Document regarding issues related to the approval process for this project.
- II-4 The commenter indicates concern about the potential for conflicts of children/students with project trucks. Section IV.E, Transportation and Traffic in the Draft EIR addressed the issue of increases in truck traffic on haul roads used by bicyclists or pedestrians,

including Roblar Road. The commenter is also referred to Master Response T-1 in Chapter II in this Response to Comments Document for additional discussion of student arrival/departure characteristics at Dunham Elementary School.

Please note the Alternatives section of the Draft EIR includes Alternative 2 (Alternative Haul Route / Contracted Sales Only), in which all project truck traffic generated by the quarry would use an alternative haul route, and no project haul trucks would use Roblar Road east of the quarry, or Pepper Road east of Mecham Road. This alternative would avoid project trucks in the vicinity of Dunham and Liberty Elementary Schools.

July 19, 2008

Sonoma County Board of Supervisors  
575 Administration Drive, Room 100A  
Santa Rosa, California  
(707) 565-2241



Re: Roblar Road Quarry DEIR

Dear Supervisors,

My family and I are property owners on Roblar Road directly affected by the proposed quarry through added traffic, noise, air quality, road safety and integrity, and other harmful impacts. Enclosed are our comments along with past comments to similar proposals that are relevant today.

JJ-1

Endangered Species

Under Special-Status Wildlife Species of Section D Biological Diversity, pg. 125 of Environmental Setting, Impacts and Mitigation Measures, it states: "No California freshwater shrimp, **California tiger salamander**, foothill yellow-legged frog, northwestern pond turtle, or central California coast steelhead were identified on the property or the surrounding drainages (Golden Bear Studies, 2003; Fawcett, 2005).

However, through an email conversation with a Fish and Game official the opposite seems true and California tiger salamanders were in fact found on or near the proposed quarry location. (See below email exchange)

JJ-2

If this is the case the Draft EIR is inadequate and misleading. Can you please clear up the discrepancy and follow proper CEQA studies.

- > Subject: RE: address to maps (APN 027-080-010
- >
- > From: Vincent\_Griego@fws.gov
- > Date: Mon, 26 Nov 2007 14:07:41 -0800
- >
- > Jason,
- >
- > The closest known site where California tiger salamanders were surveyed for
- > is approximately 5,000 feet to the east of this site. California tiger
- > salamanders were found at that location too. Are you planning on doing
- > surveys here too. I believe the site I'm referring to was being surveyed
- > for California red legged frogs, but tiger salamanders were found in the
- > process.
- >