

September 16, 2009

David L. Jones  
Chief Engineering Geologist  
Riverside County Planning Department  
4080 Lemon St.  
Riverside, CA 92501

Dear Mr. Jones,

The Lake Elsinore Valley Chamber of Commerce represents all sectors of the business community in the Lake Elsinore Valley and is concerned with conservation and preservation issues throughout the valley.

Having recently met with representatives from Granite Construction, we would like to state our support for the Liberty Quarry project, which will benefit our region in many ways.

This new local source of aggregate will reduce the number of trucks transporting construction materials through our city, while local businesses and public agencies will see construction costs fall because there will no longer be a need to import these materials from distant sources. In addition to creating easier commutes for residents, the reduction in truck traffic will bring tremendous improvements to local air quality.

We are proud to play a role in economic development for the region and we cannot overlook the huge economic boost this project will provide in terms of tax revenue and new jobs for our communities. Projects such as Liberty Quarry will serve to position southwest Riverside County for success in the future as we continue to recover from the current economic climate. As the City of Lake Elsinore has not yet experienced it's build-out...a local, cost effective source of aggregate will provide one of the critical links in our business attraction strategy.

As part of a city with two nearby mining operations, we join the Lake Elsinore Unified School District in supporting this project. They have found similar operations, including one just north of Temescal Canyon High School, have not adversely impacted our schools or neighborhoods. In fact, these local mining operations have brought about a very collaborative relationship between the developer, the District and the City of Lake Elsinore.

Please consider the great benefits our region has already seen from local mining operations in the Lake Elsinore Valley that date back decades and consider this an opportunity to make a significant investment in the economic future of southwest Riverside County.

Sincerely,

Kim Joseph Cousins  
President/CEO  
Lake Elsinore Valley Chamber of Commerce and Visitor's Bureau

cc:

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