



## The Real Facts of Liberty Quarry

By: Gary W. Johnson, Aggregate Resource Manager, Granite Construction

The August edition of the Murrieta Bugle contained an opinion piece by Ms. Kristi Rutz-Robbins regarding the proposed Liberty Quarry project. There are a number of issues that were raised that need to be corrected with factual information.

First, the levels of dust and crystalline silica that would be emitted from the project under maximum operating conditions are well below any level that would be considered significant. In fact, the levels of crystalline silica are estimated to be on the order of about 1% of a level considered safe at the property line of the project.

Second, the studies performed by Dr. Hessel and Kleinfelder, Inc. did consider all of the “ever increasing and large body of data.” What Rutz-Robbins does not tell you is that monitoring of quarries in the Duarte-Azusa area by the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCQMD) over the last several years clearly indicates no significant fugitive dust impacts or crystalline silica impacts near existing operating quarries compared to other locations in the area. None of the particulate levels were above any state regulated significance level.

Rutz-Robbins also refers to monitoring data from dust monitoring locations in the Coachella Valley. The monitoring stations set up by SCAQMD in the area collect background ambient air conditions in the area, and do not monitor our Indio quarry. In the last 12 months we have voluntarily shut down our Indio quarry operations fourteen (14) days because wind speeds exceeded SCAQMD mandated levels, even though there was no dust coming off of our site. If you have been to the Coachella Valley during a windstorm that can shut down I-15, then you know what I am talking about. Many people that have taken the time to visit our operations north of Indio have noted the lack of dust leaving the site even under windy conditions.

Third, the Draft Air Quality Impact Report by Kleinfelder did not use wind speed averages as alleged by Rutz-Robbins. The analysis used actual wind data from four years of monitoring (35,000 hourly values) at a site less than two miles from the proposed quarry site as requested by San Diego State University. All of these values are plugged into a very intricate model that takes days for a computer to run. Why would someone make a completely erroneous statement like this when the report clearly details how the modeling was done?

In conclusion, the opinion piece by Ms. Rutz-Robbins is not based on factual data or is based on a misinterpretation of the data. The project specific analysis done to date clearly indicates the lack of impacts of the project and the clear environmental and economic benefits of the project. All of the technical reports can be found at [www.libertyquarryfacts.com](http://www.libertyquarryfacts.com).

Sincerely,

*Gary W. Johnson*

Aggregate Resource Manager