

CAPITOL OFFICE
STATE CAPITOL
ROOM 3060
SACRAMENTO CA 95814
TEL (916) 651-4037
FAX (916) 327-2187

DISTRICT OFFICES

73-710 FRED WARING DRIVE
SUITE 112
PALM DESERT CA 92260
TEL (760) 568-0408
FAX (760) 568-1501

13800 HEACOCK STREET
SUITE C-112
MORENO VALLEY, CA 92553
TEL (951) 653-9502
FAX (951) 653-9524

Senate
California Legislature
JIM BATTIN
SENATOR

THIRTY-SEVENTH SENATE DISTRICT



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October 9, 2007

Riverside County Board of Supervisors
Honorable John Tavaglione, Chair
Honorable Roy Wilson, Vice Chair
Honorable Bob Buster
Honorable Jeff Stone
Honorable Marion Ashley
4080 Lemon Street
Riverside, Ca 92501

Subject: Granite Construction Company's Liberty Quarry Project

Honorable Riverside County Supervisors:

Riverside County needs the proposed Liberty Quarry Project. As Senator of the 37th Senatorial District covering a significant portion of Riverside County, I understand the issues facing this County as well as the enormous opportunity the Liberty Quarry project provides to address some of these critical issues.

The State Department of Conservation in February of this year updated their Aggregate Availability Report which should be a wake up call for every elected official in Southern California – our region and the adjoining regions are running critically low on local, permitted sources of aggregate. Caltrans has also published a two-page paper entitled, "Construction Aggregate Supply Limitations, Estimates of Economic Impact", which summarizes the environmental and economic realities of the situation in the following way:

In conclusion, permitting and expansion of additional construction aggregate supply sources in California suggests potentially significant benefits and cost savings that would provide a high payoff and worthwhile effort for the state to undertake. Again, those benefits include:

- *A reduction in emissions from trucks with the reduction in truck miles of travel for hauling aggregates*
- *Shorter hauling distance reducing aggregate-truck miles of travel and the cost of the materials*
- *Reduction of pavement deterioration from fewer truck miles traveled*

- *Reduction in project delays due to lack of aggregate supply in the area, which leads to increased project costs*
- *Reduction in aggregate-related truck miles of travel would also reduce traffic congestion and potentially reduce traffic accidents on roads*

I have listened to the opposition to this project for the last two years waiting for them to produce any facts or substantive evidence to back up their claims or to support any basis for opposition. They have none.

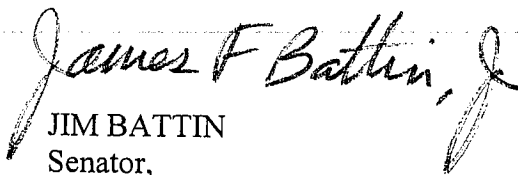
The science supports Liberty Quarry. Technical reports from highly qualified engineers and scientists verify what the proponents have been saying: the impacts of this project on residents near the proposed project will be minimal. My staff has reviewed the many technical reports dealing with air quality, crystalline silica, economic impact, hydrogeology, blasting and vibration, lighting, noise, traffic and the reduction of trucks that will result with development of the proposed project. The conclusions are pretty clear— there will be little impact and enormous benefit from this project.

Of particular concern to me and to my constituents in the Coachella Valley, Banning Pass and Hemet Valley area is the increasing amount of aggregate that is being shipped from the desert and pass area through Hemet, San Jacinto, and Perris to the Temecula-Murrieta area and further south to San Diego County. This export of material reduces reserves from those areas while also increasing construction costs, air emissions, traffic, and road maintenance.

My colleague, State Senator Dennis Hollingsworth, 36th Senatorial District, offered early support for this project in 2005 noting the ability to minimize and mitigate impacts and the critical need for the project. The science and technical reports validate that early belief and associated support and leadership on this issue.

Liberty Quarry can address many of the critical issues we share as elected officials and as residents. It is a good idea for my district, for Riverside County and for all of Southern California. I urge your support for this critically needed facility.

Sincerely



JIM BATTIN
Senator,
37th District

cc: Senator Dennis Hollingsworth, 36th District