

FORUM: Quarry will improve region's environment

By VINCE DAVIS -- Temecula | Posted: Thursday, April 22, 2010 12:01 am

In an area as environmentally conscious as Southern California, you'd think the opponents of the proposed Liberty Quarry would be more open to a project that reduces traffic, improves our freeway interchanges and embraces new green technologies to make local trucks run cleaner.

Instead, these opponents stubbornly claim that the quarry will increase air pollution and truck traffic, regardless of the facts. But as someone who has actually read the draft environmental impact report for the project, I can say these statements are not true. The construction of Liberty Quarry was deemed the "environmentally superior" option to no quarry at all.

Riverside County, Caltrans and the Department of Conservation all agree that construction of Liberty Quarry would result in an overall reduction in the number of truck trips associated with quarries in the region. Fewer trucks mean less congestion on our already stressed roadways. It also means less truck exhaust, thanks to the 16 million truck miles that would be saved by the project, according to numbers from the environmental report.

While it reduces traffic through the valley, Granite Construction, the company proposing Liberty Quarry, will provide millions of dollars for freeway improvements at the Rainbow Valley interchange and elsewhere. This includes nearly \$2 million Granite will pay to help fix other Temecula area interchanges that are already overcrowded.

These improvements will help streamline commuter and truck traffic alike, meaning fewer traffic jams, less congestion and less wasted time for local drivers waiting to get on and off the freeway at these frequently jammed interchanges. Traffic through the crucial Rainbow Valley interchange will flow more smoothly thanks to these improvements, even with the isolated increase in traffic Liberty Quarry will bring to that interchange.

Granite committed to environmentally upgrade 130 owner-operated work trucks in the county by providing new particulate air filters or clean engines for the trucks. This program, one of the more advanced of its kind in Southern California, means a significant overall reduction in deadly particulate matter and nitrogen oxide far below California requirements and below what we are currently living with.

The facts are obvious. Liberty Quarry will decrease the number of trucks currently hauling these building materials through our region, and many of the trucks we see now will be replaced with more environmentally friendly vehicles, at the cost of Granite Construction.

At the same time, the quarry will provide improvements to our freeway interchanges that will streamline the flow of traffic for everyone. I would have to say it's nice to see a company willing to step up to the environmental plate, put their money where their mouth is and make a positive difference in a community.

VINCE DAVIS lives in Temecula.

http://www.nctimes.com/news/opinion/commentary/article_e652f59e-66f8-5e32-bfa5-0e03e2a60ab8.html

1 Comment



1.

[Concerned-1](#) said on: April 22, 2010, 10:31 am

Once again I'm appalled by the pro-quarry argument and the lack of common sense these people share. Vince Davis states "The construction of Liberty Quarry was deemed environmentally superior to no quarry at all." What? Is he saying that the current state of the land, is worse than having the hills blasted away and trucks going up and down all day? Really? And the argument about having more environmentally friendly trucks on the road because we allow the quarry is nonsense. All trucks, by law, are going to be cleaner whether there's a quarry or not. Jobs? What, truck driving jobs? I don't know too many truck drivers who live in the valley. Finally, has anyone noticed the amount of boulders there are on the hill? Who will be responsible when one rolls down the hill on to I-15 after a nice big blast? Vince Davis is a shill, and Granite Construction is evil.

[Report Abuse](#) [Admin](#)