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Granite Construction joins Labor coalition to oppose 11th hour job killer bill

Sacramento, CA: In response to a last minute, behind the scenes attempt to circumvent the local land use process, Granite Construction Company has joined Labor in a united attempt to put a stop to a proposed bill initially aimed at preventing Granite's Liberty Quarry project, in addition would ultimately enact a wide sweeping ban on all California mining operations.

The bill is sponsored by the Pechanga Band of Luiseno Indians and is similar to a 1990's bill that ultimately killed all precious mineral operations in California. The Pechanga tribe expects a warm reception in Sacramento where over the past few years they have spent millions in contributions and lobbying.

"Granite is extremely disappointed to learn about this last minute end run around the local and state land use process," said, Gary Johnson, Southern California Resource Manager, for Granite Construction. "We have been engaged with the Pechanga leadership, tribal council and tribal membership since we first introduced our project in 2005. It was almost 4 years after we first briefed the tribal council before we heard any indication that they may have issue with this site. In our over 89 years of continuous operation in California we have a strong history of working hand-in-hand with local tribes, so this latest development is appalling to us."

Bill Waggoner the Business Manager for Operating Engineers Local 12 put it more bluntly, "This bill is ridiculous, while I recognize the concerns of the various Indian Tribes regarding the protection of their sacred burial sites, the public has no guarantee of that fact because that information is not available to the general public. Additionally, this area of California is very unique and there is an extreme shortage of building materials available for much needed projects. In lieu of this quarry being built, construction projects would look to Mexico and Canada for materials, thereby requiring the materials to be hauled in by truck from foreign countries many miles away."

He continued, "Like the rest of the middle class of the United States, the construction industry is experiencing high unemployment and huge underemployment problems. The proposed Liberty Quarry will bring good paying long-term jobs to California at a time when the economy is in desperate need of these projects."

The last minute bill, authored by Assemblywoman Bonnie Lowenthal and sponsored by Pechanga Band of Luiseno Indians, is aimed at stopping the proposed Liberty Quarry in southwestern Riverside County by prohibiting aggregate mining within 5,000 yards of an Indian reservation or native historic site. But like all last minute back room bills of this

nature it could lead to unintended consequences, in this instance potentially ending all mining in the state.

Liberty Quarry is a 135-acre quarry proposed for a site that is currently zoned for mining near the Riverside-San Diego County border. The project has been under environmental review by the County of Riverside for the last six years and is currently in the middle of planning commission hearings.

"The bill as presently written is akin to a legislative end-around of local government's land use regulations. The State Legislature is over-reaching and without any due process, public notice, or adequate research has come in at the 11th hour to thwart local authority," said City of Indio's Mayor Pro Tem Glenn Miller. "I strongly urge the Legislature to hold off on taking any hasty action at this time and allow our local land-use officials to do their job concerning this project."

For the past six years, Granite Construction has been in the process of securing local land-use approvals to open the Liberty Quarry project, which will help address the severe shortage of aggregate materials available in Southern California. Aggregate materials are the combination of gravel and sand that are the basic building blocks for roads, schools, churches and hospitals.

Currently trucks are hauling aggregate from 20-60 miles away to serve more distant markets. Both Caltrans and the Department of Conservation are on record supporting the need for more quarries like Liberty Quarry because local aggregate sources will have the positive impact of reducing truck traffic on our congested highways. Local materials sources will reduce diesel fuel consumption and subsequently reduce harmful air emissions, all the while reducing the cost of infrastructure projects throughout the state.

"This project will bring good union jobs to Southern California and provide the necessary aggregate materials needed to get California's economy back on track," said Johnson"

About Granite

Granite Construction Incorporated is a member of the S&P 400 Midcap Index, the FTSE KLD 400 Social Index and the Russell 2000 Index. Granite Construction Company, a wholly owned subsidiary, is one of the nation's largest diversified heavy civil contractors and construction materials producers. Granite Construction Company serves public- and private-sector clients through its offices and subsidiaries nationwide. As one of California's oldest and most respected companies that is regularly listed on Fortune Magazine's "100 Best Companies to Work For" been recognized by the Ethisphere Institute as one of the "World's Most Ethical Companies"

. For more information about Granite, please visit its Web site at www.graniteconstruction.com.

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