



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
May 2nd, 2006

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Latest Report Clears the Air on Quarry's Impact

An air quality report verifies that the proposed Liberty Quarry will reduce diesel emissions spewing into Riverside County's air basin.

Rainbow, CA – With more than 1,000 truck trips taken off Riverside County's roadways every day, the proposed Liberty Quarry will significantly reduce harmful diesel emissions and help reach the California Air Resources Board's reduction goals for the area.

An air emissions report prepared by Kleinfelder, Inc has concluded that the previously reported reduction of truck traffic traveling on Interstate 15 (I-15) will result in major reductions of pollutants emitted into the air. According to the report, annual transportation emission levels will be reduced by the following: nitrogen oxide (56.5 tons), sulfur oxide (.4 tons), particulate matter (2.3 tons), carbon dioxide (22.5 tons) and reactive organic gas (4.2 tons) when the Liberty Quarry reaches full operation in 2020. In addition, the reduction in truck transport along I-15 in Riverside County will save over 2 million gallons of diesel fuel each year.

"We were extremely happy with the report," said Gary W. Johnson, Aggregate Resource Development Manager for Granite Construction. "Air quality is a critical issue to all of us, and we are pleased the studies are showing that Liberty Quarry will not only reduce the trucks traveling through the area, but that it will also eliminate large quantities of emissions from diesel trucks. The reduction in diesel fuel consumption is also critical given the tightening gasoline and diesel supply and the soaring prices we are all experiencing."

An earlier traffic study by Urban Crossroads determined that Liberty Quarry's location south of the Temecula city limits at the San Diego County line would eliminate the need for trucks traveling from distant quarries to pass through the area en route to San Diego, cutting over 16 million truck miles annually. Liberty Quarry will provide the area with its own local source of aggregate materials reducing the distance trucks will need to travel to transport essential building materials.

The latest air emissions report also reviewed the California Air Resources Board's ("CARB") newest Emission Reduction Plan which concluded that the emissions associated with goods movement are the dominant contributor to emissions in the State. In addition, the plan states that the South Coast Air Basin emissions contribute approximately one-fourth of total statewide emissions. The CARB report states, "Goods movement is now the dominant contributor to transportation emissions in the State."

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“It is very important that we all find ways to reduce air emissions from transport of goods, which are so vital to our economic development,” said Johnson. “By providing a new local source of construction materials in the area, Liberty Quarry will help to limit the number of diesel emissions from the transport of goods.”

Nitrogen oxide (NOx) is reported to be one of the leading causes of the smoggy haze covering many urban areas. According to the report, over 56.5 fewer tons of NOx will be emitted into the air annually. When compared to ARB’s goal to reduce over 5.3 tons of NOx in the South Coast Air Basin per day by the year 2020 caused by goods movement, Liberty Quarry could accomplish almost 4% of the reductions single-handedly.

“These diesel pollutant cuts are important to all citizens in Southern California,” continued Johnson, “and should help ease the minds of those who do not yet recognize the tremendous traffic and economic benefits the Liberty Quarry can bring to this region. Our employees and their families will be living in this area, and we are just as concerned about air quality and public health as our opponents are.”

A draft comprehensive air study taking into account all of the operations surrounding Liberty Quarry should be completed in the next few months.

Liberty Quarry would provide a 155-acre rock quarry in Southwest Riverside County at the San Diego County line. It is expected to generate over 270 million tons of high-quality granite rock, ideal for making concrete and asphalt materials for approximately 75 years. It is currently undergoing an intense Environmental Review Process in Riverside County.

Aggregate (including sand, gravel, asphalt, rip-rap, and concrete) is becoming extremely limited across Southern California, yet infrastructure demands continue to grow. It is estimated that the average school or hospital takes approximately 15,000 tons of aggregate and a four-lane, mile long highway takes almost 38,000 tons. According to a 2002 study by the California Department of Conservation, the Inland Empire is projected to experience a 50% shortage in permitted raw material reserves in the next 50 years. The proposed Liberty Quarry would be able to help meet this regional demand for these materials.

Granite Construction has been listed in Fortune Magazine’s 100 Best Companies to Work For and also their Most Admired Companies list. Founded in 1922, Granite holds the 3rd oldest general contractors license in California. Granite’s Southern California branch is located in Indio and employs over 300 people throughout Riverside County. For more information about the company, visit their website at www.graniteconstruction.com.

For a complete copy of the traffic studies, air emissions report, or any other questions about the Liberty Quarry project please contact the Liberty Quarry offices at 951-699-0922 or visit our website at www.libertyquarryfacts.com.

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