

Riverside LAFCO rejects both reconsideration requests

The Riverside Local Agency Formation Commission, on September 24, 2009, rejected two reconsideration requests to annex southwest Riverside County properties.

The commissioners voted 6-1 to deny a reconsideration request by the City of Temecula that would have given the City control over 4,510 acres adjacent to Granite's Liberty Quarry project site. The commissioners also voted 5-1, with Commissioner John Tavaglione absent, to reject a second request by Susan Miyamoto-Jurkosky that would have placed 4,997 acres, including the Liberty Quarry site itself, under Temecula's control.

The commissioners denied the reconsideration requests in accordance with LAFCO policy. The commissioners determined there was no new information that was not known or could not have been known at the time of the original June hearing that would warrant reconsideration.

Liberty Quarry representatives have met numerous times with officials from the City of Temecula and San Diego State University and look forward to continuing to do so. Granite Construction is eager to find mutually beneficial ways to better the community and work cooperatively with the city and the university.

On August 5, Granite sent a letter to the City stating, "...we would again ask for your help in finding a way for Granite to support the City's annexation efforts, but to do so in a manner that does not compromise Granite's ongoing efforts to permit the Liberty Quarry project." Unfortunately, the city did not complete its review of the DEIR and get back to us before the September 24 hearing.

Both Liberty Quarry and the City of Temecula have expressed interest in working with the Santa Margarita Ecological Reserve (SMER) and finding ways for the community to enjoy this natural resource. The Mission Trails Regional Park in San Diego that is funded by a variety of sources both public and private is an example of what could be done with SMER if Liberty Quarry, the City of Temecula and Riverside County work together.

The Liberty Quarry Draft EIR makes clear that not only will the quarry project be a boon for the region, but it also will help protect SMER by insulating it with an open-space buffer. In fact, the project has been specifically designed to protect local communities, using natural topography to shield the site from view and reduce noise and light emissions.

Additionally, the project's environmentally superior alternative will help clean up local air by reducing truck traffic on area roadways and will provide local builders with a ready source of aggregate.

We're thrilled to be moving forward to the next step of our project and appreciate your support.