

Tuesday, June 2, 2009

## FORUM: quarry would be a win for region

By BOB KOWELL -- Murrieta | Tuesday, June 2, 2009 12:10 AM PDT ∞

Temecula is trying to annex a portion of the county to allow homes to be built instead of allowing it to remain a mining designated area and open space. This housing project is considered on about 700 of the total 4,997 acres. The homes would be on 10-acre plots.

The city wants this takeover to occur in order to stop the proposed quarry mine. The subcontractors of the proposed housing area would put in the infrastructure, but in the end, the city pays the yearly upkeep, one way or another. Also, the city will be taking on the responsibility of almost 5,000 acres of a "ready to burn" fire area that will cost it dearly over the years.

The mining operation is small compared with that of other mines, and the mine will take up only about 150 acres of the total 4,997 acres requested to be annexed. After the mining is finished, we will have a space for a water reserve and 4,847 acres of open space. To build our own water reserve would be almost cost-prohibitive.

Streets of San Francisco are lined with rock from the old Temecula quarry. All the negative questions about the mine have been answered satisfactorily. The naysayers have been discredited.

There will be fewer trucks, not more, coming in and out of Temecula and adjacent areas. Diesel fumes from some of the trucks going to and from the mine, and other areas in the county, will be mitigated by a program that the mining company is implementing on 130 trucks at great expense to the company.

By the year that 800 trucks go in and out of the mine (circa 2015 or later), California state diesel fume standards for trucks will be in place and we will have a lot less diesel fumes in the air anyway. Reports substantiate that there will be less overall truck traffic in the area if the mine is put in. It is a win-win to have the mine.

The environmentalists who are behind this scare tactic have not only attempted to shut down businesses here but everywhere in our country. Our nation is at stake a small bit a time. Don't let them scare you out of one of the best opportunities we have for building more businesses that bring work to this area.

Business buildings aren't made of thin air; they take concrete and asphalt. Bringing concrete from somewhere else is too expensive to make our area a profitable place to grow or live. Some people don't care about that, but they should. If we don't do more business-minded things, our area will become like many other poor areas that continually fall into disrepair and become worthless. We just won't have the tax base to sustain ourselves.

Should we just give up and let the socialists, shrouded in the environmental cause, win?

I say no. I will fight them. I hope you join me.

BOB KOWELL lives in Murrieta.