



FORUM: Facts on quarry impact trump opponents' fiction

By **RICHARD BRADY -- Fallbrook** | Posted: Wednesday, March 10, 2010 12:01 am

Facts trump fiction every time. Especially when it comes to real-world testing, such as that under way at the Granite Rosemary's Mountain Quarry in Northern San Diego County.

In response to concerns raised by the local community about the quarry, Granite helped assemble a community group that met periodically to discuss the quarry as Granite was starting construction. Potential air impacts from the quarry were a primary concern, so the community group put together a smaller sub-group to help design the monitoring system for the quarry to ensure it would reflect their concerns. As requested by the community, during the past year, an air scientist selected by the community group has been monitoring the air around Rosemary's Mountain Quarry for dust and crystalline silica.

As a resident of Fallbrook, I attended a forum March 3 where the community group and its air scientist presented the monitoring results to an audience of about 30.

Contrary to the fiction out of Temecula about how the proposed Liberty Quarry will destroy air quality, the actual results from monitoring the Rosemary's Mountain Granite quarry operations were very clear ---- all PM10 and crystalline silica levels were well within the stringent state standards, even right next to the quarry. In fact, the monitoring results indicate there is almost a zero impact for dust and silica from the quarry.

Granite has agreed to continue to monitor the air quality in the area and make the results available to the public. According to a community member at the Rosemary's Mountain meeting, this is the only quarry they know of in the United States that is doing this. Good for Granite and good for the community for letting the science tell the story.

It struck me that instead of jumping up and down screaming that the sky is falling, the people concerned about the proposed Liberty Quarry should follow the lead of the residents at Rosemary's and ask to be involved in crafting monitoring and reporting to address their concerns. Granite representatives tell me that they have offered to do so, but Temecula has declined. Apparently the city isn't interested in the facts, just fiction. What are they afraid of learning?

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