



## COLORADO

Division of Reclamation,  
Mining and Safety

Department of Natural Resources

1313 Sherman Street, Room 215  
Denver, Colorado 80203

April 27, 2016

Andre LaRoche  
Transit Mix Concrete Co.  
444 E. Costilla St.  
Colorado Springs, CO 80903

**RE: Objections and Comments to 112c Reclamation Permit Application  
Hitch Rack Ranch Quarry; DRMS File No. M-2016-010**

Mr. LaRoche:

The Division has received timely objections and comments to the Hitch Rack Ranch Quarry application. The objections and comments were received within the public comment period that began when the application was called complete for the purposes of filing on March 8, 2016, and before the public comment period ended on April 19, 2016. The Division has also received objections and agency comments after the close of the public comment period, that are deemed untimely.

Timely objections received:

- 1) On March 15, 2016, the Division received an objection from William and Marion Baker, dated March 10, 2016.
- 2) On March 18, 2016, the Division received an objection from Chelsea Luttrall, dated March 18, 2016. Ms. Luttrall sent her mailing address via email on March 22, 2016.
- 3) On March 22, 2016, the Division received an objection from Robert A. Nathan of Asthma & Allergy Associates, PC and Research Center, dated March 15, 2016.
- 4) On March 25, 2016, the Division received an objection from Sara Harper and Kathie Rawson of Red Rock Valley Estates Neighborhood Association, dated March 15, 2016.
- 5) On March 25, 2016, the Division received an objection from Chris Burnell of Turkey Cañon Ranch Homeowners Association, dated March 21, 2016.
- 6) On March 25, 2016, the Division received an objection from Mark McClurg of Highlands of Turkey Cañon Ranch Homeowners Association, dated March 22, 2016.
- 7) On March 29, 2016, the Division received an objection from James H. Enderson, dated March 17, 2016.
- 8) On March 31, 2016, the Division received an objection from Steve Firks of The Piñons of Turkey Cañon Ranch Homeowners' Association, dated March 29, 2016.



- 9) On April 1, 2016, the Division received an objection from William and Marion Baker, dated March 28, 2016.
- 10) On April 4, 2016, the Division received an objection from William B. Sheaves, III, dated March 28, 2016.
- 11) On April 4, 2016, the Division received an objection from Alane N. Sheaves, dated March 28, 2016.
- 12) On April 4, 2016, the Division received an objection from Deidra Steen, dated March 29, 2016.
- 13) On April 4, 2016, the Division received an objection from Anita Sickels, dated March 31, 2016.
- 14) On April 4, 2016, the Division received an objection from Phillip K. Heacock, not dated.
- 15) On April 5, 2016, the Division received an objection from Lisa Pecoraro, dated March 29, 2016.
- 16) On April 7, 2016, the Division received an objection from Mike and Dee Yugovich, dated March 29, 2016.
- 17) On April 7, 2016, the Division received an objection from Sara Fentman, Jordan Townsend, and Shannon Bell, dated March 31, 2016.
- 18) On April 7, 2016, the Division received an objection from Bruce H. Chisnell, dated March 31, 2016.
- 19) On April 7, 2016, the Division received an objection from Reece Eddy, dated March 31, 2016.
- 20) On April 7, 2016, the Division received an objection from Kenneth R. Baird, dated April 2, 2016.
- 21) On April 7, 2016, the Division received an objection from Weldon W. Flaharty, dated April 4, 2016.
- 22) On April 8, 2016, the Division received an objection from John and Kristan Rigdon, dated March 31, 2016.
- 23) On April 8, 2016, the Division received an objection from Tracy Offutt, dated March 31, 2016.
- 24) On April 8, 2016, the Division received an objection from Sherry Diggs, dated April 2, 2016.
- 25) On April 8, 2016, the Division received an objection from Wayne Diggs, dated April 2, 2016.



- 26) On April 11, 2016, the Division received an objection from Lynn M. Steer, dated March 31, 2016.
- 27) On April 11, 2016, the Division received an objection from Ben Donahue of Rock Creek Park Association, dated March 31, 2016.
- 28) On April 11, 2016, the Division received an objection from Holly Sandler, dated March 31, 2016.
- 29) On April 11, 2016, the Division received an objection from Paul Reinsma, dated April 5, 2016.
- 30) On April 11, 2016, the Division received an objection from James H. Enderson, dated April 5, 2016.
- 31) On April 11, 2016, the Division received an objection from Edyn Jessup of The Nature Conservancy in Colorado, dated April 11, 2016.
- 32) On April 12, 2016, the Division received an objection from Dan Harrell, dated March 30, 2016.
- 33) On April 12, 2016, the Division received an objection from Brent and Lee Louzon, dated March 31, 2016.
- 34) On April 12, 2016, the Division received an objection from George and Christine Cousineau, dated March 31, 2016.
- 35) On April 12, 2016, the Division received an objection from Paul and Cindy Ragan, dated April 5, 2016.
- 36) On April 12, 2016, the Division received an objection from Sharon Reinsma, dated April 6, 2016. Ms. Reinsma submitted her phone number via email on April 12, 2016.
- 37) On April 12, 2016, the Division received an objection from Weldon W. and Jennifer K. Flaharty, dated April 6, 2016.
- 38) On April 12, 2016, the Division received an objection from Kathie and Stan Rawson, dated April 9, 2016.
- 39) On April 12, 2016, the Division received an objection from Charles and Nancy Reed, dated April 11, 2016.
- 40) On April 12, 2016, the Division received an objection from Gerry Klein, dated April 12, 2016.
- 41) On April 13, 2016, the Division received an objection from Brett E. Powell, dated March 31, 2016.



- 42) On April 13, 2016, the Division received an objection from David and Linda Martin, dated March 31, 2016.
- 43) On April 13, 2016, the Division received an objection from Tom Hight, dated March 31, 2016.
- 44) On April 13, 2016, the Division received an objection from Nancy Reed, dated April 11, 2016.
- 45) On April 13, 2016, the Division received an objection from Tina Swonger of RE/MAX Properties, Inc., dated April 13, 2016.
- 46) On April 14, 2016, the Division received an objection from Charles A. and Patricia L. Watkins, dated March 31, 2016.
- 47) On April 14, 2016, the Division received an objection from Robert W. Pace, dated April 7, 2016.
- 48) On April 14, 2016, the Division received an objection from Charles H. and Denise A. Hancock, dated April 10, 2016.
- 49) On April 14, 2016, the Division received an objection from Richard L. and Susan K. Larsen, dated April 11, 2016.
- 50) On April 14, 2016, the Division received an objection from Michael and Laura Harvey, dated April 11, 2016. The Division has informed Mr. and Mrs. Harvey that a proper mailing address and telephone number (for objecting party) is required.
- 51) On April 14, 2016, the Division received an objection from Gary K. McCowen, dated April 13, 2016.
- 52) On April 14, 2016, the Division received an objection from Jerry P. and Karen B. Moore, not dated.
- 53) On April 14, 2016, the Division received an objection from Mark A. Henslee, dated April 14, 2016.
- 54) On April 14, 2016, the Division received an objection from Stephen Sovaiko, dated April 14, 2016.
- 55) On April 14, 2016, the Division received an objection from Matthew D. Cook, dated April 14, 2016.
- 56) On April 14, 2016, the Division received an objection from Jagger Lawrence, dated April 11, 2016.
- 57) On April 15, 2016, the Division received an objection from Nancy Reed, dated April 15, 2016.



- 58) On April 15, 2016, the Division received an objection from Ray and Julie Whitehead, dated April 15, 2016.
- 59) On April 15, 2016, the Division received an objection from Jackie McFarlane, dated March 31, 2016. No mailing address or telephone number was provided as required by Rule 1.7.1(2)(a).
- 60) On April 15, 2016, the Division received an objection from John Gard, dated April 10, 2016. No telephone number was provided as required by Rule 1.7.1(2)(a).
- 61) On April 15, 2016, the Division received an objection from Debbie Gard, dated April 10, 2016. No telephone number was provided as required by Rule 1.7.1(2)(a).
- 62) On April 16, 2016, the Division received an objection from Craig Engelage and Robert and Judith Cadigan, dated April 11, 2016.
- 63) On April 17, 2016, the Division received an objection from Troy L. Day, dated April 17, 2016.
- 64) On April 17, 2016, the Division received an objection from William B. Sheaves III, dated April 15, 2016.
- 65) On April 17, 2016, the Division received an objection from Ted D. Kerr of the Board of Directors, Red Rock Valley Estates Water District, dated April 15, 2016.
- 66) On April 18, 2016, the Division received an objection from Charlton Brice and Denise Brice, not dated.
- 67) On April 18, 2016, the Division received an objection from Sara and Marty Harper, dated March 15, 2016. No telephone number was provided as required by Rule 1.7.1(2)(a).
- 68) On April 18, 2016, the Division received an objection from Reece Eddy Jr., dated March 31, 2016.
- 69) On April 18, 2016, the Division received an objection from Elizabeth W. Dean, dated April 10, 2016.
- 70) On April 18, 2016, the Division received an objection from Karen and Paul Blatchford, dated April 11, 2016.
- 71) On April 18, 2016, the Division received an objection from Gerry Klein and Richard Rudduck, dated April 12, 2016.
- 72) On April 18, 2016, the Division received an objection from Warren H. Dean, dated April 13, 2016.
- 73) On April 18, 2016, the Division received an objection from Michael and Cynthia Heer, Jerry P. and Karen B. Moore, Joe and Suzie Koscove, Jack and MaryAnne Koscove, and Stephen



Sovaiko, dated April 13, 2016, not dated, dated April 12, 2016, dated April 12, 2016, and dated April 14, 2016, respectively.

- 74) On April 18, 2016, the Division received an objection from Anne and Tom Fellows, dated April 14, 2016. Enclosed with the letter was the previously received objection from Edyn Jessup of The Nature Conservancy in Colorado, dated April 11, 2016.
- 75) On April 18, 2016, the Division received an objection from Cheryl L. Kimble, dated April 15, 2016.
- 76) On April 18, 2016, the Division received an objection from Carrie S. Bernstein of Alderman Bernstein LLC on behalf of Cheryl L. Kimble, dated April 18, 2016.
- 77) On April 18, 2016, the Division received an objection from Carol J. and David R. Lick, dated April 18, 2016.
- 78) On April 19, 2016, the Division received an objection from Lonnie T. Rogers, dated March 15, 2016. No telephone number was provided as required by Rule 1.7.1(2)(a).
- 79) On April 19, 2016, the Division received an objection from Jean A. Miller, dated March 15, 2016. No telephone number was provided as required by Rule 1.7.1(2)(a).
- 80) On April 19, 2016, the Division received an objection from Kenneth Troutt, dated March 15, 2016. No telephone number was provided as required by Rule 1.7.1(2)(a).
- 81) On April 19, 2016, the Division received an objection from Joseph Salazar Jr., dated March 22, 2016. No telephone number was provided as required by Rule 1.7.1(2)(a).
- 82) On April 19, 2016, the Division received an objection from Mark Hodges, dated March 22, 2016.
- 83) On April 19, 2016, the Division received an objection from Mike and Dee Yugovich, dated March 29, 2016.
- 84) On April 19, 2016, the Division received an objection from Raven B. Rudduck, dated March 31, 2016.
- 85) On April 19, 2016, the Division received an objection from Eric Bransby, dated March 31, 2016. No telephone number was provided as required by Rule 1.7.1(2)(a).
- 86) On April 19, 2016, the Division received an objection from Sandra Boehr, dated March 31, 2016. No telephone number was provided as required by Rule 1.7.1(2)(a).
- 87) On April 19, 2016, the Division received an objection from Kay M. and C. Scott Kay, dated April 11, 2016.
- 88) On April 19, 2016, the Division received an objection from Sara LaVerne, dated April 11, 2016.



- 89) On April 19, 2016, the Division received an objection from Susan E. Pringle and Monte W. Junck, dated April 11, 2016.
- 90) On April 19, 2016, the Division received an objection from Richard C. Holden and Yvonne Bredee Holden, dated April 11, 2016.
- 91) On April 19, 2016, the Division received an objection from Ann Gerber, dated April 11, 2016.
- 92) On April 19, 2016, the Division received an objection from Cindy and Keith Newby, dated April 11, 2016.
- 93) On April 19, 2016, the Division received an objection from Ronald Blair, Donald Larrabee, and Rand Hassell, dated April 12, 2016.
- 94) On April 19, 2016, the Division received an objection from Gary K. McCowen, dated April 13, 2016.
- 95) On April 19, 2016, the Division received an objection from Mike Yugovich, dated April 14, 2016.
- 96) On April 19, 2016, the Division received an objection from Richard Welch, dated April 14, 2016.
- 97) On April 19, 2016, the Division received an objection from Hartmut Wright of the Southwestern Highway 115 Fire Protection District, dated April 14, 2016.
- 98) On April 19, 2016, the Division received an objection from Scott Samson, dated April 15, 2016. No telephone number was provided as required by Rule 1.7.1(2)(a).
- 99) On April 19, 2016, the Division received an objection from Victoria Spengler Wekamp, Douglas Lee Wekamp, and Brian and Betty Gardiner, dated April 18, 2016. No telephone number was provided for the Wekamps as required by Rule 1.7.1(2)(a).
- 100) On April 19, 2016, the Division received an objection from Steven K. Mulliken of Mulliken Weiner Berg & Jolivet P.C., dated April 18, 2016. Mr. Mulliken is Co-Trustee of the Amended and Restated Trust Agreement of the Harold C. Ingersoll Revocable Trust.
- 101) On April 19, 2016, the Division received an objection from Jennifer Divers Day, dated April 17, 2016.
- 102) On April 19, 2016, the Division received an objection from Thomas Melancon, dated April 19, 2016.
- 103) On April 14, 2016, the Division received an objection from Geri Sovaiko, dated March 22, 2016. No telephone number was provided as required by Rule 1.7.1(2)(a).
- 104) On April 18, 2016, the Division received an objection from Les Gruen of Urban Strategies, Inc., dated April 18, 2016.





105) On April 19, 2016, the Division received an objection from Michael Lihs and Bertha "Beege" Delgado, dated April 15, 2016.

106) On April 19, 2016, the Division received an objection from J. Michael and Karen A. Turley via fax, dated April 15, 2016.

Timely agency comments received:

107) On March 22, 2016, the Division received a comment from History Colorado, dated March 17, 2016.

108) On April 18, 2016, the Division received a comment from Colorado Parks and Wildlife, dated April 18, 2016.

Late objections received:

109) On April 20, 2016, the Division received an objection from Lori S. (last name illegible), dated March 31, 2016.

110) On April 25, 2016, the Division received an objection from Beverly A. Hodges, dated April 18, 2016.

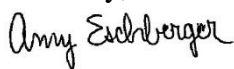
Late agency comments received:

111) On April 21, 2016, the Division received a comment from Colorado Division of Water Resources, dated April 21, 2016.

Copies of the recently received objections and/or comments are enclosed for your records. Please inform the Division of how the Applicant intends to address the jurisdictional issues raised by the objectors.

If you have any questions, please contact me by telephone at 303-866-3567, ext. 8129, or by email at [amy.eschberger@state.co.us](mailto:amy.eschberger@state.co.us).

Sincerely,



Amy Eschberger  
Environmental Protection Specialist

Enclosure(s): Objection letters as listed above, items no. 106 and 109

CC: Paul Kos, Norwest Corporation (via email)  
Wally Erickson, DRMS





J. Michael & Karen A. Turley

106

4/15/16

To: Colorado Division of Reclamation  
Mining and Safety

From: J. Michael & Karen Turley and  
2390 Paseo Corto, LLC

Mailing address PO box 38036 Colorado Sp. Co 80937  
Phone 719-338-1266  
Permit # M2016010

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APR 20 2016

DIVISION OF RECLAMATION  
MINING AND SAFETY

(via Fax)

My wife and I have 640 acres with 7 wells, electricity,  
Roads, all surveying and engineering done for 17, 35 + acre lots.

The 640 acres borders the proposed quarry on three sides. We have  
Many questions about this permit.

Thank you,  
J Michael Turley

JM Turley

Karen A Turley

Karen A Turley

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APR 20 2016

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MINING & SAFETY

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## complimentary fax cover sheet

number of pages including cover sheet: 1

attention to: CDRMS date: 4. 19. 16

company: CDRMS from: Katie and Mike Turley

phone #: 303 866 3567 company: CDRMS

fax #: 303 832 8106 senders phone #: 719 338 1266

comments: \_\_\_\_\_

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19 16  
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MINING & SAFETY

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REV 10/2/13

AME  
Lori Stawane  
302 Cherokee Dr  
Colorado Springs, CO 80926

March 31, 2016

Ms. Amy Eschberger  
Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety  
1313 Sherman Street, Room 215  
Denver, Colorado 80203

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APR 20 2016

**DIVISION OF RECLAMATION  
MINING AND SAFETY**

Re: Transit Mix Concrete Company application for Reclamation Permit, Hitch Rack Ranch Quarry  
(# M2016010)

Dear Ms. Eschberger

I am submitting this letter on behalf of the 13 property owners within the Ridgewood Estates (Glenrock Drive). Ridgewood Estates is located along Highway 115, two miles North of the proposed Hitch Rack Ranch Quarry operation.

Based on our investigations and research, the owners and residents within the Ridgewood Estates are unanimously opposed to bringing an additional large-scale aggregate mining operation to our community, as there are already three quarries in service along this five mile stretch of Highway 115.

Our research has unveiled significant constraints to additional quarry development in the proposed location including: limited water supplies, a fragile groundwater system, rich wildlife and vegetation resources, public health and safety, air and noise contamination, compromised transportation within the community, traffic hazards along Highway 115, existing quarries that satisfy the demand, violation of current development plans for the area, proximity to local residents, and limited or no alternatives for residents.

**Water Supply:** All residents in Ridgewood Estates and surrounding neighbors along the Highway 115 corridor depend on ground water for their domestic water supply. These wells likely depend on the fracture system within the granitic rock for water supply, while wells in the adjacent upturned sedimentary rocks may depend upon both these fracture systems and infiltration along the granite-sedimentary rock boundary for recharge. This situation makes such wells dependent on the quality of the recharging surface water and highly susceptible to contamination. **The Heavy rains of 2014 proved this when many of our wells water changed color to tea like, due to the increased run off that shocked the aquifer. Despite the fact that many of these wells receive water from over 200 feet below the surface, the color change remained for several months.** Contamination from mining operations can travel very quickly through the fracture system to affect domestic wells. The very geology and topography of the proposed Hitch Rack Ranch Quarry site makes such effects exceedingly difficult to predict. Further, the effect from blasting operations (which Transit Mix proposes to conduct two or three times each week) on the fracture system will likely exacerbate the problem, and is equally difficult to predict. **In 1996 when we experienced an aftershock of an earth quake, several wells in our community had a drastic reduction in water production or had to be abandoned.**

**Wildlife:** An independent and objective wildlife study needs to be completed, rather than accept questionable statements by the applicant. The proposed quarry site is adjacent to and contiguous with the Aiken Canyon Preserve (managed by the Nature Conservancy of Colorado), and included as part of the Aiken Canyon Potential Conservation Area. This area is identified by the Colorado Natural Heritage Program as a B2 site – Very High significance. It should be noted that the Nature Conservancy shares our opposition to the quarry permit. The quarry site is an area rich in wildlife. It lies between large concentrations of wildlife in the federal lands to the west and Fort Carson to the east, and serves as a major migration route between the two ecotypes. It is inhabited by a great diversity and in some cases high density of wildlife. Most notably, the site is mapped by the US Fish and Wildlife Service as Critical Potential Conservation Habitat for the Mexican Spotted Owl, a federally listed threatened species. **The Mexican Spotted Owl has been documented in the immediate area. The applicant's statement that "turkeys are not common in the mining area" is ludicrous. Anyone who frequents this area knows it harbors one of the largest concentrations of turkeys in this part of Colorado. Sighting of turkeys is an almost daily occurrence here. Turkeys, in particular, are intolerant of industrial operations such as mining. Colorado Parks and Wildlife identifies the proposed quarry site as a primary elk residence and migration area.** More than 100 species of birds have been documented using the area, and the stream corridors are known to be important movement areas for wide-ranging animals such as mountain lions, black bear, mule deer, and elk. There are unconfirmed reports of the presence of Canada Lynx, an endangered species recently reintroduced into Colorado, in the area. The proposed mining plan does not appear to provide an adequate buffer to protect the use of intermittent stream corridors by these sensitive species.

**Vegetation:** The vegetation analysis sections of the application contain several inaccuracies. The quarry site provides high quality foothills plant communities that are rapidly being converted to development north and south of this area. The dry (xeric) tallgrass sites along the Front Range are also rarely found in the high quality condition in evidence at this site. It contains excellent to good examples of globally-imperiled mountain mahogany/needlegrass community, an excellent occurrence of globally vulnerable piñon pine/Scribner needlegrass community, as well as an excellent occurrence of mesic oak thicket community. The lodgepole pine and blue spruce mentioned repeatedly in the application do not appear in significant numbers, while the white pine, which is very common at the site, is not mentioned at all.

**Noise and Air Contamination:** Quarrying requires drilling and blasting with explosives, which create vibrations, noise, and dust. Once this process is completed, rock crushing machines crush the rock, conveyor belt machines move the rock around the processing plant; trucks are loaded and unloaded. The process and heavy machinery required to mine, is intrusive and creates significant noise and air pollution; thus having a direct impact on the surrounding areas and community. Air quality is compromised and diminished by the fugitive dust associated with aggregate mining. Dust generated by mining often contains silica, a common naturally occurring crystal found in most rock beds. Prolonged exposure to silica may result in silicosis. According the Centers for Disease Control, “silicosis is a disabling, nonreversible and sometimes fatal lung disease caused by over exposure to respirable crystalline silica. Over exposure to dust that contains microscopic particles of crystalline silica can cause scar tissue to form in the lungs, which reduces the lung’s ability to extract oxygen from the air we breathe.” In addition to silicosis, inhalation of crystalline silica particles has been associated with other diseases, such as bronchitis and tuberculosis.

**Noise and Air Contamination continued:** Due to our unique dry climate with sustained Chinook winds of 20 to 40 miles per hour this is a health issue for both humans and animals living within a four mile radius of this quarry. Dr. Robert Nathan, MD, a Diplomate of the American Board of Allergy and Immunology, and known world wide for his research and knowledge, noted in a letter to your office that the Silica dust behaves similarly to pollen, “it can impact the airways of asthma and COPD patients as far a 3-4 miles away.” We have several of those patients living here daily on Glenrock Drive.

**Transportation:** Transportation in the Highway 115 area is unique in that the normal hierarchy of roads do not exist. Highway 115 is the lifeline upon which residents depend. It is the only means of transportation into, out of, and within the community. **There are no other alternatives, and residents cannot avoid using Highway 115 for their life-sustaining transportation needs.** Thus, the condition and safety of Highway 115 are primary concerns of all residents. According to the El Paso County Major Transportation Corridors Plan (MTCP), Highway 115 south of Fort Carson’s main gate is functionally classified as “congested”. Major sections of the highway are two lane, including the point at which Transit Mix proposes to access the highway. The proposed highway access point is also located at a historically dangerous place, with multiple fatal traffic accidents in recent years. **Unfortunately, the 2040 MTCP Roadway Plan does not call for any improvements to Highway 115 through the year 2040, so the highway we have now is what we will live with for many years to come. If the Hitch Rack Ranch Quarry is allowed to proceed, an already congested highway, currently bearing truck traffic from three active quarries, will be burdened by as many as 624 additional trucks per day when the quarry is at full production. This additional traffic will exacerbate traffic hazards not only for the local residents, but also for the many commuters who use this major thoroughfare to Colorado Springs, as well as the many tourists, bicyclists, and motorcycle clubs who frequent the area for it’s unique geographic and aesthetic appeal.**

**Existing Quarries:** There are currently three quarries operating within a five mile stretch along Highway 115, the nearest less than three miles from the proposed Hitch Rack Ranch Quarry site. The quarry operators report they are currently operating at roughly half their capacity. When questioned why such low production, the response is “insufficient demand”. This calls into question the need for yet another quarry on the backs of the already burdened local residents.

**Proximity to Local Residents:** There are more than 140 properties within two miles of the proposed quarry site, some as close as 1200 feet and with direct line-of-sight to the quarry operations. The vast majority, if not all, of these property owners are vehemently opposed to the applicant's quarry plans. **The policies incorporated in the El Paso County Southwestern Highway 115 Comprehensive Plan (see below) state "any resource extraction operation should be located a minimum of two miles distant from any dissenting residents".**

**Comprehensive Development Plan:** This application for permit is in clear violation of the current Southwestern (Highway 115) Comprehensive Plan. This is a plan commissioned and adopted by the El Paso County Board of County Commissioners for the Highway 115 area. This comprehensive plan foresaw the potential for future demands for mineral resource extraction in the area, and adopted specific policies to address it. The Hitch Rack Ranch Quarry application is in specific violation of the following policies in this plan:

1. The entire burden of proof for demonstrating the existence of extractable mineral resources should lie with the applicant. Designation of potentially extractable mineral resources in the Master Plan for the Extraction of Commercial Mineral Deposits should in no way be seen as a justification or an implied right for mining.
2. Resource extraction operations in general are not supported in the planning area. However, the presence of existing operations is recognized, and if future conditions dictate the necessity for additional supplies of aggregate, the expansion of existing operations is preferred over new quarries.
3. At no time during their operations should resource extraction affect the quantity, quality, or dependability of residents' existing water supplies or result in the diversion of existing water supplies. The full burden of proof for assuring this will lie with the applicant.
4. Access from Highway 115 to any resource extraction operation should not affect the quality of the existing access to area residents.
5. Unless it can be demonstrated that topography will shield existing residents from visual, noise, and dust impacts, all resource extraction operations should be located a minimum of two miles distant from any dissenting residents.
6. Wildlife and wildlife protection routes should be protected through the development of a wildlife overlay zone, addressing the need for protecting critical habitat areas.
7. Development should not be allowed in riparian areas, both because the hazard of flooding and because of their exceptionally high wildlife values. Any drainage improvements undertaken in the area should be treated in the most natural way possible to minimize any impacts on riparian areas.
8. The specific area of Aiken Canyon is identified as a unique and significant biological resource of state-wide significance that should continue to be preserved. Preservation is not compatible with most public access, and management should maximize wildlife and scientific values.

**No Alternatives:** Residents in close proximity to the proposed quarry have no other alternatives but their status quo. They have but one source of water, their individual wells. They have but one route of ingress and egress to their properties, Little Turkey Creek Road. They have but one transportation corridor into and out of the community, Highway 115. Even routine operations of a Hitch Rack Ranch Quarry will have a significant impact on residents. For example, blasting operations, which Transit Mix proposes to conduct two or three times each week, will require closing Little Turkey Creek Road, precluding the owners and residents of 43 lots from leaving or returning to their properties. More severe occurrences run the risk of closing the only highway and/or effectively sealing off access to properties in the area.

The objections addressed above should be considered representative, but incomplete due to the limited time frame available to us for review, research and analysis. We reiterate our request that the study period be extended to give us a reasonable amount of time to conduct a thorough and meaningful study.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

*Lois L. Starny*  
*302 Cherokee Dr.*  
*Colorado Springs, CO 80906*

Copy to:

Congressman Doug Lamborn, U.S. House of Representatives, Colorado's Fifth District  
1125 Kelly Johnson Blvd., #330, Colorado Springs, CO 80920

Senator Kevin Grantham, Colorado State Senator, District 2  
200 E. Colfax Ave., Denver, CO 80203

Representative Lois Landgraf, Colorado State Representative, District 21  
200 E. Colfax Ave., Denver, CO 80203



Ms. Amy Eschberger  
Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining & Safety  
1313 Sherman St., Room 215  
Denver, CO 80203

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