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## Object to M2017-049

1 message

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Gerry Klein Glass <gerry@gerryklein.com>  
To: Amy.Eschberger@state.co.us

Wed, Dec 20, 2017 at 12:46 AM

Dec. 20, 2017

Dear Ms. Eschberger,

As a resident and property owner in Red Rock Valley, which is approximately 1 mile from Hitch Rack Ranch Road, I OBJECT to Transit Mix Concrete Company's application M2017-049 to establish a quarry on Hitch Rack Ranch.

This application is basically the same as their previous application that was denied on the basis of water resources, wildlife habitat, and the easement rights of several property owners. The basic issues still remain.

This proposal will result in *long-term* consequences to the environment, public health, safety, and well being of the affected and adjoining neighborhoods. There will be substantially increased truck traffic, dust, and noise pollution. This area is known for its strapped water resources, and is located in an area of the highest fire danger. Why would you want to put a quarry in an area of unparalleled natural beauty, abundant wildlife, wildlife habitats, and wildlife migratory trails, when another quarry is not even needed in this area? There is not a need for the existing quarries to produce at their capacity because the aggregate isn't needed. At the present time, there are 3 existing quarries within an 8-mile radius; these quarries are currently operating at half their capacity. Transit Mix would like us to believe that Colorado Springs and El Paso County could not function without the addition of the Hitch Rack Quarry. However, IF there were so much demand for aggregates in El Paso County, the existing quarries would already be operating at full capacity. A better plan, and a plan that would have less impact to the community and surrounding areas, would be to expand the existing quarries.... if more aggregate than is being produced is ever needed. Refusing to add an unnecessary additional quarry would also be consistent with our Master Plan: Southwestern/Highway 115 Comprehensive Plan.

Moving dirt and extracting rock from the ground alters the flow of water runoff. The abutting and adjoining neighborhoods depend strictly on well water supplies for all their water needs. There is potential for well contamination and/or damage, or complete loss of all well water from nearby blasting, contamination from blowing dust, and water runoff. Transit Mix can't guarantee it won't happen, and nothing has been put into place to fully compensate us if it does happen. Blasting can change the water flow. Additionally, the heavy equipment necessary for quarrying uses gasoline, diesel, oil and transmission fluids. These fluids can potentially leak. Small amounts to larger spills can contaminate 100's to 1000's of gallons of ground water. They have already been fined for intentionally contaminating water.

Quarrying requires heavy equipment, blasting, drilling, earthmoving, all of which create noise and dust, and, would certainly diminish the quality of life and well being of the adjacent land owners and surrounding area. Southwestern/Highway 115 Corridor's unparalleled natural beauty will be compromised and the landscape densely populated with quarries and their side effects. The 115 Southwestern Highway area is currently taxed by the activities and traffic associated with Fort Carson, Cheyenne Mountain State Park, RV Parks, and privately owned parks opened to the public, within the surrounding area.

Air quality is compromised and diminished by the fugitive dust associated with aggregate mining. Dust generated by mining granite contains silica, a common naturally occurring crystal found in most rock beds. Prolonged exposure to silica may result in silicosis.

Wildlife, wildlife habitats, wildlife migratory paths and biodiversity will be lost. The proposed quarry site could also be in violation of the Federal and State Endangered Species Act. While reclamation is the goal, it may not be possible to "put Humpty Dumpty back together again" after 50 years of abuse and depletion....and then what????

Safety issues will also affect the bicyclist and motor bike clubs and individual "bikers" who use the 115 Southwestern Corridor as a major thoroughfare due to the area's geographic and aesthetic appeal.

The increased number of trucks will also create traffic hazards detrimental to the safety of El Paso County residents. When there is an accident on Hwy. 115, the road is often closed in one or both directions for an extended period of time, and individual lives come to a complete standstill. Medical emergencies may be affected if the road is impassable.

I request that both the Pre-hearing Conference and MLRB Hearing be conducted in Colorado Springs.

Sincerely,

Gerry Klein

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