

September 21, 2020

Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety
1313 Sherman St.
Denver, CO 80203
RE: Application by Peak Ranch Resource (File No. M2020041)

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to seek Party status to testify about the above-mentioned application by Peak Materials to establish a gravel mining operation at the site designated as Peak Ranch Resource.

My wife, Margaret (Maggie) and I have been full-time residents of Summit County's Lower Blue Valley for 24 years. I am the immediate past president of Acorn Creek Ranch Estates Property Owners Assn, having served for 10 years. The turn-off from Highway 9 to our properties is approximately 2 miles south of the proposed gravel mine. I am specifically aggrieved by this proposed project for the following reasons:

- Our Lower Blue Valley is a Colorado treasure—really a national treasure, a remarkably beautiful and peaceful setting, a unique mix of nature and agriculture, lined by magnificent peaks, with National Forest and Wilderness on both sides. There are thousands of acres of County-protected open space and working ranches with conservation easements. Except for the gravel operation bordering Silverthorne, there is no existing mining or other industry. It is one of the few remaining pristine highway-valleys in Colorado. Being so close to the Front Range cities, it is a favorite recreational refuge for thousands of people. It would be shameful to start digging it up with a gravel mine. Even more distressing, approval of this mine could set a precedent for future industry up and down the valley.
- I worry about the adverse effects of digging up the river and its banks, on wildlife and fish--and on humans. The machines and trucks—some 230 trips per day—will create noise, increase pollution and magnify our increasingly serious highway-traffic problem. There is a risk of harming neighboring water wells, not to mention what it could do downstream in the river-system.
- Finally, Summit County's Lower Blue Master Plan considers any industrial activity as inconsistent with the natural, rural, and economic values of the valley. A number of people have built lovely homes very close to the proposed gravel mine. I can imagine how upset they must be, having trusted that their peaceful settings would be protected in perpetuity by the Lower Blue Master Plan.

I wish to be heard at the public hearing of the Colorado Mined Land Reclamation Board when the Board takes up this application. Please add me to your email distribution list notifying interested parties of the date, time and location for this meeting. Thank you.

Sincerely,


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