



## CITY OF IDAHO SPRINGS

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Questions and Comments pertaining to the Walstrum Quarry's proposed expansion that resulted from the Idaho Springs City Council Work Session on September 20, 2021.

How would the proposed quarry effect the water quality in the area especially Clear Creek? Clear Creek has struggled with water quality and the potential to affect that water quality is concerning. The City is also concerned for the potential of contaminating the aquifer underneath the site. It is highly probable that there are mineral veins through the site, and if those mineral veins are disturbed it could become possible that stormwater accesses the heavy metals and carrying contaminants into the groundwater and downstream.

How would the developer address mineral veins? The water quality concerns prompt the question of would the developer be required to construct a water treatment facility?

Stormwater from the waste rock landform eroding into Clear Creek prompts concerns for water quality in the Creek, which is utilized by many downstream residents, and there is already high scrutiny on the watershed's water quality.

The City is concerned about impacts to the recreational opportunities in the surrounding area, such as rafting in Clear Creek and rock climbing in the canyon. The proposed quarry expansion is on the other side of the ridgeline from the canyon and may detour visitors from enjoying the natural environs due to increased noise and vibrations.

The City is concerned about the number of trucks per day that this would add to the area. Interstate -70 and Highway 6 are already beleaguered by heavy traffic including many truck related delays and fires. What is the potential increase in trucks per day that would be generated from the site?

The City is also concerned about the potential for dust to affect residents and businesses. The wind is predominately from the west, however, a northern or eastern wind could spread dust into portions of the City creating health and welfare concerns. The air quality in and around Idaho Springs is already compromised with the traffic from Interstate-70 hanging in the valley and the new annual summer haze created by wildfires near and far.

Idaho Springs continues to progress as a tourist destination. One of the most recent developments is the recently approved construction of trails and possible event space within the Virginia Canyon Mountain Park located approximately two miles away from the quarry site. The City is concerned that the quarry will affect the views from this tourist destination diminishing the enjoyment of the public that wishes to frequent the amenities.

Wildlife preservation and the protection of their habitat is of concern to the City. The City has recently worked with the State regarding the protection and preservation of wildlife area in the Virginia Canyon Mountain Park. Those concerns are most likely valid for this site due to its close proximity.

The City is concerned with the remediation plan as the plan indicates extremely steep slopes to remain at the end of the development. This is concerning from erosion/slope stability and revegetation standpoints.

Submitted by: Jerad Chipman, AICP, Community Development Planner for the City of Idaho Springs  
Colorado