



CITY OF EL PASO DE ROBLES
"The Pass of the Oaks"

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

Tuesday, May 20, 2008 7:30 PM

**MEETING LOCATION: PASO ROBLES LIBRARY/CITY HALL
CONFERENCE CENTER, 1000 SPRING STREET**

**PLEASE SUBMIT ALL CORRESPONDENCE FOR CITY COUNCIL PRIOR
TO THE MEETING WITH A COPY TO THE CITY CLERK**

7:30 PM – CONVENE REGULAR MEETING

CALL TO ORDER – Downstairs Conference Center

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

INVOCATION

ROLL CALL Councilmembers John Hamon, Gary Nemeth, Duane Picanco, Fred Strong, and Frank Mecham

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Sue Daniels, Executive Director Boys & Girls Club of North San Luis Obispo County introduced staff members and invited public to upcoming events
- Annie Robb, Director Parks and Recreation introduced Alex Bonnifield, member of the Youth Commission
- Pearl Munak recognized the City for the continued generosity and support of the Transitional Food and Shelter Program
- Norma Moye, Main Street Association, invited public to upcoming events
- Kathy Barnett, consultant fees
- Dick Willhoit, inviting public to Kruse Auction events to be held at River Oaks Hot Springs over Memorial Day Weekend

AGENDA ITEMS TO BE DEFERRED (IF ANY) - None

PRESENTATIONS

1. Recognition – 2007 Bob Alesi Memorial Volunteer of the Year Award

F. Mecham, Mayor

Mayor Mecham, and Captain Robert Burton, PRPD, presented the Alesi Award to Bill Pluma, long-time volunteer with Public Safety and Library and Recreation Services. Chuck Sawyer presented Mr. Pluma with an honorarium from the Optimists in recognition for his contribution.

(a) Unannounced Recognition

F. Mecham, Mayor

Certificates of Recognition were presented to Pearl Munak, 2008 Senior Citizen of the Year (San Luis Obispo County), and the 2008 winner of the Cuesta College, Women of Distinction Award, Community and Public Service, Volunteer Award.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

2. Findings of Local Conditions for Amendments to the 2007 Edition of the California Codes

D. Monn, Public Works Director

The City Council considered findings regarding local climatic, geological, and topographical conditions as the basis for making amendments to the California Codes. Steve Perkins, City Building Official, presented the staff report.

Mayor Mecham opened the public hearing. Speaking from the public were Nick Gilman, Dick Willhoit and Chip Tamagni. There were no further comments from the public, either written or oral, and the public discussion was closed.

Councilmember Nemeth, seconded by Councilmember Picanco, moved to continue the item to a future date and requested staff to prepare an analysis of the proposed findings.

Motion passed by the following unanimous roll call vote:

AYES: Hamon, Nemeth, Picanco, Strong, and Mecham

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

3. Economic Strategy: Natural Resource Management Plan

R. Whisenand, Community Development Director

The City Council considered the development of a Natural Resource Management Plan, consistent with the City's General Plan and Economic Strategy. Susan DeCarli, City Planner, presented the staff report.

Mayor Mecham opened the public hearing. There were no comments from the public, either written or oral, and the public discussion was closed.

Councilmember Nemeth, seconded by Councilmember Hamon, moved to adopt Resolution No. 08-061 authorizing measures to aid in the development of a Natural Resource Management Plan

Motion passed by the following unanimous roll call vote:

AYES: Hamon, Nemeth, Picanco, Strong, and Mecham

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

CONSENT CALENDAR

Mayor Mecham called for public comments on Consent Calendar items. There were no comments from the public, either written or oral, and the public discussion was closed.

4. Approve City Council minutes of May 6, 2008
5. Approve Warrant Register: Nos. 77216—77321 (05/02/08) and 77322—77423 (05/09/08)
6. Receive and file Advisory Body Committee minutes as follows:
Library Board of Trustees meeting of April 10, 2008
Youth Commission meeting of April 2, 2008
7. Adopt Resolution No. 08-062 approving a one-time budget appropriation The Federal Grant revenues received, \$14,635, concerning Police Department's investigative overtime budget for reimbursement for funds expended during a Federal narcotics investigation.
8. Adopt Resolutions¹ necessary to initiate proceedings for the annual levy of the Landscape and Lighting District for fiscal year 2008/2009, and to schedule a public hearing for June 17, 2008.
9. Adopt Resolutions² confirming the balloting results of the Paso Robles Landscape & Lighting District Sub-Areas 2A-1 and 112, and the Ashwood Drainage Assessment District.

1

No. 08-063—Initiating Proceedings for Annual Levy of Assessments for the Landscape and Lighting Maintenance District No. 1 for Fiscal Year 2008/2009; and

No. 08-064—Preliminary Approval of the Annual Engineer's Report for the Landscape and Lighting Maintenance District No. 1 for fiscal Year 2008/2009; and

No. 08-065—Declaring Intention to Levy Annual Assessments for the Landscape and Lighting Maintenance District No. 1 for Fiscal Year 2008/2009.

2

No. 08-066—Declaring Results of the Property Owner Protest Ballot Proceeding for the Levy of Assessment Increase for Sub-Area 112 of the Landscape and Lighting Maintenance District No. 1, commencing Fiscal Year 2008/2009; and

No. 08-067—Declaring Results of the Property Owner Protest Ballot Proceeding Conducted for the Levy of Assessments for Drainage Maintenance District No. 2008-1, commencing Fiscal Year 2008/2009; and

No. 08-068—Declaring Results of the Property Owner Protest Ballot Proceeding for the Levy of Assessment Increase for Sub-Area 2A-1 of the Landscape and Lighting Maintenance District No. 1, commencing Fiscal Year 2008/2009; and

No. 08-083—Approving the Engineer's Report that establishes a new maximum assessment for Sub-Area 2A-1 of the Landscape and Lighting Maintenance District No. 1, and the Levy and Collection of annual assessments commencing in Fiscal Year 2008/2009; and

No. 08-069—Approving the Engineer's Report that establishes a new maximum assessment for Sub-Area 112 of the Landscape and Lighting Maintenance District No. 1, and the Levy and Collection of annual assessments commencing in Fiscal Year 2008/2009; and

No. 08-070—Approving the Engineer's Report regarding the Formation of Drainage Maintenance District No. 2008-1, and the Levy and Collection of Annual Assessments commencing in Fiscal Year 2008/2009; and

No. 08-071—Confirming the Formation of Drainage Maintenance District No. 2008-1, and ordering the Levy and Collection of Assessments for Fiscal Year 2008/2009.

10. Adopt Resolution No. 08-072 to award a contract to Sansone Company to install a gravity sewer line at Palm Court and remove Lift Station No. 9, in the amount of \$263,829.22.
11. Adopt Resolution No. 08-073 to award a contract to Ahrens Corporation to install a new sodium hypochlorite facility at the Wastewater Treatment Plant, in the amount of \$1,249,000. The existing chlorine gas disinfection system at the plant was installed in 1989 and no longer meets current codes. The new system will result in a less volatile system, addressing concerns expressed by both Cal OSHA and Emergency Services.
12. Adopt Resolution 08-074 authorizing the receipt of additional funding from the Paso Robles Housing Authority for part-time staff in Oak Park Recreation. The Housing Authority currently contributes \$48,800 annually for staffing at the George Stephen Center. At the March 11, 2008 meeting, the HA voted to augment their annual contribution by \$6,000.

Consent Calendar Items Nos. 4-12 were approved on a single motion by Councilmember Hamon, seconded by Councilmember Strong, with Mayor Mecham abstaining on Warrant Register Item No. 077312.

Motion passed by the following unanimous roll call vote:

AYES: Hamon, Nemeth, Picanco, Strong, and Mecham
 NOES:
 ABSTAIN:
 ABSENT:

Council adjourned for a short recess and reconvened at 9:00 PM.

DISCUSSION

13. **OTR 08-004 – Request to Remove One Oak Tree on Lot 8, off Wisteria Lane (Justin Vineyard & Winery, Inc.)**
 R. Whisenand, Community Development Director

The City Council approved a request to remove one oak tree in conjunction with the development of a winery/storage building (PD08-006), on Lot 8, off Wisteria Lane.

Mayor Mecham opened the public hearing. Speaking from the public was Chip Tamagni, arborist. There were no further comments from the public, either written or oral, and the public discussion was closed.

Councilmember Hamon, seconded by Councilmember Nemeth, moved to adopt Resolution No. 08-075 approving OTR 08-004, allowing the removal of the 38-inch, Blue Oak Tree, based on the tree's declining health, and require replacement trees to be planted and long-term protection measures established.

Motion passed by the following unanimous roll call vote:

AYES: Hamon, Nemeth, Picanco, Strong, and Mecham
 NOES:
 ABSTAIN:
 ABSENT:

Councilmember Picanco recused himself from discussion of Item No. 14 due to family members residing in the area under consideration and left the dais.

14. Sand Mine Applications in North County

R. Whisenand, Community Development Director

The City Council considered mitigation of impacts on City streets resulting from sand mine operations in the unincorporated area of the North County. John Falkenstien, City Engineer, presented the staff report.

Mayor Mecham opened the public hearing. Speaking from the public were Paul Viborg, Kean Finnegan, Sierra Delta Corporation, Joe Plummer, Jerry Lohr, Dale Gustin, John Pehl, Templeton guy, Susan Harvey, Ole Viborg, Muriel Dutton, Rob Eidemiller, Sierra Delta Corporation. There were no further comments from the public, either written or oral, and the public discussion was closed. Councilmember Nemeth disclosed an *ex parte* discussion with Paul Viborg.

Councilmember Nemeth, seconded by Councilmember Hamon, directed staff to initiate discussions with San Luis Obispo County representatives regarding inter-agency cooperation on development permits in the area, and possible revenue sharing solutions to mitigate road impacts and report back to the Council on the results of our discussions with County representatives.

Motion passed by the following unanimous roll call vote:

AYES: Hamon, Nemeth, Strong, and Mecham
NOES:
ABSTAIN: Picanco
ABSENT:

Councilmember Picanco returned to his seat on the dais.

15. Video Inspection for Sewer Collection System

D. Monn, Public Works Director

The City Council approved the purchase of video inspection van and camera equipment for ongoing inspection and maintenance of the sewer collection system.

Mayor Mecham opened the public hearing. A letter from the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Coast Division, supporting staff recommendations was distributed (attached). There were no further comments from the public, either written or oral, and the public discussion was closed.

Councilmember Nemeth, seconded by Councilmember Strong, moved to adopt Resolution No. 08-076 for \$133,600 to purchase an integrated video inspection van and camera equipment for ongoing inspection and maintenance of the sewer collection system;

Motion passed by the following unanimous roll call vote:

AYES: Hamon, Nemeth, Picanco, Strong, and Mecham
NOES:
ABSTAIN:
ABSENT:

16. North & South River Road Sewer and Reclaimed Water Pipelines

D. Monn, Director of Public Works

The City Council awarded contracts for construction and construction management services for sewer pipeline upgrades and installation of a new reclaimed water pipeline in North River Road.

Mayor Mecham opened the public hearing. Speaking from the public were Rick Runnells, River Road Mini Storage, Paul Viborg, Craig Wyatt, Collision Precision, and Ole Viborg. There were no further comments from the public, either written or oral, and the public discussion was closed.

Councilmember Picanco, seconded by Councilmember Strong, moved to adopt a revised Resolution No. 08-077, authorizing the partial closure of North River Road, and fully close south River Road during construction of the pipelines, and award the construction contract for sewer upgrades and reclaimed waterline in to MGE Underground in the amount of \$4,959,175, and a construction services contract to Boyle Engineering in the amount of \$237,827.

Motion passed by the following unanimous roll call vote:

AYES: Hamon, Nemeth, Picanco, Strong, and Mecham

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

17. Wastewater Treatment Plant – Rehabilitation and Addition Upgrade - Design

D. Monn, Public Works Director

The City Council awarded a contract to Black & Veatch for thirty percent (30%) design documents of significant upgrades to the City's Wastewater Treatment Plant located at 3200 Sulfur Springs Road.

Mayor Mecham opened the public hearing. There were no comments from the public, either written or oral, and the public discussion was closed.

Councilmember Hamon, seconded by Councilmember Nemeth, moved to adopt Resolution No. 08-078, appropriating \$1,100,000 from Sewer Enterprise Funds, and authorizing the contract with Black & Veatch in the amount of \$900,000 to provide professional engineering design services associated with the design of upgrades to the Paso Robles Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Motion passed by the following unanimous roll call vote:

AYES: Hamon, Nemeth, Picanco, Strong, and Mecham

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

18. Wastewater Treatment Plant - Rehabilitation and Addition Upgrade - Project Management Services

D. Monn, Director of Public Works

The City Council awarded a contract for project management services associated with the design to rehabilitate and expand the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Mayor Mecham opened the public hearing. There were no comments from the public, either written or oral, and the public discussion was closed.

Councilmember Nemeth, seconded by Councilmember Hamon, moved to adopt Resolution No. 08-079, appropriating funds from the Wastewater Treatment Operating Fee Fund and authorizing a contract with Cornerstone Engineering in the amount of \$170,000 to provide project management services associated with the rehabilitation and upgrade design of the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Motion passed by the following unanimous roll call vote:

AYES: Hamon, Nemeth, Picanco, Strong, and Mecham
NOES:
ABSTAIN:
ABSENT:

19. Storm Water Management Plan

D. Monn, Public Works Director

The City Council authorized payment for services rendered by Woods Rodgers in assisting in the implementation of the City's adopted Storm Water Management Plan.

Mayor Mecham opened the public hearing. There were no comments from the public, either written or oral, and the public discussion was closed.

Councilmember Nemeth, seconded by Councilmember Strong, moved to adopt Resolution No. 08-080, authorizing a \$22,700 appropriation from the City's Storm Water account for services rendered by Wood Rodgers.

Motion passed by the following unanimous roll call vote:

AYES: Hamon, Nemeth, Picanco, Strong, and Mecham
NOES:
ABSTAIN:
ABSENT:

20. Watch Commander Vehicle Replacement

D. Monn, Public Works Director

The City Council authorized the replacement of the Police Watch Commander vehicle. The Vehicle Replacement Policy provides that a vehicle should be replaced at either ten years of age or 80,000 miles. The vehicle has exceeded its life expectancy at 109,000 for active patrol work. The cost of the unit is \$35,786.02. Captain Burton provided clarification to Council.

Mayor Mecham opened the public hearing. There were no comments from the public, either written or oral, and the public discussion was closed.

Councilmember Hamon, seconded by Councilmember Nemeth, moved to adopt Resolution No. 08-081 authorizing, (1) the allocation of \$12,000.00 from vehicle replacement funds to supplement the existing \$24,000.00 and approve the purchase of a Chevrolet Tahoe using the City of Los Angeles specifications; and (2) the expansion of the fleet by allocating the existing Ford Expedition to Code Enforcement.

Motion passed by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Hamon, Nemeth, Strong, and Mecham
NOES: Picanco
ABSTAIN:
ABSENT:

21. Utility Billing Remittance Automation

J. Throop, Administrative Services Director

The City Council approved a contract to purchase both software and hardware in order to further automate and streamline the remittance process for utility billing. There are sufficient funds within the Water/Sewer Funds to cover this unbudgeted cost.

Mayor Mecham opened the public hearing. There were no comments from the public, either written or oral, and the public discussion was closed.

Councilmember Strong, seconded by Councilmember Hamon, moved to adopt Resolution No. 08-082, awarding a contract to Audio-Tel for the software and associating training costs, and allocating funds to purchase the necessary equipment for a not to exceed amount of \$26,600, and an annual support and replacement cost expense of \$6,100.

Motion passed by the following unanimous roll call vote:

AYES: Hamon, Nemeth, Picanco, Strong, and Mecham

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

COUNCIL COMMENTS (Including oral reports on conferences attended)

ADJOURNMENT at 10:55 PM TO:

Social

Friday and Saturday,
May 23-24, 2008
Kruse Events, at River Oaks
Pavilion, Paso Robles

Workshops

Thursday, May 29, 2008
Highway 46E Corridor
Community Workshop, at
5:00 PM, at Paso Robles
Inn Ballroom, Paso Robles

Meetings

Tuesday, May 27, 2008
Joint City Council/Planning Commission
Meeting Uptown/Town Centre Specific
Plan, at 7:30 PM at the Library/City Hall
Conference Center, 1000 Spring Street

Tuesday, June 3, 2008
The Regular Meeting at 7:30 PM at the
Library/City Hall Conference Center,
1000 Spring Street

Submitted:

Deborah D. Robinson, Deputy City Clerk

Approved:

**THESE MINUTES ARE NOT OFFICIAL OR A PERMANENT
PART OF THE RECORDS UNTIL APPROVED BY THE CITY
COUNCIL AT A FUTURE REGULAR MEETING.**



We inspire and enable all young people to realize their full potential as productive, responsible and caring citizens.



Upcoming Events

National Youth Service Day
 April 25th 2008
 Paso Robles Balloon Festival
 April 25-26th 2008
 Kids and Community Day
 Carnival
 MAY ~~June~~ 31st 2008
 Winemakers Dinner
 Fundraiser
 September 13th 2008

The Boys & Girls Club depends on the generosity of individuals and organizations to meet the diverse needs of all of our children

Be the change you would like to see in the world

Donate to the Boys & Girls Club

P.O Box 3037
 Paso Robles, CA 93447
 Phone: 805.239.3659
 Fax: 805.239.3616
 E-mail:
suebgclubpr@tcsn.net



BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
 OF NORTH S.L.O. COUNTY

Photography by Cross Photography
www.rogahcross.com



**Welcome to the
 Boys & Girls Club of
 North San Luis
 Obispo County**

**"The POSITIVE Place
 For Kids"**

Core Beliefs

Boys & Girls Club of North SLO County provides daily guidance-based programming in a positive safe setting void of prejudice and judgment. Youth are encouraged to broaden their viewpoints, nurture talent, enjoy interests, learn conflict resolution, set personal goals and give back to their community.

Core Programs

Core Boys & Girls Club Programs engage youth in activities that enable them to develop self-esteem & to reach their full potential. The Boys and Girls Club offers these program activities consistently:

- ✪ **Homework Support**- Daily support by talented leaders provides youth with the tools they need to complete their homework on-time and with accuracy.
- ✪ **The Arts**- Integrating the arts enables youth to develop their creativity & cultural awareness using multiple media.
- ✪ **Sports, Fitness & Recreation**- Develops fitness, positive use of leisure time, skills for stress management, appreciation for the environment & social skills.
- ✪ **Service**- Encourages Club members to give back to the community. Youth gain a sense of empowerment and belonging.

Anticipated Classes

With continued support from the generous community of North SLO County we will be offering classes in:

- ✪ **Digital Photography and Graphic Design**
- ✪ **Golf, soccer, tennis, and yoga.**
- ✪ **Creative Writing and story telling**

Current Classes

We currently offer many high-quality classes. We are proud to have committed and enthusiastic staff to guide Club members as they learn new skills and develop self-esteem.

- ✪ **Arts/Crafts**
- ✪ **Balloon Animals**
- ✪ **Ceramics**
- ✪ **Dance**
- ✪ **Gymnastics**
- ✪ **Homework Club**
- ✪ **SMART Girls**
- ✪ **Theatre/Drama**
- ✪ **Track**
- ✪ **Volleyball**



BRIDGING THE GAP IN PASO ROBLES

NORTH SLO COUNTY
BOYS & GIRLS CLUB

Spring 2008

MESSAGE FROM SUE DANIELS

The last six months have been exciting here at the Boys and Girls Club. We have many returning members and a lot more new members who have joined us this year as well. Welcome, to all of you! As you all know, we have started our mandatory homework club, called "Power Hour." The staff, parents and kids seem to really enjoy it, not just because they get their homework done and there is time for play, and new programs, but also because they are earning points to trade in for some really great prizes. We have been working with the children to help them learn self-responsibility, accountability and commitment. Included in these new challenges we have begun several new programs: ceramics, guitar, singing/drama and gymnastics. Before the kids could take the new classes they had to sign a contract to commit to the program for the full six weeks that it was being offered. Those six weeks are almost up. Those who learned responsibility and finished their commitment will be performing for the club and parents on February 28, at 3:45 in the afternoon. I

hope you all can come and see them sing and do a short dramatic sketch, play guitar, perform some gymnastic skills and show off the fabulous curios they made in ceramics! I would like to invite all of you parents and anyone from the community to stop by the Boys and Girls Club and see the happy kids and the wonderful things they are doing after school.



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POWER HOUR HOMEWORK CLUB

Power Hour, our mandatory homework club, is making a big difference in the lives of our youth and families.

Members arrive at the Club and go directly into grade level homework groups. Each group is facilitated by a committed staff member and volunteers who assist members with completing their homework on time and with accuracy.

At the Boys and Girls Club, we

believe in positive reinforcement as a strategy for continued success. Therefore, each Club member receives Power Hour points for being on time, prepared and staying on task each day. They have the opportunity to spend their Power Hour points at the end of the week or save them for grand prizes. The Power Hour store is not only about rewards, it also teaches members about

the importance of saving. The children have the chance to earn enough points to buy a brand new bicycle, skate board or Gameboy if they work hard, stay on task and save their points.

Parents, teachers and Club professionals alike have seen significant improvements with members' academic abilities as well as their attitudes toward schoolwork.

"I want to let all of the staff and the volunteers that help each day at the Club know how much I appreciate having the Boys & Girls Club here" (Parent).

FAT TUESDAY CELEBRATION



On February 5, a great many supporters of the Boys and Girls Club attended the Mardi Gras Gala Event at McPhees Restaurant in Templeton. Aside from having a fabulous feast, the diners bought tickets for the 50/50 drawing and bid on live auction items including a pedal tractor, donated by Coastal Tractor, a variety of wines from several local vineyards, including Vine Robles and Zoller Wine Styling, and a week at a beach house in Cayucos, donated by the Eide's. Ernest Gamble of All State Insurance won the \$800 from the 50/50 raffle and very generously donated it to the club! Everyone had a great meal, and a fun time, while raising \$14,000 for the Boys and Girls Club.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

NEW SESSION OF CLASSES AT THE CLUB (MARCH 3 — APRIL 14)

This spring we will begin new classes and extend some previous ones. We will be offering computer graphics, sculpture, a volunteer and service learning group and track/field as new additions to the Club. Additionally, we will continue to expand the drama/singing, gymnastics and guitar classes. We are excited to engage our members as they become involved in new programs that broaden their perspective and challenge them to develop new skills and abilities.

BALLOON FESTIVAL (APRIL 25 AND 26)

The Paso Robles Balloon Festival is a wonderful event planned by River Oaks. The event will raise money for the Boys & Girls club and is quite a sight to see!

KIDS & COMMUNITY DAY (JUNE 7)

We invite everyone, young and young at heart alike, to come and participate in the celebration of our community and our youth. We will have games, food, a bike rodeo and informational booths. The event is free to the public.

SUMMER PROGRAMS (JUNE 16 — AUGUST 17)

This coming summer 2008 will be a great one! We have invited popular wildlife experts to come present at the Club. We will offer exciting new summer classes like swimming, soccer, softball and tennis. We will be open 7:30 AM until 6:00 PM Monday through Friday. Most of the events are included in the \$20 annual membership fee.

WINEMAKERS DINNER (SEPTEMBER 13)

This annual event is a fun and fanciful wine paired dinner at the Park Ballroom. We have exquisite food and wine as well as a live and silent auction. Bring your friends and your appetite to this years Winemakers Dinner.

NEW CLASSES AT THE CLUB

APPRECIATION RECEPTION

Revolutionary new classes have begun at the North SLO County Boys & Girls Club. Children are engaged in the arts, music, technology and recreation in ways that only a high-quality after school program can provide. Much of the rich and vibrant arts and recreation activities, that were once vital pieces of education, have been replaced as we struggle with budget cuts.

The Boys & Girls Club is the perfect place to provide opportunities in the arts and recreation that can transform the educational environment, making learning a lively, invigorating experience. With their emphasis on creative discovery and their ability to stimulate a variety of learning styles, the arts engender enthusiasm and motivation for learning. The arts also each discipline, the value of sustained effort to achieve excellence, and the concrete rewards of hard work. All these factors can encourage higher attendance and decrease drop-out rates. Club members are eager to sign up and participate in classes such as gymnastics, guitar, ceramics, drama, singing track/field, volleyball, balloon animals, hip-hop dance and origami.



We appreciate the wonderful community support we received this year. We can not do it with out you. Thank you for your kindness and generosity!

NORTH SLO COUNTY
BOYS & GIRLS CLUB

P.O. Box 3036
Paso Robles, CA
93447
Tel: 805.239-3659
Fax: 805.239-3616
E-mail:



BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
OF NORTH S.L.O. COUNTY



THE POSITIVE PLACE FOR KIDS



**HELP US BRIDGE THE GAP IN
PASO ROBLES**

The North San Luis Obispo County Boys & Girls Club depends on the generosity of individuals and businesses to meet the diverse needs of our children. Our member's only pay \$20 a year to participate in the high-quality after school programs. All money donated to the Boys & Girls Club goes directly to change the lives of the children in our community.

Be the change...

you would like to see in the world. Donate to the Boys & Girls Club.



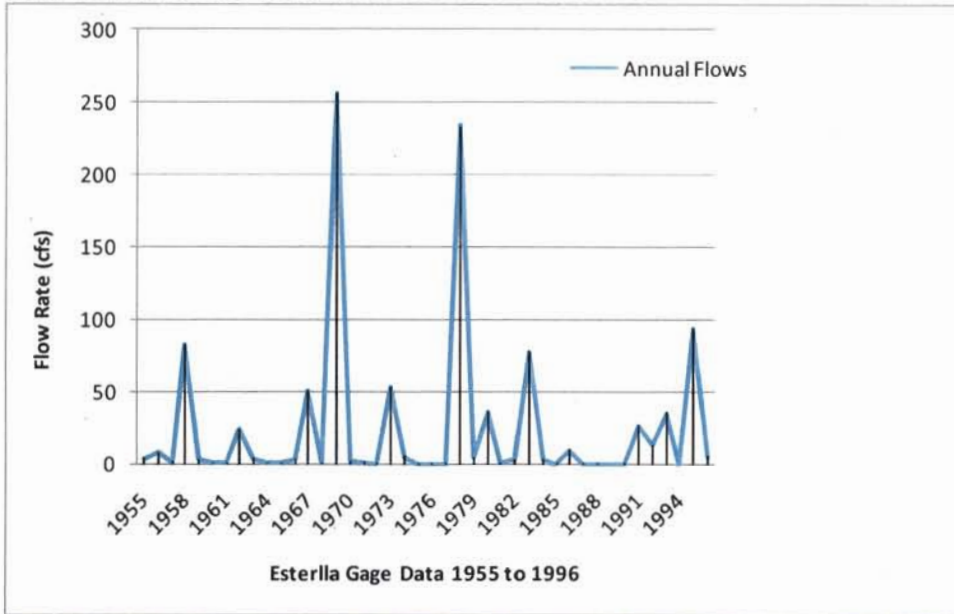
To Donate to the Boys & Girls Club of North San Luis Obispo County Please send a check to :

P.O. Box 3037 Paso Robles, CA
93447

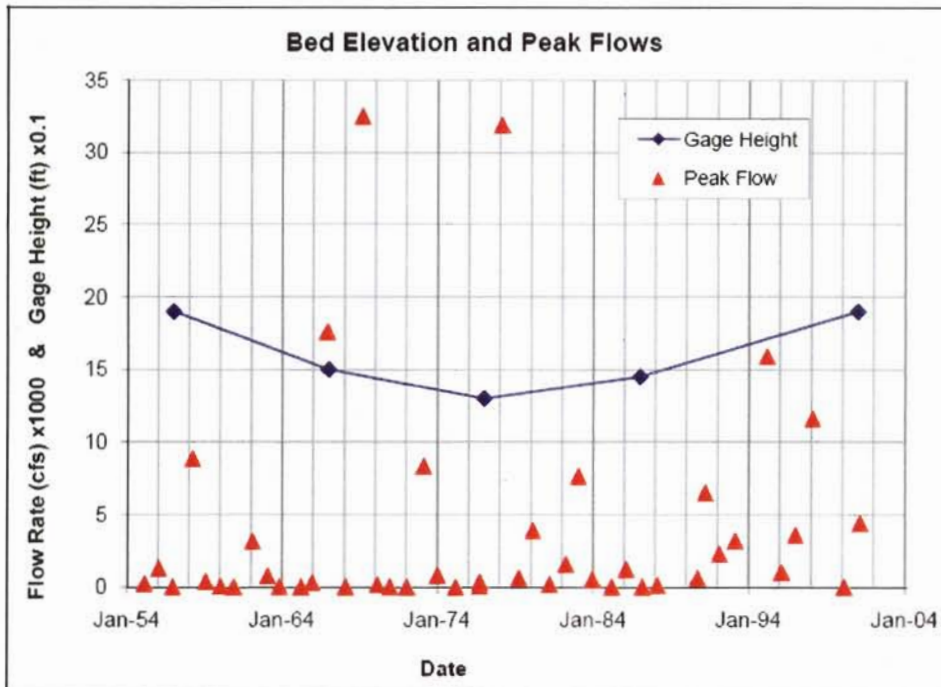
Or to donate children's items
please call: 239-3659

5 year Reoccurrence of Moderate Flows Producing Moderate Sand and Gravel Yields For the Estrella

Period of Approved Daily-Mean Data (Water Year) From: 1955 To: 1996
 Data Count : 15341 from USGS 11148500 ESTRELLA



<http://waterdata.usgs.gov/nwis/annual?referred_module=sw&search_site_no=11148500&format=sites_selection_links>



Screen clipping SDC Viborg Geomorphic Supplemental Report taken: 5/16/2008, 1:29 PM

- The Estrella River watershed receives lower average precipitation.
- Lower topographic relief in the Estrella River watershed likely produces slightly lower sedimentation rates as compared to the Santa Margarita Lake watershed.
- Two additional problems very low flow rates and very high flow rates. The very low flow rates will probably yield insufficient load and the very high flow rates may scour the bed.
- Wagering on current land use and ground cover conditions of the area appear to be conducive to higher sedimentation rates. Thereby producing a moderate yield following a moderate flow.



California Regional Water Quality Control Board Central Coast Region



Linda S. Adams,
Secretary for
Environmental Protection

895 Aerovista Place, Suite 101, San Luis Obispo, California 93401-7906
(805) 549-3147 • Fax (805) 543-0397
<http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast>

Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

May 16, 2008

Mayor Frank Mecham and City Council
City of El Paso de Robles
1000 Spring Street
Paso Robles, CA 93446

Post-it® Fax Note 7671		Date <u>5/16/08</u>	# of pages <u>2</u>
To <u>Doug Mann</u>		From <u>Tom Kukol</u>	
Co./Dept.		Co. <u>RWQCB</u>	
Phone #		Phone # <u>549-3689</u>	
Fax #		Fax #	

Dear Honorable Mayor and City Council members:

We noticed that your May 20, 2008 City Council Agenda includes items 15-18, which relate to your wastewater and sewer program. We urge you to accept your staff's recommendations on those items. Doing so would continue progress made towards sewer compliance and with the modernization of Paso Robles' sewer infrastructure.

Your staff's request for the purchase of an integrated video inspection van and camera seems like a cost-effective measure to achieve compliance with permit requirements contained in *State Water Resources Control Board Order No. 2006-0003-DWQ, Statewide General Waste Discharge Requirements For Sanitary Sewer Systems*. Besides, nobody wants avoidable sewer spills. An integrated video inspection van and camera are standard equipment for detecting potential weak points in a collection system. If such equipment prevented sewer spills, then it would prevent financial liabilities associated with those sewer spills. The cost of the requested funds seems reasonable compared to the potential costs of sewer spills from poorly maintained collection systems.

Paso Robles and Templeton populations grew over the last decade. As the populations grew, sewage flows increased. Sewer lines need sufficient capacity to carry sewage. Upsizing the final segment of the Templeton Interceptor Trunk line seems a responsible reaction to meet the infrastructure needs of the region. Installing reclaimed water pipelines during that upsizing takes advantage of a construction opportunity; reclaimed water pipelines will be needed in the future and the pipes will already be in place at relatively low cost.

We strongly encourage your approval of the items concerning project management and design services for the wastewater treatment plant's rehabilitation and addition upgrade. The relatively high turnover rate of City employees (Alfredo Cardenas, Brad Hagemann, Katie DiSimone) serving as project managers for wastewater treatment plant modernization sets back institutional knowledge and project continuity. The hiring of a dedicated project manager would demonstrate the City's commitment to modernizing without delay. Proceeding with the design of wastewater treatment plant modernization similarly demonstrates City's commitment to

California Environmental Protection Agency



Recycled Paper

Mayor Frank Mecham
And City Council

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May 16, 2008

modernizing without delay. We need assurances that the City is diligently pursuing needed modernization.

As public servants, we share a responsibility to maintain environmental resources. Accepting your staff's recommendations would demonstrate a commitment to prevent, and take action on long-standing environmental problems. Please heed your staff's advice and implement their recommendations.

Should you wish to discuss this further, please contact Tom Kukol at (805) 549-3689.

Sincerely,

for 
Roger W. Briggs
Executive Officer

103-01
File: Paso Robles
e-file:S:\NPDES\NPDES Facilities\San Luis Obispo Co\Paso Robles WWTP\Support sewer improvements.doc
TJK

From: sjknoepfel [mailto:sjknoepfel@earthlink.net]
Sent: Mon 5/19/2008 9:58 PM
To: Council
Cc: plummervineyard@yahoo.com; debra Compton
Subject: re: Agenda item #14, May 20, 2008

Dear Mayor and City Council Members;

After reviewing agenda item #14 for Tuesday night's meeting concerning the proposed sand pits I feel as though the City of Paso Robles may support approval of these projects if only for the possibility of getting Airport Road paved at a reduced rate to the city. I would hope you would also look at the impact of these projects as a safety liability to the residents and employees who travel this road and as a business liability to the vineyards and wineries already established along Airport, Estrella, and River Roads.

I have lived within a mile and a half of the proposed pit at Airport and Estrella my entire life. For many years I worked in Paso Robles and drove to work via Airport Road. During that time it took approximately 15 minutes from home to work, I admit it has only increased by about 10 minutes as long as you hit all green lights and are able to enter Highway 46 East in a reasonable amount of time. For the past nine years I have worked in Bradley and it

takes me about 15 minutes to drive to work. About three miles before I get to Bradley I pass the Union Asphalt SAND and gravel pit. This pit does produce sand and although it is in Monterey County it is certainly not as far as you have been led to believe. Bradley is 17 miles north of Paso Robles and approximately 30 miles south of King City. The Union Asphalt operation is also NOT located in a residential area or in an area that has established agricultural crops that would be damaged by the dust generated by the operation.

If you travel Airport Road between Wellsona and Estrella Road you would realize the road is narrow and winding for cars traveling in opposite directions... fully loaded or even empty trucks would double that problem.

Please consider the fact that the residents, agricultural crops and businesses were approved in these locations first and the placements of these projects could severely impact these crops and thus the owners livelihood.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this opinion.

Sharon Joyce Knoeppel
7986 Estrella Road
San Miguel, CA 93451
sjknoeppel@earthlink.net
(805) 467-3733 home
(805) 550-1184 cell



North County Watch

Looking Out Today For Tomorrow

Mr. Ron Whisenand
Community Development Director
City of Paso Robles
FAX NUMBER: 237-3904

May 19, 2008

Re: Item 14 Sand Mines application in North County

Dear Mr. Whisenand,

Please find attached North County Watch comments to the San Luis Obispo County Planning Commission on May 6, 2008.

The cumulative environmental impacts of the gravel mining operations currently permitted and in the application process extend beyond the potential impacts to City roads.

North County Watch is advocating, at the County level, for a Programmatic and Project Specific EIR. Without a thorough assessment of cumulative impacts, North County Watch believes that the impacts to the City cannot be fully judged. In a letter dated May 7, 2008 the California Department of Fish and Game recommends that the Pankey Project be analyzed with an EIR. I have forward the DFG comments by email.

North County Watch urges the City of Paso Robles to expand its request to the County to include a request that a Programmatic and Project Specific EIR be undertaken.

I will also email these comments and attachments for your convenience. Please contact me at if you do not receive the comments.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

Susan Harvey
ifsusan@tcsn.net

Attachments: North County Watch Comments, via FAX and email
DFG comments via email

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North County Watch P.O. Box 455 Templeton, CA 93465



North County Watch

Looking Out Today For Tomorrow

Email to: "Ramona Hedges" <rhedges@co.slo.ca.us>
"Ellie Porter" <eport@co.slo.ca.us>

From: Susan Harvey
ifsusan@tcsn.net

May 6, 2008

Planning Commission

County of San Luis Obispo

San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

Subject: Item 4 - Pankey Gravel Mine

Dear Planning Commissioners,

After researching several documents, current and historic, it appears to North County Watch that there is substantial and substantive evidence that CEQA requires an EIR analysis of the cumulative effects of the numerous proposed sand and gravel operations in this area of the Salinas River and its tributaries.

In reading the current staff report for the Pankey application, there is no reference to the current operating mines, current mine applications, or mine sites undergoing pre-application analysis.

The list of current County mines identifies three mines in this area:

- North River (Viborg Construction owner, 50,000 annual Cubic Yards)
- County North River (Co. of SLO owner, annual CY unknown).
- Union Asphalt (20,000 CY)

Five applications are making their way through the system currently:

- Pehl – 80,000 annual CY
- Viborg – 45,000 annual CY
- Pankey – 145,000 annual CY
- Martin Pond – 12,000 annual CY
- Weyrick Gravel Mine – 65,000 annual CY

In pre-application meetings have occurred:

- Viborg Azzopardi – 75,000 annual CY

Outstanding enforcement issues exist with:

- North River - Viborg

BACKGROUND

In the unincorporated areas of the Salinas River Planning Area, there are at least four sand and gravel mining operations along the Salinas River. Others such as Union Asphalt on the Huer Huero are on tributaries within the Salinas River watershed. Still others operate within the Paso Robles and Atascadero City boundaries.

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The four operations on the river outside the cities are located within a several mile stretch of the river in Templeton. They are Templton/Ormonde, Miller, Nesbitt, and Smith. Three of the four mines are currently extracting resources.

HISTORY

Previous County actions have required full environmental review through an EIR for similar projects. On August 16, 1988 the Board of Supervisors required that an EIR be prepared for a Viborg gravel mine to be located on River Road, 1 ½ miles south of Estrella Road. The issues were Kit Fox habitat, impact on prime ag land, traffic and noise.

In July, 1999, the Planning Commission denied the application for Weyrick Surface Mine, north of Wellsona Road, 60,000 annual CY. The project was revised and the Planning Commission required that an EIR be prepared. The issues were: impact on endangered and species of concern, archeological resources, hydrologic effects of mining on neighboring property, truck traffic, impacts on agricultural operations, impacts of dust on air quality and agricultural production, proximity to residential neighborhood, noise.

Prior to approval in 2003, an EIR was required for a sand mining operation by Viborg on Smith property in Templeton.

All of these issues continue to be as much of a concern today as they were 10-20 years ago. Indeed, air quality, traffic and endangered species recovery have gotten worse, not better. If an EIR was deemed necessary in 1988 and 1999, and 2003, it is even more critical today.

The population in the county has increased five-fold since 1980, raising the potential of conflict between residents and future mining operations. An example is provided.

In May 2007 when evaluating a request to convert land in the agricultural category in Templeton to single family residences for the construct of 112 homes, staff raised safety concerns. "Placing residences within the EX, combining designation represents a potential conflict with active, potentially active, and future mining operations for both the future residents of the single-family homes and the mining operations that provide much needed sand and gravel resources for the construction industry." [Authorization to process General Plan Amendment LRP2006-00010 was denied.]

Likewise concern must be raised when evaluating new extraction sites near existing residential uses or recreational areas in San Miguel.

SUPPORT FOR AN EIR STUDY OF CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

In our opinion the following excerpts from various expert sources support the requirement for an EIR analysis of the aggregate of potential mining operations in the immediate area. The total of known permitted and applied for annual gravel removal clustered around San Miguel is 492,000 annual Cubic Yards. From your current staff report, Balance Hydrologics finds the Sierra Delta studies of the Pankey and Viborg mines to be deficient of technical data. (See staff report page 135) Further, Balance Hydrologics cautions of the importance of diligently managing mining operations.

Letter dated June 27, 2007 to Mr. Jeff Oliveira from Mr. Shawn Chartrand, Balance Hydrologics VIBORG and INDIAN VALLEY Mines:

Despite its economic importance, though, reasoned diligence must be practiced when reviewing new in-stream or floodplain mining permits or while managing existing mining operations. This is a present

day management necessity because the mining of aggregate has caused damage across the globe to river for and process, private property, and public infrastructure (Sandecki 1989; Collins and Dunne 1990; Kondolf 1997; Kondolf 1998). (Page 137)

Historically, the County has required EIRs for applications in this area. If we are to take *Balance Hydrologics* warnings seriously, the County would be remiss in not requiring and EIR study of the cumulative effects of ALL the proposed mining operations here.

Letter dated June 27, 2007 to Mr. Jeff Oliveira from Mr. Shawn Chartrand, Balance Hydrologics VIBORG and INDIAN VALLEY Mines:

...These questions are the result of more recent attempts to better manage aggregate operations and are essentially focused on protecting existing physical and biological resources, as well as public infrastructure and private property and life. **Damage has accompanied many aggregate mining operations in the past because of historically relaxed environmental regulations and extraction operations within active floodplains and channels....Much of what the literature has to offer is based on lessons learned from the past when in-stream mining activities were regulated to a much lesser degree than during contemporary times.** (Page 137) emphasis added

Relying on assertions that improved methods for assessment through Mitigated Negative Declarations does not address Cumulative Effects and dangerously ignores the warning for the need to protect physical and biological resources, public infrastructure, and private property and life.

For example, the Geology and Soils analysis of the Negative Declaration (Staff Report page 65) judges that the extraction of 125,000 annual Cubic Yards will have little impact compared to the average annual supply of 522,700 CY. However, the total of known permitted and applied for annual gravel removal clustered around San Miguel is 492,000 annual Cubic Yards and NOAA Fisheries recommends holding extraction to no more than 50% of the replenishment rate. The cumulative effects of ALL potential and current mining operations in the area MUST BE STUDIED.

Letter dated June 27, 2007 to Mr. Jeff Oliveira from Mr. Shawn Chartrand, Balance Hydrologics VIBORG and INDIAN VALLEY Mines:

SDC could also consider the cumulative impacts to the Salinas River due to proposed additional aggregate extraction downstream of already existing operations. We anticipate that SDC will find that the proposed extraction volume plus that which is extracted upstream at existing facilities exceeds the likely range of bedload replenishment to the proposed reach of mining, as suggested by Watson and others (2003). **For planning purposes, establishment of a reasonable range of sediment replenishment rates is suggested because NOAA fisheries (2004) recommends holding extraction rates to no more than 50% of the replenishment rate.**(Staff report page 140 emphasis added)

Mr. Chartrand reiterates this concern in his report on the PEHL Mine.

Letter dated June 27, 2007 to Mr. Jeff Oliveira from Mr. Shawn Chartrand, Balance Hydrologics PEHL Mine:

Consideration of the bedload fraction replenishment rate will permit evaluation of the cumulative impacts from additional aggregate mining downstream of the existing Viborg and Union Asphalt mines at the proposed Pehl mine. **We anticipate that SDC will find that the proposed extraction volume plus that which is extracted upstream at the existing facilities exceeds the likely range of bedload replenishment to the proposed reach of mining,** as suggested by Watson and others. For planning purposes, establishment of a reasonable range of sediment replenishment rates is suggested because **NOAA Fisheries (2004) recommends holding extraction rates to no more than 50% of the replenishment rate.** (Page 5 emphasis added)

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Hydrologist Mr. Lewis Rosenberg raises the same issue of replenishment in a letter referring to the PEHL mine. NCW submits that hydrologic experts have made it clear that an assessment of the Cumulative Impacts is essential.

Letter dated May 24, 2006 to Mr. John Pehl from Mr. Lewis Rosenberg:

In addition, the proposed extraction of 125,000 cubic yards for the Pehl mine...is large relative to three nearby upstream mining operations: Union Asphalt (20,000 cubic yards) and Viborg Sand and Gravel (50,000 cubic yards). Explain how the proposed mining operation will have 2 1/2 times the amount of material as the nearest upstream mine, especially considering that there are no new sources of sediment between the proposed mine and the existing mines. (Page 2)

Although The argument have been made that the county has such an overwhelming need for aggregate materials that the need poses a sufficient overriding consideration that an EIR analysis of cumulative effects is not warranted. This case has not been in any of the analysis or reports presented. It amounts to urban legend until it is proven. Furthermore, the judgment of overriding consideration is rightfully made only in the EIR process. Mr. Rosenberg addresses the need for the evaluation, not hearsay, of the County's aggregate needs.

Letter dated May 24, 2006 to Mr. John Pehl from Mr. Lewis Rosenberg:

The Summary of findings and Recommendations on p. I of SDC (2005) states that under "Soils" that "River sand and gravel from the subject are ideal for construction use." However, there is no discussion in the report text of why they are ideal, nor are the physical and chemical properties of the aggregate evaluated. For, example, certain types of rocks such as chert and opal derived from the upstream Franciscan Complex and Monterey Formation rock types can cause alkali-aggregate reactivity with some types of Portland cement, thereby weakening the concrete. (Page 3)

The following citation *Balance Hydrologics June 27, 2007PEHL Mine*, gives support for considering ALL of the potential mining projects as one. We believe this supports the need to consider impacts to channel dynamics in the aggregate over the whole length of the mining project areas and is an argument against piecemealing. The Pankey mine will extract from nearly 2 miles of Salinas River bed and over a half mile of Vineyard Canyon Creek. Mr. Chartrand notes that the area of impact study for monitoring purposes should equal at least 3 times the length of active mining. For Pankey alone that covers 6 miles of the Salinas River – a distance that encompasses the other sites.

Letter dated June 27, 2007 to Mr. Jeff Oliveira from Mr. Shawn Chartrand, Balance Hydrologics PEHL Mine:

The most important aspects of annual monitoring on in-stream mining operations is to evaluate and document (1) the dynamics of channel form and condition within the reach of mining, and (2) the dynamics of channel form and condition within the reaches immediately upstream and downstream of the reach of mining. A good rule of thumb is to monitor upstream and downstream a distance which is equivalent to at least the length of the reach of mining – therefore the total length of monitoring should be equal to at least 3 times the length of active mining. (Page 6)

Monitoring should extend upstream and downstream of the reach of mining a distance at least equivalent to the length of active mining. Therefore, the total length of monitoring will equal 3 times the length of active mining.... It may be advisable to extend the downstream limits further than one length due to the anticipated flood flow harvesting of stored sediment downstream and upstream of the mining site. Collins and Dunne (1990) suggest extending the monitoring to include at least the first bar upstream and downstream of the extraction zone. (Page 7)

AIR QUALITY CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

The total potential of 492,000 Cubic Yards of material to be removed from this vicinity between the allowable operation months of June 1 through October 31 annually generates 24,600 truck trips. (492,000 divided by maximum 20 yards per truck). Based on the APCD assumption of 108 working days in five months, it breaks down to 228 truck trips a day to remove the material, 29 truck trips an hour. The numeric maximum potential for a 20 year life of these sites is 492,000 truck trips. The Cumulative Impacts must be studied.

From the Pankey Staff Report, a letter from APCD:

Cumulative Impacts

The APCD is concerned that defining air quality mitigations for each of the four projects individually will not provide adequate mitigation for cumulative impacts of all of the projects that reach final approval. The air quality impacts effect both the formation of ozone precursors and the exposure to diesel exhaust, a toxic air contaminant as defined by the California Air Resources Board (ARB). Since the use on-road heavy-duty diesel truck trips play such a vital role in the sand and gravel mines overall operations, and the overall magnitude of the trips is not yet defined for all the proposed four mining operations being considered in the San Miguel regions, it becomes very difficult to quantify and mitigate the impacts to ensure air quality and public health are concerned. Typically, these kind of refined air quality evaluations are performed as part of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) process, a process that also allows for cumulative impact analysis. (Pankey Staff Report page 120)

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

Although the Department of Conservation letter was not directed to address cumulative impacts, the DoC considers the issue of protecting anadromous fish so paramount that their letter recommends that mining permits have a life of 5 years. We believe this concern supports the study of cumulative impacts within an EIR process.

From the Pankey Staff Report, Department of Conservation letter dated February 8, 2008:

The National Marine Fisheries Service recommends that permits should have a 5 year limit and be subject to annual review to protect anadromous fish and their habitats. (Page 129)

Steelhead have been documented from multiple upstream tributaries and the main stem and Trout Creek in the Santa Margarita area.

The Department of Conservation letter cites many examples of inconsistencies in the Reclamation Plan and changes required for approval of the Reclamation Plan. North County Watch requests that all inconsistencies and changes be incorporated/required before approval of the mining permit.

The DoC letter in the Staff Report cites Senate Bill 668.

From the Pankey Staff Report, Department of Conservation letter dated February 8, 2008:

Recent legislation (Senate Bill 668, Chapter 869, Statutes of 2006) amended PRC section 2774 with respect to lead agency approvals of reclamation plans, plan amendments, and financial assurances. These new requirements are applicable to the reclamation plan. Once the OMR has provided comments on the revised reclamation plan, a proposed response to the comments listed above must be submitted to the Department at least 30 days prior to lead agency approval. The proposed response must describe whether you propose to adopt the comments. If you do not propose to adopt the comments, the reason(s) for not doing so must be specified in detail. At least 30 days prior notice must be provided to the Department of the time, place, and date of the hearing at which the revised reclamation plan is scheduled to be approved. If no hearing is required, then at least 30 days notice must be given to the Department prior to approval. Finally, within 30 days following approval of the revised reclamation

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plan, a final response to these comments must be sent to the Department. Please ensure that the County allows adequate tie mint eh approval process to meet these new SMARA requirements. (Page 132)

It does not appear that these requirements have been satisfied, given the fact that, at a minimum, the County has not incorporated the DoC's recommendation to limit the term of the permit to 5 years as suggested, nor has the County provided any rationale for the 20-year limit, other than that it is being proposed by the applicant.

SALINAS RIVER NATURAL AREA

The county's Ag and Open Element references the importance in assessing the overall impact of sand mining, particularly in the Salinas River corridor. Such an assessment appears to require an EIR. In discussion of Open Space policy OSP20: Establishment of Natural Area Preserves, 3. Significant Biological Habitat or Geographic Features:

"Salinas River Natural Area: Located in an area extending from the dam at Santa Margarita Lake north to the San Luis Obispo County/Monterey County boundary. The dominant community is riparian. The State Division of Mines and Geology has designated portions of the area to also contain significant deposits of sand and gravel. Use of these aggregate resources is an important state and county objective which must be balanced with protection of other resources in the area. The corridor is a combination of public and private ownership that creates access opportunities as well as restrictions."

Salinas River Natural Areas are further discussed in the Natural Areas Plan (Appendix B of the Ag and Open Space Element). Potential areas are graphically depicted as the Salinas flood zone.

TRAILS AND NATURAL AREAS

A multi-use recreational trail on the east side of the Salinas River should be considered as reclamation mitigation to compensate for the impact to the community as well as an open space easement over the entire Salinas River flood zone.

Big Sandy Natural Area

The Big Sandy Wildlife Area is managed by the California Department of Fish and Game and is so noted in the Natural Areas Plan (Appendix B of the Ag and Open Space Element). State property as well as adjacent privately owned land is identified as the Big Sandy Natural Area. Therefore all possible sand-mining operations need to be evaluated as to their potential Impact to the nearby Big Sandy Natural Area, which also contains state property.

The Big Sandy Natural Area consists of public and private lands.

Public Lands: 735 acres Department of Fish and Game, and 2 acres county.

Private Lands: 300-600 acres between three landowners.

WATER QUALITY AND WATERSHED PROTECTION

The 2004 Upper Salinas River Watershed Action Plan prepared by the Upper Salinas - Las Tablas Resource Conservation District strongly implies an Environmental Impact Report is needed when human activities such as multiple proposed sand mining operations are under consideration.

Upper Salinas River Watershed Action Plan Chapter One

The Salinas Valley is by far the largest watershed in the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary area and, according to the Trust for Public Lands, 'the most degraded by human activities'. (Page 2)

Watershed wide concern for appropriate planning for the Salinas River resulted in a workshop sponsored in 1991 by San Luis Obispo County Supervisor, Harry Ovitt, and Monterey County Supervisor, Tom Perkins. As a result of the interest generated by this workshop, in 1992, a Coordinated Resource Management and Planning Project, or CRMP, planning program for the Upper Salinas Watershed was begun by the San Luis Obispo County Parks and Open Space Division. As part of the CRMP, a brief study of water resources, ecosystem, and land use was conducted. Thus, the State Lands Commission states that the Salinas River finally became 'the focus of comprehensive management.' 'In the future, the River will no longer be treated merely as a water supply or a flood threat, but as a renewable resource which needs to be managed for protection in perpetuity. Value of the River, other than water supply--such as fish and wildlife habitat and public recreation--will be part of long-term management goals.' (Page 12):

Chapter Five further states:

...this is the largest river system south of San Francisco still supporting an anadromous steelhead trout population. (Page 1)

The State of California has noted that water quality in this watershed is threatened. The California State Water Resources Control Board has listed the Salinas River as an 'impaired water body,' indicating non-point source pollution impacts on water quality, as per Section 303(d) of the federal Clean Water Act (CWA). In addition, the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board has identified the Salinas River as a 'priority watershed,' a designation applied to watersheds with 'documented water quality problems such as groundwater contamination by nitrates, excessive erosion and sedimentation, or pesticides in surface waters.'

OTHER ISSUES

We could not find mention in any document of the study addressing the risk of exposure to workers and downwind residents to Valley Fever spores carried by the dust. This issue must be analyzed.

Additionally, there is need for more than surface archeological surveys, based on the accumulation of sediment since aboriginal times. For example, 15 human remains were found at the Lakes Project in Atascadero.

BIOLOGICAL CUMULATIVE EFFECTS

Although NCW has not addressed the Biological Impacts of these mining operations, the potential scale of biological disruption from 9 operations (currently permitted and proposed) in this area cannot be adequately assumed or anticipated without an EIR studying all of the projects. The impacts to the movement of wildlife through the corridor, and impacts to bird populations, could be significant.

CULTURAL CONSIDERATIONS

The MND fails to analyze impacts to Mission San Miguel, a National Historic Site, from vibrations caused by 64 truck trips a day during the days of operation over a twenty year period.

Yours truly,
Susan Harvey

CC: Mr. Tim McNulty, County Counsel