



COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

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TOM BURNS, PLANNING DIRECTOR

June 6, 2005

Agenda Date: **July 13, 2005**

Planning Commission
County of Santa Cruz
701 Ocean Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Subject: Granite **Construction Company** Felton Quarry **2004 Annual Report**

Members of the Commission:

On December 8, 2004 your Commission concluded a five-year review of the operations at the Granite Construction Company Felton quarry. The motion to accept and file the five-year review included incorporating additional measures to be taken by Granite Construction to reduce dust and noise impacts into the Conditions of Approval. In addition, one of the new conditions requires Granite Construction to include updated information on the additional measures to reduce noise and dust impacts in the **April 1, 2005 Annual Report**. Your Commission further directed staff, after receipt of the Annual Report, to report back and provide **an** update on the commitments made by Granite Construction at the December 8th hearing.

Granite Construction submitted a thorough and complete Annual Report on April 1st. The 2004 Annual Report includes updates on the additional measures to reduce noise and dust impacts summarized below. **As** required, Granite Construction has made diligent efforts to include the Bonnywood residents or other residents of concern about improvements being made to the facility.

Noise

Granite Construction pursued an engineering evaluation of the bag house exhaust fan to determine ways to mitigate noise from this source. After consulting with asphalt industry experts, an acoustical engineer, and the Bonnywood neighbors, the decision to install a New York Blower VRDS-34 silencer was made and agreed upon by all parties. The Annual Report includes an analysis of the silencer by the acoustical consultant, which indicates a significant reduction in sound levels with the silencer. Following installation of the silencer, one of the neighbors most impacted by **quarry** noise has confirmed a significant reduction in sound levels and County staff has made a similar observation during a recent inspection.

To reduce noise at the primary screen Granite Construction has replaced metal screens with rubberized screens and installed rubber liners in critical areas of the primary screen discharge

chute. As a result County staff can confirm a dramatic reduction in noise levels at the primary screen.

All mobile equipment on site that utilize back up alarms have been outfitted with strobe lights for use in place of back up alarms after sunset and before sunrise. In addition, all employees have been trained to follow the sunset to sunrise rule. No additional complaints about noise from this source have been received since installation of these strobes.

Air Quality

After consulting with Hydro-Turf, an irrigation consultant, Granite Construction has installed a dedicated pump and pump controller for the dust-suppressing spray system on the main access road leading to the scale. The pump controller has a timer and works automatically and precludes the need for quarry staff to manually operate this system.

Granite Construction began using an odor-suppressing additive in all of the asphalt produced at the Felton quarry in December 2004. Although it is too early to determine the effectiveness of this product, Granite Construction will continue to use it until alternative economically feasible measures become available.

The first quarterly inspection in 2005 of the Felton quarry by County staff was conducted in conjunction with the inspector for the Monterey Bay Unified Air Pollution Control District (MBUAPCD). No violations were noted and the inspection was very informative regarding air quality observations. The MBUAPCD has not monitored for PM10 emissions, which they offered at the December 8" hearing, but is still planning to complete this monitoring during the summer months when airborne dust has reportedly been a problem.

As a result of neighborhood meetings during the recently completed five-year permit review, Granite Construction Company implemented a general complaint resolution process for the mine. In a letter dated September 9, 2004 to neighbors that participated in the meetings, Steve Grace, Permitting and Compliance Manager, proposed that neighbors contact him directly or a designated neighbor, who will contact him with any complaints. His stated intention is to investigate any complaint promptly and initiate appropriate action as quickly as possible. Although Granite Construction has been using odor-suppressing additive, during the time since the December 8" hearing one neighbor complaint regarding asphalt odor has been received. It was confirmed by County staff that an unfavorable atmospheric condition (heavy inversion layer) was present at the time of the complaint. An inversion layer typically traps odors in the valley and is beyond the control of Granite Construction.

Conclusion and Recommendation

As noted, the Annual Report is thorough and complete, and ensures compliance with all permit conditions. Granite Construction has fulfilled its commitments made at the December 8" hearing to incorporate additional measures to reduce noise and dust impacts at the Felton quarry. These measures have resulted in a significant reduction in noise levels and improved dust control. A

copy of the 2004 Annual Report with all proprietary information removed is on file in the Planning Department for Planning Commission review.

It is therefore RECOMMENDED, that your Commission accept and file this report.

Sincerely,



David Carlson
Resource Planner
Environmental Planning

Reviewed By: _____



Ken ~~Hart~~
Principal Planner
Environmental Planning

Exhibits:

- A. Granite Construction Company Felton Quarry 2004 Annual Report (on file)