



COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

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TOM BURNS, PLANNING DIRECTOR

February 27, 2006

Agenda Date: March 22, 2006

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

Subject: Bonny Doon Quarry Minor Variation for Off-hours Operations

Members of the Commission:

The purpose of this letter is to inform the Planning Commission of a Minor Variation in hours of operation at the CEMEX Bonny Doon Limestone Quarry. Pursuant to County Mining Regulations Section 16.54.032 a Minor Variation to any condition of a quarry permit may be made by Planning Department staff and shall be forwarded as a written correspondence item on the Planning Commission Agenda.

Regular hours of operation for the quarry are Monday through Friday between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.; provided, however, that the transport of limestone from stockpiles may take place between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 11:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. The Minor Variation approved by Planning Department staff allowed operations to occur on Saturday, January 14, 2006 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.

In their request to conduct Saturday operations CEMEX cited a series of problems caused by heavy rains in the preceding weeks, which reduced the supply of limestone from the quarry and the Davenport cement plant stockpiles to below minimum levels. CEMEX cited the potential economic loss from shutting down the kiln operation for lack of rock and the additional expense of restarting the kiln once rock became available. Similar circumstances were cited in 1998 when the Planning Department approved the only other Minor Variation for a Saturday operation.

As a condition of approving the Minor Variation CEMEX was required to provide a record of any contacts with neighbors of the quarry either before or after the Saturday operations, which consisted of operating mobile equipment, the rock crusher and the conveyor belt line to the cement plant. The quarry manager contacted immediate neighbors of the quarry before the Saturday operations. CEMEX reported no contacts from neighbors during or after the Saturday operations and Planning Department staff received no complaints from neighbors.

Sincerely,



David Carlson
Resource Planner
Environmental Planning

Reviewed By:



Ken Hart
Principal Planner
Environmental Planning