



COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

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TOM BURNS, PLANNING DIRECTOR

August 8, 2007

Agenda Date: September **26, 2007**

Item #: 7

Time: After 9 AM

APN: 099-171-03 8 099-251-01

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

Subject: Olive Springs Quarry Traffic

Members of the Commission:

On January 24, 2007 your Commission concluded a five-year review of the operations at the Olive Springs Quarry. The motion to accept and file the five-year review included incorporating into the Conditions of Approval additional measures to be taken by Olive Springs Quarry to reduce traffic impacts. In addition, your Commission further directed staff, after receipt of the Annual Report on July 1, 2007, to report back and provide an update on the commitments made by Olive Springs Quarry at the January 24th hearing.

Traffic

As required Olive Springs Quarry has implemented, and maintains, a trucker education program including ongoing communication, signage, flyers, speed monitoring and enforcement; and a complaint resolution process.

Verification, using radar, of truck speeds on Olive Springs Road occurs at least two days per week, on a random day basis. The Quarry keeps a record of the speed verification program and has provided to the County a log of all records to date for 2007. County staff analyzed a total of 1,909 vehicle speed measurements including 1,386 trucks and 523 cars. The results show that 2.1% of trucks and 57.4% of cars exceeded the posted 25 mph speed limit. It appears that, in general, trucks exceeded the speed limit only slightly, but cars exceeded the speed limit traveling a significantly higher speed.

Trucks exceeding the posted 25 mph speed limit are reported to the Quarry management, which issues a warning to the driver. There has been no reported three-time violators, which would result, at a minimum, in a 30-day ban from transporting materials from the Quarry.

In 2007 to date there has been one neighbor complaint of a truck arriving at the quarry gate too early at 6:30 a.m. The complaint was received on the quarry's answering machine. The complaint was investigated promptly and the quarry immediately provided written response to the complainant and the Planning Department. It was reported that the trucker had not visited the quarry in over a year and was unfamiliar with the hours of operations, which start at 7:00 a.m. The trucker was reminded of the operating hours and the other trucker rules and regulations.

Conclusion and Recommendation


Olive Springs Quarry has fulfilled its commitments made at the January 24th hearing to incorporate additional measures to reduce traffic impacts at the quarry. While the speed logs show that a small percentage of trucks exceed the speed limit, it is hoped that the trucker education and warning program, and ongoing compliance monitoring by County staff, will result in further reduction in these numbers in the future.

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

Sincerely,

David Carlson
Resource Planner
Environmental Planning

Reviewed By:


Claudia Slater
Principal Planner
Environmental Planning