

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: PUBLIC COMMENT AGENDA ITEM 13 - August 24, 2021
Date: Tuesday, August 24, 2021 11:24:38 AM

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Dear Councilmembers,

1. Forming a Lehigh Permanente Quarry / Cement Plant and Stevens Creek Quarry Subcommittee is a good idea.
2. I've been following quarry issues for many years and council member Lynette Lee Eng has been consistently involved. I have seen her attend the annual meetings in Cupertino along with council member Anita Enander (who did not want to participate in a subcommittee in a prior meeting). Council member Lee Eng resides in South Los Altos and is more keenly aware of the issues facing residents. From my experience, it helps to have a councilmember who has walked in the shoes of residents. Moreover, council member Lee Eng also facilitated a multi-agency meeting with a senator's office, a Cupertino councilmember, a Sierra Club member, among others to brainstorm on ways to improve the lives of her constituents. The issues at these operations are complex and Council Member Lee Eng would have the knowledge to share with others and, as a Cupertino resident, I will tell you that she's more knowledgeable on the issues than most Cupertino council members. So I have a keen interest on having council member Lynette Lee Eng on this committee.
3. Scope of the subcommittee should have the objective of influencing other agencies to improve the lives of Los Altos residents. The City of Los Altos should also consider sharing some of Cupertino's costs in their efforts regarding the two quarries.

Why it is important for Los Altos to be involved:

1. Lehigh has been chronically out of compliance with the EPA Clean Air and Clean Water Acts which impacts Los Altos residents.
2. Lehigh owns over 3400 acres adjacent to Rancho San Antonio where our recreational values are at risk.
3. Los Altos residents have the potential of being more impacted by the Lehigh and Stevens Creek Quarry operations.
4. Air Quality and Traffic: BAAQMD permits 70,000 truck trips per year for the cement plant and has many other truck trips that are not counted. And BAAQMD recently granted an additional 20,000 truck trips per year for its new rock plant. This is over and above the County's approval of 1300 truck trips per day for Stevens Creek Quarry, without counting trips from other operations on site.
5. Water Quality: Creeks that run through Stevens Creek Quarry and feed the Stevens Creek reservoir exceed effluent limits for: pH, settleable matter, chromium (III), chromium (VI), copper, cyanide, lead, nickel, selenium, and zinc, per the Water Board, https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay/board_decisions/adopted_orders/2021/R2-2021-0011.pdf With the drought, it is even more important that we protect our drinking water.
6. Lehigh has two new businesses on site, a cement import business and a new dry-process rock plant. Lehigh's approved 2012 reclamation plan requires that there is enough material onsite to fill the quarry and protect the ridgeline (seen by most Los Altos residents). If Lehigh creates a deficit by selling off rock, more material will need to be imported.
7. On August 26, 2021, the County Planning Commission will determine whether Stevens Creek Quarry is zoned to allow processing of exported Lehigh rock. It would be good if the City of Los Altos could weigh in because residents are affected by truck traffic and many bicyclists enjoy riding the Stevens Creek Reservoir Loop ride. A zoning change would allow Stevens Creek Quarry to extend operations indefinitely, whereas the quarry had been

expected to have a finite life span.

8. We need to do what we can to make the County more responsive for the health and safety of our residents. At Lehigh, a landslide that is a threat to homes and structures downstream has been allowed to grow unabated and an unpermitted dam at Stevens Creek Quarry holds back flowable material right across the street from Stevens Creek Reservoir. Although reported many months ago, the County has yet to determine whether major structural repairs to Lehigh's 80-year old silos require building permits and whether Lehigh should have reported a 5.25 million-gallon chlorinated water spill to Permanente Creek. Further demonstrating the County's lack of speed, [County just issued Stevens Creek Quarry an omnibus Notice of Violation across 4 sub-agencies, building, dept of environmental health, fire and zoning, with many issues spanning multiple decades.](#)

The list goes on. Los Altos needs to be involved. The committee should have a proactive members who are familiar with the issues.

Thanks,
Rhoda Fry