

DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL

Hollister-Gilroy Area
740 Renz Lane
Gilroy, CA 95020
(408) 427-0700



August 14, 2023

File No.: 725.14548.19305

San Benito County Resource Management Agency
Attn. Arielle Goodspeed, Principal Planner
2301 Technology Parkway
Hollister, CA 95023



Reference: Environmental Document Review and Response
SCH# 2023070454

I was recently requested to review the Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report for the Ranch 35 Quarry Project, located at 991 San Juan Highway in San Juan Bautista. The California Highway Patrol's (CHP) interest in commenting surrounds our concerns for the unsafe entering/exiting of commercial vehicles from the Ranch 35 Quarry Project onto State Route (SR) 156, along with an increase in heavy commercial vehicle traffic along the proposed routes. The CHP has an additional interest with increased response times, enforcement, and service calls resulting from the increase in heavy truck traffic and the subsequent impact to vehicular traffic.

The proposed traffic route to the Project site, via a private access road connecting with SR-156 leads to traffic safety concerns. The project also identifies commercial vehicle activity "Queuing" between the hours of 4am-5pm, Monday-Saturday. The identified hours/days of operation for "queuing" of commercial vehicles aligns with the heavy commute traffic currently being experienced on SR-156. SR-156 is a highly traveled highway 7-days a week and already experiences congestion from commuters and weekend travelers. Due to the slow moving loaded commercial vehicles entering/exiting the private access road onto SR-156, there is potential for a significant increase in crashes and calls for service. An additional safety concern exists for loaded commercial vehicles turning from eastbound SR-156, across the westbound traffic lanes, onto the private access road due to the already existing heavy volume of traffic. After reviewing the submitted reports, there isn't proper documentation to identify which private access road would be utilized. The private access road needs to be properly identified along with any necessary roadway improvements for loaded commercial vehicles.

Based upon the previously mentioned concerns with utilizing SR-156, it is the CHP Hollister-Gilroy Area's opinion, the entrance/exit from Ranch 35 Quarry Project needs to utilize a roadway with minimal traffic and one which will not increase safety concerns associated with SR-156. After researching other entrance/exit options to Ranch 35 Quarry, there are viable options via private roads off San Juan Highway. San Juan Highway can be accessed from US-101 using SR-129. The routes mentioned are already used by commercial vehicles accessing commercial and/or industrial businesses in the vicinity.



August 14, 2023

Another aspect not noted in the project documentation, is any necessary roadway improvements to any roadways used for the Ranch 35 Quarry Project by the additional loaded commercial vehicles. The documentation also needs to address any material spillage from loaded commercial vehicles, its impact on the safety of the roadways, and how it will be mitigated. Facility operators need to ensure they establish, monitor, and enforce facility rules related to commercial vehicle safety as CHP personnel work to ensure compliance with California Vehicle Code provisions.

Sincerely,



P. COOPER, Captain
Commander