

FD 34284

received
1/19/06

Senator John Cornyn:
Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison:
Congressman Henry Bonilla:

As an individual who has cultural and family interests in the Quihi area near Vulcan Materials Co.'s proposed new quarry, I wish to address the concerns about the proposed quarry and rail line.

The 1,700 acres leased by Vulcan cannot be turned into a "three-square-mile hole." The company will establish extensive buffer zones and large wildlife habitat areas.

All quarries in the vicinity of San Antonio are in the Edwards Aquifer Recharge Zone because that is where the limestone needed for use in construction is located. Many have been in operation for decades without damage to the aquifer because the hard limestone formations lie well above the aquifer water table.

About six miles of the proposed seven-mile railroad spur will be over the sandy loam and gravel beds of the Rio Grande Plains, not the recharge zone. The farmland south of the quarry through which the rail line will travel is subjected to a yearly cocktail of fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides and is home to septic tanks and drain fields — all of which present a greater potential health risk than will the rail line.

If folks are going to accuse a company of bringing "destruction and pollution" to South Texas, their remarks need to be based on factual and scientific information.

Please pass my thoughts on to the Surface Transportation Board and any other government bodies involved in the decisions concerning this rail line and rock quarry.

Carol E. Carpenter

Carol Carpenter
Boerne, Texas