

#E1-1928
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- Post Office Box 93
- Hondo, TX 78861
- (830) 741-4041

Quihi & New Fountain Historical Society

March 1, 2006

Ms. Rini Ghosh
Section on Environmental Analysis
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street NW
Washington, D. C. 20423

received
3/3/06

Re: Finance Docket 34284
Vulcan Materials/Southwest Gulf Railroad
Proposed Quarry and Rail Project
Medina County, Texas

Dear Ms. Ghosh:

It has come to the attention of the Quihi & New Fountain Historical Society (Q&NFHS) that Mr. Robert Hancock, chairman of the Medina County Historical Commission (MCHC), has sent to the Surface Transportation Board two letters, one dated December 16, 2005, and another dated February 19, 2006. Copies of both letters are enclosed.

In the December 16, 2005, letter, Mr Hancock states that he does not believe that the proposed Vulcan project will affect the historic features of Quihi. Additionally, we are told by some angry members of MCHC that this letter, which Mr. Hancock sent to STB and to other persons and agencies, was sent without the knowledge or approval of any of the members of the board. However, the letter implies that they were participants in its' writing.

We are outraged that Mr. Hancock has taken this position on this very serious threat to historic Quihi. He is a resident of Castroville (one of four of the Castro Colonies established in the 1840's), and has been very supportive of his hometown's historical preservation through the Castro Colonies Heritage Association. Yet he ignores Quihi, a Castro Colony, and refuses to support Quihi at this critical time. Indeed, in February 2006, Quihi was placed on the list of Texas' most endangered historic places by Preservation Texas, Inc., because of the threat of the Vulcan project.

When asked by the rest of MCHC to write a letter of retraction, Mr. Hancock wrote the second letter dated January 16, 2006, in which he stated "that the commission would remain neutral on the Vulcan Project and that remains our official position on the subject." The MCHC has already taken a position in this proceeding (See enclosed copy of STB EI-250, Resolution dated July 17, 2003), and it is not 'neutral'. Much to the chagrin of some of the board, he sent this second letter without having first shown it to the rest of the MCHC.

To state that the commission will 'remain neutral' in the face of Vulcan's threat to the historic and archaeological preservation of Quihi is ludicrous. The purpose for the very existence of the county commission is historic preservation. As stated by Texas Local Government Code Chapter 318, the MCHC has the task of preserving the historic and archeological features in the county. Therefore, it cannot be 'neutral' in these matters.

Mr. Hancock has personal reasons for his bias. It is common knowledge that Mr. Hancock and at least one of the landowners of the proposed Vulcan quarry site (Mr. Glenn Schweers) are longtime friends.

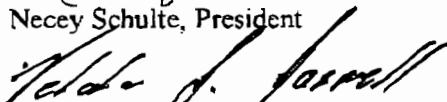
We regret that we must send copies of this letter to the extensive list of persons noted at the end of this letter. However, since Mr. Hancock chose to send copies of his letters to so many persons, we feel that it is necessary for those same persons, and other involved persons, to know the truth.

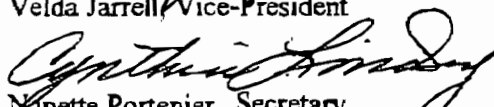
We ask the STB and others to disregard the two letters submitted by Mr. Hancock, as he is biased in favor of the proposed Vulcan project. We thank you for your attention to this matter, and, as designated party to the proceedings, we ask that you place this letter and its enclosures with the official record of Finance Docket 34284.

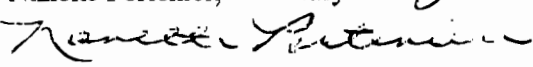
Respectfully,

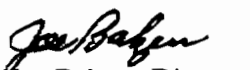
The Quihi & New Fountain Historical Society:

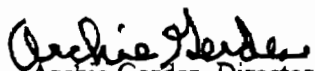

Necey Schulte, President


Velda Jarrell, Vice-President


Nanette Portenier, Secretary


Cynthia Lindsey, Treasurer


Joe Balzen, Director


Archie Gerdes, Director

Encl.

Cc: Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Representative Tracy O. King
Wayne Stein

Commissioners of Medina County:

Chris Mitchell, Beverly Keller, Arturo Barricentos, Kelly Carroll

Jim Barden, Judge, Medina County

U.S. Congressman Henry Bonilla

U. S. Senator John Cornyn

U. S. Senator Kay Bailey Hutchinson

Texas Senator Frank Madla

Texas Agriculture Commissioner Susan Combs

Medina County FEMA Floodplain Administrator Pat Brawner

Larry Oaks, Executive Director, Texas Historical Commission

Julianne Fletcher, Preservation Texas, Inc.

Members of the Medina County Historical Commission:

Robert & Priscilla Hancock, John & Margaret Bergman, Charles & Janet Rothe,

Jonell Weimers Taylor, Bob & Joyce Bendele, Karen Muennink,

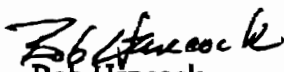
Laura Maney, J. A. Rios, Dr. Thomas & Lynda Hester.

Surface Transportation Board
Section of Environmental Analysis
Case Central Unit
Washington, D.C. 20423
Feb. 19, 2006

To Whom It May Concern:

The purpose of my letter is to retract my letter dated December 16, 2005. My letter of Dec. 16, 2005, reflected only my personal views and not those of the Medina County Historical Commission. The Medina County Historical Commission passed a resolution stating that the commission would remain neutral on the Vulcan Project and that remains our official position on the subject.

Regards,


Bob Hancock

Medina County Historical Commission Chairman

cc:

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Representative Tracy O. King, Wayne Stein, Commissioner Chris Mitchell, Commissioner Beverly Keller, Commissioner Arturo Barrientes, Commissioner Kelly Carrol, Judge Jim Barden, U.S. Congressman Henry Bonilla, U.S. Senator John Cornyn, U.S. Senator Kay Bailey Hutchinson, State Senator Frank Madla, Texas Agriculture Commissioner Susan Combs, Pat Browner, Texas Historical Commission

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RSL

Surface Transportation Board
Section of Environmental Analysis
Case Control Unit
Washington, D.C. 20423

December 16, 2005

Received
1/17/06

FD 34284

To Whom It May Concern:

As chairman of the Medina County Historical Society, I feel a need to contact you regarding the analysis being conducted for Vulcan Materials' quarry and rail line. I first heard of the project years ago while I was mayor of Castroville and had several questions about it. Since then I have been involved in many meetings about the project and have performed hours of research.

I have found that Texas continues to lead the nation in fatalities involving 18-wheel trucks. At the same time our county is projected to be one of the fastest growing counties in the state. Those two facts combine to generate certain economic growth while jeopardizing safety in Medina County. To enable growth without that danger, I encourage the rail option that you are researching. With Vulcan's plans to start a quarry here, I understand the choices of transporting rock by truck or rail. I strongly encourage rail as the safer choice.

I also have listened to some people's concerns about historic structures and areas near possible rail routes. Like them, I want to make sure that this project does not destroy any of our historical values. I live in a home that is on the National Register and believe in preserving our past as a guide to the future. With many hours of research and thought behind me, I have not been convinced that this project will cause any disruptions to the historical integrity of those areas.

Overall, I see this project as a plus for the jobs it will bring, the spending it will create, and the growth it will provide for. The rail line will add to the value of nearby property and reduce the impact of the quarry on our homes, our lives, and our historic areas.

I and the other members of the Medina County Historical Commission would appreciate the opportunity to explain our thoughts and raise any concerns might exist.

Sincerely,


Bob Hancock

President Medina County Historical Society
1202 Gentile Street
Castroville, Texas, 78009
830-831-8276

cc:

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Representative Tracy O. King, Wayne Stein, Commissioner Chris Mitchell, Commissioner Beverly Keller, Commissioner Arturo Barrientes, Commissioner Kelly Carroll, Judge Jim Barden, U.S. Congressman Henry Bonilla, U.S. Senator John Cornyn, U.S. Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison, State Senator Frank Madia, Texas Agriculture Commissioner Susan Combs, Pat Browner, Texas Historical Commission

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MEDINA COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MEDINA COUNTY COURTHOUSE
HONDO, TEXAS 78861

July 21, 2003

Rini Ghosh
Attorney Advisor
Section of Environmental Analysis
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street, N. W. Suite 500
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001
Attn: FD 34284

To Whom It May Concern:

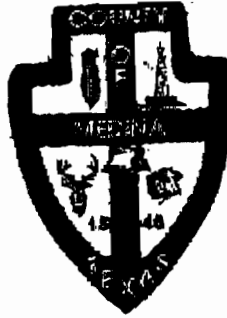
Please find the enclosed Resolution from the Medina County Historical Commission regarding the proposed railroad and quarrying plans of Vulcan Materials Company.

Feel free to contact me if you have any question or need any further information.

Regards,


Robert N. Hancock, Chairman
Medina County Historical Commission

cc: Vulcan Materials Co.



MEDINA COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MEDINA COUNTY COURTHOUSE
HONDO, TEXAS 78861

RESOLUTION NO. 2

A RESOLUTION OF MEDINA COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION URGING VULCAN MATERIALS TO CONSIDER PROTECTING THE HISTORIC RESOURCES OF THE QUILI AREA IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF A PROPOSED RAILROAD AS IT RELATES TO ITS PROPOSED QUARRYING ACTIVITIES IN THAT PART OF MEDINA COUNTY.

WHEREAS, the Medina County Historical Commission has a continuing commitment to the preservation, study, and recognition of the county's cultural heritage.

WHEREAS, the Commission is aware of the plans of Vulcan Materials to construct a railroad through the Quili area related to its proposed quarrying activities in that part of Medina County; and

WHEREAS, Quili is a highly important historic area of Medina County, representing a settlement established in 1846, and is marked by the presence of numerous homes and buildings of that period; and

WHEREAS, there are also important prehistoric archeological sites, as old as 10,000 years, in the area; and

WHEREAS, the Commission urges the Surface Transportation Board to use all proper review procedures during its consideration of the Vulcan applications for its railways and proposed alternative routes.

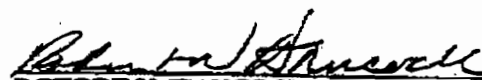
WHEREAS, this will involve detailed consultation with the Texas Historical Commission, charged with the implementation of Section 106 regulations related to cultural resources.

WHEREAS, the Commission will monitor the process and will receive the comments of concerned citizens of the Quili area during all phases of cultural resource studies related to this project.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEDINA COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION:

Section 1. That the Directors of the Commission urge the Vulcan Materials Company to consider preserving the historic resources in the Quili area of Medina County, Texas while planning the construction of the railroad for their proposed quarrying activities.

PASSED AND APPROVED this the 17th day of July, 2003.


ROBERT N. HANCOCK, Chairman
Medina County Historical Commission