

FD 34284

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Received 1/26/07

P.O. Box 369
Castroville, Texas 78009
January 25, 2007

Ms. Victoria Rutson
Section of Environmental Analysis
1925 K Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

Re: Finance Docket # 34284
Vulcan Materials Co./Southwest Gulf Railroad

Dear Ms. Rutson:

I would like to share my concerns about the proposed Vulcan Materials Quarry and Southwest Gulf Railroad Rail Line project at Quiki, Medina County, Texas, and to state my opposition to it.

I am a rancher who inherited property that lies 1 1/4 miles south of the proposed quarry and immediately north of the Herdes Family Land Heritage Ranch. My property is one of the tracts of land purchased by my hardworking great-grandfather, Paul Oefinger, Sr., an immigrant who came from Germany in the 1850's as one of Henri Castro's colonists in Quiki. Though this land has been in my mother's family for over a hundred years, the Oefingers were not the first inhabitants of this beautiful area of Medina County. Along the Elm Creek beside the natural watering holes that now serve as a source of water for my livestock and underneath the gigantic liveoak trees that grow in the flood plain lie arrow heads — evidence of the earliest inhabitants and their ancestors — the Native Americans.

My inheritance lies in a quiet, peaceful and scenic area of Medina County — a location in which Castro colonists' descendants continue to live and work and in which young couples have come to raise families and retirees have come to build their dream homes. This beautiful historic and archeologically significant place deserves to be left unmarred by noise, air, and water pollution!

Having witnessed the wall of water descending the Elm Creek like a mini tsunami following a rainstorm and having witnessed the effects of two severe droughts, I am concerned about the quantity and quality of our most important resource — water. Construction of a railroad line across a flood

plain will change the flow of run-off water and will create even greater damage than the Quik area has endured.

Not only will surface water be effected by air and chemical pollutants from the quarry operations / storage / fueling areas but shallow wells and caves as yet to be explored will be impacted as well. As this area of Medina County lies above the re-charge zone of the Edwards Aquifer, we must be concerned about the impact on future usage and possible contamination of this water source. Water is vitally important to us all! Irrigation farmers need water. We ranchers need surface water and unpolluted well ~~use~~ water for our livestock! And there are hundreds of thousands of residents in the San Antonio area who are dependent on the aquifer for their needs. We must be concerned about the quality and quantity of water!

In closing, I urge you not to grant a permit for the quarry/railroad project. This historic, archeological, geological site — this beautiful, peaceful quiet place — Quik — deserves to remain unharmed!

Sincerely,
Nora L. Winkler