

Governor Rick Perry
State of Texas
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BHW
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March 11, 2007

RE: Condemnation of the Governor's "support letter" to the federal
STB on behalf of Vulcan Materials Company, letter of Feb. 07-07.

Dear Governor of Texas,

The Tap Pilam Nation submits this protest letter to the Governor and to his administrators on the record, to the federal Surface Transportation Board. On February 07, 2007 Governor Rick Perry signed a letter of support addressed to the federal STB in Washington DC. This endorsement letter will push forward the application now before the STB to give Vulcan Materials Company (VMC) a permit to proceed with a monstrous mine in Medina County, Texas.

Our nation wishes to be on record in the strongest of terms against this "support Letter" by the Governor. It is ill advised for multiple reasons, here are only a few of the worst reasons why we are against this mine.

(1). The Coahuiltecan Nation is listed as a consulting party under the relevant federal Acts, which govern the issuance of the exemption to (VMC) from certain requirements of 49 U.S.C. 10901 et. Our tribe of native Americans is utterly opposed to the issuance of any such exemptions, to (VMC) or to any of its associates.

(2) The exemptions will only lead to a faster demise of a very fragile eco-system in and around Quihi, Texas.

(3) The exemptions will only produce adverse effects to the fauna already identified by the documents submitted by The Texas Parks & Wildlife Dept. See STB file no. #E1-286 dated May 28, 2003. The (TPWD) gave Vulcan, a long list of sensitive plants, trees, and wildlife that will probably become threatened. As native Americans we

view all the natural world as part of us. Anything which threatens the natural creatures of our earth, we view these acts as a direct threat to our ourselves. We are the People of The Earth.

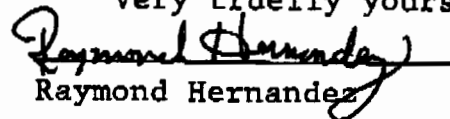
(4) The people of our tribe wish to also place into the record our concern for the proposed route to the planned limestone quarry. Reference is made to what is already in the STB files, listed as #EI-63. The Texas Dept. of Transportation in April 2003, made comments into the record that read thus: "The preferred route would cross a state roadway, F M 2676, as well as several county and local roads. TxDOT is concerned about the impact that an estimated four, one-hundred car trains crossing FM 2676 would have upon the safety of the local community and traveling public. Hondo Independent School District has three bus routes and Medina Valley Independent School District has one bus route that travels along FM 2676 and cross the preferred route twice daily..."

The Tap Pilam Coahuiltecan Nation has other concerns about the permitting process now under consideration by the STB. We have already submitted our objections to the creation of this limestone quarry. See our very lengthy objections set down in our January 27, 2007. It has already been made part of the official record of these proceedings.

In conclusion, we want to be contacted by some one in the Governor's Office at a latter date. This way better lines of communication will be established, between the Governor's Office and our Native American Nation. We await your kindly reply to these items of concern with how this quarry is being forced upon the peaceable folks of Quihi, Texas. The impact to them will be severe. The impacts to our Coahuiltecan people will be long lasting, and irreparable. Don't let this permit be issued to Valcan Materials Co!

Thanking you in advance for your special attention to our acute concerns regarding the making of this 17,000 acre mine upon our ancestral lands.

Very truly yours,


Raymond Hernandez

cc. Records Dept.
cc. Research Director
cc. Diana F. Wood (STB)