

**MIDCOAST COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**P.O. Box 64**

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Board of Supervisors  
County Government Center  
401 Marshall Street  
Redwood City, CA 94063

September 30, 1997

Re: Highway 92/ Quarry Use Permit/ Traffic Delays

Honorable Supervisors:

At our last Council meeting on September 24<sup>th</sup>, the MidCoast Community Council heard from angry commuters who experience extreme delays on their travel from the MidCoast up and over the hill (Hwy 92) to Hwy 280.

Pilarcitos Quarry has requested that their use permit hearings be extended through the winter, even though the permit is now overdue and expired. It is apparent to anyone who drives over the hill in the morning that the Quarry operators are violating the letter, if not the spirit of the law: their use permit. In the five years since the last hearings, little or nothing has been done by the operator to ameliorate the traffic problems caused by his clients.

We understand that through the efforts of the City of Half Moon Bay and Supervisor Gordon, that a meeting was held with the CHP, County Planning, the City, and Supervisor Gordon to brainstorm solutions to the traffic problems caused by the Quarry's clients.

The MidCoast Community Council read the staff report(s) forwarded to us only last week by Mr. Koenig's staff, and after careful review and public debate have the following requests:

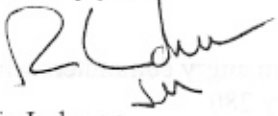
- 1 The MidCoast Community Council should have notice and be invited to attend any future meeting(s), and the MidCoast Community Council should be kept "in the loop" on the Quarry/ Traffic issues. As you recall, last year the Council held several meetings with Mr. DeAtley and your staff to discuss the traffic problems at that time. To the best of our knowledge, there has been little follow up information: for instance, we understand from Mayor Ruddock that Mr. DeAtley has undertaken a study of additional turnout and turnin lanes for his entrance.
- 2 We agree with the idea that there be a moratorium on truck traffic for a short period of commute time, and as a refinement, the Council urges that the Quarry should be allowed to release NO trucks during the normal morning commute for two hours, from 6:30 to 8:30 am. We feel a one hour moratorium is too short: any imposition of NO truck hours would funnel the "road wise" commuter into this short "free ride" window. The road warriors will slightly adjust their schedule to miss the trucks, and a too short window of only one hour would itself create a huge backup.
- 3 The Council listened to several construction/ business people discuss the rights of the truckers/ haulers to work, to earn, to haul. As the truckers will have their "haulable" time shortened to move their product to their market we suggest that the Quarry may open earlier than 6 am, we propose one hour earlier: 5 am. This should have minimal effect on the "usual" commute as it is before the glut of traffic.
- 4 We agree that the County should work with the CHP to monitor the 2 minute spacing required in the current use permit.
- 5 We agree that the CHP should set up and continuously inspect the client trucks for safety and road worthiness.

6 We agree that the County should work with Cal Trans to open the "new/ improved" passing lane (just above the creek, at the first uphill) for the commute hours, at the very least. We think Cal Trans should "work with us", should "give us a break".

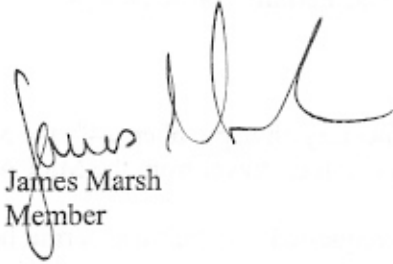
The combination of the current roadwork on Hwy 92 and the over the hill construction boom has exacerbated the highway problems and we agree that any/ all these measures may need to be only temporary. El Nino is coming and we need to establish a "working together" spirit so we can be nimble in the face of what could be a tough winter. The Council looks forward to working with the County towards an answer, as our commuters are part of the solution just as they are part of the problem.

The MidCoast Community Council thanks Supervisor Gordon, his aid Mr. Caruso, and the staff for his leadership and his continued support.

Sincerely yours,



Ric Lohman  
Chair



James Marsh  
Member

cc Mayor Ruddock, City of Half Moon Bay  
Electronic and Print Media

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