

9/22/08

Chair Carbajal and Members of the Board,

As the Executive Director of BEACON, a Joint Powers Agency made up of the City and County of Santa Barbara, Goleta, Carpinteria and the Coastal Cities and County in Ventura I wanted to add some comments into the record regarding the Diamond Rock Mining and Reclamation Project in front of you today. BEACON was established to deal with coastal erosion, water quality and beach related problems on the South Central Coast of California.

The proposed project is a request for a Conditional Use Permit and Reclamation Plan approval to allow for a new Sand and Gravel Mine and Processing Facility within and adjacent to the Cuyama River, respectively.

The Cuyama River originates in Northern Ventura County, travels 85 miles as a tributary of the Santa Maria River, which is formed when the Cuyama meets the Sisquoc River and serves as the County line defining Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo Counties. The river then travels 20 miles before depositing its sand, silt and cobble into the Pacific Ocean.

**This lesson in hydrology and geography is meant as a gentle reminder that somewhere somehow the majority of the rivers in California eventually flow to the ocean and deposit the spoils of their journey. Those spoils are the lifeblood of the system that nourishes our coastline and builds up our beaches to protect against the onslaught of winter storms and sea level rise.** While a number of these water bodies are impaired by dams and debris basins, we need to recognize the fact that less sand, cobble and sediment coming to the coast equates to increased shoreline erosion and eventually enormous costs to the governing bodies responsible for protecting that coastline. A case in point would be what is happening along Goleta Beach and the potential costs to the taxpayers to keep that beach whole in future.

So perhaps when projects such as this begin the process for approvals, they can be put on notice that they need to factor into their cost profiles a surcharge per ton of extracted materials that can be used for sediment transport to the coast. This would provide a revenue source that can be used to mechanically get beach quality sand and sediments that are entombed in Santa Barbara County Flood Control facilities deposited back along the coastline. In essence, this would complete the natural process with a little help from man.

Brian Brennan

BEACON Executive Director



A California Joint Powers Agency

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City of Port Hueneme  
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City of Santa Barbara  
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