

Katherine Douglas

General Public Comment - Group 1

From: Daren Mann <darenmann@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 12, 2026 9:26 PM
To: Zachary W. Akzin
Cc: hmaldonado@sbunified.org; lchavez@goleta.k12.ca.us; dist_board@sbunified.org; Laura Capps; sbcob; Roy Lee; Joan Hartmann; info@independent.com; news@noozhawk.com; Assemblymember.Hart@assembly.ca.gov; Senator.Limon@senate.ca.gov
Subject: Re: Formal Opposition to Permit to Operate 16542 – Contaminated Soil Cleanup Project at 125 S. San Marcos Road

Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.

Zachary,

Thank you for confirming receipt of my prior correspondence and for confirming that my comments have been preserved in the project file and administrative record.

As a follow-up to my earlier email, I want to provide additional real-world evidence that directly reinforces the concerns already raised regarding construction safety, airborne particulate exposure, heavy truck conflicts, and the cumulative impacts of intensive development activity immediately adjacent to El Camino Elementary School.

Attached is a photo showing a substantial cloud of airborne dust flowing directly across the street from the active construction zone and into the El Camino Elementary campus and play areas. This dust exposure is occurring during active school hours and directly adjacent to the kindergarten and lower-grade play environments used daily by young children, including my own kindergarten-aged twins.

To be very direct: this is not a hypothetical concern. Unsafe and unhealthy conditions are already occurring in real time adjacent to the school.

Many nearby parents are becoming increasingly alarmed by the apparent lack of adequate dust control, traffic coordination, truck management, pedestrian protection, and school-sensitive operational planning associated with the ongoing construction activity in this area.

The attached image further reinforces the central concern raised in my original letter: if construction activity is already producing clearly visible airborne dust conditions that are impacting children at the school, then approving excavation, handling, and hauling of confirmed arsenic-contaminated soil in this same environment presents an even more serious and unacceptable public-health concern.

The exact conditions visible in the attached image — airborne particulate movement directly toward school grounds and children’s play areas — are precisely the type of exposure pathway many parents are concerned could occur during contaminated soil excavation activities if Permit to Operate 16542 is approved.

Accordingly, I would appreciate guidance regarding:

- Where additional photographic and video evidence documenting unsafe conditions should be submitted;
- Whether these supplemental materials will also be preserved in the administrative record;
- Whether the District intends to independently investigate the dust, traffic, and pedestrian safety conditions currently being observed adjacent to the school; and
- What specific mitigation, monitoring, or enforcement mechanisms are currently in place to protect students from ongoing construction-related particulate exposure and heavy truck conflicts during school hours.

I also want to reiterate that community concern regarding this issue continues to grow. Multiple parents and nearby residents are actively documenting dust events, truck behavior, blocked crossings, idling vehicles, and school-hour construction conflicts because many of us believe the cumulative impacts of the rapid densification and construction activity occurring in this immediate area have not been adequately mitigated with the realities of an active elementary school environment in mind.

I appreciate your attention to this matter and look forward to the District's written response regarding both my original comments and these additional documented observations.

Best,

Daren

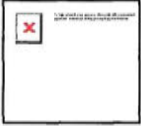


On Mon, May 11, 2026 at 11:00 AM Zachary W. Akzin <AkzinZ@sbcapcd.org> wrote:

Dear Mr. Mann,

Your public comment has been received by the District and has been saved to the project file. The District will respond to your comments in writing prior to a decision on final permit issuance. If you have any questions, please let me know, and I will keep you advised on any public comment opportunities regarding the project.

Sincerely,



Zachary Akzin

Air Quality Engineer I
Air Pollution Control District
Santa Barbara County

[AkzinZ@sbcapcd.org](mailto:Zachary.Akzin@sbcapcd.org)
805-979-8313

ourair.org [@OurAirSBC](https://twitter.com/OurAirSBC)

[Sign Up for Air Alerts](#)

From: Daren Mann <darenmann@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, May 7, 2026 2:53 PM

To: Zachary W. Akzin <[AkzinZ@sbcapcd.org](mailto:Zachary.Akzin@sbcapcd.org)>

Cc: haldonado@sbunified.org; lchavez@goleta.k12.ca.us; dist_board@sbunified.org; lcapps@countyofsb.org; sbcob@co.santa-barbara.ca.us; roylee@countyofsb.org; jhartmann@countyofsb.org; info@independent.com; news@noozhawk.com; Assemblymember.Hart@assembly.ca.gov; Senator.Limon@senate.ca.gov

Subject: Formal Opposition to Permit to Operate 16542 – Contaminated Soil Cleanup Project at 125 S. San Marcos Road

Dear Mr. Akzin,

I am writing to formally and strongly oppose Permit to Operate 16542 related to the proposed excavation, handling, and transport of arsenic-contaminated soil at 125 S. San Marcos Road.

I am the parent of three children currently attending El Camino Elementary School — one child in third grade and twins in kindergarten — and my family lives nearby. I am deeply concerned about the health, safety, environmental, traffic, air-quality, and quality-of-life impacts this project may impose on surrounding families and students.

The proposed excavation and transport of approximately 1,750 cubic yards of arsenic-impacted soil within 1,000 feet of both El Camino Elementary School and San Marcos High School raises extremely serious concerns regarding airborne toxic exposure to children, cumulative environmental impacts, trucking activity near schools, and long-term public-health liability.

In addition to the environmental concerns, I have already observed what appears to be deteriorating traffic and construction safety conditions around the school associated with ongoing construction activity in the area.

Directly across from El Camino Elementary during school drop-off this morning, I personally was in a near accident involving a cement truck entering the construction zone. I was riding my long-tail bike with both of my 6-year old twins on the back during drop-off while families and children were actively arriving at school. The cement truck driver began making a left-hand turn into the site, abruptly stopped mid-turn, and then restarted movement in the middle of active school traffic circulation, creating a dangerous and chaotic situation near students, cyclists, and parents.

This incident reinforced my concern that construction activity adjacent to a school is not currently being managed with an appropriate level of caution, coordination, or sensitivity to the realities of school drop-off and pickup conditions. I am extremely concerned that adding excavation operations, contaminated soil hauling (the street is constantly dirty and the dust flows directly into the kindergarten play area all-day long), and a substantial increase in heavy truck traffic will further compound these safety risks for children and families in the immediate area.

More broadly, I am deeply concerned that recent state-driven housing densification policies and streamlined development pathways have significantly reduced meaningful local oversight and community input regarding the cumulative impacts of large-scale residential development near schools and established residential neighborhoods. The rapid concentration of high-density construction activity in this area is already creating observable traffic, safety, environmental, and quality-of-life impacts that many nearby families believe have not been adequately planned for or mitigated.

Additionally, I, along with other concerned parents in the community, have already begun documenting unsafe construction-related conditions and impacts occurring near El Camino Elementary School, including:

- Unsafe truck behavior during school drop-off and pickup periods
- Dust events near student and pedestrian areas
- School-hour traffic conflicts involving construction vehicles
- Blocked or partially obstructed crossing and pedestrian areas
- Idling trucks adjacent to school routes and family traffic patterns

These issues are already degrading the safety environment surrounding El Camino Elementary, and many of us are deeply concerned that the proposed contaminated soil excavation and hauling operations will significantly worsen these conditions.

At this time, I do not believe the District has demonstrated that nearby students, residents, teachers, and staff can be adequately protected from:

- Airborne contaminated dust during excavation and loading
- Wind-driven particulate migration
- Truck emissions and roadway contamination
- Accidental releases during transport
- Increased heavy vehicle conflicts near school traffic
- Long-term cumulative exposure risks to children and sensitive populations

Children are recognized as sensitive receptors under California environmental and public-health frameworks, and I believe substantially greater scrutiny is warranted before any permit is approved.

Accordingly, I request the following before any permit approval or project activity proceeds:

1. Full public disclosure of all environmental, toxicology, soil sampling, air-quality, and risk assessment reports associated with the site.
2. Independent third-party air monitoring during all excavation and hauling activities, including real-time particulate monitoring and arsenic-specific testing, with public reporting requirements.
3. Clearly defined stop-work thresholds and mandatory shutdown procedures during elevated wind conditions or any exceedance of air-quality thresholds.
4. Full disclosure of haul routes, trucking schedules, traffic-control plans, dust mitigation protocols, contingency plans, and school-hour operational impacts.
5. Formal evaluation of alternative remediation approaches that could reduce or eliminate airborne exposure risks near schools.
6. A public hearing and expanded community review process prior to any permit approval.
7. Comprehensive review of cumulative environmental, traffic, and public-health impacts under applicable California environmental review requirements, including impacts on nearby schools and residential neighborhoods.

Please also consider this letter a request that all comments, supporting documentation, technical analyses, mitigation measures, and agency responses associated with this permit application be preserved as part of the administrative record.

I also respectfully request written confirmation that this correspondence has been received, reviewed, and incorporated into the administrative record associated with Permit to Operate 16542.

Given the seriousness of the concerns raised — particularly those involving student safety, traffic conflicts near an active elementary school, airborne contamination risks, and ongoing construction-related safety issues already being observed by nearby families — I further request a written response outlining what actions, additional reviews, mitigation measures, investigations, or procedural steps the District intends to take in response to the concerns identified in this letter and by affected community members.

Please also advise whether additional public comment opportunities, hearings, or review periods are anticipated as part of this process. I'm very interested in making my voice heard and hearing from my fellow neighbors - can you let me know?

I intend to continue closely monitoring this matter and evaluating all available administrative, environmental, and legal avenues to ensure the health and safety of nearby children and residents are fully protected.

I strongly urge the District to deny Permit to Operate 16542 or, at minimum, substantially delay approval pending further independent review and public process.

Sincerely,

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Daren Mann | +1 805.325.5688 | @darenmann

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Daren Mann | +1 805.325.5688 | @darenmann

Dear Santa Barbara County Supervisors,

We are writing as small business owners in the Isla Vista community to formally raise a serious concern that has persisted for the past 15 years. Each year, during major community events, our business has been consistently blocked from serving customers due to actions taken—or allowed—by the county.

Specifically, during the Halloween Festival and the Flotopia event, our customers have repeatedly been prevented from accessing the area due to a lack of adequate parking. In the last three years, this has escalated to a complete blockade of Isla Vista by authority , effectively preventing us from operating, resulting in significant financial losses.

We believe this pattern of exclusion may be influenced by certain affluent property owners in the area seeking to maintain exclusivity, thereby disadvantageous to small businesses like ours. By contrast, Santa Barbara City—just 10 miles away—hosts similar events while providing adequate parking, restrooms , and full support for local businesses.

This ongoing treatment has caused substantial financial harm and leaves us with little choice but to pursue legal action against the responsible parties, including the county supervisor, to seek both restitution and a fair resolution. We strongly urge the county to address this matter promptly.

We request a formal meeting with you to discuss this situation in detail and work toward a solution that ensures fair access for all small businesses in Isla Vista. We hope to resolve this issue cooperatively, but we are prepared to take all necessary legal steps to protect our rights.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to your prompt response and to arranging a meeting.

Sincerely,

Small Business Owners, Isla Vista

RECEIVED
MAY 21 A 11:32
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA
CLERK OF THE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Deja Vu Cafe
966-B Embarcadero Del Mar
Goleta, CA 93117

H. D. Dent: 04/06/2026 - 8554039030

Wesley 04/14/2026 - [REDACTED]

Mama's Tacos 04/14/2026 - [REDACTED]

i.v. dry 4/14/2026 [REDACTED]

~~Tro Lee~~
Poke Thru SB 4/14/2026 [REDACTED]

ASIA 101 BOXI WANG. 4/15/2026 [REDACTED]

NAARSTOP Sunny POTTI 4/15/2026 [REDACTED]

Teddy Rice Teddy Lee 4/22/2026 [REDACTED]