



August 14, 2008

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Board of Supervisors
County of Santa Barbara
105 East Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

RE: Diamond Rock Appeal, scheduled for August 26, 2008

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Deborah Brasket

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

Olivia Uribe

Dear Chair Carbajal and Honorable Supervisors,

The Santa Barbara County Action Network (SB CAN) is a county-wide organization that promotes sustainable communities by advocating a holistic approach to community planning that integrates housing, open space, and transportation to meet the needs of all members of our community.

We have concerns about the Diamond Rock project in the Cuyama Valley that was approved by Planning Commission on May 14, and we support the appellant's request to reschedule the August 26 hearing to a later date to give the citizen group more time to prepare for the hearing. It is important that the public and our county Supervisors have all the information needed to understand the impacts of this project on the quality of life in the Cuyama Valley. Granting more time for the appellants to prepare for this hearing will help to ensure that outcome.

SB CAN is especially concerned about the amount of traffic the project will bring to Hwy 166, a notoriously dangerous route with narrow shoulders, no passing lanes, numerous school bus stops, and two schools located along or near the route. We are also concerned about impacts on water and air quality, potential deterioration of the river bed, and impacts on biological resources.

This project could impact the quality of life for all the people of Cuyama Valley, which as you know is an often neglected region in our county. Yet, at the May 14 hearing that I attended, while the residents of Ojai and their objections to the project received considerable attention and major concessions, the concerns of people living in Cuyama Valley were ignored or dismissed. The "Save Cuyama Valley" group represents 400 people living in the valley who are opposed to the project. SB CAN urges you to grant the appellant's request for more time to prepare for the hearing.

Sincerely,

Deborah Brasket
Executive Director

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OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF THE COUNTY SUPERVISORS
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