

## Alexander, Jacquelyne

---

**From:** Sao Anash <sao.muse@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 30, 2018 1:35 PM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Subject:** Re: The Sepulveda Stone Project



A-29

April 30, 2018

To: Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors  
From: Sao Anash, Owner / Free Agent Consulting  
RE: Sepulveda Stone Project

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing regarding my concerns surrounding the Sepulveda Stone Mine Expansion.

As a former Executive Director of the Santa Barbara County Vintners Association, I can attest to how vital the natural beauty and serene vistas of our wine country area are to our local economy. Each year, the Santa Barbara Wine industry funnels millions of dollars into the County. Much of that revenue comes from tourism. The Sta. Rita Hills is perhaps one of the most highly regarded appellations for Pinot Noir in California. Many tourists visit Santa Barbara to taste the wines of this storied winegrowing region. The gateway to this region, for tourists traveling from both the Southern and Northern ends of the state, is oftentimes Lompoc.

That the proposed project area remain untouched is visually important to sustaining the future of our wine industry, tourism dollars. The project would have a devastating visual impact on our area, and would be a substantial hindrance to the continuation of its success. Years of open scars upon our landscape, with exposed rock and tailing piles, would not communicate to the tourism media, visitors or even locals that we are living in one of the most special enological areas in the United States. Additionally, the project would also be visible from La Purisima Mission and State Park; a small gem of a mission that attracts visitors from around the globe. In addition to its rich history, it is also a great source of inspiration for visitors seeking solace from more populated or gentrified areas. The proposed project would rob the area of much of its wild and untamed beauty.

As a long-time business owner in the area, I consider this project's impacts to the visual resources to be significant and an EIR should be prepared.

Respectfully,

Sao Anash