



Keep Sespe Wild Committee
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1.31.07

Gary Kaiser,
County of Santa Barbara
624 W Foster Road,
Santa Maria, CA 93455

Diamond Rock Sand & Gravel Mine Revised DEIR

Dear Gary Kaiser,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Diamond Mine Revised DEIR. Keep Sespe Wild is aware that this mining project is only the first of three Cuyama Valley mines, all of equivalent size and trucking volume, that will come before decision makers for operating permits this year. Some method needs to be established to equitably share the volume of truck traffic from these mines south on Hwy 33 to Ventura.

We are not opposed to all truck traffic traveling south on Hwy 33 from the Cuyama Valley. We believe that limits on total gravel truck traffic from all three mines should be decided by those in the populated areas of Hwy 33 further south.

There are a number of traffic impacts have not been adequately addressed in the DEIR.

Scenic Highway 33 is used for motor tourism, by motorcycle groups, by bicyclists and by those accessing Los Padres Forest and its trails. The DEIR should use US Forest Service methodology to assess the value of the recreational experience and to determine the extent to which the recreational experience along Hwy 33 north of Ojai will be degraded by new, larger volumes of truck traffic from the Diamond Mine and other mines.

Hwy 33 within Los Padres Forest is a narrow corridor, which near the highway's summit separates the Dick Smith Wilderness to the west from the Sespe Wilderness to the east. Wildlife crossing Hwy 33, particularly in the early morning, will be susceptible to injury and/or death by the proposed potential for large volumes of fast-moving heavy trucks which have difficult time swerving or braking fast to avoid impacts with wildlife.

The DEIR's air quality impacts must be analyzed for meeting – or not – the Ojai Valley's threshold of 5 lbs of NOX per day, at the highest volume of daily truck trips.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

Alasdair Coyne,
Conservation Director,
KSWC.

JAN 31 2007