

From: Eran Cohen [eran99@comcast.net]
Sent: Saturday, August 22, 2009 6:04 PM
To: Thu Bui
Subject: Objection to renewal of permit for Lehigh Southwest Cement Company

Dear Sir/Madam

I would like to express my fierce objection to renewal of permit for the Lehigh factory.

I am sure many people are going to address the air quality and long term health issue caused by Lehigh, and that is obviously an excellent reason not to allow such a factory to exist in densely populated areas.

However, I would like to stress another very important aspect that affect us daily and put our lives and quality of life at risk, and that is the heavy truck traffic on Foothill Blvd. and other roads in the area.

We leave on Oakcrest Court which is 100-200; off Foothill Blvd., and Foothill Blvd. is the only way in and out of our street and other streets in this area. Any time that we travel on the road, it is loaded with trucks. At times there is a "train" of trucks, and at some other times there are only a few, but there is hardly any time during the day when one is lucky not to see any truck on the road.

These trucks leak dust and small rocks, which have created a permanent white stripe on the middle of the right lane which is very visible. They also spray rocks on the cars driving behind them, and launch rocks already on the road and hit the cars behind them, cracking their windshields. In the last 9 years we have been living in this area, we had to replace cracked windshield maybe 10 times if not more. Lehigh had never taken responsibility, or did anything to fix or improve the situation.

Luckily there are not too many pedestrian on walking along Foothill. These rocks are launched into the air like bullets, and can cause very serious damage if they ever hit somebody not protected by a windshield.

This is however the least worse, since these trucks are often involved in accidents. We have witnessed quite a few sever accidents, 2 of them involving our family. Our dog was killed on Foothill Blvd. in 2004 by a truck which did not even bother to stop.

In 2006, a truck that veered into the other lane pushed my mother in law's car into the opposite lane and totaled it. Somehow, my daughter and mother in law who were in the car did not suffer any significant injuries. Lehigh (Then Hanson) did not bother to call and ask if everything was OK, let alone apologize. I would not be surprised if that driver is still working for them.

As a results of that, we cannot afford to let our 3 children walk to their schools who happen to be on the other side of Foothill. We do not even let them walk to their friends who leave on the same side of Foothill, since just walking on the curb can be very dangerous.

I acknowledge that cement factories are needed, and that Lehigh has the right to do business. However, there is no place for such heavy industry that causes pollution and safety risks to its environment in such proximity to dense population. Even if Lehigh demonstrated more responsibility and more willingness to "work" with the community, they should move to another place, where the pollution, noise, and heavy truck traffic does not put anyone at risk.

I hope that their permit will be not be renewed just in order to keep getting their tax money. I'm confident that if needed, a small increase in other taxes can compensate for Lehigh's tax money, and that the residents of Cupertino will definitely consider it as a small price to pay for increased health and safety.

Sincerely Yours.

Eran Cohen

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