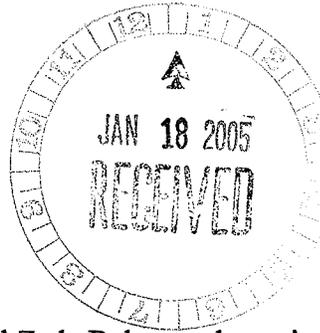


Surface Transportation Board
Case Control Unit
Washington, DC 20423
Attn: Rini Ghosh
STB Docket No. FD 34284



January 9, 2005

EI-1318

I am a 6th generation descendant of Schweer and Zeda Balzen, who arrived on the Quihi Creek in 1856 as part of Henry Castro's Quihi Colony. Their four (4) children were married in Quihi, and they built pioneer homes along the Quihi Creek in 1856, 1858, 1865, and 1872. I deeply care about issues concerning our environment, cultures, preservation of our historical buildings, and issues that affect our citizens such as water resources, safety, dust and noise control, and vibrations from traffic and industry.

The Surface Transportation does a good job of addressing the afore-mentioned concerns, and I am confident that you will make the necessary studies and investigations to see that our life in Texas is properly protected. I am also confident that you will make an unbiased determination based on scientific facts, and not emotional appeal, or to satisfy someone's personal agenda.

I feel strongly that our free private enterprise system is what makes America strong, and the envy of the world. We must not stifle our transportation systems, but allow the most efficient flow of traffic and transportation throughout our land.

I think we must allow businesses such as Vulcan Material Company to build railroads, roads, gas lines, etc. to efficiently move their products to markets. Everyone in our land benefits with cheaper products, and their community support. Controlled growth is good!

The proposed quarry is in a very remote area, and will not be an aesthetics problem. Modern plant equipment will provide noise and dust control at an acceptable level, and the recycling of water will keep water consumption low. Vibrations from blasting will not affect homes because of distance to the nearest buildings. Shipping by rail will keep dust at a minimum. Two train loads in and out every 24 hours will not affect road traffic much. A train traveling only 20 mph will pass a given point in only five (5) minutes, and only four times each day. This will cause minimal delay on lightly traveled rural roads. Dust from the trains will be a minimum, and train vibrations will not affect structures near the tracks.

Vulcan has agreed to mitigate reasonable issues, such as cultural, wildlife protection, and floods. I think this is the way our laws and regulations are supposed to work. To allow our free enterprise system the cheapest and most efficient means of operating, but also to provide the protection of public concerns. I think this is exactly what is taking place, and I appreciate your efforts. I support the construction of the proposed railroad track and the quarry. We need Vulcan's products!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Susan Martin'.

Susan Martin