

Submitters' Comments

I wanted to thank the STB for the opportunity to speak at the public meeting held in Hondo. I'm sure anytime a project like this is proposed, you hear all kinds of emotion fueled speeches and have to weigh each comment for actual impact on any environmental issues. Some of the facts they were throwing out such as flooding are somewhat inflated. It recently rained 5.5 inches on my father-in-law's place on top of already wet ground and my son and I went hunting the next day and did not have to drive through any high water what so ever. If they are building their houses in the creeks and water way's then it doesn't say much for common sense. One gentleman even said this is a desert area. So which is it a wetland area that floods constantly or a desert? I grew up in Hondo where a UP railway goes right through town. Our house was 1/4 mile away and it did keep me awake at night and it did shake our house to pieces. There are many historic buildings within a few hundred feet as you saw when you went to the meeting. These structures have not had any damage from vibration or noise and this railway does not cause any flooding. These trains come through Hondo every hour at a speed which is a lot faster than the train, which will be hauling aggregate. I see no issues with the rail way which would not be solved with the mitigants proposed in the DEIS. Thanks

Attached file follows on next page

My name is Craig Heiligman. I am the son-in-law to Clovis Boehme, one of the landowners of the proposed quarry site. I was born and raised here in Hondo, Texas, graduated from Hondo High School and now live in Castroville with my family.

First of all I wanted to thank the Surface Transportation Board and its Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) for a very thorough and well-written Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The man-hours and investigation time must have been tremendous. The opposition has made claims in local papers that Vulcan must have written the report. If I spent all that time and effort on a report of this magnitude a comment like that would be very upsetting.

I feel the draft EIS addressed all concerns raised by the opposition and proper mitigants were included for those concerns. It is evident that the rail way is the best option to transport the aggregate from the site to the connection point. I can't believe the opposition would rather have the trucks instead of the railway.

This project will be a great economic boost to Medina County and the Hondo Independent School District in the form of tax dollars, jobs, and increased revenues for small business who will benefit from Vulcan's presence.

The opposition has used every scare tactic imaginable plus tried in every way to delay this project. As a person who grew up in Medina County, I am in shock that people I've known all my life can be brainwashed by these scare tactics and allow outsiders who move here to control them. They convinced these people to place restrictive covenants on their land barring railways and then scream property rights. However when it comes to the property rights of the landowners like my father-in-law where the quarry will be, they don't think they should have any rights. The opposition would rather see subdivisions and trailer parks, which are popping up everywhere rather than a fortune 500 Company like Vulcan, who would provide a boost to the economy rather than a drain on the county's infrastructure.

As mentioned I graduated from Hondo High School. I can't believe that the school board is not fighting tooth and nail for this project, which would bring in thousands of tax dollars. Dollars, which can be used to pay teachers the kind of pay they deserve. Dollars, which could be used to increase and expand programs to better educate the students of the school district. There must be school board members who have personal agendas rather than looking out for what's best for the school district. I am glad to hear that the Castroville Chamber of Commerce and the Mayor of Castroville have made positive comments in regards to this project. It's time Hondo stepped up to the plate and backed this project, which would be a boost to the county's economy.

Once again I want to thank the Surface Transportation Board and its Section of Environmental Analysis for all their hard work.