

January 10, 2005

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

As President of Castroville Conservation Society, I spoke at the public hearing on December 2, 2004, in Hondo, Medina County, Texas concerning the very large proposed Vulcan Quarry and rail route. The Conservation Society has many concerns about the quarry, as did the landowners and residents of Medina County who spoke so eloquently and heartfelt about the impending changes.

The proposed Vulcan Quarry, rail and truck route would greatly impact rural Medina County's way of life – changing forever the landscape, as well as air quality and endangering irreplaceable historic Quihi architecture, archeological and wildlife areas.

If Vulcan is permitted to impose on Medina County, while making an enormous profit, then every effort should be made to comply with citizen requests, as valuable ranch land, historic homes and archeological sites forever will be impacted by erosion, blowing dust, traffic and damage to the county roads.

Please, do not permit route 1 for the rail line. Vulcan needs to use the least intrusive one for the landowners, historic/architecture and archeological areas. The cost is minimal compared to the loss of valuable natural resources.

TEXDOT has estimated between 75 and 150 trucks a day in addition to the rail lines. Our two lane county roads will be made unsafe and involve costly maintenance. Estimates are four trains daily, each with 100 cars arriving and departing the quarry. (Two loaded leaving and two empty coming.)

Please listen to and respect the feelings of landowners and citizens. They need your help. Save Medina County!

Sincerely,

Carole S. Romano
President
Castroville Conservation Society
P.O. Box 1543
Castroville, Medina County, Texas 78009

