

STOP SYAR EXPANSION (SSE)

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Napa County Planning, Building
& Environmental Services

September 16, 2015

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Engineering and Conservation Division
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Attn: Donald Barrella:

The comments, written information, and photographs in this letter pertain to, and expand upon, Sandra Booth's presentation before the Napa County Planning Commission at the Public Hearing, September 2, 2015. This letter identifies and brings into discussion several fundamental flaws, omissions, misrepresentations and deficiencies in the Syar EIR, the document of record, produced by the County (the lead agency) that misinform the governmental decision makers and public:

- 1. Uncontrolled Dust Pollution:** As pertains to uncontrolled dust pollution, the baseline environmental setting in the vicinity of the Project was misrepresented in the Syar EIR.
- 2. Baseline Emissions:** Assumption, not fact, was used in the Syar EIR to develop the baseline for uncontrolled dust pollution. "Best Management Practices" were not implemented as claimed.
- 3. Baseline Emissions Calculations:** The dust emission calculations, values, and the health risk assessment (HRA) used in the Syar EIR were based on false assumption, are invalid, and need to be redone.
- 4. Need to Monitor:** No dust emissions monitoring, testing, analysis or study has ever been conducted on-site, on the perimeter, or in the vicinity of the Project to quantify or qualify the ambient exposure levels of respirable crystalline silica (RCS) dust pollution and its potential adverse effect on the human population.

Overview: The following quotes are included to help the reader comprehend the importance, intent, purpose, and requirements of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR), a document of record, and the Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the law and policy overseeing the EIR process:

“Since CEQA’s inception, the EIR has been known as the “heart of CEQA” (*County of Inyo v. Yorty* (1973) 32 Cal. App. 3d 795). When a project may have significant effects, the EIR fulfills the central role in the CEQA process – objectively disclosing environmental effects and ways to reduce or avoid them. “Its purpose is to inform the public and its responsible officials of the environmental consequences of their decisions before they are made. Thus, the EIR ‘protects not only the environment but also informed self government’” (*Citizens of Goleta Valley v. Board of Supervisors* (1990) 52 Cal. 3d 533).”¹

“Any lead agency that gives too much control to project applicants may jeopardize its legal counsel’s ability to successfully defend the EIR if it is ever challenged.”²

“... CEQA requires that the EIR must be subject to the lead agency’s own review and analysis and reflect the lead agency’s independent judgment with regard to scope, content, and adequacy. The lead agency is responsible for the objectivity of the draft EIR.” (Pub. Res. Code Section 21082.1(c); Guidelines Section 15084(e)).³

“To determine whether a potential impact is significant or not, the lead agency must compare that impact to a baseline condition. CEQA Guidelines section 15125 specifies that a project’s environmental setting normally is the “baseline” for environmental analysis. CEQA Guidelines define the “environmental setting” as being the physical conditions in the vicinity of a project as they exist at the time the notice of preparation (NOP) is published (for preparation of an EIR) or, at the time environmental analysis is commenced (Guidelines Section 15125).”⁴

“Future impacts resulting from the proposed project (both directly and indirectly) are compared to the “baseline,” and their “significance” is measured as a function of the difference between the baseline environmental setting and the future condition when the project is implemented. One of the fundamental principles of CEQA is that an adequate baseline discussion is necessary to have an adequate impact evaluation.”⁵

Fundamental Flaws, Omissions, Misrepresentation, and Deficiencies:

1. Uncontrolled Dust Pollution: As pertains to the uncontrolled dust pollution, the baseline environmental setting in the vicinity of the Project was misrepresented in the Syar EIR. As a result of this misrepresentation, governmental decision makers and public were misinformed.

The first basic purpose of the California Environmental Quality Act’s (CEQA) legal statute is to inform: “Section 15002. General Concepts. (a). Basic Purposes of CEQA. The basic purposes of CEQA are to: (1) Inform governmental decision makers and the public about the potential, significant environmental effects of proposed activities.”

By misrepresenting the baseline environmental setting and the uncontrolled dust pollution, the Syar EIR has failed to adequately inform the governmental decision makers and public. Therefore, the Syar EIR is fundamentally flawed.

The Syar EIR does not include a single photograph representative of the uncontrolled dust pollution released into the air during Syar Napa Quarry's typical operation; it omits (denies) visual documentation of the actual quantity of uncontrolled dust pollution being produced in the Project's actual environmental setting and replaces the actual quantity of uncontrolled dust pollution being produced with lesser, understated, quantities derived from off-site, controlled models unrepresentative of the Project's actual environmental setting.

Then, the Syar EIR claims, falsely, "Best Management Practices" are being implemented to control this understated quantity of dust pollution. So, in the Syar EIR, the actual quantity of uncontrolled dust pollution is understated and the Mitigation Measures implemented are overstated. To say it simply, the Syar EIR is fundamentally flawed and misinforms the governmental decision makers and public.

The control and mitigation practices the County and the applicant claim are being implemented to adequately control fugitive dust pollution at Syar Napa Quarry are either not being implemented or they are ineffectual, or both. In reality, contrary to their claim, our photographs clearly show excessive, uncontrolled dust pollution was, is, and continues to be released into the public air space from Syar Napa Quarry during typical operations.

Please read the captions beneath each of the photographs included at the end of this letter. Our photographs accurately represent the physical conditions in the vicinity of the Project as they existed at the time the Notice of Preparation (NOP) was published and at the time the environmental analysis commenced. The photographs show similar physical conditions exist now in 2015, as before in 2009, and are representative of quarry operations going back to the beginning of the Project study period in 2004.

The Syar EIR is, by omission and misrepresentation, combined, fundamentally flawed. It misinforms the governmental decision makers and public.

2. Baseline Emissions: Assumption, not fact, was used in the Syar EIR to develop the baseline for uncontrolled dust pollution. "Best Management Practices" were not implemented as claimed. The governmental decision makers and public were misinformed.

The following is a **direct quote** from the Syar DEIR, August 2013, page 4-3-4: **"Baseline emissions occurring at the Syar Napa Quarry are presented in Table 4.3-2 (see Appendix D). The calculations assume that the following Best Management Practices are being implemented at the quarry to control fugitive dust** as necessary to comply with opacity requirements in BAAQMD Regulation 6, Rule 1. Unpaved roads, including areas where off-road equipment is actively used, are controlled by application of water at least two times per day when there is no rain (this measure is quantified as 61% control on unpaved roads). Paved internal roads are swept as needed to reduce visible dust and no less than daily (this measure is quantified as 55% control on paved roads)."

For the study years of record, 2004-2008, based on assumption, the Syar EIR gives Syar Napa Quarry full credit for implementing “Best Management Practices”, where credit is not due. After reading page 36 in the Syar Napa Quarry Expansion, Surface Mining Permit #P08-00337 Appendix B to Final EIR, March 2015, it is obvious, the lead agency understood only “Basic Practices” were being implemented at the Project, not “Best Practices” as claimed: “Comparison of the project dust control methods to the Basic Constuction Mitigation Measures listed in the current BAAQMD CEQA Guidelines is presented in Table 5.3 below which demonstrates that the project methods are consistent with the Basic Construction Mitigation Measures.”

Factually, from 2004 to 2015, Syar Napa Quarry has implemented only “Basic Management Practices”, sporadically and ineffectually, at best. Our photographs provide conclusive, factual proof that the baseline emissions and calculations used in the Syar EIR are contrary to both direct observation and documented evidence.

Clearly, from the direct quote, above, the “baseline emissions occurring at the Syar Napa Quarry” and the “calculations” were derived from assumption, not fact. To “assume” is not objective. The following is the definition of “assume”: “To suppose to be the case without proof”. The following is the definition of “objective”: “Fact-based, measurable and observable”. The primary purpose of an EIR is to inform, factually, so decisions made are based on fact. The Syar EIR’s analysis criteria for fugitive dust control, mitigation, and compliance are based on assumption, not fact. The Syar EIR, lacking a factual basis, misinforms the governmental decision makers and public.

CEQA requires that the Syar EIR “must be subject to the lead agency’s own review and analysis and reflect the lead agency’s independent judgment with regard to scope, content, and adequacy. The lead agency is responsible for the objectivity of the draft EIR.” Obviously, the lead agency’s independent judgment and objectivity have been compromised, rendering the Syar EIR so fundamentally inadequate and conclusory as to preclude meaningful public review and comment.

3. Baseline Emissions Calculations: As explained above, the dust emission calculations, values, and the health risk assessment (HRA) used in the Syar EIR were based on false assumption, are invalid, and need to be redone. The faulty information derived from the faulty baseline emission calculations misinforms the governmental decision makers and the public and has no place in the public review and decision-making process.

4. Need to Monitor: No dust emissions monitoring, testing, analysis or study have ever been conducted on-site, on the perimeter, or in the vicinity of the Project to quantify and qualify the ambient exposure levels of respirable crystalline silica (RCS) dust pollution and its potential adverse effect on the human population.

Uncontrolled dust pollution released into the air by Syar Napa Quarry is created from crushing and processing tuff, scoria, basalt and rhyolite rock. The dust particles from freshly fractured, crushed rock from the Quarry are more harmful when inhaled than, for

instance, aged agricultural dust. A significant quantity of uncontrolled dust pollution from Syar Napa Quarry's open-pit surface mining operation and asphalt production contains freshly fractured dust particles that pose a serious health hazard at every stage of production: Blasting, crushing, processing, loading and transporting.

When operating, and even when not operating (due to wind erosion off acres of bare ground), Syar Napa Quarry releases significant quantities of respirable crystalline silica (RCS) dust into the public air space. RCS dust is particularly insidious because it is a Type 1 mutagenic carcinogen, is invisible to the human eye, remains in the air for weeks, and is carried miles by the prevailing winds. Through involuntarily exposure, the residents and visitors throughout Napa Valley are adversely affected, unknowingly. The settled residential population from Imola Ave. north to Silverado Country Club receives the greatest involuntary RCS dust exposure.

Children, the elderly, and those with existing compromised health conditions are most at risk from exposure to RCS dust. Although preventable, ill-health effects resulting from RCS dust exposure are progressive, even after exposure stops, irreversible, untreatable, and incurable. The following are just some of the serious adverse health effects from exposure to RCS dust, many of which remain sub-clinical for 10-30 years, all-the-while decreasing one's life expectancy and quality of life: Silicosis, pulmonary fibrosis, emphysema, bronchitis, renal disease, kidney disease, autoimmune disease, rheumatoid arthritis, scleroderma, lung cancer, diminished lung capacity, fatigue, chest pain, susceptibility to tuberculosis, fungal lung infection, heart disease.

The uncontrolled RCS dust pollution released by Syar Napa Quarry is transported off the Quarry property (carried by the prevailing southerly winds) into the public's common air space, and is dispersed over thousands of private residences, exposing the settled residential population, involuntarily, to this uncontrolled disease-causing dust. Skyline Wilderness Park, Napa State Hospital, schools and businesses are, also, being exposed to Syar's toxic dust pollution.

Neither Syar Industries, Inc. (the owner and polluter) nor the County (the lead agency and protector of public health with responsibility, jurisdiction, and authority) have conducted monitoring or testing of the RCS dust on either the perimeter of the Quarry property or in the community being exposed to the RCS dust. No epidemiological studies have been conducted to quantify and qualify the health effects on the human population exposed to Syar Napa Quarry's dust pollution for over 30 years (over 70 years if Basalt's mining operation is included). Both Syar Industries, Inc. and the County failed to perform in situ monitoring, testing or studies required to demonstrate the agency has made an objective, good-faith attempt at full disclosure (Guidelines sections 15003 (i), 15151).

In Appendix B to the Final EIR: Master Responses to Comments Received after Publication of November 2014 Final EIR and Proposed Project Modifications, June 2015, page 39, 5.5 Air Monitoring, paragraph 3, the County states, "Understanding that there are concerns about the existing levels of dust, the county could require air monitoring as a condition of project approval. However, ensuring that the monitoring generates

meaningful results is problematic and costly.” ... “Such a monitoring program would be quite costly and subject to interpretation. Therefore, the county has chosen not to require monitoring of dust from the quarry.” Irresponsible, unresponsive = County (lead agency).

To fulfill its social responsibility, the County (lead agency) has the authority to develop and enact directives, written in detailed, declarative language for (1) the implementation of effective mitigation, monitoring, and compliance measures and (2) to make objective, unambiguous pollution control and mitigation measures enforceable, as a condition of permit and/or Project approval.

Due to the Quarry’s size, proximity to human habitation, and its ongoing history of uncontrolled dust pollution abuse, the County must require monitoring of the RCS dust. It is wrong, irresponsible, and openly negligent to not do so, in light of the County’s foremost sworn duty: To protect public health and safety

The attached photographs are representative of the recurrent dust pollution produced by Syar Napa Quarry spanning a time period from October 26, 2009 to August 28, 2015. These are just some examples, out of the hundreds of times, we have personally witnessed uncontrolled dust pollution, containing respirable crystalline silica (RCS), being released into the air by Syar Napa Quarry in violation of its operating permit. In keeping with the guidelines established by CEQA, our testimony, personal observations, and the attached photographs constitute substantial credible evidence.

We are submitting this information and these photographs out of a general concern for the greater natural environment upon which we all depend and must strive to protect and, specifically, for the public health and well-being of our neighbors and all people living in, working in, and visiting Napa Valley.

A good corporate neighbor and a responsible County government would be responsive to this public concern, would eliminate or control this toxic dust pollution, and would willingly monitor the mining operation without being asked or forced. The technology exists and is feasible to achieve the verifiable monitoring, control and compliance needed to prevent or eliminate Syar Napa Quarry’s uncontrolled dust pollution. Remember: A permit granted to operate is not permission given to pollute. And, enforce compliance.

Footnotes:

¹ Bass, Ronald E., Kenneth M. Bogdan, and Terry Rivasplata. CEQA Deskbook. Point Arena: Solano Press Books, 2012, Second Printing, 2014., pg. 133.

² Ibid., pg. 121.

³ Ibid., pg. 121

⁴ Ibid., pg. 72.

⁵ Ibid., pg. 73



Photo #1

October 26, 2009: This photograph was taken from the River Trail west of Napa Valley College facing east. Uncontrolled dust pollution is being released into the air from several locations during a typical day of Syar Napa Quarry's surface mining operations. This dust rises, vertically, hundreds to thousands of feet into the air and spreads out, horizontally, over square miles of land. The prevailing southerly winds transport this toxic dust over large residential areas north of Imola Ave., Napa State Hospital, Skyline Wilderness Park, schools including a pre-school, and businesses, exposing the human population, involuntarily, and often unknowingly, to respirable crystalline silica (RCS), a mutagenic, carcinogen.

This photograph was taken shortly after we learned about the proposed Syar Napa Quarry Project plans.



Photo #2

October 26, 2009: This photograph was taken from the River Trail West of Napa Valley College facing east. Uncontrolled dust pollution is being released into the air during a typical day of Syar Napa Quarry's surface mining operation.



Photo #3

March 31, 2015: This photograph was taken on the south loop of the Kennedy Park trail facing east. The uncontrolled dust pollution was being blown by an east wind on to this public park trail. This wind-blown dust came off the Syar Napa Quarry sand piles and roadway. With no way or time to escape, the dust engulfed the father and son riding their bikes and us.

This is an example of the uncontrolled, wind-blown dust pollution occurring on a regular basis from Syar Napa Quarry's hundreds of bare, exposed acres of land. This vast, large-scale dust pollution degrades the air quality in Napa, locally, and throughout the entire Napa Valley, adversely affecting the health of all people, plants, and animals.



Photo #4

April 4, 2015: This is a “still” photograph from a video taken by a hiker from a vantage point in Skyline Park east of one of Syar Napa Quarry’s processing areas. The view is looking southwest. The uncontrolled dust pollution is being released into the air space from processing equipment lacking effective dust suppression in violation of the Quarry’s operating permit. This demonstrates Syar Napa Quarry’s lax operating practices and its failure to comply with air quality regulations and standards, resulting in occupational exposure abuse while also degrading the ambient air quality for the entire Napa region.



Photo #5

April 30, 2015: This photograph was taken from the south loop of Kennedy Park facing east. The uncontrolled dust pollution is being released into the air from Syar Napa Quarry's AB processing area. The prevailing south wind is blowing the dust north exposing the human population, involuntarily.

This dust pollution is a recurrent violation of air quality regulations and standards. Authorities do not enforce compliance and enable these bad practices to continue; so, the abuse goes on. This is why the lead agency must require dust pollution control compliance with strict oversight and enforcement as a condition of permit approval. Dust control and compliance cannot be left to the discretion of Syar Napa Quarry; they have a bad habit and long history of creating unchecked, uncontrolled dust pollution.



Photo #6

August 27, 2015: This photograph was taken from the south parking lot at Kennedy Park facing east. This uncontrolled dust pollution covers square miles. Most of this dust pollution was released from Syar Napa Quarry's processing areas. Why has Syar Napa Quarry been allowed to pollute with impunity? Why does the County of Napa enable this flagrant violation of Napa Valley's air quality?

Syar Napa Quarry is located in the County but primarily pollutes residents in the City of Napa. Why does the City of Napa allow the County of Napa to issue a use permit to an industry like Syar Napa Quarry that pollutes people in their homes, businesses and schools in Napa?

We have filed yet another complaint with the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) asking them to investigate and stop Syar Napa Quarry's wanton, uncontrolled dust pollution. After all, BAAQMD, has jurisdiction and authority over Syar Napa Quarry and issues the Quarry's operating permit. Our past complaints have been dismissed, with the comments, "We didn't find any violations." and "We didn't find any problems with their operation."

Public Response: People in authority need to get out of their offices more often. On behalf of the public at risk, think outside the Project applicant's "wants" box.

From the Board Agenda Letter on the County Website, Agenda Date: 9/2/15, Report by: Donald Barrella, Planner III -707-299-1338, Syar Napa Quarry EIR Public Hearing:

Quote: “In response to recent complaints filed with the BAAQMD by local residents (March 23, 2015 and May 1, 2015) County staff has had several follow up conversations with BAAQMD inspectors (John Lawton, Michael Wall, and Sanjeev Kmboj) to determine if violations of the BAAQMD operating permit have occurred. During these conversations BAAQMD inspectors have repeatedly stated that provisions of Syar’s operating permit including dust emission, have not been violated.”

Public Response: If one doesn’t look, one doesn’t find.

Evidently, the integrity of the County and the BAAQMD has been compromised. At the very least, the quote above is conclusory, perhaps more an expression of conspiratorial negligence, and at worst, an openly complicit approval of criminal negligence.

Look at the photographs and then decide. In Syar Napa Quarry’s case, it does seem someone is asleep at the inspection/compliance/enforcement/citation control switch.



Photo #7

August 27, 2015: This photograph is a closer view taken at the same time from the same location as Photo #6. The AB processing area is visible center right at the tip of the pine tree. The processing area behind the AC plant is located to the left at the tree line.



Photo #8

September 8, 2015: This photograph was taken from the south parking lot at Kennedy Park facing northeast. This uncontrolled dust pollution is north of the dust pollution shown in **Photos #6 & #7**. At this time, the air was quite still, but soon after taking the photo the dust began moving north, toward the large residential areas, Napa State Hospital, schools, and Skyline Wilderness Park. This dust fills the public air space degrading air quality, and adversely affecting human health. There is no justification for this blatant social abuse, affecting thousands of people. This uncontrolled toxic dust pollution is caused by a single business operation, Syar Napa Quarry. Best operating practices and technology exist to stop this air pollution. We have witnessed these best practices and technology in operation controlling dust pollution at a nearby quarry with production levels similar to Syar Napa Quarry.

At the Planning Commission meeting, September 2, 2015, the Planning Commissioners and public were reassured by Syar's legal counsel and Syar representatives that dust controls were in place to control the dust pollution. This photograph was taken Tuesday of the following week. Please, be the judge.

We have observed Syar Napa Quarry's operating practices from 2006 – 2015. With minor exceptions, their uncontrolled dust pollution continues unabated.



Photo #9

September 8, 2015: This photograph was taken from Foster Road on the west side of the Napa Valley facing east. The uncontrolled dust pollution from Syar Napa Quarry, containing significant quantities of cancer causing respirable crystalline silica (RCS), extends numerous square miles, primarily blanketing the Napa Valley College, the Golf Course, Kennedy Park, Skyline Wilderness Park, Napa State Hospital, schools, pre-schools, businesses, all people traveling on Hwy. 121/29, the South Napa Market Place, the Kaiser Road Industrial Park, Meritage Hotel, the soon-to-be Napa Pipe Development, and thousands of residential homes from Imola to Silverado Country Club.

The cancer rate for invasive cancers in Napa Valley is 20 percent higher than the State average. Do you wonder why the County and Syar Napa Quarry have never monitored/ tested the Quarry's uncontrolled dust pollution? The County acknowledges it has the authority to require monitoring/testing but is unresponsive to citizens request to do so. To quote the County Staff Report, "Understanding that there are concerns about the existing levels of dust, the county could require air monitoring as a condition of project approval. However, ensuring that the monitoring generates meaningful results is problematic and costly." ... "Such a monitoring program would be quite costly and subject to interpretation. Therefore, the county has chosen not to require monitoring of dust from the quarry." Does the public approve of the County's conclusory, wrong-headed choice? We think not. The County, BAAQMD, and Syar Industries, Inc. need to revisit the importance, intent, purpose, and requirements of an EIR and the CEQA.



Photo #10

September 8, 2015: This photograph was taken from Foster Road on the west side of Napa Valley facing southeast. This layer of uncontrolled dust pollution shows how the air moves south in the early morning. The air in Napa Valley is tidal-like, moving as a mass north during the day, going slack during the night, then, moving as a mass south early to mid-morning before reversing and moving north again. The hot air balloons ride the air south from Yountville and land in Napa before the air begins moving north mid-morning. Unless there is a strong wind or rain, the air in Napa Valley is trapped and accumulates pollutants.

This is why the uncontrolled dust pollution and other toxic emissions released by Syar Napa Quarry are of such great concern. The toxic air, this tidal air mass, moves up and down the valley, concentrating pollutants and reducing air quality. With its GHGs, dust pollution, diesel exhaust pollution, concrete recycling pollution, and pollution from its 2 asphalt plants, Syar Napa Quarry is one of the larger polluters in Napa Valley, if not the largest.

Because of its location, Syar Napa Quarry must be required to implement extraordinary emission controls, monitoring/testing of its emissions, and compliance enforcement. And, if Syar Industries, Inc. wants to be the good neighbor it claims to be, it should voluntarily implement all of the controls necessary to protect the public and stop the pollution. At present, Syar is a bad neighbor and its operation is incompatible with its location.



Photo #11

September 9, 2015: This photo was taken on the west side of the road across from the entrance/exit to Syar Napa Quarry facing east. The uncontrolled dust pollution released into the air from the two trucks is typical. We have witnessed this countless times between 2006 – today, actually, 9-16-15.

Two weeks ago, today, at the Planning Commission Meeting of 9-2-15, Syar representatives testified this road dust was being controlled.

The EIR and the Project applicant state, this road dust is controlled by use of a street sweeper. Also, they state, trackout onto public paved roads will be controlled by the length of the internal paved road.

Again, what is said to be the case by the Project applicant and the County is not the same as what is the case in fact.

Employees of the businesses along Syar’s internal roadway, e.g. Pacific Supply, are exposed to this uncontrolled toxic dust pollution. Also, drivers and passengers in vehicles on the public roadway are exposed to this uncontrolled toxic dust. This toxic dust enters the common air space, repeatedly violating air quality standards.



Photo #12

September 9, 2015: This photograph was taken from the west side of the roadway across from the entrance/exit to Syar Napa Quarry looking south. This photo shows the uncontrolled dust pollution released into the air by a truck traveling down the merge lane to enter the stream of traffic going south.

Drivers and passengers on the Napa-Vallejo Highway are involuntarily exposed to toxic dust. This dust is continuously re-suspended in the air along the traffic corridor from Imola to Kaiser Road and beyond.



Photo #13

September 9, 2015: This photograph was taken from the west side of the road across from the entrance/exit of Syar Napa Quarry facing south. This photo shows a college student riding his bike down the shoulder of the road while the double-trailer, diesel powered aggregate truck is merging into traffic. The bicycle rider is being exposed involuntarily to uncontrolled toxic dust pollution from Syar Napa Quarry.



Photo #14

September 9, 2015: This photograph was taken from the east side of the roadway at the entrance to Cakebread Vineyards facing northeast. This photo shows the uncontrolled dust pollution produced at Syar Napa Quarry's lower processing areas behind the AC plant. The dust rises hundreds of feet, vertically, into the air and spreads out over thousands of feet in all directions, horizontally.

The visible dust contains respirable crystalline silica (RCS) a cancer-causing, mutagenic carcinogen. The RCS dust particulate is 2.5 millionths of a meter in diameter and is invisible to the human eye. For comparison, it is the size of bacteria. Get out your microscope.

As the visible dust disperses in the atmosphere and settles out of the air in time and over distance, the invisible RCS particulate matter stays suspended for weeks and can travel the full length of the Napa Valley, and beyond, causing serious adverse health effects of many kinds when inhaled. It is especially harmful to children and the elderly and those with existing health conditions, respiratory conditions in particular.

That is why the dust you see in these photos must be controlled and why Syar Napa Quarry and the County are being irresponsible and negligent in allowing this uncontrolled, toxic dust pollution to continue. And, that is why every person living, working, and visiting Napa Valley must demand an end to this uncontrolled, toxic dust pollution. Monitoring and effective dust control are absolutely essential.

These are just some of hundreds of photographs and videos showing examples of the uncontrolled, toxic dust pollution released by Syar Napa Quarry during typical operations over the years and today.

To repeat, we are submitting this information and these photographs out of a general concern for the greater natural environment upon which we all depend and must strive to protect and, specifically, for the public health and well-being of our neighbors and all the people living in, working in, and visiting Napa Valley.

Please enter the contents of this letter with photographs into the public administrative record for the Syar EIR. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Steven and Sandra Booth

Stop Syar Expansion

952 School Street, #297
Napa, CA 94559
Email: stopsyarexpansion@gmail.com

Barrella, Donald

From: Amy Martenson <eamartenson@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Sunday, September 13, 2015 9:43 PM
To: Barrella, Donald
Subject: Notification List and Opposition to the Syar Expansion

Dear Mr. Barrella:

I am writing to request that I be put on the notification list for the Syar expansion proposal.

I would also like to express my opposition to the expansion and my support for the "No Project" option.

As an employee of the Napa Valley Unified School District, a Napa Valley College Trustee, and as a Napa resident who lives within ten miles of the quarry, I am opposed due to the health risk of crystalline silica exposure to the students and staff at the court community schools, Napa Valley College employees and students, and to myself and my neighbors.

There is no justification for putting people's health at risk and permanently marring the landscape for any business venture, but especially for an unsustainable one such as this that will only last for the next 35 years.

Sincerely,

E. Amy Martenson

Napa