



**AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION IN CALIFORNIA**  
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July 11, 2016

Donald Barrella, Planner III  
 Napa County Department of Planning, Building & Environmental Services  
 Engineering and Conservation Division  
 1195 Third St. #210  
 Napa CA 94559

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Napa County Planning, Building  
 & Environmental Services

Dear Mr. Barrella,

The mission of the American Lung Association in California is to save lives by improving lung health and preventing lung disease. For more than 100 years the American Lung Association has fought some of the country's greatest health threats. Today, Californians still breathe the worst air in the nation, with more than 80 percent of us living in areas with unhealthy air.

The American Lung Association in California is submitting this letter to express concerns about the potential for health impacts from the proposed Syar Quarry Expansion Project and to urge additional monitoring to properly quantify the health impacts of the operation on an ongoing basis. After reviewing the EIR and issues raised by residents, we are particularly concerned that the proposed project may have increased health risks to the community and the workers exposed to various hazards, including increased air pollution, dust and silica from both the operations and truck traffic. Due to the known hazards of exposure to silica, the federal government recently set stricter standards for the workplace. Symptoms of silicosis can appear from a few weeks to many years after exposure to silica dust. Silicosis affects the lungs by damaging the lining of the lung air sacs. Once this begins, it leads to scarring and, in some situations, to a condition called progressive massive fibrosis. This condition happens when there is severe scarring and stiffening of the lung, which makes it difficult to breathe.

Air pollution and exposure to toxic dusts are critical public health issues. While everyone is at risk, people with lung disease, children and the elderly are most vulnerable. The county has the authority to require testing and monitoring of cancer causing dust, black carbon and toxic air contaminants and we urge the county to require monitoring and testing as part of the permit operations. If the Syar Expansion Project is approved without a plan for additional and ongoing monitoring, residents living in the area may be exposed to harmful air pollution, dust and toxins caused by the operation of the project.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

*Bonnie Holmes-Gen*

Bonnie Holmes Gen  
 Senior Director, Air Quality and Climate Change  
 American Lung Association in California

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