

**From:** Matthew and Kimberly Gibson  
6110 Martin Lane, Ione, CA 95640

**To:** Chuck Beatty, Planning Director, Amador County.

**Date:** June 30, 2023

**Re:** UP-06;9-2 Jackson Valley Quarry Amended Permit

My name is Matthew S. Gibson. My wife and I object to the amended permit proposal for the Jackson Valley rock quarry (UP-06;9-2). We moved here about 17 years ago as we were taken aback by this valley's peace, beauty, and amazing neighbors. At this time, the George Reed rock quarry was nothing but a small speck near Hwy 88 and it effectively had little impact for us. As the years progressed however, this small speck used incremental creep to become the behemoth it is today, bringing with it a whole host of other problems.

Today, we are subject to blasts, beep beep beep sounds from trucks, rocks hitting metal beds, and the overall sounds emitting from the hard rock quarry. We are about 2 miles away and according to George Reed, we are essentially not in the immediate sphere of influence. I can tell you this is not the case. Daily we are subject to the excessive noise from the quarry, and it has impacted (some might say destroyed) our peace, use, and enjoyment of our property.

I realize that rock/gravel must come from somewhere. However, the way quarry has conducted itself is seemingly outside the bounds of normal activity. Over the years the quarry has pushed inch by inch to expand their operations. In doing so, they have taken away some of the rights of their neighbors. For example, the mountain that was once there (to protect the emitting sound) is now gone. In its place we are treated to large piles of baren dirt and overburden that run the property line. Located therein are multiple towers, rock crushing facilities and a plethora quarry machinery and trucks. The end results that they have created an amphitheater for the sound to travel throughout the entire valley. I have looked at their sound data, I find it highly suspect. Simply put, how is it that years ago we barely heard any quarry operations. Today, it is non-stop. We are told to not believe a lying ears.

George Reed now proposes to have weekday hours from 6:00 a.m. to 10 p.m., and weekend hours from 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. This is the last straw. We must act before they destroy the last remnants of the peace and quiet for which the Jackson Valley is known.

For example, the extension to 10:00 pm during weekday is not only wrong, but it is also offensive. Like many, we sleep with the windows open at night to save on electricity and to enjoy the sounds of nature in the valley. We have a 3-story house. Our bedroom is on the second story. The quarry sounds hit directly into the second and third stories. Imagine trying to go to bed early so you can get up at 4:30 a.m. to travel to work (or work on your farm). Instead of hearing the peaceful sounds of nature, you are subject to the sounds of heavy haul trucks, rock crushing activities, and all the sounds associated with a hard rock quarry. Not only is this

annoying, but it also borders on noise pollution. One of the very basic rights of all property owners is to use and enjoy their property without outside influence. The sounds emitting from the quarry greatly affects this right. This is not trivial.

Moreover, the very fact they are proposing this extension gives us valuable insight into their motivations and the seeming lack of respect for their neighbors. For example, we have a small family winery on the property. If we take George Reed's position, we should be able to conduct weddings on the property until 10:00 pm. In my opinion, this would be very selfish and I would not do this to my neighbors. Can you imagine the constant noise from the cars, music, dancing, and other matters associated with a wedding venue. Now substitute George Reed in this equation. This is effectively what they are doing. The only difference is that they are conducting hard rock mining; something much worse.

Concerning the proposed Saturday hours of operation, this also gives us some valuable insight into their motivations. Presently, despite the weekday rock quarry noises, we at least have the weekends to enjoy the peace and quiet of our properties. It is common to have family and friends over on the weekend to all share in valuable fellowship and comradery. George Reed's proposed operations on a Saturday would effectively destroy one of these two days. If you allow them to operate from 7:00 am to 3:00 pm on Saturdays, this only leaves Sunday for one day without rock quarry noise emitting throughout the valley. If this takes place, this is essentially the last nail in the coffin for the Jackson Valley.

Simply put, if these proposals are approved, it would greatly affect the entire Jackson Valley. As I mentioned before, this incremental creep has resulted in a once tiny operation transmuted itself into a huge sound and environmental impact belching behemoth that has become a nuisance. If this continues, we will have no option but to use all legal remedies available to stop this one-sided activity.

I hereby formally request you please turn down this proposal. To do otherwise puts the rights of one against those of the many. Please do the right thing. It is time.

Respectfully submitted.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Matthew S. Gibson", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Matthew S. Gibson, Esq.  
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