

June 30, 2023

Chuck Beatty, Planning Director, Amador County, CA

Subject: Opposition to Amendment to Use Permit (UP-06;9-2) to allow for modified hours of operation.

The primary emphasis for the Reed Quarry, Inc. modified hours of operation appear to be to enable the Quarry to compete with a competitor. That is George Reed's problem, not the residents of Jackson Valley and Amador County. The simple solution to save everyone's time and energies is for Reed to withdraw the modified hours of operation and continue to operate 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday with weekend operations, if State or Federal Agencies declare an emergency.

George Reed Quarry, Inc. will propose to the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) on July 6, 2023 an Amendment to Use Permit (UP-06;9-2) to allow for modified hours of operation. Currently the Quarry can operate six a.m. to six p.m. Monday through Friday with weekend operations, if State or Federal Agencies declare an emergency. Reed is proposing that the Quarry be allowed to operate from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, with the caveat that they still be allowed to operate outside the amended hours to meet project demands or maximize power supply management.

We have obtained and reviewed all documents submitted in conjunction with the Proposal, including the Project Description and Application Supplement, the 2013 CEQA Initial Study and Supplemental Mitigated Negative Declaration, the Environmental Noise and Vibration Assessment, and the Early Consultation Review. All of these documents point to the intent of George Reed Quarry, Inc. to have TAC approve the Project Proposal and issue a negative declaration.

We believe that TAC will rubber stamp the proposed project and issue a negative declaration despite any objections that might be raised by opponents of the Project in person or by ZOOM. While lip service may be given to opposition points raised, TAC will then forward its recommendations to the Planning Commission. We have little hope that the Planning Commission will intervene and require a full environmental analysis and report under CEQA. Regrettably we and our neighbors in Jackson Valley and surrounding area will have to convince the Board of Supervisors' to reject the proposed project.

Approval of the Project will have a significant and permanent negative effect on the quality of life and property values for all of us who live in the valley and surrounding areas. There will be significant negative impacts to traffic, roads, noise, air quality, pollution, lighting and the biological environment. Lighting will be a major cause of negative impacts on nocturnal animals and nesting and flying birds. There will be negative impacts on creatures living on/in any current wetlands and those created by heavy rainfalls. Flora and fauna will also be negatively impacted.

Virtually all of the mitigation measures required under the 2013 CEQA Initial Study and Supplemental Mitigated Negative Declaration, the Project Description and Application Supplement, the Environmental Noise and Vibration Assessment, and the Early Consultation Review suggest that the vast majority of mitigation measures show that there is no impact on the

environment. A few show that there is less than significant impact. We call your attention to the statement on page 43, item C of the Early Consultation Review. Item C says “Does the Project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?” According to the checked box, there would be less than significant impact. We beg to differ. It would have significant adverse impact on us and all residents of Jackson Valley and surrounding area, and a negative impact on home and property values. This is another instance where the Project should be terminated immediately. If not terminated, a new complete environmental impact report and analysis under CEQA should be conducted by an independent consulting firm to be free of bias.

We look forward to pursuing our concerns at the TAC on July 6th, the Planning Commission and ultimately the Board of Supervisors.

Sincerely,

William “Bill” May

Sharon May