

S.F. SUPERVISORS REJECT SUNOL QUARRY PLAN

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San Francisco – The San Francisco Board of Supervisors passed a resolution introduced by Supervisor Chris Daly yesterday, urging the S. F. Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) to discontinue its plans for a controversial expansion of gravel quarry operations in the Sunol Valley. The resolution, which passed by a vote of 6-1, also directs the City Attorney to provide options for ending the quarrying contract given to Mission Valley Rock Co. (MVR), approved by the previous Board of Supervisors last year. After touring the Sunol Valley on April 22, and citing air and water quality concerns and the overwhelming opposition of Sunol residents, Supervisor Daly declared that the Board of Supervisors “has an obligation to stop the quarry expansion.”

“This is a new era for the City of San Francisco’s relations with their neighbors in Sunol” declared Pat Stillman, President of Save Our Sunol, which has been fighting the quarry expansion for seven years. “We trust the City Attorney will find a way to stop this project, which would destroy our rural valley.” “Given the permit violations by Mission Valley Rock, the damage the current quarries have caused, and the potential impacts to sensitive species, the City should be able to find a way to protect the public trust, and revoke the permit for the quarry expansion” said Jeff Miller, Director of the Alameda Creek Alliance. The Alameda Creek Alliance has opposed the quarry expansion due to concern over impacts to groundwater and surface flow in Alameda Creek, and habitat for several sensitive wildlife species in the Sunol Valley - including steelhead trout, the California red-legged frog, Alameda whipsnake, and California tiger salamander.

MVR currently operates a gravel quarry on public land leased from the SFPUC in the Sunol Valley south of Interstate 680. Research by the Alameda Creek Alliance has uncovered at least 19 violations by MVR of their water discharge permits for this quarry since January of 2000. According to reports filed with the San Francisco Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB), MVR has consistently polluted Alameda Creek with discharge water exceeding legal turbidity and pH standards – standards which were relaxed by the RWQCB so as to not place an “inordinate burden” on MVR. MVR also had 13 violations of their Bay Area Air Quality Management District permit between 1993 and 2000. The previous S. F. Board of Supervisors approved a lease in September of 2000 allowing

MVR to excavate an additional 242 acres north of Interstate 680, adjacent to the newly restored Sunol Water Temple and Alameda Creek.