

S. JOSEPH SIMITIAN
SANTA CLARA COUNTY SUPERVISOR, DISTRICT FIVE

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March 1, 2016

Mr. Kari Saragusa,
Lehigh Hanson, Inc.
12667 Alcosta Blvd., Suite 400
San Ramon, CA 94583

Dear Mr. Saragusa:

Over the past year, the County has received an on-going series of noise complaints associated with cement plant operations. As a result, the County in cooperation with Lehigh oversaw a noise study by Burns & McDonnell that was published at the end of 2015. In addition, County staff issued their own noise study and commissioned a peer review of the Burns & McDonnell study.

As you know, the studies did not find noise violations taking place when measurements were taken; and yet my office and County staff continue to receive complaints. My hope is that in the spirit of being a good neighbor, Lehigh will consider voluntary efforts to mitigate the sound impacts of its operations.

I know the plant operators have already taken some steps in that direction. My understanding is that in 2015 plant operators modified fan operations. Anecdotal evidence suggests those changes resulted in a noticeable reduction in the level of disturbance experienced by neighbors.

While it was a step in the right direction, unfortunately, it did not reduce the sound coming from the stacks enough to eliminate the noise complaints received at the County. I hope there are additional, voluntary steps you can and will consider to further mitigate noise impacts.

At the end of the day, the real issue isn't one of technical compliance, it's an issue of legitimate concerns about a problem that could be mitigated by voluntary

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action. A number of your neighbors have suggested greater regulation and/or stricter compliance standards. I'm hoping, however, that voluntary mitigations prove to be effective.

I appreciate your willingness to consider this request and look forward to discussing it further with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "S. Joseph Simitian". The signature is stylized with a large "S" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

S. Joseph Simitian
County Supervisor, Fifth District