

***Feb. 2009 - application is submitted** to operate aggregate quarry, asphalt and concrete recycling, and **asphalt concrete manufacturing** facility. Early correspondence obtained from public records indicates that county planning staff considered moving the project forward with just a Negative Declaration. CEQA mandates that open-pit mining operations require an Environmental Impact Report (EIR). Applicant begins commissioning various environmental studies yet no scoping has occurred.

***Dec. 10, 2009** - Santa Margarita Area Residents Together (SMART) drafts a **letter to the county** informing them that according to table 2-2, footnote 6 in the Land Use Ordinance (LUO), asphalt manufacturing and asphalt and concrete recycling are not allowed uses in the land use category Rural Lands (RL).

***Jan. 2010** - Planning decides a **LUO interpretation hearing** is prudent in order to clarify the specific language found in Table 2-2 footnote 6.

***Feb. 11, 2010 - Planning Commission** hears planning's argument for asphalt production on RL and denies it 5-0.

***March 9, 2011 - Board of Supervisors (BOS)** hears planning's argument for asphalt production on RL and denies it 5-0.

***March 23, 2011** - Las Pilitas Resources LLC submits **Revised application** with following opening statement: *"It is unfortunate that Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors determined that the only way to produce asphalt concrete in SLO county is to extract and refine crude oil on the property or locate asphalt (production) on land zoned Industrial. **Going forward with our permit application and subsequent EIR, we request that San Luis Obispo County planning refrain from mentioning asphalt paving production is association with this project.**"* Asphalt and Concrete Recycling remains in the newly revised application despite not being an allowed use.

***July 1, 2010** - Planning Department circulates **Original Request for Proposals (RFP)** seeking EIR proposals. RFP cites Aug. 3, 2010 as deadline for submittals.

***July 8, 2010** - Planning Department holds a **scoping meeting** @ Santa Margarita Community Center to hear community concerns. Hall is full at a time when people are just beginning to hear about the proposed project.

***Aug. 9, 2010** - Scoping letter **deadline**. County planning receives over 200 letters with serious concerns regarding foreseeable impacts this project would introduce into the community. The deadline was extended from 8/3/10.

***Sept. 20, 2010** - Applicant files a **waiver** seeking exemption from existing ordinances to operate an asphalt and concrete recycling facility. Incomplete, inaccurate, and misleading information are presented as the foundation for much of the justification presented.

***Dec. 2010** - Planning Department chooses **Benchmark Resources** to prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR). Applicant's agent (Ken Johnston) applicant's attorney (Sophie Treder), and planning staff were present for interviews.

***Dec. 2010-April 2011** – Period of **little activity**. Applicant has not yet funded the (over 400k) EIR necessary to move project forward.

***Jan.- April 2011** – **Letters** from public comment on the bias towards industry reflected on Benchmark's own website.

***April 2011** – Planning Dept. **pulls tentative contract with Benchmark** due to what they call "a public perception problem at a time when we least need one."

***April 26, 2011** – Applicant and their hired consultants, attorneys, employees, and various business associates stage a **verbal protest** at the BOS during consent agenda comments period.

***April 29, 2011** – Planning Dept. **re-circulates the RFP** soliciting new EIR proposals from 25 firms.

***June 2011**–**An actual selection** committee with Public Works and Air Pollution Control District (APCD) represented, and without applicant's presence, **chooses URS Corporation** from the pool of proposals.

***June 21, 2011**– BOS approves the contract with URS. Letters from public present evidence that the project description and Initial Study Summary (ISS) subsequently prepared by county staff contain inaccurate **information that appears intentionally meant to be misleading.**

***July 2011** – **URS begins work** on the EIR.

***Sept. 18, 2011** – URS is working on **preparing the project description**. No work on environmental analysis has begun.

