

APPENDIX O

TESTIMONIALS REGARDING GRAVEL INDUSTRY

MERCER, FRASER COMPANY

General Contractors and Engineers

SINCE 1870

P.O. BOX 1006 • 17071 443-6371
EUREKA, CALIFORNIA 95502-1006

APRIL 22, 1992

THE GRAVEL FROM THE RIVERS IN HUMBOLDT, TRINITY, DEL NORTE, AND MENDOCINO COUNTIES IS THE MOST ECONOMICAL AND PRACTICAL MATERIAL FOR USE IN ALL CONSTRUCTION FOR HOMES, ROADS, SUBDIVISIONS, AND ANY OTHER CONSTRUCTION REQUIRING CONCRETE, ASPHALT MIX, OR PLAIN RIVER GRAVEL FILL.

IF CURRENT GRAVEL OPERATIONS ARE PROHIBITED FROM OBTAINING RIVER GRAVEL IN ORDER TO CONTINUE OPERATING, AND ARE FORCED TO USE OTHER SOURCES NAMELY ROCK QUARRIES OR IMPORTED MATERIALS FROM OTHER STATES THE PRICE OF THE PRODUCT WOULD BE PROHIBITIVE, ESPECIALLY TO NEW HOME BUILDERS AND TO BUILDING CONTRACTORS WHO USE CONCRETE AND ROCK PRODUCTS.

THIS ALONE WOULD DAMAGE OUR LOCAL ECONOMY, PROBABLY BRINGING ALL CONSTRUCTION TO A STAND STILL. THIS WOULD INCLUDE HIGHWAY AND BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION. THE MINING OF RIVER GRAVEL MUST CONTINUE FOR THE SAKE OF THE ECONOMY IN OUR AREA, WITHOUT THIS RESOURCE OUR ECONOMY IS CONDEMNED TO COMPLETE FAILURE.

SINCERELY,


FREDERICK O. BOTT,
PRESIDENT

EUREKA READY MIX CONCRETE CO., INC.

EUREKA SAND & GRAVEL

P.O. Box 3568
Eureka, CA 95902-3568

Mr. William O. Davis
Dun and Martinek
Attorneys at Law
730 Seventh St., Suite B
Eureka, CA. 95501

April 23, 1992

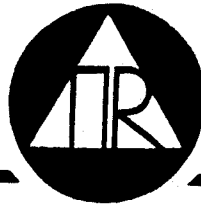
Dear Mr. Davis,

I am sending you this letter to answer your question on alternate gravel sources in our area. At the present time there are no other sources for gravel in our local area other than the Mad, Eel, and Van Dusen rivers. I see no reason to believe this will change in the future. There are a few rock quarries locally but they deal in large, 1 foot in diameter and larger, granite rock that would not be a usable material to make the products we need.

If these rivers were to be closed to gravel extraction it would have a devastating effect on our local economy. Unable to supply area contractors with concrete, sand and gravel they need to build homes and commercial buildings, we would be forced to close down. These possible river closures would also affect asphalt plants which supply materials to paving contractors.

Sincerely,

Larry McLaughlin
Larry McLaughlin
Eureka Readymix Co.



CONSTRUCTION CO., INC.

5503 WALNUT DRIVE ■ EUREKA, CA 95501 ■ 707-443-2118

APRIL 22, 1992

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

R.A.O. CONSTRUCTION COMPANY IS CONCERNED ABOUT RECENT RUMORS THAT PERMITS WILL NOT BE ISSUED FOR ANY EXTRACTION OF GRAVEL ON THE MAD RIVER AND ONLY A FEW PERMITS ISSUED ON THE EEL RIVER.

IF THIS WERE TO INDEED HAPPEN IT WOULD BE AN ECONOMICAL DISASTER TO R.A.O. CONSTRUCTION AND MANY OTHER BUSINESSES IN THIS AREA. IF A LOCAL BUSINESS COULD NOT SUPPLY US WITH SAND, GRAVEL, CONCRETE AND ASPHALT WE WOULD BE FORCED OUT OF BUSINESS. WE EMPLOY AN AVERAGE OF TEN PEOPLE FULL TIME AND ANOTHER SIX TO EIGHT PART TIME. THESE PEOPLE WOULD ALSO BE OUT OF WORK.

WE URGE YOU TO CONSIDER THE EFFECT NOT ISSUING PERMITS WOULD HAVE ON THIS COMMUNITY.

YOURS TRULY,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Rich Olson'.

RICH OLSON
PRESIDENT
R.A.O. CONSTRUCTION CO., INC.



April 22, 1992

To Whom It May Concern:

We are writing this letter in response to what affect the possibility of not having any local gravel will do to our business.

We are a general contractor, building residential and commercial projects. We use gravel, and concrete in our daily business.

In the event we have to import gravel, or go to a different method of construction, it could become quite costly and the new home builder may think twice about building his home in our local area. Or the commercial builder will think twice about building a new building or remodeling an old one in our area because the cost is much too high. Why build here, when you could build in Redding, Crescent City, etc. much lower.

Gravel and Concrete are the foundations of all building projects, and without it we can have no projects, and no forward growth for our County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan J. Johnson".

Dan J. Johnson

KRAMER PROPERTIES, INC.

1653 MYRTLE AVENUE • EUREKA, CA 95501 • (707) 444-2919

April 23, 1992

To whom it may concern:

This letter is in regard to the availability of readimix products (concrete, sand, gravel and asphalt).

We are a development/construction company and we use concrete, sand, gravel and asphalt regularly. We employ seven (7) individuals on a full-time basis. If the above mentioned readimix products were unavailable our business would be unoperational and our employees would be unemployed.

We hope this situation can be resolved and the permits issued soon.

Sincerely,



Kurt G. Kramer
President

ARCATA READIMIX

P.O. Box 4657 Arcata, California 95521

Phone (707) 822-1795

April 23, 1992

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Immediate action is needed on our local rivers concerning the extraction of sand and gravel materials. These natural resources must be processed for use in construction of concrete and asphalt. In an already depressed and unemployed county, we need to find a balance between man and nature. If current gravel operations are not permitted, we will have to import these materials. The cost would be prohibitive. The damage to our local economy would bring construction to a halt. We cannot afford the impact this would have on our local owned businesses and their employees. The domino effect of this would be devastating to the economy and the quality of life of residents of the North coast.

Sincerely,



Bill O'Neill
President



April 23, 1992

To Whom it May Concern:

It has recently come to my attention that permits have not yet been issued to extract gravel from the lower Mad River bar.

If this is not corrected soon, the agencies responsible for delaying this process will be making a major policy error.

Without a stable gravel supply, our local area's ability to produce gravel for asphalt and concrete will be seriously impacted. Both of these items are already in short supply, and are both necessary for maintaining our county's infrastructure.

The lower Mad River has long been a source of gravel for these purposes, and it is necessary that this continue. I understand and believe that environmental implications must be considered and we must strive for balance and fairness in our decision making and policy decisions.

This would include the impact of not harvesting the gravel - to the businesses that harvest the gravel, the employees and families that depend upon this to put food on the table and pay rent, and the end users of the gravel.

This gravel is eventually used to supply much needed housing, concrete for medical facilities, roads, employment, and a variety of other uses that benefit our society.

All of these factors should be entered into the equation.

It is my hope that action is taken soon so that these people can get back to business, and their employees can get out of the unemployment line.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Smith
President GENERAL CONTRACTORS



DENIS E. COSBY CONSTRUCTION

General Building and Concrete Construction
 5000 West End Road, Suite #4 • Arcata, CA 95521 • (707) 822-2112
 Lic. No. 43797a

May 8, 1992

Department of Fish and Game
 Attention: Banky Curtis

Re: Gravel Extraction on local river bars

Gentlemen:

I wish to voice my concerns on the detrimental effects that closure of local rivers to gravel extraction will have.

I first want to mention that I do have concern for ecology and the environment. If I saw neglect or destructive actions purposefully taken that would harm the rivers, I would be taking these same steps in support of closure. Instead I have witnessed well planned, enacted and supervised gravel harvesting. Steps were taken to ensure water depth maintenance, flow stability and done at a time of the year for the least amount of impact on the river habitat. How much more can a business do in good faith to stay in business. Gravel is used in all phases of construction from road and foundation fill to concrete, asphalt and landscaping needs. The pressure on builders to supply affordable housing is greater than ever, yet nothing is happening to make that realistic; lumber prices through the roof, developers impact fees and escalating land prices. Gravel prices have doubled in the last two years and the outlook for gravel prices soaring is near with acceptance of a river bar closure. It comes down to jobs again; if you can't afford to build affordable housing, you can't stay in business, no work, no jobs.

The recent turn of events regarding development and the difficulty with project approval leads me to conclude that the agenda for the Audubon Society is singular: shut down development in Humboldt County completely. A narrow view which has no consideration for the welfare of the citizen and economy of Humboldt County.

Thank you for your time.

Denis E. Cosby
 Denis E. Cosby
 Denis E. Cosby Construction

DEC/tm

WES GREEN LANDSCAPING AND MATERIALS
5611 HEINDON RD
ARCATA, CA 95521
(707) 822-8035

May 8, 1992

Department of Fish & Game
Banky E. Curtis
Regional Manager
601 Locust St
Redding, CA 96001

Dear Mr. Curtis:

My name is Wes Green. I am an Excavating Contractor in Arcata. I am writing this letter in regards to the permits that are pending of the extraction of the gravel on the Mad River.

My company alone uses on the average of 15 to 20 thousand yards of gravel per year. With the economy and recent disaster of the earthquake, that we have had in our area, we will be using at least that much or more this year.

I would like to ask you to please issue permits to extract the gravel form the Mad River.

Thank You.


Wes Green

DUTRA TRUCKING CO., INC.

P.O. BOX 277
ARCATA, CA 95521
(707) 822-8133

May 8, 1992

Department of Fish & Game
Banky E. Curtis
Regional Manager
601 Locust Street
Redding, CA 96001

Dear Mr. Curtis:

We are a local trucking firm in the Arcata area. This letter is being written in regards to the permits that are pending of the extraction of the gravel on the Mad River.

With the current down swing in the economy and the recent damage caused by the earthquake in our area, our area could use the jobs and revenue generated by the release of the permits.

I would like to ask you to please issue permits to extract the gravel from the Mad River.

Sincerely,

DUTRA TRUCKING CO., INC.



Jim Cyphers

JDC:tls

McKenny & Sons, nc.

General Building Contractors

2341 Fern St. • Eureka, California 95501 • (707) 443-2244

April 22, 1992

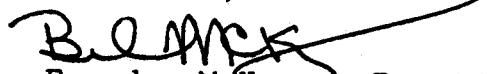
To Whom it May Concern:

We, as building constructors, are concerned with the onslaught of new found restrictions and regulations impacting the aggregate industry. The wide spread ramifications to the construction industry go without saying. Aggregate uses range from concrete (a primary structural component), sand (used in brick and tile works), to asphalt (paved roads).

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) is being skewed towards a halting of aggregate removal. This is not the intended use of CEQA. Rather the CEQA process should be used to strike a **BALANCE** with all environmental concerns. The CEQA process does not specifically have to look at the economic impacts to the aggregate industry. It does, however, need to look at the environmental impacts associated with a limited supply of materials to our infrastructure. Further, secondary economic impacts such as affordable housing, the maintenance of existing road systems for traffic flow, and the construction of new infrastructures for the health and welfare of the population (the Freshwater Water Project, etc.) have to be considered.

The process for permits should be well defined. The process provides for a balance through mitigation or a statement of overriding consideration. The proper decision makers should make those tough decisions in a timely manner. We in the construction industry need the governmental agencies to work together in harmony with the aggregate industry to obtain a timely environmentally balanced resolution to the extraction process.

Thank You,


Brendan McKenny, President
McKenny & Sons, Inc.

BILL SHEPPARD

General Contractor
Cont. Lic. # 290057
P.O. Box 56
Blue Lake, CA 95525
668-5754

April 23, 1992

As a Contractor engaged in the construction of subdivisions and in the performance of Public Works improvement projects I am very concerned with any regulations or proposed regulations that may restrict the excavation and removal of river gravels in Humboldt County.

If regulations are enacted that drastically curtail and/or prohibit gravel extraction from local rivers the cost of construction will become prohibitive and will stifle our already sluggish and tenuous economy. Our local gravel companies must be allowed to continue to extract gravels from our local rivers. We don't have any other economic choice.

YOURS TRULY

Bill Sheppard
Bill Sheppard
Owner