

Finding a better location

Jim Trageser, Escondido North County Times, 4-10-11

I'm not much for tossing the acronym "NIMBY" about. And I'm not going to start today.

If folks in a particular neighborhood won't defend it, then who will?

Now, some of those "defenses" sometimes confuse me, as with the high-end Carlsbad neighborhood whose residents banded together two years ago to oppose a group home for young adults with autism.

The opposition to the proposed Gregory Canyon landfill and the Liberty Quarry projects are more understandable. Who wants a trash dump or gravel pit near their home? I'd likely oppose either in my neighborhood, too.

At the same time, though, it strikes me that those leading the opposition to these projects would improve their causes' community standing were they to work as hard at finding alternative locations as they are at opposing the current proposals.

Because the fact remains that the demand these two projects seek to meet is going to remain, even if these specific plans are rejected.

As long as those of us who live in North San Diego County are generating trash, we're going to need a landfill. It's unfair to ask other regions to dispose of our waste for us. If we want to live the disposable lifestyle (and, collectively, it's pretty clear we do), then we need to accept some of the consequences of that.

The same goes for the proposed Liberty Quarry in Riverside County. If there wasn't a pressing need for gravel and other construction materials, Granite Construction wouldn't want to build the quarry.

It's hard to avoid the notion that we all want the benefits of modern life, but not the negative impacts.

Perhaps Gregory Canyon is not the right location for a landfill.

Then opponents should step up and help find an appropriate landfill site.

Perhaps the 135-acre site south of Temecula is not the place to put a quarry.

So let's put our best minds together and find another site that will serve equally well.

Sometimes simply saying no isn't enough. Negative-impact projects such as landfills and rock quarries are, unfortunately, necessary to our modern standard of living. We are going to have them, somewhere ---- and deciding which somewhere is the right one is often a process of finding the least objectionable location.

If you want to keep these projects out of your neck of the woods, then it behooves you to make the case that there is another location that is less objectionable than yours.

And the surest way to do that is to find that location for the rest of us.