

No Dutra asphalt, No Barella Roblar Quarry

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It's no surprise that litigation has been filed to stop both the Dutra asphalt plant and the Barella Roblar Rock Quarry.

The Dutra asphalt plant is proposed to be located at the gateway to Sonoma County, on the bank of the Petaluma River, 200 feet from Shollenberger Park and Alman Marsh. The Barella Roblar Quarry is proposed on 70 of 200 acres on Roblar Road, the beautiful pastoral agricultural area with open space conservation easements and upland habitat, Federally endangered and threatened species, along with State Species of Concern. Not to mention another "200 feet from" delineator – this one being 200 feet from the old, unlined county landfill. That landfill existed at a time when there were virtually no regulations on what could be dumped – and according to long-time County residents, *everything* was dumped there. Did I mention an *unlined* landfill – nothing between the contents and the ground on which the plethora of landfill contents rest.

What's beneath the landfill? Ground. And into groundwater supply. And the potential contamination of wells. The legitimate concern is the blasting at a quarry could result in leakage of landfill contents into the groundwater supply. Not to mention the blowing to smithierines the poor helpless Federally endangered and threatened and Calif. Species of Concern wildlife. And endangering the current 250+ jobs at farms and ranches in the immediate area.

Truck traffic with diesel emissions for both proposed projects is so excessive, it's virtually unimaginable. But consider up to 300 total truck trips in/out of the Roblar Road property daily and 400-500 daily truck trips, depending upon 24/7 parameters for government contracts, for the proposed Dutra asphalt plant, carrying aggregate to be turned into hot emitting asphalt and then departing the property with the asphalt-filled trucks.

Two watersheds are involved with these 2 projects. For the Dutra proposal, it's the Petaluma River watershed, with the Petaluma River, nearby Adobe Creek, emptying into the Petaluma River, and nationally recognized wetlands and marshes of Shollenberger Park and Alman Marsh. The City of Petaluma's state-of-the-art environmentally friendly wastewater treatment facility is immediately adjacent to Shollenberger Park, at Ellis Creek, and habitat to multiple avian species and humans now walking on the 3 new miles of trails. The watershed related to the proposed Barella Roblar Quarry is the Estero Americano watershed, a coastal estuary at the base of Americano Creek, headwaters of the Russian River. Americano Creek traverses with tributaries through the Roblar Road area in the immediate vicinity of the proposed quarry.

What does it take to stand up to inappropriate decisions by elected officials, political influence, and money? It takes courage, community, sustained energy and outreach. It takes caring about community, people, our environment and wildlife, our agricultural neighbors, our park visitors, who may not have political influence or money, but who will live with the consequences of decisions made not in the best and highest interest of the public.

For more information about both community efforts to oppose the Dutra asphalt plant, visit www.saveshollenberger.com, and to learn more about the dual effort of quarry opposition *and* opposing the violation of open space policies approved by the last lame-duck Board of Supervisors, visit www.carrq.org.

For in-depth information related to the Dutra asphalt plant proposal and health impacts on children, visit www.momsforcleanair.net.

Sometimes I recall Chemist Alan Pendley's words at the informational forum hosted by Assemblymember Jared Huffman on the proposed Dutra asphalt plant. "We will *never* stop fighting. We will *never* stop," he said – with such passion and commitment. His passion was deep, his sincerity tangible.

The environmental and community impacts of both proposals to South and West Sonoma County are too negative, too significant, and too risky. Both projects must be stopped.