

# **No evidence of silica dust**

**Rick Kellogg, Escondido North County Times, 2-6-11**

## Letter to the editor

Kevin Sherar suggests that we ask people who live near rock quarries whether silica dust is bad for us. Kevin, I can do better than that: I lived near quarries for 36 years. Also, I worked in the aggregate business for 14 years and knew hundreds, if not thousands, of people in that industry.

The fact is, rock quarries have sophisticated methods to control dust, and it is usually the uncontrolled open-space areas that produce more silica dust on windy days. Quarries often get blamed, but the evidence does not support it.

Save Our Southwest Hills and others who oppose Liberty Quarry have had years to review the records, but have produced zero evidence that people living near quarries have a higher rate of silica-related diseases. With thousands of operating quarries in the U.S., surely somewhere, somehow, they could find at least one statistical anomaly to counter the preponderance of evidence, but they can't even do that.

Today's air-quality standards are so stringent that no rock plant could operate if it was a hazard to our health.