

Special Azusa council meeting for mining proposal canceled for further review

Daniel Tedford, Los Angeles Newspaper Group, 4-24-10

AZUSA -- The City Council canceled a Monday meeting regarding a mining proposal for the Azusa Rock Quarry, citing the need for more time to respond to concerns about the operation, officials said Friday.

A new date has not been set.

"I think there are some new questions that were posed ... so we want to investigate and look into those some more," Mayor Joe Rocha said. "I know I have some. For me there is no rush to go through this."

Monday's meeting would have been the second on the matter.

The proposal by Vulcan Materials Co. to move its rock-mining operation to 80 acres near the Duarte border has been opposed by Duarte city officials.

During the first City Council meeting April 19, experts hired by Duarte criticized Azusa's review of the proposal.

Duarte's consultant was concerned about landslide danger, and he disagreed with Azusa over the amount of rock at the site.

Azusa also recently received new comments on the project from the South Coast Air Quality Management District, the Sierra Club and City of Hope.

"When you delve a little deeper under the surface, there are still a number of issues that remain out there that need to be dealt with," Duarte City Manager Darrell George said.

Rocha said he also had specific concerns and questions, which he said he would bring up at the next public hearing.

Vulcan Materials has a permit to mine 190 acres near Fish Canyon. The company wants to exchange 80 acres of land on its eastern property

line for the ability to mine 80 undisturbed acres near its western property line.

The 270-acre Vulcan property is in Azusa but rests near the Duarte border. For Vulcan to move forward, Azusa officials would have to approve Vulcan's plan for the western 80 acres.

A spokesman for Vulcan said he expected a thorough review of the company's proposal.

"I am sure the city will take the time needed to address any and all comments related to our project," Vulcan spokesman Todd Priest said.

The staff at Azusa said they were glad to do more review.

"From our perspective, we realize it is a very important project ... there is no rush from staff's perspective," Assistant Director of Economic and Community Development Conal McNamara said. "We believe we are analyzing this project accurately and fairly and if additional time is needed to make sure everyone understands that and is comfortable with that, then we agree with the City Council."