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RG

February 23, 2004

Surface Transportation Board  
Case Control Unit  
1925 K Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

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Attention: Rini Ghosh

Re: Finance Docket No. 34284

Dear Ms. Ghosh:

In response to the Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement, I am submitting the following to be considered in the formal scoping process.

I believe Vulcan's proposed quarry and proposed SGR rail line, regardless of where the railroad is constructed, are connected actions, and should be studied in the same Environmental Impact Statement. The study should include direct impacts and alternatives to both projects, including no quarry and no rail line at all.

My husband and I have chosen Quihi for our retirement. We made this choice because of the location and the serenity of this rural area. Our home is located approximately one (1) mile from one of the proposed rail routes.

My husband has asthma and the dust from the rail cars will make his asthma worse. Will all railroad cars and trucks transporting limestone be covered to prevent this dust?

Our home is not in a flood zone, but many homes in this area are in the flood zone. Last summer we received 8 inches of rain in a 10 hour period. All of our property (not our home) had water standing six (6) to eight (8) inches deep. Any changes to the terrain caused by the railroad will certainly enhance the possibility of flooding in our home and many others.

From the beginning discussions of this quarry and railroad, we were told the railroad crossing on FM 2676 would have an overpass. This road is a Farm to Market Road--built to transport agricultural products to the markets. Time is important when a crop is being harvested. Many people use FM 2676 to commute to jobs in San Antonio and/or to reach the Medical Center for medical treatment. Many young drivers, and even more elderly drivers, plus school buses would be endangered by the many trucks and the train servicing the quarry.

Sincerely,



Lynette Stewart

CC: U.S. Congressman Henry Bonilla  
U.S. Senator John Cornyn  
Texas Senator Frank Madia  
Texas Representative Timoteo Garza  
Medina County Judge Jim Barden  
Medina County Commissioner Royce Hartman