

#E1-691  
RJ

February 20, 2004  
Richard & Nancy Culpepper  
4535 FM 2676  
Hondo, Texas 78861  
RE: STB Finance Docket No 34284



To The Surface Transportation Board,  
Our concerns are as follows:

**1. Traffic Safety**

We are opposed to grade level crossings on FM road 2676 and FM 4516 these roads are main arteries to San Antonio & Castroville. They are heavily used now and their use will only increase with the influx of people settling in this area. This will create a great safety hazard and cause extensive delays. Vulcan says that they will start with four trains per day with approximately 100 cars each, moving at a slow rate. I am sure that there will be more trains within a short time.

What about people going to work and having to wait for all these cars to pass or emergencies to hospitals in San Antonio.

Vulcan is moving into our neighborhood, we are not moving into theirs, why should we be penalized for their profit by waiting for their trains to run across the road, plus the added danger of accidents. What price is a life?

Let them be a good neighbor and show good will by building grade-separation crossings.

**2. Public Health – Worker Health Safety:**

We contend that Dust, Noise and Vibration will create Health & Safety Hazards.

**3. Water Resources:**

The proposed Rail Line & Quarry is over a very shallow area of the Aquifer and this very definitely will endanger the quality of water in the many wells because of blasting, vibration, excavation & the possibility of a spill.

The Quihi & Cherry Creek flood extensively and any blockage by a rail line will increase flooding of Historical and other Homes in the area.

This is a watershed area and there are many springs that have continually run during the 30 years we have lived in this area.

**4. Biological Resources:**

The wetlands are home to many animals and birds, which could also be endangered. The entire length of the rail line will be a threat to wildlife and endangered species that inhabit the area.

**5. Air Quality Impacts:**

**We feel excessive dust will result from crushed limestone blowing and contaminating the air from moving trains & trucks.**

**6. Geology and Soils:**

**7. Land Use:**

**The rail line is projected to pass through a 286-acre tract of land belonging to us.**

**We have planned to develop this acreage into a restricted Subdivision with quality homes. This land was purchased with this in mind so as to supplement our income at retirement. We have a plat with 52 home sites drawn up. We feel that this development would not go over with a rail line and 100 rail cars passing 4 times a day, which would increase in time.**

**We feel that the proposed rail line will greatly hamper and impact the value of the land or possibly kill the potential of this proposed development.**

**Also the land is now leased for hunting and fishing and the party that leases the land says they would not re-lease if a rail line were constructed.**

**8. Environmental Justice:**

**9. Noise:**

**Trains with 100 cars will create excessive noise that will affect residents and wild life along the entire seven miles of rail line. Also people living near the Quarry will be affected by noise from blasting, heavy machinery and huge rock crushers.**

**10. Vibration:**

**There are many homes over 100 years old, some of which have historical markers, that are located very near the proposed rail line and will be damaged by continued vibration from heavy limestone loaded trains & blasting from the quarry.**

**11. Recreation:**

**Most of the recreation and income from hunting will be lost because of the noise and vibration created by the trains & quarry. Also many families will be deprived of choosing this peaceful & beautiful community that has many unlimited views covered with huge oak trees.**

**12. Cultural Resources:**

**Primarily this is a farming and ranching community that is fast becoming a desirable area for subdivisions offering a peaceful and**

**beautiful site for raising families. Most of the cultural resources will be lost if this proposed project is developed.**

**13.Socioeconomic:**

**Farming, Ranching, Hunting and other out door recreation are the current sources of income. Future development of land for Subdivisions offers a much greater potential for employment and local economy than a Quarry and rail line.**