



## **PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

CITY HALL

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## **CITY COUNCIL STAFF REPORT**

Meeting: January 24, 2017

### Subject

Lehigh Cement Plant Noise Monitoring report.

### Recommended Action

Receive the report. No action is required.

### Discussion

The Lehigh Cement Plant (facility) is located off of Stevens Creek Boulevard in the western hillsides of Santa Clara County, west of the City of Cupertino. The facility is not located in the City of Cupertino and the City cannot currently impose any operational conditions on the facility. The City does maintain an active interest in operations, particularly as they may impact health and safety within the City.

At prior Council meetings, public comment from residents was received regarding excessive noise reportedly emanating from the facility. As a result of these comments, staff was directed by Council to study the potential issue.

In April, 2016 the City retained CSDA Design Group (consultant) to conduct an acoustical noise monitoring study (study) within the City at locations most likely to be affected by facility operations. The study included the positioning of two continuous noise measurement devices that recorded all audio continuously for 24 hours a day for a one month time period. The measurements started October 3, 2016, and concluded on October 28, 2016. Staff did not contact or coordinate with the operators of the facility regarding any aspect of the study.

Staff and the consultant coordinated with the enforcement agency (County of Santa Clara – Department of Environmental Health (DEH)) and with concerned residents to determine two locations to install the noise measurement devices. The two locations selected were reported by residents as being particularly loud and by DEH as locations with optimal acoustics to determine if DEH noise standards were being exceeded. Both locations were in the backyards of homeowners engaged in the process and willing to

maintain a written log of peak noise they may observe. The goal of the study was to determine if either City or DEH noise standards are being exceeded and if so, were there any trends that emerged which would assist DEH in future investigation and enforcement. Two evening community meetings were held, one on July 13<sup>th</sup> to solicit additional input for the study and again on December 7<sup>th</sup> to receive input on draft study findings.

The findings of the study are presented within the report titled “Lehigh Cement Plant Noise Monitoring Report” (Attachment A). DEH is in receipt of the report and has stated that report content will assist them in their ongoing regulation of the facility.

During the one month study time period, facility noise levels did not exceed either DEH or City noise standards. No additional noise monitoring by the City is scheduled.

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Prepared by: Roger Lee, Assistant Director of Public Works

Reviewed by: Timm Borden, Director of Public Works

Approved for Submission by: David Brandt, City Manager

Attachments:

A – Lehigh Cement Plant Noise Monitoring Report dated November 29, 2016