

Kevin Walker, RPF PAg  
Resource Authorizations  
South Coast Regional Office  
Ministry of Forests, Lands & Natural Resource Operations

Opposition to 266531 B.C. Ltd. Sumas Mountain Quarry

7 November 2017

Dear Sir,

I am one of 2 Directors of the Sumas Mountain Rural Property Owner's Association – "SMRPOA". We are a registered association in the Province of BC, which represents the interests of over 100+ property owners. I am writing this letter on behalf of the residents of this mountain. We stand with the Fraser Valley Regional District, City of Abbotsford, Metro Vancouver Regional District, the Fraser Valley Mountain Bikers Association and other stakeholder groups which have expressed their clear, official opposition to the proposal of a new quarry on Sumas Mountain by "266531 B.C. Ltd."

Opposition of residents, local governments, and the regional district with respect to any further mining operations on this mountain has been communicated to the Province and your office previously. Any expansion or introduction of new mining operations on Sumas Mountain will blatantly be against the collective will and best interests of not only residents, but also the entire Fraser Valley, surrounding communities and the Province.

Many of the statements contained within 266531 BC LTD. Sumas Mountain Quarry - Crown Lease Application are incomplete in terms of providing your office with the information you would require to fully understand the situation. The application suggests the present state of the land is nothing but forest and woodlots and makes no mention of the residents – many of whom are in the process of building substantial, executive style homes directly below the area which is proposed to be mined, not to mention the existing residents. For example, in Section C – Additional Information, the applicant fails to mention that numerous complaints have been levied with the City on existing quarries on the mountain with respect to noise, blasting, cracked concrete slabs etc. Additionally, the application fails to recognize that artesian wells and streams are the sole means of providing potable water sources to the residents of this mountain, also failing to take into consideration the proximity to Chadsey Lake – a local treasure and hiking destination.

The application states that there are no socio-community condition concerns with the exception of increased commercial vehicle traffic indicates that the applicant has not paid attention to the considerable public outcry against this endeavour. The Fraser Valley Mountain Bike Association for example has collected over 6000 signatures opposing this quarry. Many people's lives and property investments would be ruined, as they see a reduction in their rural quality of life and further degradation of their rights to quietly enjoy their homes and properties – There are young

families, retired and elderly people, veterans and business owners – a diverse range of people living here; a community.

Commercial traffic is already a significant hazard on this mountain with the steep grades, non-commercial rated roadways, already in poor repair. Gravel and dump trucks frequently run stop-signs and cross center lines of winding country roads not designed for these types of vehicles. Increased exposure to these hazards in a growing residential area will eventually lead to serious injury or death – with a police and fire department challenged to respond to any emergency in the area in a timely manner.

Sumas Mountain is one of the last true green-spaces in the lower Fraser Valley. The Trans-Canada Trail, hiking, biking, horseback riding and other recreational activities afforded by this area would be lost, significant taxpayer funded projects would be destroyed. Over the last number of years, the Province, Regional District and City have undertaken significant expansion and advertisement of these recreational activities and introducing additional industrial / commercial traffic would again, be a disaster. Sumas Mountain is also home to several species-at-risk to include the endangered Sumas Mountain Beaver among approximately 40 others.

In 2013 as an All-Candidates meeting prior to the election, residents invited the Abbotsford provincial party candidates to hear about their concerns regarding gravel pit expansions or expansions on Sumas Mountain. All parties were in rare agreement that Sumas Mountain should not see further development of gravel extraction activities now or in the future. We sincerely hope you can recognize that this is not simply a case of “NIMBY-ism”, as Sumas Mountain is already host to several existing quarries – most of which are well away from residential and recreational venues.

You will find each family or resident on this mountain has their own unique story on how their lives will be negatively impacted should this quarry be allowed to happen, but I wanted to share mine with you. I am a 24-year veteran of the Canadian Armed Forces, having served in both Bosnia and Afghanistan. In 2005, my wife and I purchased our home and land in the country in the hopes we could lead a quiet, simple hobby farming life and raise a family in peace and quiet. This quarry will have a life-altering, negative consequence to me and my family, as these fully loaded gravel trucks would roar past my home from sunrise to sunset every day, with their Jake Brakes in full effect. My home is directly on the route the trucks would have to take out of the park area and is at the base of the steepest portion of the road. The value of our home would plummet, destroying our legacy for our daughter; our animals would not thrive, and we would not be able to live in peace. Although I am not old, the impact on my health would be significant.

In closing, SMRPOA greatly appreciates the due consideration of our opposition to this application, and any other future applications as not being in the best interest of residents, the Province or the surrounding communities in the Lower Mainland. We are again requesting; imploring your office deny the application of 266531 BC LTD and to consider issuing an indefinite moratorium on all future applications of this nature, on Sumas Mountain for the benefit of all British Columbians and visitors.

I will look forward to your responses, and would be happy to meet in person to discuss or provide a tour of the area at your convenience.

Thank you,

Taras M. Sandulak, CD  
37777 Taggart Rd  
Sumas Mountain  
Abbotsford, BC V3G2L2  
604-837-2566