

I would like to voice my opposition to the concrete batch plant being proposed by Roper Construction on Highway 220 in Alto, New Mexico.

As I understand it, the plant will run 18 hours a day, 7 days a week, starting at 3:00 am with bright lights, loud equipment and air pollution in addition to using 80,000 gallons of water a DAY. Waste water, polluted with concrete residue and other toxic chemicals will undoubtedly run off their property into wildlife drinking areas, local streams, and caves. The air, light, and noise pollution will affect the wildlife, and the environment, as well as the residents in a large area surrounding the location of the proposed plant.

This is all in an area that experienced the Little Bear fire 10 years ago that destroyed many homes, killed wildlife, and left scars on the landscape, to this day. The McBride fire happened this year and burned many acres of pristine forested land and over 200 structures. This area is also in a drought-stricken area of the state. Private wells are the only source of water for the homeowners and residents in this area. Those wells, both private and community are running dry.

My husband and I own a home in Legacy Lane subdivision. I suffer from two autoimmune disorders which are affected by air and water pollution. We chose this subdivision because of the quiet, peaceful nature of the land, beautiful trees and the location shared with elk, wild horses, and deer as well as many other wildlife species. We are 65 years old and wished to enjoy our final years as most others in Legacy Lane in a quiet area surrounded with pure air and natural surroundings.

Can we sit by and watch the profit motivation of one individual cause harm to so many individuals as well as the animal population of such a beautiful area that so many individuals over the years have sought to protect?

The property where Legacy Lane, the subdivision located just across Highway 220 from the plant, is located was originally owned by the Peebles family who wrote into the covenants of the subdivision that it was to be designated as a free range wildlife area. Homeowners are not allowed to even build fences, as that would hinder the free movement of wildlife. Elk, wild horses and deer wander through the neighborhood daily. The individuals who purchased land there did so because of the beautiful tranquility of the land. The land Roper intends to build on is also inhabited by the large elk herd and they often feed and rest on the property.

This type of commercial enterprise will create a nuisance to all homeowners in the area as well as a threat to the wellbeing of the wildlife. The only water source for the residents of Legacy Lane, Alto Lakes, Outlaw, and Sonterra subdivisions comes from wells. This enterprise, if allowed to draw on the existing groundwater, will present a danger of severe depletion of that natural resource in an already drought stricken area of the state, which due to climate change has much less water available than it did 20 years ago. Homeowners in the Enchanted Forest subdivision next to the proposed plant have had one of their community wells go dry and are searching for other alternatives.

This commercial enterprise that is going to use millions of gallons of water a year, could cause homeowners to have to truck in water to their homes if the water table is depleted. The air quality permit is requiring the use of water to mitigate, not eliminate, the pollution that will be generated by the plant that will be harmful to residents, vegetation, and wildlife. Estimates of the water to be used are 80,000 gallons a DAY! Even if Roper trucked in the water, the resulting runoff from the plant will

undoubtedly harm the land, the streams, the caves, the vegetation, the air and the residents and visitors to this beautiful area of Lincoln County.

The covenants on the land Roper purchased strictly prohibit industrial use of the property. Yet he has chosen to ignore those covenants in pursuit of profit, overriding all other concerns for individuals, wildlife, ecosystems, water depletion and the air quality of this pristine area.

How can we consider allowing one individual, motivated by profit, to negatively affect so many individuals, scar the land, pollute the air and affect our wildlife?

Are the existing homeowners in the area not entitled to the quiet enjoyment of their property without a nuisance business operating 18 hours a day, affecting their outdoors and their clean air and water? Multiple individuals and groups have opposed this air quality permit. Why is it still being considered?

Respectively submitted,
Deborah Sheehey