



City of Sugar City
Post Office Box 56 --10 East Center
Sugar City, Idaho 83448

Support our local businesses

Glenn W. Dalling, Mayor
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June 12, 2007

Planning and Zoning Commission
Madison County Courthouse
134 E. Main Street – P.O. Box 389
Rexburg, Idaho 83440

Dear Commissioners:

The mayor and City Council of Sugar City wish to express concern about and opposition to the proposed gravel pit and asphalt hot-mix plant east of Sugar City on 3000 North.

This proposed development not only would detract from the beauty of our community but also disrupt a peaceful farming area where many of our residents walk, jog and ride their bikes.

The development also could threaten the safety of our residents by increasing local truck traffic.

A project of this kind, which is approximately one-half mile from our impact area and about one mile from our city limits, could even jeopardize the city's future growth.

One of the responsibilities of local government as set forth in Idaho Code 67-6502 is to protect prime agricultural land and recreation resources.

In support of this statute, the Madison County Comprehensive Plan states county objectives to "preserve the agricultural land as much as possible outside of incorporated city limits" (p. 39) and to keep the environment "as natural and enjoyable as possible" (p. 57).

Sugar City's comprehensive plan also calls for preserving and enhancing the environment (p. 9), even creating an aesthetically pleasing community (p. 50).

In view of these legal requirements, we feel that granting a conditional use permit to construct a gravel pit that will destroy a 180-acre parcel of beautiful and productive farmland in a tranquil country setting is problematic on its face, particularly since existing gravel pits nearby are far from depleted. In fact, we know of 11 existing gravel pits within a 10-mile radius of the proposed development (see attached map).

To protect our community and to meet these state and local legal obligations, we urge that you deny this application, recognizing that ample gravel is available from these other sites.

This parcel is zoned for agricultural use, which has been its purpose for 50 years. But if you approve the requested conditional use permit, it will never be used for agriculture again.

Gravel pits, by their nature, are eyesores. We do not need to add another one, especially in this location. We submit that a community's appearance has long-term consequences.

Respectfully,


Glenn W. Dalling, Mayor


Harold L. Harris, Councilmember


Bruce P. King, Councilmember


Walter A. Deitz, Councilmember


Brad S. Orme, Councilmember