



COMMITTEE FOR  
GREEN FOOTHILLS

# NEWS RELEASE

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## **Hanson Quarry to stop ridgeline dumping**

### **COMMITTEE FOR GREEN FOOTHILLS GAINS QUARRY'S COMMITMENT TO REVEGETATE RIDGETOP SCAR**

CUPERTINO, CA – A long scar in the foothills above Cupertino, visible to tens of thousands of people from Milpitas to Palo Alto, is the most obvious evidence of activities at Hanson Quarry, formerly known as Kaiser Permanente.

Thanks to the efforts of local environmental watchdog group Committee for Green Foothills, the quarry's operators recently committed to ending their practice of dumping on the ridgeline, and to revegetate the area so that it will blend in with the surrounding natural habitat.

#### **Watchdog group identifies problems with quarry operations**

Because this particular quarry began operations more than 60 years ago before the County regulated such operations, it is not required to have a County permit. However, Committee for Green Foothills identified several environmental problems with the quarry's operations, including the ridgeline scar. Over the past year the advocacy group has been working with quarry representatives and Santa Clara County to solve these problems. Hanson officials have just agreed to solve one of these problems, the dumping of waste rock on the highly visible ridgeline.

#### **Quarry to stop ridgeline dumping and revegetate scar**

About a third of the five million tons of rock quarried at Hanson each year is waste, which is dumped on the ridgeline. While legal, this scar impacts the views of thousands of south Bay residents.

After recently stating that they intended to ask the County for an increase in the maximum allowable height of the waste rock, quarry operators have done an about-face and now say that they expect that their dumping on the ridgeline will end this summer. In response to requests from Committee for Green Foothills, Hanson has agreed not only to end the dumping, but also to improve their revegetation plan to include native shrubs and trees, and to contour the revegetated area so that it blends into the surrounding natural landscape.

“We were particularly pleased to work with the quarry operators to find a mutually agreeable solution to the problem of the ridgeline scarring,” says Committee for Green Foothills' Legislative Advocate Brian Schmidt. “The waste rock scar on the foothills is visible for many miles, and Hanson's

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commitment to end the dumping and revegetate the scar will improve viewshed for thousands of area residents.”

Thanks to these commitments, within a year the ridgeline view will be significantly improved, with green grass covering current bare rock and soil. Within ten to fifteen years, the ridgeline should blend in with its surroundings.

### **CGF applauds operators for flexibility, continues to monitor operations**

Committee for Green Foothills applauds the operators of Hanson Quarry for taking a flexible approach to solving these environmental problems, and for being willing to take extra steps to address the community’s concerns.

Along with many of the quarry’s neighbors, Committee for Green Foothills remains concerned about other activities at the Hanson Quarry. The nonprofit group has asked Santa Clara County to enforce a 30-year-old ridgeline protection easement that is not being enforced, and has also asked the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District to determine whether the collapse of some quarry walls has caused a landslide on District property adjacent to the quarry.

The environmental group also remains concerned about nighttime noise and lighting, sediment eroding into streams, and the appropriate role of an industrial quarry in an otherwise natural area.

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### **About the Committee for Green Foothills**

Committee for Green Foothills is a regional grassroots organization working to establish and maintain land-use policies that protect the environment throughout San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties. Committee for Green Foothills, established in 1962, is a Bay Area leader in the continuing effort to protect open space and the natural environment of our Peninsula.

For more information about the Committee for Green Foothills or about our work on this issue, visit [www.GreenFoothills.org](http://www.GreenFoothills.org).