



First Step Taken Toward Needed SR76 Improvements

For more information contact: Karie Reuther, 951-699-0922

Northern San Diego County. After more than eighteen years, the first step has finally been taken toward widening and straightening a key 1.3-mile stretch of SR76 from Interstate 15 east towards Pala. The initial development of Rosemary's Mountain Quarry will be focused on providing construction materials needed for this initial segment of SR76. On Monday, February 11, Granite Construction began constructing a chain link fence around the 38-acre quarry site in Northern San Diego County. Construction of the road section will begin in about three months and take up to one year to complete. Granite Construction and the Pala Indian Tribe will fund this section of road at an estimated cost of over \$26 million including design and mitigation.

“Granite is thrilled to finally begin work to widen this public highway and start development of the quarry project which will provide critically needed aggregate and asphalt for the next 20 years to Northern San Diego County and Southwest Riverside County,” said Pat Kelly, Southern California Branch Manager for Granite Construction Co. “We are very pleased to be working with the Pala Tribe to fund this much needed project.”

In order to secure approval for the road construction, Granite worked with four state and federal agencies to secure environmental permits for the road project. The permitting process for Rosemary's Mountain Quarry was started nearly 20 years ago by Hal Jensen of Palomar Aggregates. The process required three different approvals by the county Board of Supervisors and included several years of litigation. “Everyone associated with Palomar Aggregates is thrilled that this important step has been taken. This has taken way too long and resulted in increased construction prices for public and private projects. The improvements on SR76 will help everyone. Everyone in this area should thank the Pala tribe for stepping up to the plate,” exclaimed Jensen.

San Diego County Fifth District Supervisor Bill Horn said, "I've worked many years to one day have all of Highway 76 widened, so I am pleased with this milestone. I'm hopeful that the kind of cooperation we've fostered between private industry, the Pala Indian Tribe, Caltrans, and the County will continue.”

The Pala Band of Mission Indian's 11,000-acre reservation is located about 6 miles east of I-15 on SR76. A majority of the 918 members of the tribe live and work on the reservation. "The Pala Indian Tribe is proud to work with Granite, Caltrans and the County of San Diego to help fund this public roadway", stated Robert Smith, Chair of the Pala Tribal Council. "We trust that this will be a starting point for improving all of SR76 so that citizen's of San Diego County can safely travel from the San Diego mountains to the coast. It may have taken another 10 years to do this if we had to wait on public funding."

Caltrans will oversee the construction of the highway improvements through an agreement with Granite Construction Co. The actual roadwork will be bid and awarded to the lowest qualified bidder under an agreement between the County and Granite. Granite and Pala will share in the reimbursement of at least a portion of the money that is fronted through funds captured by the Transportation Impact Fee Ordinance administered by San Diego County. "Caltrans applauds Granite Construction and the Pala Indian Tribe for their contribution. The Department must explore alternative means of funding highway projects in order to benefit the citizens of California," stated Pedro Orso-Delgado, District Director of Caltran's San Diego office.

"Residents living in the Fallbrook and Pala area have seen traffic problems worsen for years. This is a huge step for everyone in this region and will improve the safety of our roads and alleviate traffic," said Richard Brady, a long-time resident of Fallbrook.

The State of California has previously recognized the dire shortage of permitted reserves in Western Riverside and San Diego counties. While the 1.2 million tons per year of aggregate from Rosemary's Mountain Quarry will help alleviate the shortfall, the region is still in need of an additional 7 to 10 million tons per year of permitted reserves. Caltrans has advised local transportation agencies that more local aggregate reserves need to be permitted to support future road projects.

"Development of the Rosemary's Mountain Quarry will mean that this region will be less dependent on distant quarries in Riverside County, the desert, and San Bernardino Valley and hopefully reduce the number of trucks coming through Riverside County," explained Kelly. "Shorter haul distance for aggregates mean less highway traffic, less diesel exhaust, less road maintenance and less emissions that contribute to global warming, which is something all Californians are interested in seeing. This is good for citizens in both Riverside and San Diego Counties."

Granite Construction Incorporated is a member of the S&P Midcap Index, the Domini 400 Social Index and the Russell 2000. Granite Construction Company, a wholly owned subsidiary, is one of the nation's largest diversified heavy civil contractors and construction materials producers. Granite Construction Company serves public and private sector clients through its offices nationwide. For more information about Granite, please visit their website at www.graniteconstruction.com.